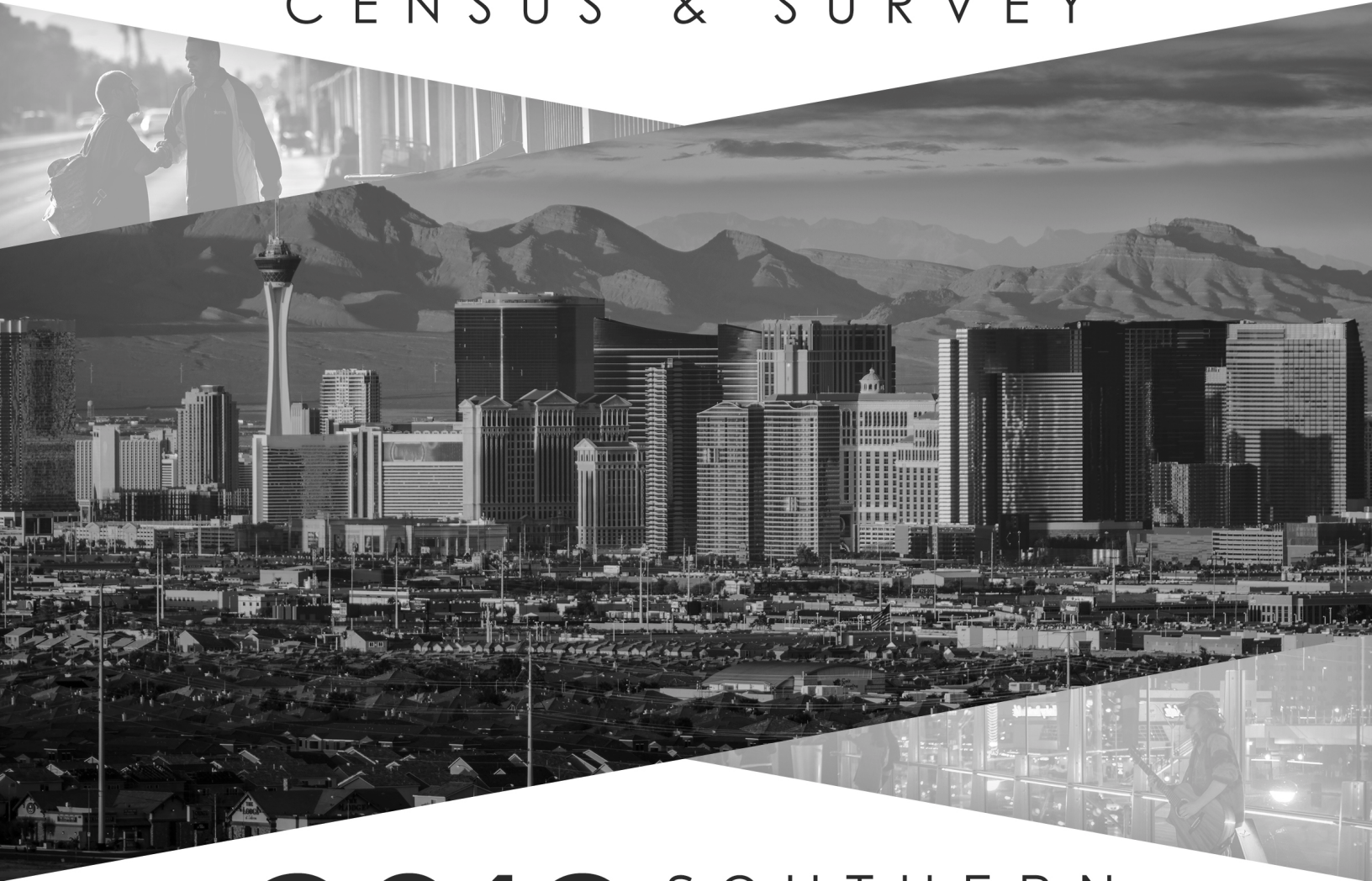




HelpHopeHome  
Ending Homelessness in Southern Nevada

# HOMELESS

## CENSUS & SURVEY



# 2016 SOUTHERN NEVADA

## COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- City of Las Vegas Administrative Services
- City of Las Vegas Office of Community Services
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- Clark County Parks and Recreation
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- Clark County Fire Department
- Clark County IT/GISMO
- Clark County School District
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

### 1.1a The Path of Homelessness in America

What causes homelessness? The answer to this question is a complex social issue with a history of stigma dating back to America's beginnings. The first formal documentation of homelessness began in the 1640s, when homelessness was viewed as a moral deficiency, a character flaw, or the punishment for insufficient religious zeal. For example, in May 1729 Philadelphia passed a law allowing citizens to deport local homeless persons. And in 1873, Civil War Veterans suffered derogatory slurs such as "bums" and "tramps" after railroad giant Jay Cooke & Company shut its doors, eliminating the main source of employment for soldiers post Civil War, thus rendering them homeless.\*

Unfortunately social stigmatization still continues to play a prominent role in the perpetuation of homelessness in America. However, a new set of contributing factors emerged in the 1980s. Homelessness as we know it today is now also the result of funding cuts, policy changes, and lack of affordable housing.

Although homelessness has held an enduring presence in America for several centuries, there is a key difference between homelessness in 1640 and homelessness in 2016: The U.S. Government. Efforts on behalf of the Federal government have transformed homelessness into a fight for equality.

On June 22, 2010, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* was established as the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness.<sup>†</sup> In regards to this plan, President Barack Obama stated:

*"It is simply unacceptable for individuals, children, families and our nation's Veterans to be faced with homelessness in this country."*

Although groundbreaking, *Opening Doors* was the result of decades of the tireless advocative efforts of both government entities and grassroots organizations alike. These efforts spurred the

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\*Baker, C. *Veterans, Tramps, and the Economic Crisis of 1873*.

<sup>†</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. 2010.

establishment of national reporting, which has been undeniably the most effective tool in the fight to end homelessness to date.

## 1.2 National Reporting to End Homelessness

Information is power. The data generated by national reporting informed the policy-makers who influenced the enactment of *Opening Doors*. Four forms of national data collection have played an exceptionally vital role in government decision-making.

1. Point-In-Time Count (PIT)
2. Annual Homelessness Surveys
3. Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
4. Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR)

These data sources provide invaluable information regarding the utilization and efficacy of services dedicated to serving homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless. The spectrum of such services is vast. Common examples include emergency shelter services, outreach services, mental health services, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

In addition, the data generated by these reports measure the progress of each CoC, including their efficacious utilization of government funds.

### 1.2a Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, which is an enumeration of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations, is conducted annually over the course of one night during the last week of January, and is required of all Continuums of Care (CoC) per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PIT Counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide to provide unduplicated counts and statistically reliable estimates of homeless persons in sheltered and unsheltered locations in a single night.

### 1.2b Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

The data collected from the PIT Counts are combined with information from the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), which is also conducted annually by CoCs nationwide. The HIC is a point in time inventory of projects/programs (e.g. emergency shelters, safe havens, etc.) within a CoC. It measures the amount of beds and units available to serve persons who are experiencing homelessness.

### 1.2c Annual Homelessness Surveys

In addition to the PIT and HIC, each CoC nationwide conducts a comprehensive annual survey. These surveys are intended to further investigate the precursors and defining characteristics of homelessness, as well as the defining characteristics of different homeless subpopulations.

### 1.2d Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

The information that is garnered from the PIT, HIC, and surveys is then merged to articulate the causes and characteristics of homelessness on a local, state, and national level. Every year, data from these sources are channeled into the creation of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. The contents of the AHAR are then used to determine funding, and lend to knowledge-based creation of federal, state, and local policies.

HUD presents the AHAR to Congress annually to convey information regarding the extent and nature of homelessness in America. It provides a full continuum of information regarding homeless assistance programs and services.

The AHAR is essentially a research summary created using information collected from the following data collection systems:

- PIT Counts conducted nationwide to enumerate homeless populations and capture information about homeless populations in each state
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) to determine the number of homeless assistance programs and beds
- Data from the HMIS

## 1.3 The Benefits of National Reporting

The information obtained from national reporting is crucial to identifying what resources are needed, and where these resources need to be allocated. It also governs whether jurisdictions receive the correct amount of funding to bring relief to their homeless populations.

These national reporting methods make systematic research possible, thus equipping U.S. policy-makers with the information they need to combat homelessness on a large scale. To further augment this capability, Congress enforces the requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, which offers incentives to those CoCs that make significant progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.\*

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\*The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

The benefits of this systematic research are beginning to emerge. Homelessness declined by 2 percent (or 11,742 people) between 2014 and 2015, and by 11 percent (or 82,550 people) since 2007. These nationwide improvements can be directly linked to the generation of quality data from the CoCs nationwide, as generated by the PIT, HIC, and AHAR.

The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress summarizes the following findings:\*

- In January 2015, 564,708 people were homeless on a given night. Most (69 percent) were staying in residential programs for homeless people, and 31 percent were found in unsheltered locations.
- Chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 1 percent (or 819) over the past year, and by 31 percent (or 36,643) between 2007 and 2015.
- Between 2014 and 2015, homelessness among veterans declined by 4 percent (or 1,964). Homelessness among veterans declined by 35 percent (or 25,642) between 2009 and 2015.
- Nearly one-quarter of all homeless people were children, under the age of 18 (23 percent or 127,787). Nine percent (or 52,973) were between the ages of 18 and 24, and 68 percent (or 383,948) were 25 years or older.

## 1.4 The 2016 Southern Nevada Census & Survey Report

### 1.4a Summary of Methodology

The 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey project was composed of two overarching components: A PIT Count and a subsequent comprehensive 39-question survey.

The survey, which was administered during the weeks immediately following the PIT Count, was conducted to obtain in-depth information regarding the characteristics of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Southern Nevada.

The HUD definition for homelessness is as follows:

*An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well as an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.<sup>†</sup>*

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. 2015.

<sup>†</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. *24 CFR Parts 91, 582, and 583, Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining "Homeless"*

The PIT Count was a community-wide effort to enumerate the homeless population in Southern Nevada. The sheltered and unsheltered counts were conducted on January 27, 2016. According to the guidelines set forth by HUD, the PIT Count included a comprehensive enumeration of sheltered homeless persons and a census tract coverage of 77% to enumerate unsheltered person on the nights designated for the count. HUD defines “night” as the time between sunset and sunrise.\*

People included in the PIT:

Sheltered Homeless:

*This includes individuals and families “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)” on the night designated for the count.*

Unsheltered Homeless:

*This includes individuals and families “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground” on the night designated for the count.*

### 1.4b Project Purpose

In order to ensure that Southern Nevada continues to receive the federal funding necessary to serve its homeless population, Clark County Social Service (CCSS) collaborated with Bitfocus Inc. to conduct the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. Bitfocus Inc. is an international system integration and development company specializing in the development of application infrastructure software to simplify and accelerate the development, deployment, integration, and management of software applications.

Southern Nevada and its community partners carried out this census and survey in order to obtain the data necessary to evaluate the nature and scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada. The data collected in this study will be analyzed and used to populate the HUD HIC-PIT. The results of this research will assist service providers, policy makers, funders, as well as local, state, and national government entities in order to fund and create effective and efficient services and programs for those who are homeless in Southern Nevada.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2013) Notice CPD 14-014: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program.



### 1.4c Project Objectives

The primary goals of the 2016 Southern Nevada Census and Survey Project are as follows:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of current programs on a local level to provide the information necessary to improve programs that serve the Southern Nevada homeless population.
- Preserve current federal funding.
- Raise public awareness of the scope and nature of homelessness in Southern Nevada in order to generate community support.
- Compare the 2016 data to previous years, identify any trends, and track progress of the state of homelessness in Southern Nevada. It is important to note that only years 2013<sup>\*</sup>, 2014<sup>†</sup>, 2015<sup>‡</sup>, and the current year 2016 will be included in the comparisons.

### 1.4d Important Changes to 2016 Methodology

2016 HUD guidance consisted of several methodology changes compared to prior years.

#### 1.4d.1 Chronic Homelessness Definition

HUD is requiring that CoCs report who is chronically homeless based on a definition that is different than HUD's regulatory definition. For purposes of reporting in the 2016 PIT count, a chronically homeless person:

- 1) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- 2) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
- 3) Has a disability.

Because the definition of chronically homeless for the PIT count differs from HUD's regulatory definition, the PIT count may not represent everybody who is eligible for homeless assistance through HUD's homeless assistance programs or other homeless assistance funding sources that are dedicated to serving chronically homeless persons.

This change in the PIT definition for chronic homelessness between 2016 and previous years narrowed the general criteria for a respondent to qualify as chronically homeless for the purposes of

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<sup>\*</sup> Bitfocus, Inc. (2013). 2013 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

<sup>†</sup> Bitfocus, Inc. (2014). 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

<sup>‡</sup> Bitfocus, Inc. (2015). 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

the report. Note that this may have impacted the yearly comparisons for chronically homeless populations.

#### *1.4d.2 Chronically Homeless Children (Under Age 18)*

In addition to reporting on individuals and persons in families over 18 experiencing chronic homeless, HUD requires communities to collect and report chronically homeless status on heads of households that are under 18, which includes both unaccompanied youth and parenting youth under age 18.

Due to this change, chronically homeless unaccompanied children under the age 18 were counted as a chronically homeless individual, and parenting youth under the age 18 were counted as a chronically homeless family with children. In previous years, these categories did not include any person under the age of 18. Thus this change may have impacted yearly comparisons for chronically homeless populations as well, particularly those of chronically homeless individuals and chronically homeless families with children.

#### *1.4d.3 Collapsed Transgender Category*

After receiving important feedback HUD decided to collapse the transgender categories back into a single reporting option – “Transgender.”

#### *1.4d.4 Changes to Youth Household Demographics*

HUD is requiring CoCs to report the demographic data on parenting youth and unaccompanied youth in separate tables, as opposed to one table as in previous years. Also per HUD, only demographics on the youth parents are reported (demographic data on the children of the youth parents is excluded).

## 1.4e Summary of Document

This document comprises the following main sections:

<b>Executive Summary</b>	Summary of findings from each main section of both the PIT count and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.
<b>Homeless Census Findings</b>	This section presents the key findings of the 2016 PIT Count.
<b>Homeless Survey Findings - Homelessness Profile</b>	This section summarizes general findings from the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, including general information on homelessness in Nevada (demographics, geography, utilization of government assistance, etc.).
<b>Homeless Survey Findings - Homeless Subpopulations.</b>	This section summarizes general findings from the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey in regards to the HUD-defined homeless subpopulations (chronically homeless, severely mentally ill adults, adults with substance abuse, adults with HIV/AIDs, and victims of domestic violence).
<b>Homeless Survey Finding - Youth Survey Data</b>	This section presents the key findings from the youth-specific survey administered to homeless youth in Southern Nevada. This survey contains questions that target the specific issues that are unique to youth homelessness such as gender identity, education, and access to services.
<b>Conclusion</b>	This section summarizes the findings of the PIT and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey in relation to the State of Nevada.
<b>Appendices</b>	The series of appendices located at the end of the document provide information such as methodology, copies of the survey tools, and summaries of responses.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In collaboration with Bitfocus Inc., Clark County Social Service (CCSS) conducted the 2016 Southern Nevada Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey. All components of the project were conducted according to the requirements and standards of practice outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).\*

This project included a comprehensive enumeration, or Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, of the homeless population of Clark County, Nevada (hereafter referred to as Southern Nevada). This enumeration was conducted in the early morning of January 27, 2016. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2016 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2013, 2014, and 2015 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2016 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 77%.

A universal and inherent shortcoming of any PIT count is its inability to capture an accurate number of homeless persons in a particular region for the given year. In many areas, levels of homelessness are in constant flux, characterized by seasonal changes as well as changes caused by unpredictable economic factors. In addition, many homeless persons experience short episodes of homelessness throughout the year, at times other than the PIT count.

Thus, the annual estimate presented at the end of this section was calculated to provide the approximate amount of homeless persons in Southern Nevada over the course of the year. This estimate compensates for these biases, and reduces the degree of underrepresentation of the true number of homeless persons at any given point in time during the year.

In the weeks immediately following the PIT Count, 973 surveys were administered to homeless persons throughout Southern Nevada. A detailed account of the methodology for the 2016 PIT Count can be found in *Appendix V*, and the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey can be found in *Appendix I*.

Both the PIT Count and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey were designed to obtain comprehensive and targeted data, highlighting the prevalence and characteristics of the general homeless population, and specific subpopulations within the general homeless population. The survey was designed to unveil additional details in regards to the scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2015) Notice CPD-15-010: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program.

The 2016 Southern Nevada PIT Count indicates that between 2015 and 2016, the total amount of homeless persons decreased from 7,509 to 6,208, respectively. The amount of unsheltered homeless persons decreased from 3,916 to 3,731 respectively during this time period.

## 2.1 2016 Homeless Census & Survey: Summary of Findings

Figure 1: Point-in-Time Homeless Census & Annual Estimate of Homelessness Data

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015 to 2016 Net Change	2015 to 2016 Percent Change
<b>Unsheltered</b>	3,034	3,494	3,916	3,731	-185	-4.7%
<b>Sheltered</b>	2,920	3,949	3,593	2,477	-1,116	-31.1%
<b>Total Point-in-Time Count</b>	5,954	7,443	7,509	6,208	-1,301	-17.3%
<b>Annual Estimate</b>	32,421	34,744	34,397	30,016	-4,381	-12.7%

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV

The 2016 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 30,016. This represents a 12.7% decrease (4,381 persons) from the 2015 annual estimate of 34,397 persons.

In 2015, 1.8% of the total Nevada population (based on 2010 census data) was homeless. In 2016, this percentage decreased to 1.1% (also based on 2010 census data).\*

\* Between 2015 and 2016, the U.S. U.S. Department of Commerce increased the population total for The State of Nevada from 1,951,269 to 2,700,551, which represents a 38.4% increase (749,282 people) compared to 2013, 2014, and 2015.

## 2.2 Conditions: Sheltered/Unsheltered

### 60.1% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered.

60.1% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered. Between 2015 and 2016, unsheltered homelessness decreased by 4.7% (185 persons). When comparing the unsheltered totals to the overall homeless total relative to their year, there was a 7.9% increase since 2015. In 2015, unsheltered homeless represented 52.2% of the entire homeless population (3,916 persons). In 2016, unsheltered homeless represented 60.1% of the entire homeless population (3,731 persons).

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is important to emphasize the fact that, per HUD, hidden homeless were not enumerated in 2015. However, the hidden homeless were enumerated in all years prior to 2015. To accommodate this change in official requirements, the totals for 2011, 2013, and 2014 have been adjusted to remove the hidden homeless totals (which were a substantial portion of the unsheltered homeless totals) in order to maintain data comparability.\*\*

### 39.9% of the persons enumerated in the PIT Count were in sheltered facilities.

- Between 2015 & 2016, sheltered homelessness decreased by 31.1% (1,116 persons). In Southern Nevada, in the early morning of January, 27, 2016, 1,810 persons were in emergency shelters, 642 persons were in transitional housing, and 25 persons were in safe havens (including the FAS beds from Clark County Social Service (CCSD)).
- There was a decrease (33.4%, 909 persons) in Emergency Shelter utilization between 2015 and 2016, and a decrease in Transitional Housing utilization (25.3%, 217 persons). Safe Haven utilization increased by 66.7% (10 persons) between 2015 and 2016.

## 2.3 Demographics

**The majority of homeless individuals in Southern Nevada identified as White/Caucasian, were of male gender, and were between the ages of 51 and 60.**

### Gender

- 71.6% of survey respondents identified as *male*. 28.2% of respondents identified as *female*. 0.2% of respondents identified as *transgender*.

### Age

- Youth homelessness decreased between 2015 and 2016. 3.2% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21, this represents a 0.8% decrease from the amount of homeless persons in this

category in 2015 (4.0%). In 2016, 0.5% of survey respondents were *under the age of 18*. This represents a 0.7% decrease compared to 2015. The majority (31.2%) of respondents were between the ages of 51 *and* 60. This amount is higher for this age group than 2015 (30.6%).

### *Race and Ethnicity*

- The majority of respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian* (50.6%), and 38.1% identified as *Black/African American*. The least amount identified as *Pacific Islander* (2.0%).
- 12.9% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*. 87.1% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

### *Residency Prior to Homelessness*

- The majority of survey respondents (71.6%) reported living in Southern Nevada when they most recently became homeless.

## 2.4 HUD-Defined Households

In 2016, there were 118 households with at least one adult and one child; homeless Veterans comprised 0.0% (0 households) of this population. There were 5,426 households without children; homeless Veterans comprised 13.5% (730 households) of this population. There were 280 households with only children (under the age of 18). There were 28 Parenting Youth Households, and there were 1,531 Unaccompanied Youth Households in 2016.

### Households With At Least One Adult & One Child

- In 2016, 64.4% of the homeless population living in households with at least one adult and one child were under the age of 18, 7.6% were between the ages of 18-24, and 28.0% were over the age of 24.

### Households Without Children

- In 2016, 22.5% of the homeless population living in households without children was between the ages of 18-24, and the remaining population was over the age of 24.

### Households With Only Children

- In 2016, there were 281 people in one-child households. Data for multi-child households was not collected in 2016 per HUD requirements.



## Youth Households

- In 2016, 24.7% (1,531 persons) of the entire point-in-time count total (6,208 persons) were Unaccompanied Youth (between ages 18-24) and Unaccompanied Children (under age 18).
- Out of the 28 Parenting Youths (youth parents only) enumerated, 1 was under the age of 18, and 27 were between the ages of 18 and 24. There were 36 children with these parenting youth, collectively.
- The 1,531 Unaccompanied Youth Households comprised of 279 Unaccompanied Children (under age 18) and 1,252 Unaccompanied Youth (ages 18-24).

## 2.5 Veterans

### Definition

For the purposes of homeless services, the VA recommends two questions to determine Veteran status:

1. *"Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?"*
2. *"Were you activated into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?"*

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition for Veteran is as follows:

*...persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.*

In 2010, Opening Doors outlined the national goal to end homelessness among Veterans by the end of calendar year 2015.\* According to the 2015 AHAR (which is the most recent data available at the time of this report), Veteran homelessness dropped by 36 percent, more than 26,000 people, between 2010 and 2015. Between 2014 and 2015, Veteran homelessness dropped by 4 percent, or 1,964 fewer homeless veterans. This was the smallest decline since veteran homelessness began declining in 2010. The highest rate of decline was among the unsheltered population, which decreased by 8% (1,350 persons.) The number of sheltered homeless Veterans fell by 2% (614 persons) between 2014 and 2015.†

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\* United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. 2011.

† United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. 2015.

### In Southern Nevada:

- 14.0% (136) of survey respondents were Veterans. This is higher than the percentage of Veteran respondents in 2015 when 12.9% of survey respondents were Veterans.
- 41.2% (56) of the 136 Veteran respondents were *unsheltered*.
- 10 (7.4%) were *female* and 126 (92.6%) were *male*. There were no Veteran survey respondents who identified as *transgender*.
- The majority of homeless Veterans reported they are *White/Caucasian* (58.1%) and 94.8% of Veteran respondents are *Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino*.
- 68.9% of Veteran respondents reported *Honorable Discharge*.
- 58.1% reported at least one disabling condition.

## 2.6 Causes, Occurrence, and Duration of Homelessness

- 51.6% survey respondents cited *job loss* as the primary cause of their homelessness, making it the primary cause of homelessness for the majority of this population. 0.5% of survey respondents cited *aging out of foster care* as their reason for homelessness.
- 55.4% of survey respondents reported that they were *homeless for the first time*, and 24.6% of survey respondents reported that they had been *homeless four or more times in the last three years*. 38.7% of the 2016 survey respondents reported that they had been *homeless for a year or more* since their last housing situation; this is one criterion included in the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.
- The majority of survey respondents (71.6%) reported living in *Southern Nevada* when they most recently became homeless, and the majority (45.1%) of survey respondents reported that they were *renting a home or apartment* prior to becoming homeless.

## 2.7 Income, Employment, & Circumstances Preventing Permanent Housing

- 84.7% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing *unemployment* at the time of the survey. *No Transportation* was the leading barrier to obtaining employment (22.5%) closely followed by *Other* (19.9%), and *Disabled* (19.6%).
- 18.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than \$500 per month in government income benefits, and (33.2%) reported to be receiving no money from government benefits. 74.8% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving no money from private non-government income sources, and 94.0% of survey respondents were receiving \$500 or less from private non-government income sources.
- The majority of respondents cited *No Job/No Income* (69.7%) or *Inability To Afford Rent* (43.7%) as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing.

## 2.8 Utilization of Government Assistance & Programs

- In 2016, the most commonly used service/assistance was *Free Meals* (65.4%). In regards to Government assistance and programs, 85.7% of 2016 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits.
- Of the respondents receiving government assistance, 76.2% were receiving food stamps, 9.6% were receiving SSI/SSDI assistance, and 4.6% were receiving social security.

## 2.9 Nighttime Accommodations

- 52.0% of survey respondents reported sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other shelter). The census data indicated that 1,307 persons of the unsheltered (street) population was found to be living in cars/vans/RVs, abandoned buildings, encampments, and parks.

## 2.10 Medical

- In 2016, 16.0% of homeless respondents indicated that since they most recently became homeless, they had needed medical care but had been unable to receive it.
- From 2015 to 2016, the amount of homeless individuals reporting chronic health conditions increased from approximately 28.1% to 31.7%, representing a 3.6% increase.
- According to *Section 223 of the Social Security Act*, multiple physical and mental conditions are considered disabling to homeless individuals, preventing them from obtaining work or housing. These conditions include:
  - Physical disabilities
  - Mental illness
  - Severe depression
  - Alcohol or drug abuse
  - Chronic health problems
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Tuberculosis
  - Hepatitis C
  - Trauma
  - Developmental disabilities
- 70.8% of homeless survey respondents reported they had at least one disabling condition. 37.5% of the population surveyed have or ever had a physical disability.

## 2.11 Incarceration

- 5.4% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time, and 10.2% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. 7.1% of homeless respondents indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing, and 7.7% indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment.
- The majority (77.0%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. 8.6% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, 15.4% of survey respondents reported spending one separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, and 0.9% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

## 2.12 HUD-Defined Homeless Subpopulations\*

### 2.12.a Chronically Homeless Individuals

**Definition:**

*For purposes of reporting in the PIT count, a chronically homeless person: 1) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and 2) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and 3) can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability.*

- On any given night in 2016, it is estimated that Southern Nevada has approximately 285 chronically homeless individuals. This is a 37.4% (170 persons) decrease since 2015 (455).
- In 2015, 23.0% of all homeless individuals nationwide were considered chronically homeless.<sup>†</sup> The estimated number of chronically homeless individuals in Southern Nevada in 2016 represents 4.6% of the total 2016 Southern Nevada point-in-time homeless population.

### 2.12.b Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals

**Definition:**

*Any individual who meets the definition for Chronically Homeless Individual and has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.*

- Of the chronically homeless Veteran individuals, 70.0% (14 persons) were unsheltered.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2015) Notice CPD-15-010: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program.

<sup>†</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2015.

### 2.12c Adults with Serious Mental Illness

#### *Definition*

*This subpopulation category includes persons with mental health problems that are expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.*

- Overall, 49.4% of survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. This is lower than that of 2015 (50.2%).

### 2.12d Adults with Substance Use Disorder

#### *Definition*

*This category includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.*

- 27.2% of the survey respondents reported to be currently experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the survey. This represents a 0.2% decrease compared to 2015, when 27.4% of respondents cited problems with alcohol/drug abuse.

### 2.12e Co-Occurring Disorders

#### *Definition*

*Although this category is not considered a HUD-defined homeless subpopulation, it is still of great concern and interest to the community and policy-makers. This category includes persons who experience substance abuse paired with mental illness, depression, PTSD, or any combination thereof, that keeps them from obtaining work or housing.*

- 9.8% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 11.6% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring depression and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 4.7% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring PTSD and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.

## 2.12f Adults With HIV/AIDS

### *Definition*

*This subpopulation category includes persons who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.*

- 1.3% of the homeless population were experiencing HIV or AIDS related illnesses. This amount is higher than the amount reported in 2015 (0.95%).

## 2.12g Victims of Domestic Violence

### *Definition*

*This subpopulation category includes adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at any point in the past.*

On any given night in 2016, it is estimated that approximately 16.1% of homeless persons who are considered victims of domestic violence are present in Southern Nevada.

## 2.13 Conclusion

The 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless PIT Count identified 6,208 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. Of these persons, 39.9% (2,477 persons) were sheltered, and 60.1% (3,731 persons) were unsheltered.

Inherent difficulties are associated with any methodology that is applied to enumerating homeless persons, and these difficulties warrant careful consideration when evaluating totals such as those presented in this report. For example, many homeless persons (especially women and children) are eliminated from the total count as they typically are afraid of being located, often for safety reasons. Thus, many reside in locations that make them undetectable to enumeration teams. Even the most systematic and comprehensive methodologies fall short of gathering entirely representative numbers that reflect the true homeless population.

The same careful consideration should be applied to the analysis of the Homeless Survey data. While the extrapolation method has proven to be reliable, and is considered the standard method of estimating the subpopulation totals, it must be emphasized that this method produces estimates that vary in their representativeness of the actual sample population.

However, despite these challenges, the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey provides both valid and useful data, creating a more comprehensive view of the nature and scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada in 2016. The fact that the same methodology, characterized by



the same difficulties, (with minor adjustments resulting in no statistical significance) has been used since 2007 enables Southern Nevada to continue tracking key patterns and trends amongst their homeless population. This consistent approach continues to highlight the changing conditions of homelessness in this region, so that necessary action can be taken to improve the livelihood of these homeless persons. Through its impact on the policy-makers in Southern Nevada, this report will allow for more constructive and innovative solutions to be applied to the problem of homelessness.

Homelessness is an interpersonal issue, with varied catalysts. Likewise, the contributing factors that reduce and successfully address the issue is multi-faceted with many variables such as; employment rates, access to physical and mental health care, housing assistance programs and community planning/growth.

### 3. HOMELESS CENSUS FINDINGS

The following data presents the results of the homeless census component of this report. All Continuum of Cares (CoCs) are required to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count during the last 10 days in January of each year in order to enumerate the amount of homeless persons in their communities.

The PIT Count is a core data set used by HUD to address homelessness on both a national and local level. PIT Count estimates provide snapshots of homelessness from 3 different angles:

1. Sheltered Homeless Persons & Unsheltered Homeless Persons
2. HUD-Defined Homeless Households
3. Counts of beds in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Programs, and Safe Havens.

Southern Nevada integrates the data that is collected from these census findings into their CoC applications for Homeless Assistance Grants. It provides elected officials for each of the jurisdictions in Southern Nevada a clear view of the Southern Nevada homeless population, and guides policy-makers in their allocation of funds for homeless services and programs.

#### 3.1 Point-In-Time Count Procedure

This PIT Count is an enumeration of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Southern Nevada. The 2016 PIT Count was carried out in accordance with the most recent guidelines set forth by HUD.\*

##### 3.1a Sheltered & Unsheltered Homeless

The 2016 Southern Nevada PIT Count targeted two main elements of homelessness; all homeless persons were categorized as Sheltered Homeless or Unsheltered Homeless.†

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2015) Notice CPD 15-010: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program.

† It is important to note that per HUD, the designation of unsheltered homelessness is no longer divided into two parts as in years past. There are no longer "Unsheltered - 'hidden' homeless" and "Unsheltered - 'street' homeless" designations. All comparative totals that include the "Hidden Homeless" have been adjusted in this report.

It is important to first delineate the differences between a *sheltered homeless person* and an *unsheltered homeless person*. The 2016 HUD definitions of sheltered and unsheltered homeless are as follows:<sup>\*</sup>

**Sheltered Homeless:**

*This includes individuals and families "living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)" on the night designated for the count.*

**Unsheltered Homeless:**

*This includes individuals and families "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground" on the night designated for the count.*

### 3.1b HUD-Defined Households

All persons enumerated were categorized according to type of household, as defined by HUD. These household categories include:

- General Households
- Veteran Households
- Youth Households

It is important to define household, individual, and family, as well as the various definitions for youth households.<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>\*</sup>United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2015) Notice CPD 15-010: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program.

<sup>†</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (2012) Equal Access To Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation Or Identity. Final Rule, 77 FR 5661, 5661.

### *Household*

Household means all persons occupying a housing unit. The occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

### *Individuals*

Individuals are people who are not part of a family during their episode of homelessness. They are homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

### *Family*

Persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18) will be referred to as a Family.

In this document, persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as either Unaccompanied Child, Unaccompanied Youth, or Parenting Youth.

### *Unaccompanied Child (Under 18)*

People who are not part of a family or in a multi-child household during their episode of homelessness, and who are under the age of 18.

### *Unaccompanied Youth*

Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

### *Parenting Youth*

A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

The 2016 Southern Nevada PIT Count of unsheltered homeless persons was conducted during the early morning hours of January 27, of 2016. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2016 enumeration effort. Census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2013, 2014, and 2015 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2016 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 77%. This method is in accordance with permission from HUD Headquarters as a statistically sound method of enumeration.

As for the sheltered enumeration, the staff at every emergency shelter, transitional housing facility, domestic violence shelter, and safe haven enumerated all homeless persons present in their facility on the night of January 26, 2016.

The homeless persons of Southern Nevada were also categorized according to HUD- defined homeless households, which are listed above. Gender, race, and ethnicity was also documented amongst all of these categories.

## 3.2 General Summary of Findings

A total of 6,208 homeless persons in Southern Nevada were enumerated on January 27, 2016. This is a 17.3% decrease from the 2015 PIT Count.

### 3.2a Unsheltered Homeless

Nationwide, the amount of unsheltered homeless persons (those living in unsheltered locations such as under bridges, in cars, or in abandoned buildings, etc.) decreased 32% (or 82,589 people) between 2007 and 2015. Between 2014 and 2015, unsheltered homeless decreased by 1.2% (2,131 persons). This 1.2% decrease is lower than the decrease in homelessness in this population between 2013 and 2014, when it was 10.0%. In 2015, only slightly more than one-third of all homeless people (30.7%) were living in unsheltered locations; this percentage has increased since 2014 when 30.4% of all homeless persons were unsheltered.\*

In regards to Southern Nevada, the total unsheltered homeless population decreased from 3,916 to 3,731 between 2015 and 2016, respectively. This represents a 4.7% decrease when compared to the overall totals of both years. The unsheltered homeless population total includes homeless persons found: in parks or on the street; in the tunnels under Clark County; in cars, vans, RVs; in encampments; and in abandoned buildings.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2015) *The 2015 Annual Housing Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1*. November 2015. (This document provides the most recently published nationwide data available)

264 (7.1%) of the entire unsheltered homeless population counted were under the age of 18 (i.e. unsheltered unaccompanied children). Annually, this amount typically includes the unsheltered unaccompanied youth enumerated by the Clark County School District. However, there were no unsheltered unaccompanied youth to account for in 2016 within the Clark County School District. When comparing these totals to those of 2015, the total amount of unsheltered unaccompanied children decreased by 67.6%. Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of unsheltered unaccompanied children enumerated by the Clark County School District decreased from 574 persons to zero persons, respectively. This represents a 100% decrease.

It should be noted that special efforts to enumerate homeless persons residing in the tunnels of Southern Nevada were established in 2011. During preparation for the 2011 Southern Nevada PIT Count, additional specialized enumeration teams were strategically formed to target the tunnels. Similar teams were formed during preparation for the 2016 PIT Count; they consisted of formerly homeless individuals who once occupied the tunnels, and outreach workers who are familiar with the tunnels and their occupants. In 2013, due to rain and risk of flooding, this enumeration was limited, and only 53 homeless persons were added to the 2013 enumeration total. In both 2014 and 2015, 64 persons were counted.\* In 2016, 64 persons were also counted.

It is also important to note that in an effort to reduce the number of deaths for those living in the tunnels due to flooding, Southern Nevada has adopted protocols to send outreach teams into the tunnels to warn of potential flooding and encouraging persons living in tunnels to take advantage of housing services or move to higher, safer ground.

### 3.2b Sheltered Homeless

Nationwide in 2015, 69% or (391,440 persons) of the homeless population were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. This represents a 2.4% decrease since 2014<sup>†</sup>

In regards to Southern Nevada, of the total amount of homeless persons counted in 2016, 39.9% (2,477 persons) were sheltered. To be considered sheltered, they had to be residing in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven. Only homeless persons who entered the shelter on or before the date of the count, or those who exited after the date of the count, were included in the sheltered homeless count.<sup>‡</sup>

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\* Bitfocus Inc., (2015) 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

<sup>†</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2015) The 2015 Annual Housing Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1. November 2015. (This document provides the most recently published nationwide data available)

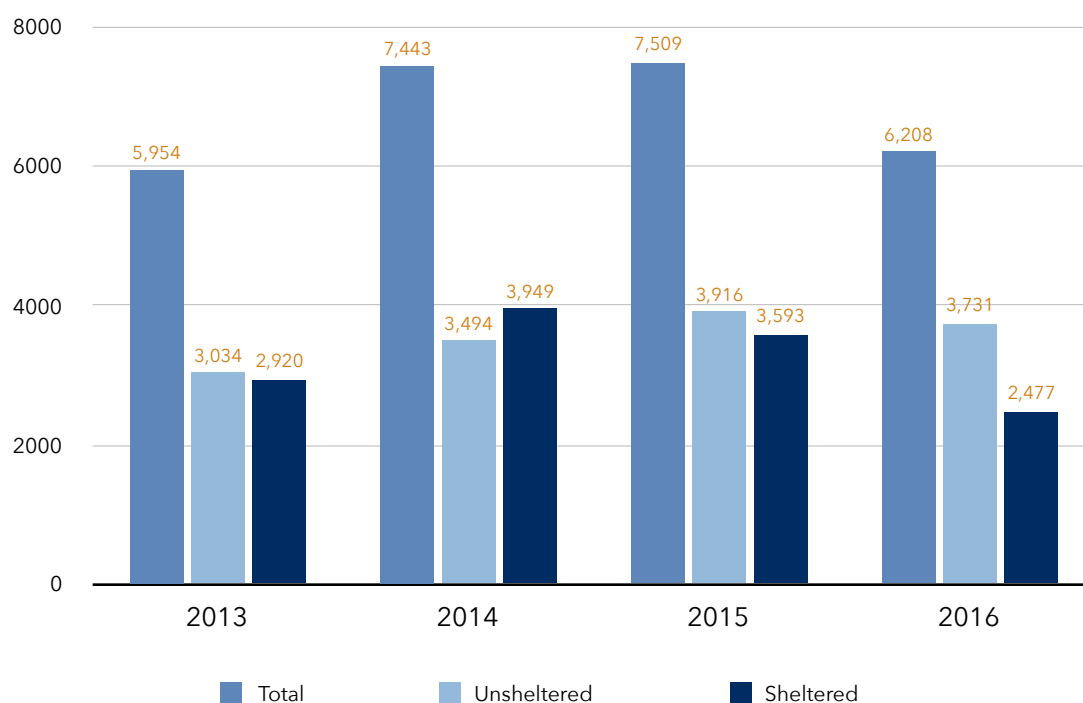
<sup>‡</sup> Persons NOT included in the PIT Count are as follows: those residing in permanent supportive housing programs; those residing in programs with beds/units not dedicated for persons who are homeless (i.e. detox centers); those temporarily staying with friends; those in hospitals or jail; those staying in their own unit with assistance from a Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Provider Program.

The 2016 sheltered homeless population represents a 31.1% decrease from the 2015 sheltered homeless population.

In 2016, 225 (9.1%) of the sheltered homeless persons counted were under the age of 18 (i.e. Children in all Family Units, excluding Children in One-Child Households). In 2015, 407 (11.3%) of the sheltered homeless persons counted were under the age of 18. Thus, between 2015 and 2016, the number of sheltered homeless persons under the age of 18 decreased by 182 persons, representing a 44.7% decrease.\*

In 2016, 346 sheltered homeless persons enumerated were persons in families (i.e. households with at least one adult and one child). This is a 44.9% decrease (282 persons) compared to 2015. These 346 persons in families comprised 114 family households. This can be compared to 2015 data, which showed that the 628 persons in families comprised 196 households.

Figure 2: Point-In-Time Count Homeless Census Population

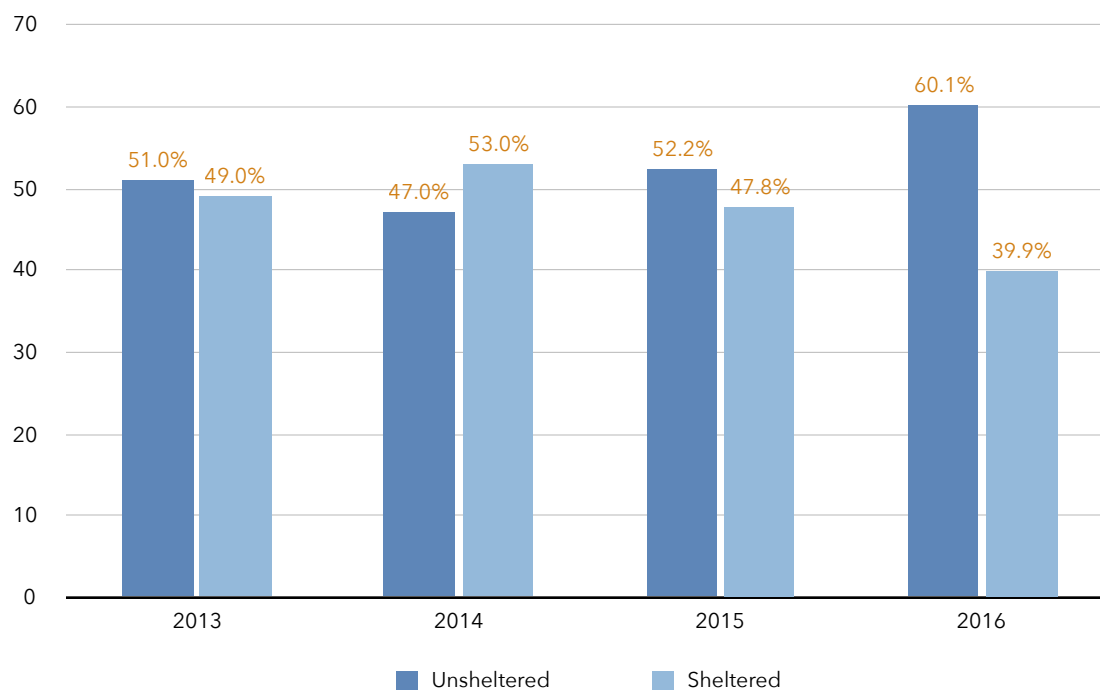


Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 106 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

\* 416 sheltered homeless persons under the age of 18 were documented in the 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Report. However, the official total submitted to HUD in 2015 was 407 sheltered homeless persons under the age of 18. As such, the 2015 total of 407 is referenced in 2016, and all percentages presented are based on this total.

Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Point-In-Time Homeless Census Population



N: 2011=8,003; 2013=5,954; 2014 = 7,443; 2015 = 7,509, 2016 = 6,208

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.



### 3.2c HUD-Defined Households

In 2016, HUD required CoCs to collect and report information on the following household types for both sheltered and unsheltered persons, and for sheltered persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven projects:

For the 2016 PIT, HUD-defined households include the following:

#### *General Households*

- Households with at least one adult and one child
- Households without children
- Households with only children (under age 18)

#### *Veteran Households*

- Veteran households with at least one adult and one child
- Veteran households without children

#### *Youth Households*

- Total number of households (parenting youth households and unaccompanied youth households)
- Total number of persons (parenting youth and unaccompanied youth)

Beginning in 2016, HUD required CoCs to report the demographics of parenting youth and unaccompanied youth separately.

The following tables summarize these findings.

### 3.2c1. All Households

Figure 4: Households With At Least One Adult And One Child, 2016

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH		
Total Number of Households	65	49	4	118
Total Number of Persons	204	142	11	357
Number of Children	134	91	5	230
Number of Young Adults (age 18-24)	6	16	5	27
Number of Adults (over age 24)	64	35	1	100
<b>Gender (Adults and Children)</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	217		2	219
Male	129		9	138
Transgender	0		0	0
<b>Ethnicity (Adults and Children)</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	271		10	281
Hispanic/Latino	75		1	76
<b>Race (Adults and Children)</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
White	96		6	102
Black or African American	220		3	223
Asian	0		0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	11		0	11
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		0	0
Multiple Races	19		2	21

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

Figure 5: Households without Children, 2016

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	1,565	457	25	3,379	5,426
Total Number of Persons	1,597	492	25	3,456	5,570
Number of Young Adults (age 18-24)	119	79	2	1,052	1,252
Number of Adults (over age 24)	1,478	413	23	2,404	4,318
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>			<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	456			709	1,165
Male	1,653			2,747	4,400
Transgender	5			0	5
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>			<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,879			2,991	4,870
Hispanic/Latino	235			465	700
<b>Race</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>			<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
White	1,227			1,911	3,138
Black or African American	753			997	1,750
Asian	48			125	173
American Indian or Alaska Native	19			83	102
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	14			97	111
Multiple Races	53			243	296

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

Figure 6: Households With Only Children (Under Age 18), 2016

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH		
Total Number of Households	9	7	264	280
Total Number of Persons (Under 18)	9	8	264	281
Gender		Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Female		12	96	108
Male		5	168	173
Transgender		0	0	0
Ethnicity		Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino		11	229	240
Hispanic/Latino		6	35	41
Race		Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
White		5	148	153
Black or African American		12	76	88
Asian		0	6	6
American Indian or Alaska Native		0	9	9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		0	7	7
Multiple Races		0	18	18

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

### 3.2c2. Veteran Households

Figure 7: Veteran Households With At Least One Adult And One Child, 2016

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH		
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons	0	0	0	0
Number of Veterans	0	0	0	0
<b>Gender (Veterans Only)</b>				
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
Female	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity (Veterans Only)</b>				
	0		Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	0		0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0		0	0
<b>Race (Veterans Only)</b>				
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
White	0		0	0
Black or African American	0		0	0
Asian	0		0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		0	0
Multiple Races	0		0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

Figure 8: Veteran Households without Children, 2016

Total Number of Households	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
	77	251	0	402	730
	77	253	0	411	741
	77	251	0	402	730
Gender (Veterans Only)		Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
Female		20		82	102
Male		308		320	628
Transgender		0		0	0
Ethnicity (Veterans Only)		Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino		306		348	654
Hispanic/Latino		22		54	76
Race (Veterans Only)		Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
White		211		221	432
Black or African American		108		116	224
Asian		0		15	15
American Indian or Alaska Native		4		10	14
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		1		12	13
Multiple Races		4		28	32

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

### 3.2c3. Youth Households

Figure 9: Unaccompanied Youth Households, 2016

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
Total number of unaccompanied youth households	128	85	2	1,316	1,531
Total number of unaccompanied youth	128	85	2	1,316	1,531
Number of unaccompanied youth (under age 18)	9	6	0	264	279
Number of unaccompanied youth (age 18 and 24)	119	79	2	1,052	1,252
<b>Gender</b>	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Female	67			270	337
Male	145			1,046	1,191
Transgender	3			0	3
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	180			1,139	1,319
Hispanic/Latino	34			177	211
<b>Race</b>	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
White	78			728	806
Black or African American	123			379	502
Asian	1			31	32
American Indian or Alaska Native	1			47	48
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2			37	39
Multiple Races	9			94	103

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

Figure 10: Parenting Youth Households, 2016

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
Total number of parenting youth households	6	17	0	5	28
Total number of parenting youth	6	17	0	5	28
Number of parenting youth (under age 18)	0	1	0	0	1
Number of parenting youth (age 18 and 24)	6	16	0	5	27
Gender (Parents Only)					
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Female	23			2	25
Male	0			3	3
Transgender	0			0	0
Ethnicity (Parents Only)					
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	20			4	24
Hispanic/Latino	3			1	4
Race (Parents Only)					
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
White	4			3	7
Black or African American	17			2	19
Asian	0			0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	2			0	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0			0	0
Multiple Races	0			0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.



Figure 11: Unsheltered Homeless: Persons In Vehicles, Vans/RVs, Abandoned Buildings, Encampments, & Parks

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015 to 2016 Net Change	2015 to 2016 Percent Change
Persons In Cars	104	73	97	125	28	28.9%
Persons in Vans & RVs	199	259	115	117	2	1.7%
Persons in Abandoned Buildings	163	111	36	100	64	177.8%
Persons in Encampments	676	473	657	695	38	5.8%
Persons in Parks	34	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>14.6%</b>

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV

### 3.3 Countywide Annual Estimation

Many homeless persons experience short episodes of homelessness at times of the year other than that of the PIT Count. Thus, the PIT Count has an inherent bias and is not representative of the homeless population in its entirety; it is possible that it under represents the prevalence of homelessness during other months of the year. Because more people are homeless than can be counted at any point in time, it is necessary to calculate an annual estimate of the number of homeless persons in Southern Nevada over the course of a year. The following is a HUD-approved method for using the PIT Count to calculate an annual estimate of homeless persons.

Three factors are used to determine the annual estimate.\*

1. A = The point-in-time enumeration of currently homeless people (found in the unsheltered and sheltered count)
2. B = The number of currently homeless people who became homeless within the last 7 days
3. C = The proportion of currently homeless people who have experienced a previous homeless episode within the past 12 months

The equation for calculating the annual estimate is:

$$A + [(B \times 51) \times (1 - C)] = \text{Annual Estimate}$$

For Southern Nevada in 2016:  $6,208 + [(583.540 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.200)] = 30,016.432 = 30,016$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2015:  $7,509 + [(653.290 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.193)] = 34,396.446 = 34,397$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2014:  $7,443 + [(809.862 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.339)] = 34,744.258 = 34,744$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2013:  $7,355 + [(720.79 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.280)] = 32,421.409 = 32,421$  persons

The 2016 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 30,016. This represents a 12.7% decrease (4,381 persons) from the 2015 annual estimate of 34,397 persons.

According to the annual estimate above, and the April 2010 U.S. Census population profile, homelessness makes up 1.1% of Southern Nevada's total population of 2,700,551 people.

\* Burt, M & Wilkins, C. Corporation for Supportive Housing. *Estimating The Need: Projecting From Point-In- Time To Annual Estimates Of The Number Of Homeless People In A Community And Using This Information To Plan For Permanent Supportive Housing*. 2005.

Figure 12: Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Annual Estimate of Homelessness Net Change

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015 to 2016 Net Change	2015 to 2016 Percent Change
<b>Point-in-Time Count</b>						
	5,954	7,443	7,509	6,208	-1,301	-17.3%
<b>Annual Estimate</b>						
	32,421	34,744	34,397	30,016	-4,381	-12.7%
<b>Total Population</b>						
	1,951,269 (2010)	1,951,269 (2010)	1,951,269 (2010)	2,700,551 (2010 updated)	748,282	38.3%
<b>Point-in-Time to Annual Multiplier</b>	4.6	3.9	3.9	4.8	0.9	23.1%
<b>Percentage of Total Population</b>	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%	1.1%	-0.7%	-38.9%

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV

## 4. SURVEY FINDINGS: PROFILE OF HOMELESSNESS

This section of the 2016 Southern Nevada Census and Survey Report provides a comprehensive overview of the scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada. The information was generated from the data obtained through the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.

The 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey was administered during the weeks directly following the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. A total of 973 unique surveys were completed, and there were 8 refusals. Missing values have been intentionally omitted from the survey results. Thus, the total amount of respondents for each question will not always coincide with the total number of surveys.

The following is an overview of the results. Due to the limitations in connecting homeless individuals to their clinical profiles, the surveys were designed to yield data reflecting self-described and self-defined responses.\*

### 4.1 Demographics

Understanding the demographics of the Southern Nevada homeless population is key to defining the specific needs of this population. This information can be used to create more effective programs, alter existing programs, and predict future challenges.

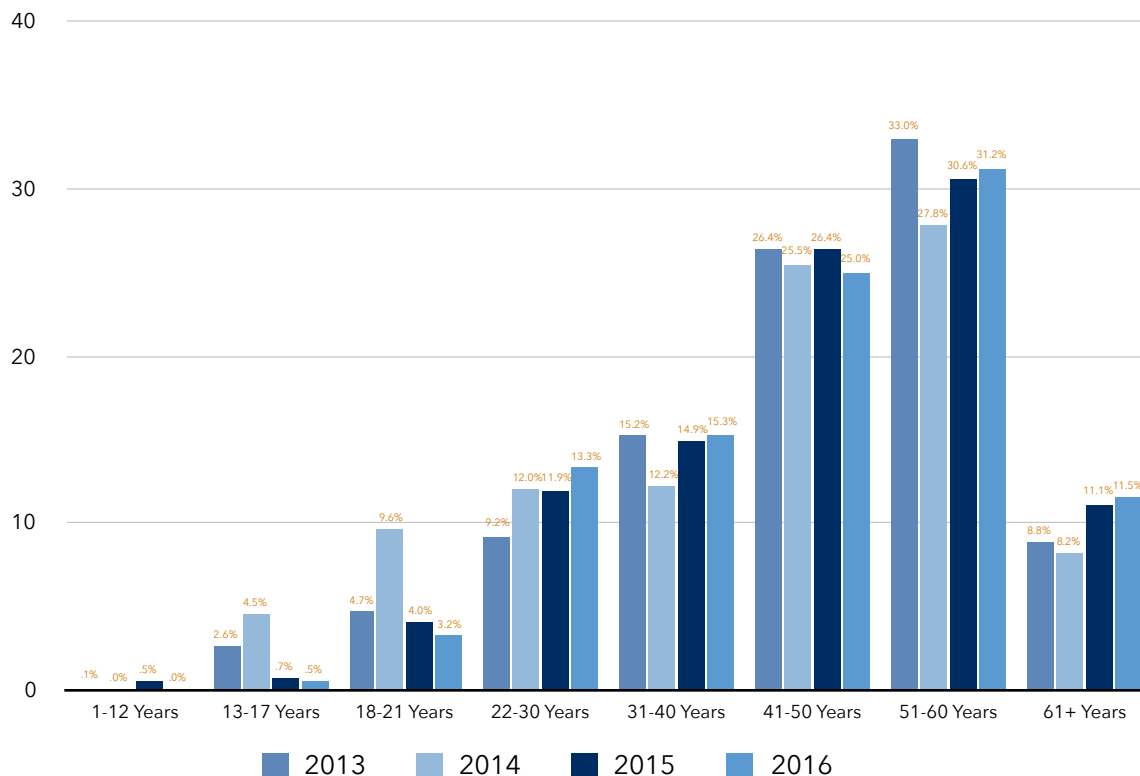
In order to obtain demographic information characterizing the homeless residents in Southern Nevada, the survey participants answered several questions pertaining to age, gender, ethnicity, race, and family status.

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\*For additional information on survey methodology, please see Appendix VI.

## 4.1a Age

Figure 13: Survey Respondents by Age, 2016



N: 2013 = 822; 2014 = 897, 2015 = 922, 2016 = 973

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

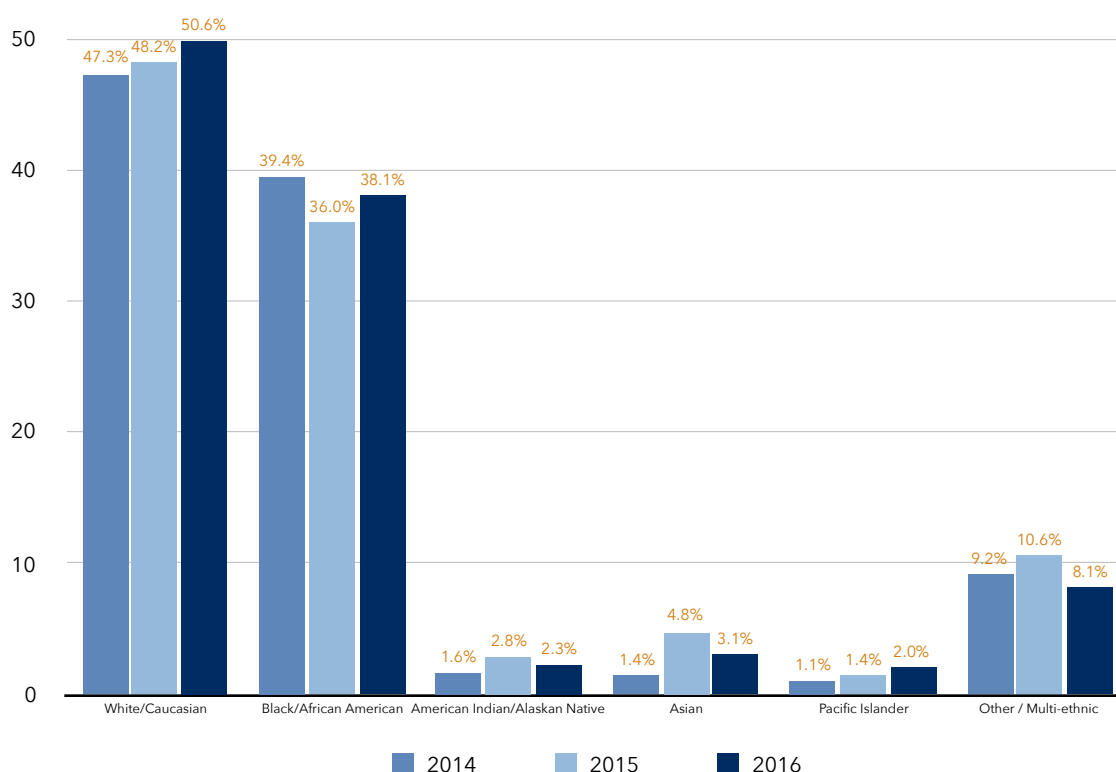
### Summary:

- 31.2% of respondents were between the ages of 51 and 60. This amount is more for this age group than 2015 (30.6%).
- 0.5% of survey respondents were under the age of 18. This represents a 0.7% decrease compared to 2015.
- 3.2% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21. This is a 0.8% decrease from the amount of homeless persons in this category in 2015 (4.0%).
- 11.5% of survey respondents were over the age of 61. This is more than 2015 when 11.1% reported belonging to this age group.

## 4.1b Race/Ethnicity

The most recent surveys conducted in Southern Nevada prior to 2016 (years 2014 and 2015) have shown that individual homeless persons are more likely to be white/Caucasian males over the age of 30. In 2014, 71.4 percent of the Southern Nevada survey respondents indicated they were of male gender, and 47.3 percent of 2014 survey respondents identified their racial/ethnic group as white/Caucasian. Similarly, 68.7 percent of the 2015 respondents identified themselves as male gender, and 48.2 percent identified themselves as white/Caucasian. In 2016, 50.6 percent of the respondents identified themselves as white/Caucasian, and 71.6 percent identified themselves as male gender.\*

Figure 14: Adult Respondents by Race, 2014, 2015 & 2016



N: 2014 = 885, 2015 = Multiple response question with 922 respondents offering 957 responses<sup>†</sup>, 2016 = Multiple response question with 973 respondents offering 1,013 responses.

(data from 2013 is not comparable)

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016), 2014, 2015, and 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

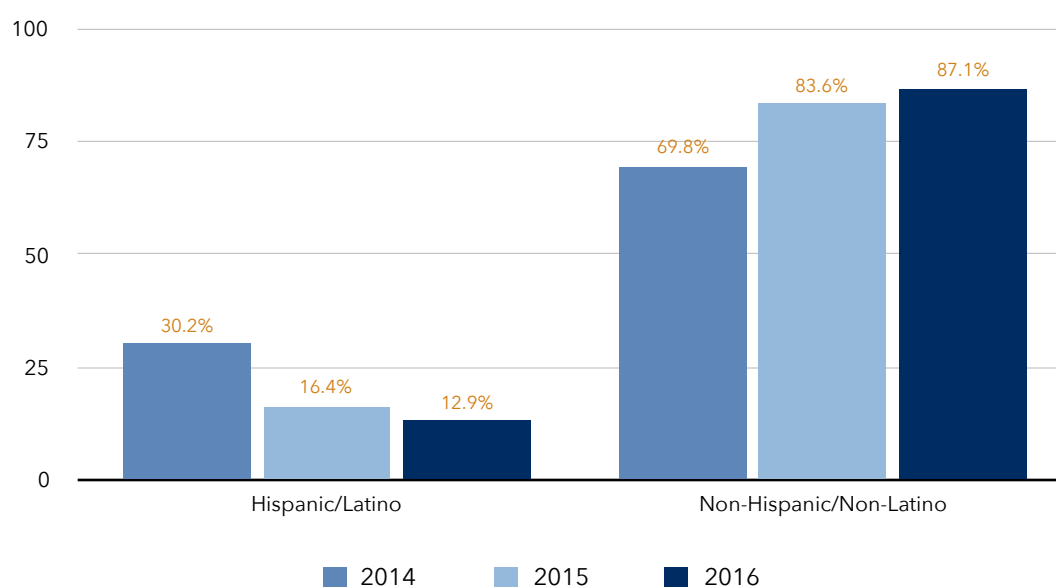
\* Bitfocus Inc., (2015) 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

<sup>†</sup> In 2015, per HUD, survey respondents answering 'Other/Multi-ethnic' were required to select more than one race response option, which is why the format for response totals for 2014 differ from 2015 and 2016. 2016 matches the same format as 2015.

### Summary:

- 50.6% of survey respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian*.
- 38.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Black/African American*.
- 2.3% of respondents identified their racial group as *American Indian/Alaskan Native*.
- 5.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Asian/Pacific Islander*.
- 8.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Other/Multi-Ethnic*.

Figure 15: Respondents by Ethnicity, 2014, 2015 & 2016



N: 2014 = 351; 2015 = 899, 2016 = 967

(data from 2013 is not comparable)

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016), 2014, 2015, and 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 12.9% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*.
- 87.1% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

### 4.1c Gender

Past homeless surveys nationwide have consistently found that the majority of homeless adults are male. The 2015 and 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Surveys reflected the continuation of this trend; in both 2015 and 2016 the majority of survey respondents identified as male gender.

## Summary:

- 71.6% of respondents identified as *male*. This is higher than 2015 (68.7%).
- 28.2% of respondents identified as *female*. This is lower than 2015 (31.3%).
- 4.7% of female respondents reported they were pregnant. This is lower than 2015 (5.2%).
- 0.2% of respondents identified as *transgender*. This is more than 2015 (0.0%).

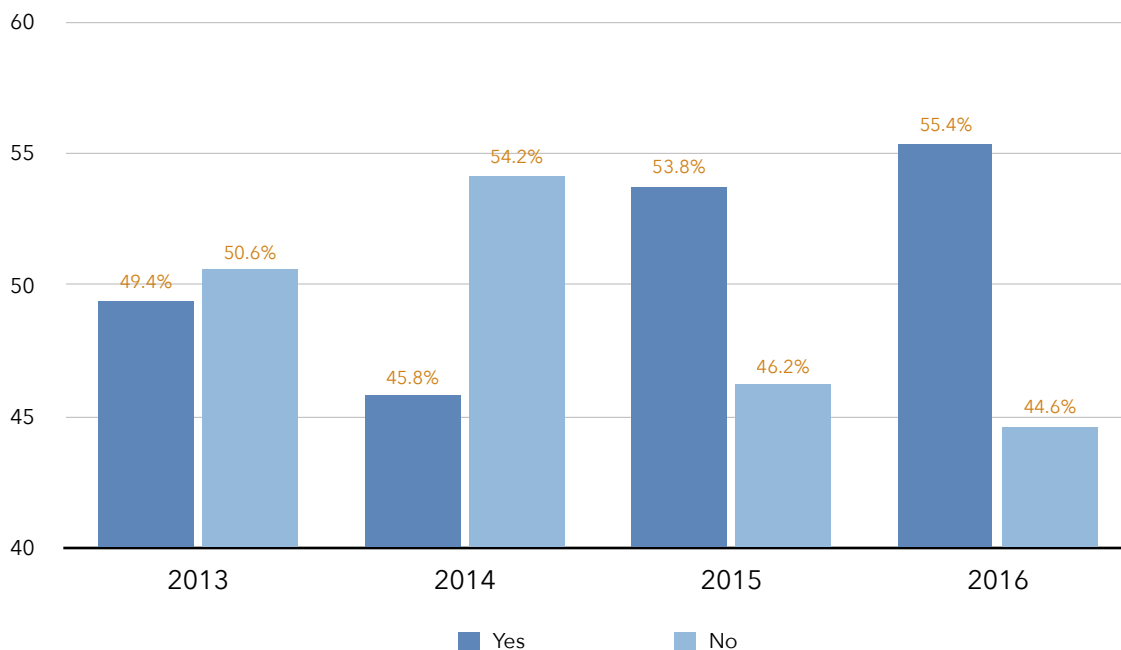
## 4.2 Homelessness Conditions

The following section presents a broad view of the various characteristics and causes of homelessness. This section details the duration and frequency of homelessness, living conditions, and obstacles that homeless persons face when trying to secure permanent housing. Employment and income status are also discussed in depth.

### 4.2a Conditions Prior to Homelessness

#### 4.2a.1 Occurrence of Homelessness

Figure 16: Is This The First Time You've Been Homeless?



N: 2013 = 822 ; 2014 = 936; 2015 = 913, 2016 = 965

Source:

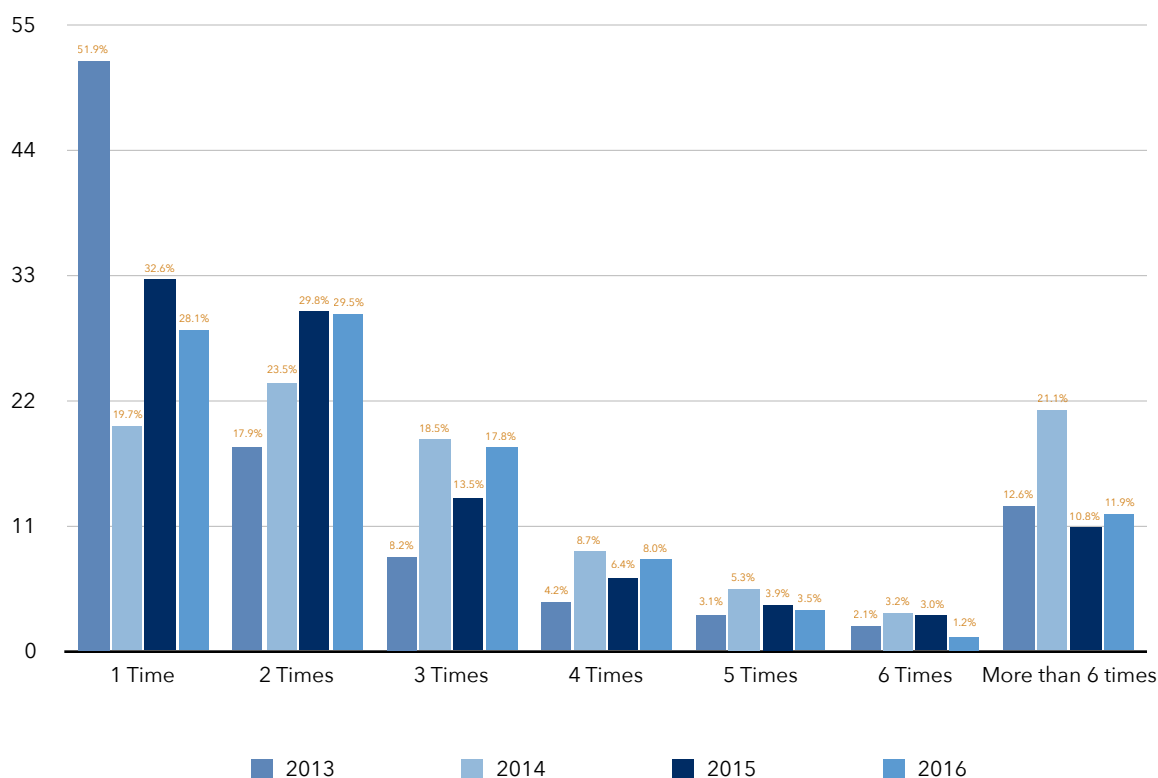
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.



### Summary:

- More survey respondents (55.4%) reported that they were homeless for the first time than did survey respondents in 2015 (53.8%).

**Figure 17: Number of Times Respondents Had Been Homeless in the Last 3 Years, Including This Time**



N: 2013 = 619; 2014 = 493; 2015 = 362; 2016 = 427

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- Between 2015 and 2016, the percentage of survey respondents who have been homeless four or more times in the last three years increased from 24.1% to 24.6%. This is important due to the fact that this is one of the criterion that determines whether a person can be deemed chronically homeless. More details on the definition for chronic homelessness are available in the *Appendix VII - Glossary and Definition of Terms*.

- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of survey respondents reporting more than six homeless episodes within the last three years increased by 1.1%.

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) changed the definition of Chronically Homeless. For purposes of reporting in the PIT count, a chronically homeless person

1. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
2. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
3. Has a disability.

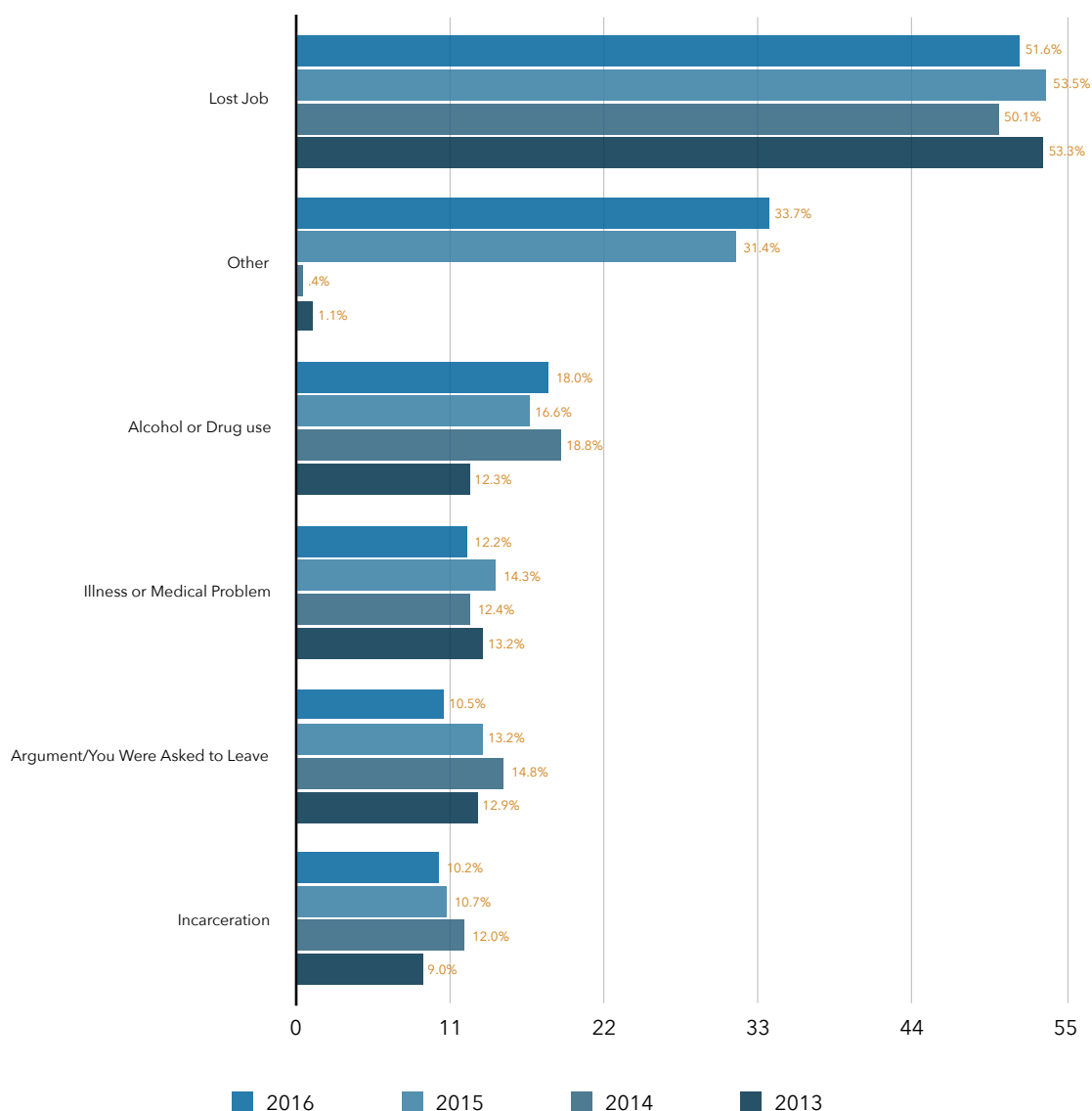
The 2016 addition is that if the individual is homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, then ***the combined length of time homeless in those occasions must be at least 12 months.***

In order to comply with this new requirement, Bitfocus, Inc., altered the survey to capture this information.

For those respondents who reported being homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the past 3 years (104 respondents), 85.6 percent (89 respondents) of these respondents reported that the combined length of time for these homeless episodes was at least 12 months.

## 4.2a.2 Primary Causes of Homelessness

Figure 18: Top Events That Led to Respondents' Homelessness (Top 6 Responses in 2016)



Multiple response question.

2013: 823 respondents provided 1,460 responses; 2014: 933 respondents provided 1,728 responses; 2015: 920 respondents provided 1,824 responses; 2016: 966 respondents provided 1,797 responses.

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

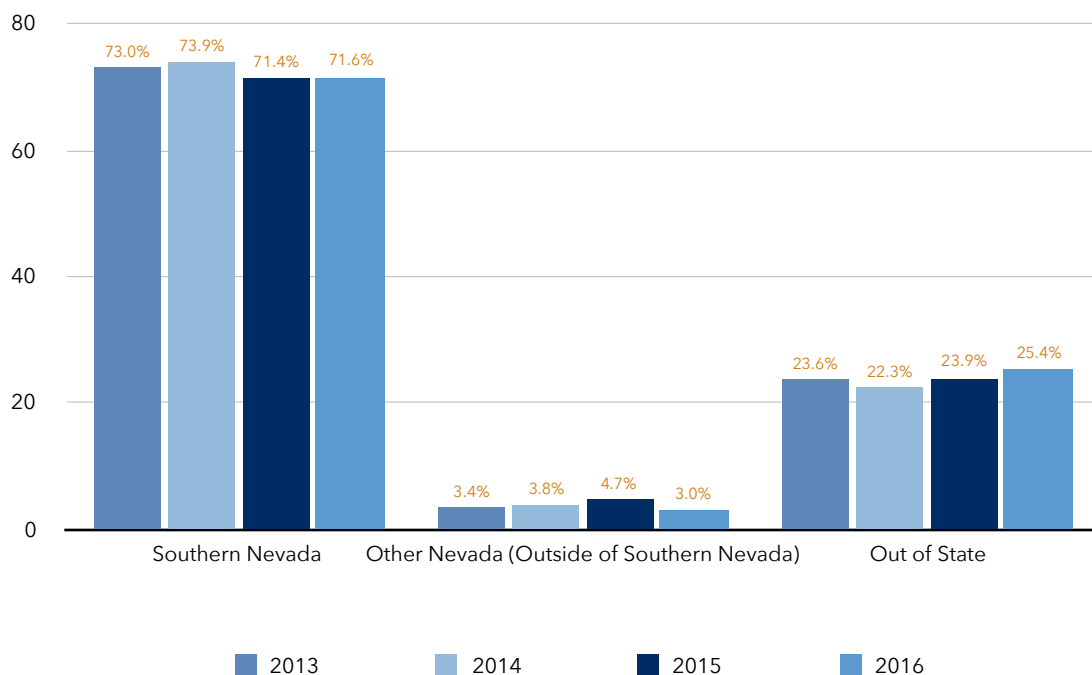
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### Summary:

- 51.6% of 2016 survey respondents cited *Job Loss* as the primary cause of their homelessness, making it the primary cause of homelessness for the majority of this population. In 2015, *Job Loss* was also the most frequently cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising of 53.5% of respondents.
- *Other* was the second most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness in 2016 (33.7%). This is more than that of 2015 (31.4%).
- *Alcohol or Drug Use* was the third most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness in 2016 (18.0%). In 2015, it was also the third most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising 16.6% of survey respondents.
- *Illness or Medical Problem* was the fourth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, *Illness or Medical Problem* decreased from 14.3% to 12.2% of survey responses.
- 10.5% of 2016 respondents cited *Argument / Family or Friend Asked You to Leave* as their primary reason for homelessness. This was less than 2015 (13.2%).
- The *Incarceration* category was the sixth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2016 (10.2%). This is less than 2015 (10.7%)

### 4.2a.3 County of Residency Prior to Homelessness

Figure 19: Where Respondents Were Living at the Time They Most Recently Became Homeless



N: 2013 = 798; 2014 = 921; 2015 = 912, N: 2016 = 964

Source:

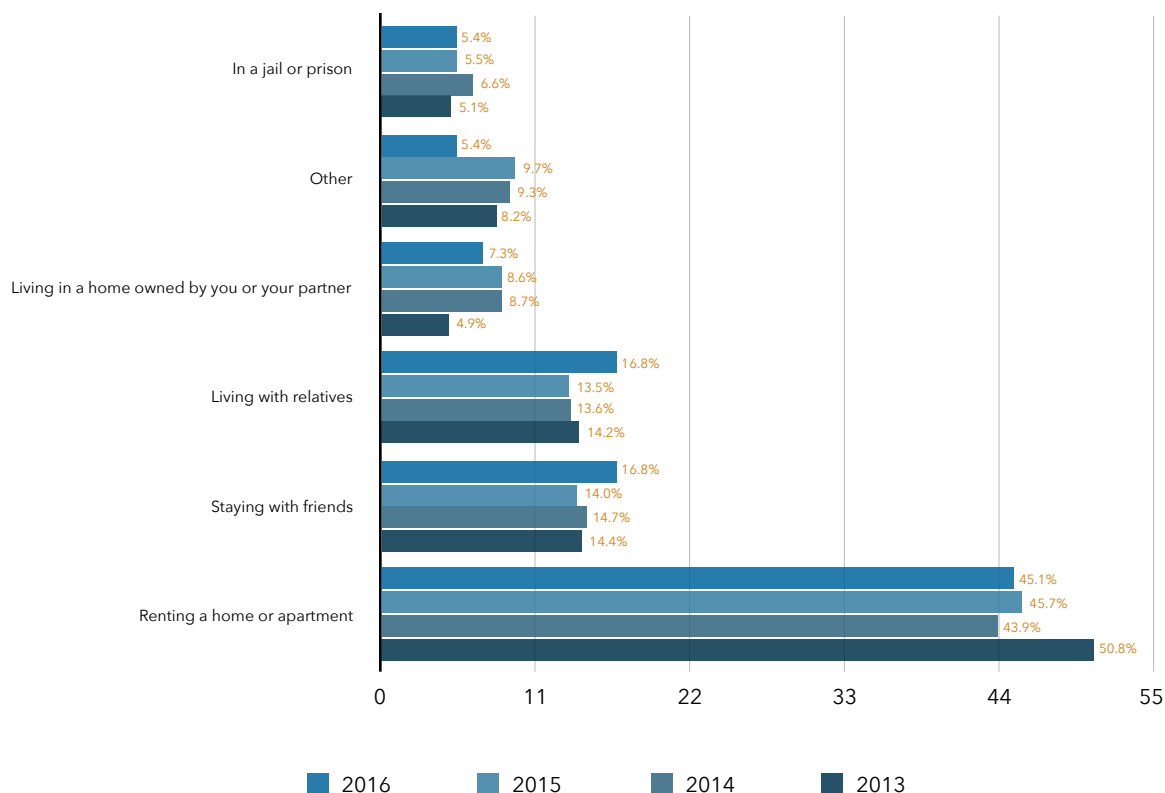
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (71.6%) reported living in *Southern Nevada* when they most recently became homeless.

#### 4.2a.4 Previous Living Arrangements

Figure 20: Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless This Time (Top 6 Responses in 2016)



N: 2013 = 819; 2014 = 931; 2015 = 921; N: 2016 = 965

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

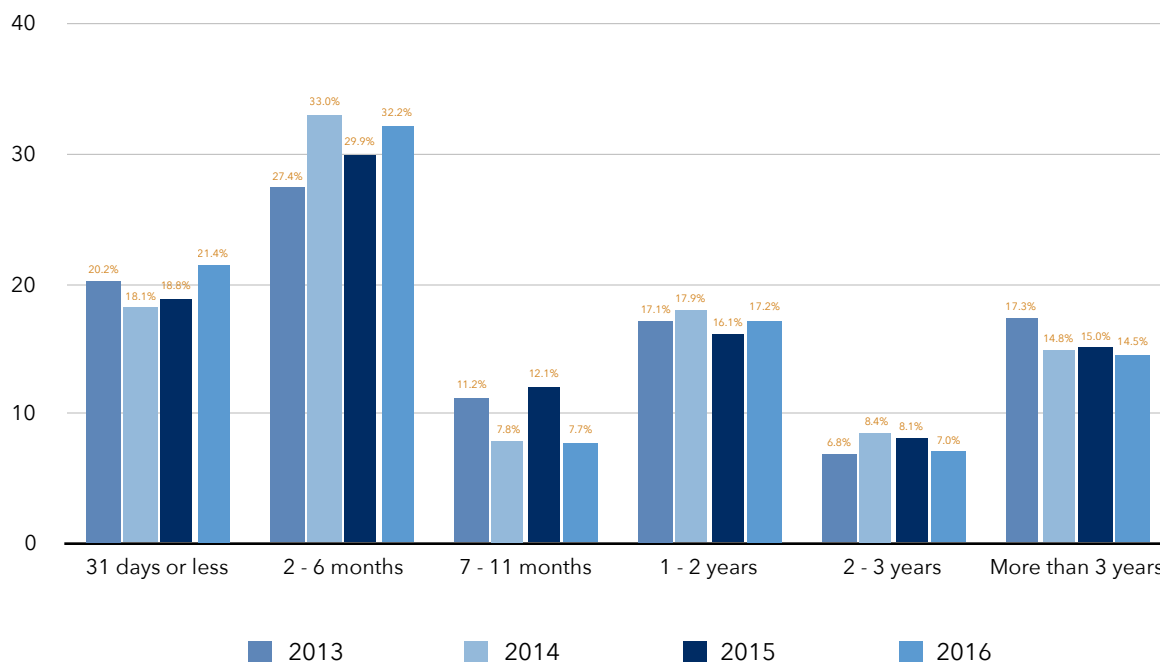
#### Summary:

- The majority (45.1%) of survey respondents reported that they were *renting a home or apartment* prior to becoming homeless. This is less than 2015, when 45.7% of respondents cited the same information.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of survey respondents reporting that they were *living with relatives* immediately prior to becoming homeless increased from 13.5% to 16.8%.

## 4.2b Living Conditions

### 4.2b.1 Duration of Homelessness

Figure 21: Length of Time Since Last Permanent Housing Situation



N: 2013= 810; 2014 = 927; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 966

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

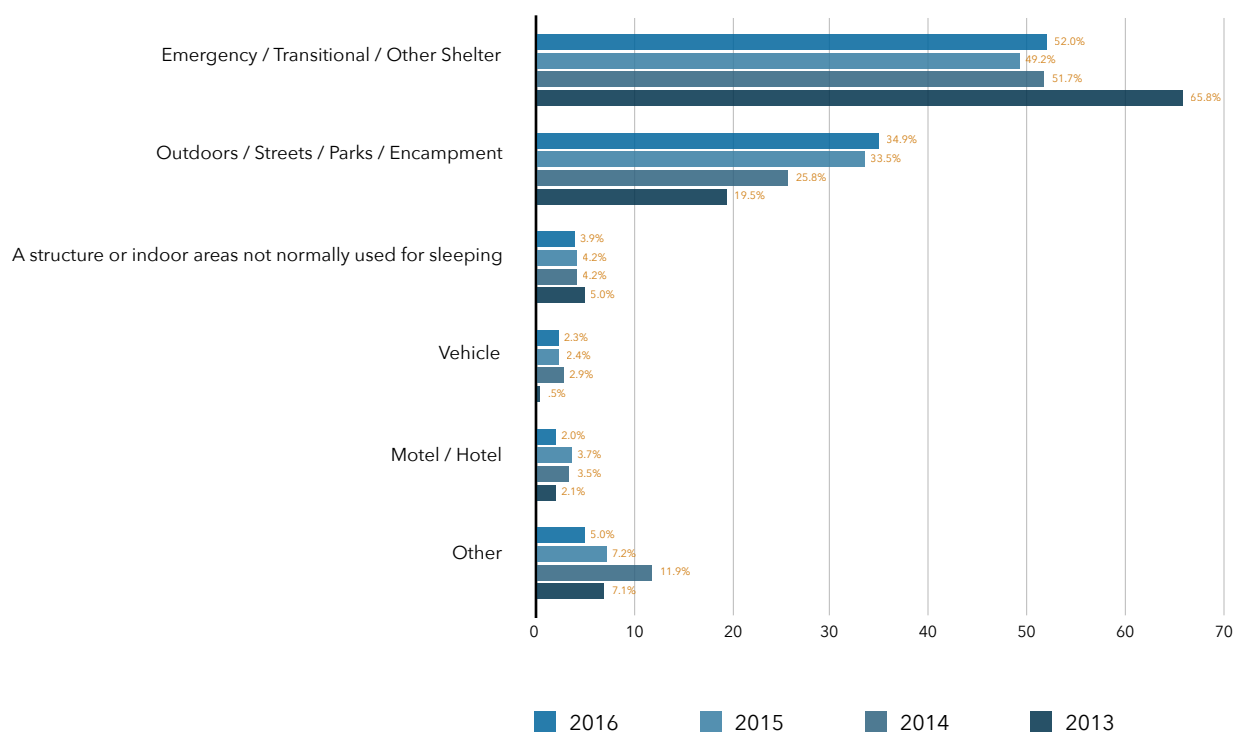
#### Summary:

- 38.7% of the 2016 survey respondents reported that they had been been homeless for a year or more since their last housing situation.\* This has decreased from 2015 (39.2%).
- 21.4% of 2016 survey respondents reported having been homeless for 31 days or less, which is an increase from the 18.8% recorded in 2015.
- 14.5% of 2016 survey respondents indicated they had been homeless for more than 3 years. The amount of persons homeless for more than 3 years decreased since 2015, when 15.0% of survey respondents qualified for this category.

\* This condition is one of the components used to determine whether a person can be considered "chronically homeless" (see Homeless Survey-Homeless Subpopulations section for more information).

### 4.2b.2 Typical Nighttime Accommodations

Figure 22: Where Respondents Typically Stay at Night



N: 2013= 816; 2014 = 932, 2015 = 920; N: 2016 = 967

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, & 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

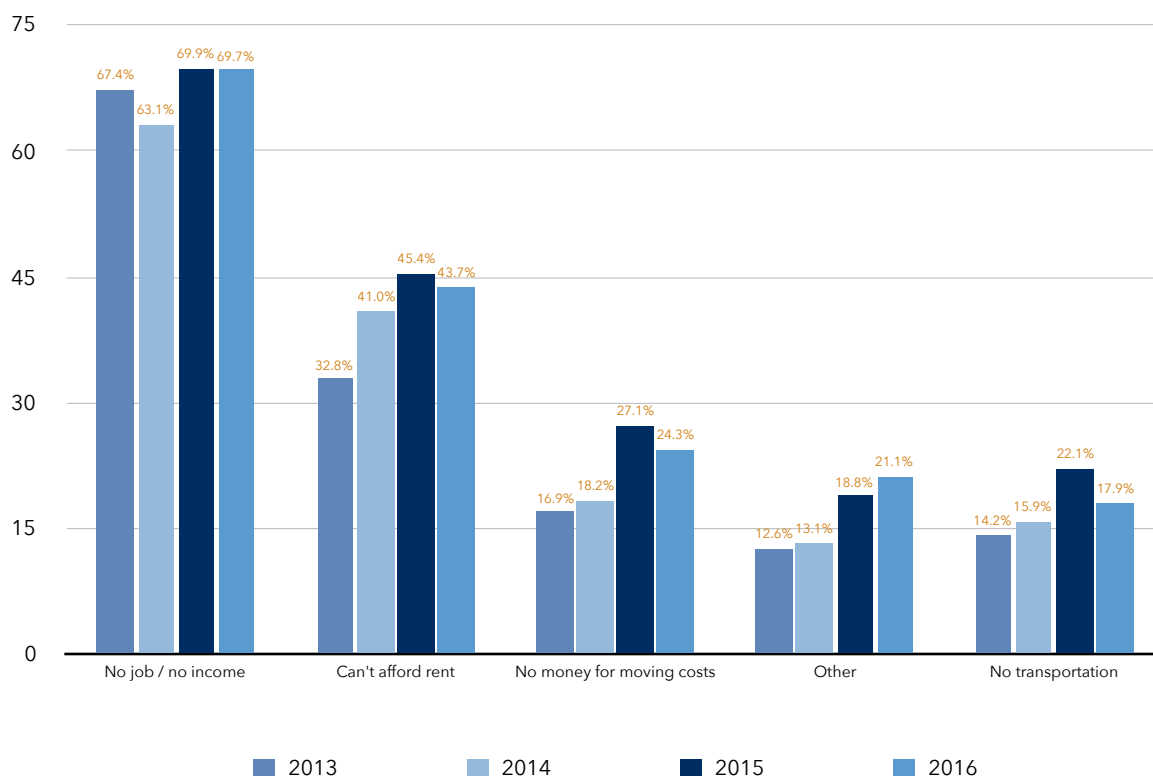
#### Summary:

- 34.9% of survey respondents reported living outdoors (streets, parks, encampments). This is a 1.4% increase from 2015.
- 52.0% of survey respondents reported sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, other shelter). This amount is 2.8% more than 2015 (49.2%).



### 4.2b.3 Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Figure 23: Circumstances That Were Preventing Respondents From Securing Permanent Housing (Top 5 Responses in 2016)



Multiple response question.

810 respondents provided 1,427 responses in 2013; 930 respondents provided 1,693 responses in 2014; 919 respondents provided 2,081 responses in 2015; 966 respondents provided 2,019 responses in 2016.

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

#### Summary:

- As with previous surveys (since 2013), *No Job/No Income* was the most commonly cited obstacle to obtaining housing in 2016 (69.7%). This amount is less than that of 2015 (69.9%).
- 43.7% of 2016 survey respondents cited *Inability To Afford Rent* as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing. This amount is less than 2015 (45.4%).

## 4.2c Income & Employment

### 4.2c.1 Employment Status

The 2016 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, effective January 25, 2016, in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 81 FR 4036, indicates that the official 2016 poverty level for an individual is \$11,880, or \$990 per month.\* Note that the poverty level has increased slightly since 2015 when it was \$980/month.†

This poverty level differs significantly from the self-sufficiency standard, which provides a more realistic amount for true cost of living. It is based on all major budget items faced by working adults, not just food. These basic needs include housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, taxes, and miscellaneous costs. The self-sufficiency standard, which is \$1,528 per month, per individual in Southern Nevada (\$18,336 per year, per individual), is a measure of income adequacy that calculates how much income from a single working adult is sufficient to meet their needs without government subsidies.‡

As shown in previous reports, lack of income has a substantial impact on the rate of homelessness in Southern Nevada. In previous years, utilization of government assistance has been low. This trend continued, although utilization of moderate amounts of government assistance has increased slightly since 2013.

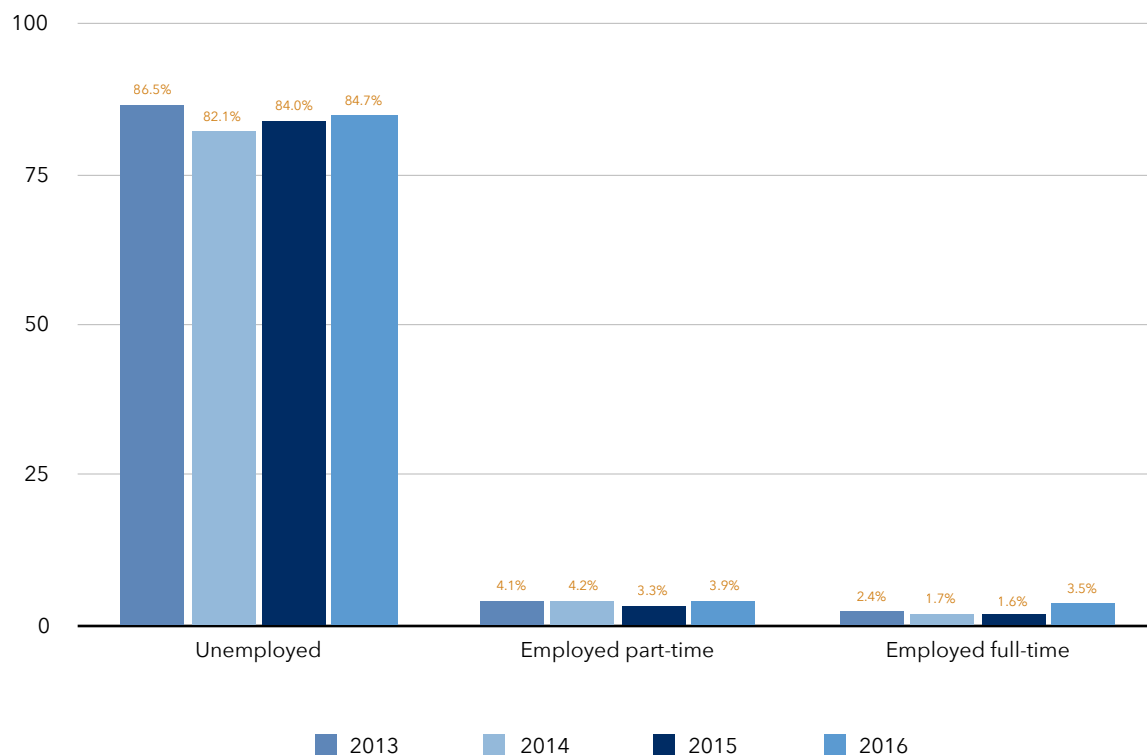
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\* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Federal Register*, Vol. 81, No. 15, pp. 4036 -4037, 2016

† U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. *Federal Register*, Vol. 79, FR 3593, pp. 3593-359426, 2014

‡ Center for Women's Welfare, *Self Sufficiency Calculator*. Retrieved April 9, 2016 from: <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/>.

Figure 24: Employment Status of Respondents



N: 2013 = 830; N: 2014 = 926; N: 2015 = 915; N: 2016 = 971

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 84.7% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing unemployment at the time of the survey. This amount represents an increase compared to 2015 (84.0%).

Figure 25: Respondent's Barriers to Getting Employment (Top 10 Responses in 2016)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015 to 2016 Net Change
No Transportation	24.3%	27.4%	28.7%	22.5%	-6.2%
Other	13.4%	15.5%	19.3%	19.9%	0.6%
Disabled	14.6%	13.6%	14.6%	19.6%	5.0%
No Permanent Address	19.9%	23.4%	19.5%	17.9%	-1.6%
Need Clothing	11.0%	15.3%	17.2%	16.8%	-0.4%
Need Training	13.1%	12.5%	17.5%	15.9%	-1.6%
No Photo Identification	8.8%	10.9%	11.5%	14.0%	2.5%
Health Problems	15.9%	14.2%	16.4%	13.9%	-2.5%
Need Education	10.4%	13.1%	12.5%	10.6%	-1.9%
No Jobs	28.6%	21.3%	15.0%	10.3%	-4.7%

*Multiple response question.*

*762 respondents provided 1,573 responses in 2013; 880 respondents with 1,907 responses in 2014; 907 respondents provided 2,093 responses in 2015; 950 respondents provided 1,998 responses in 2016.*

*Source:*

*Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

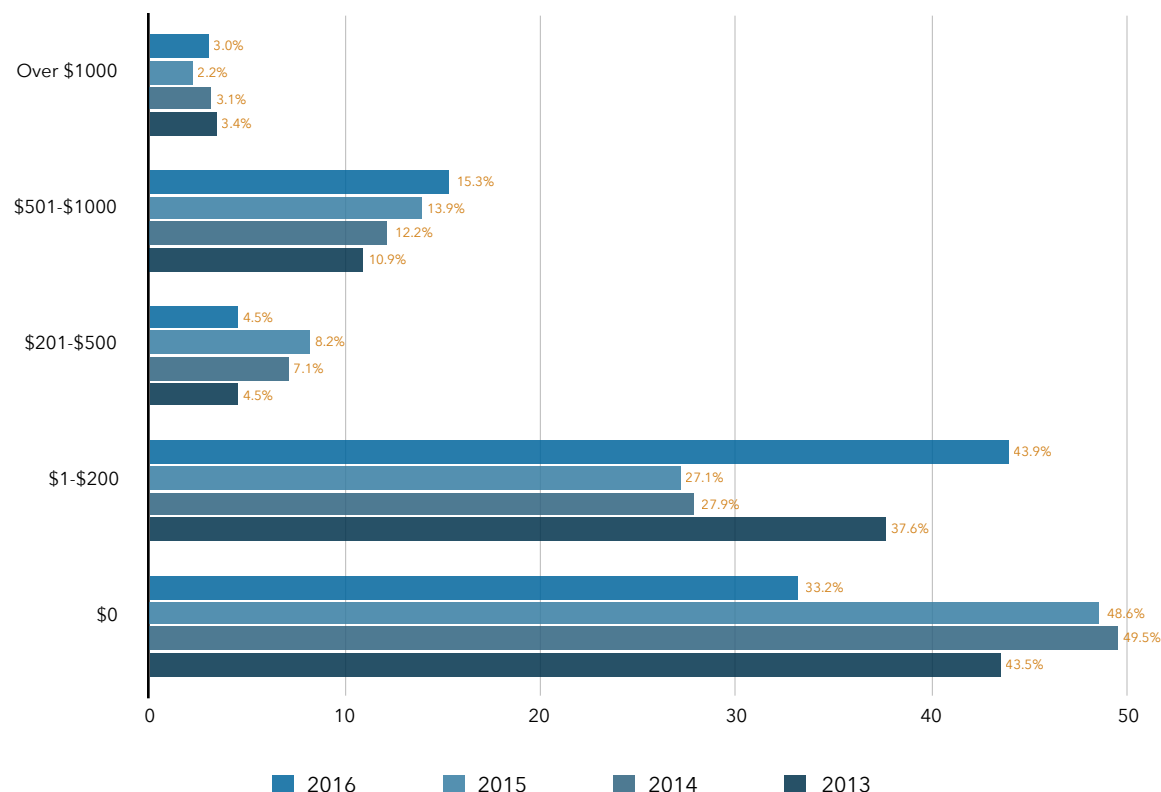
*NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.*

#### Summary:

- In 2016, the leading barrier to employment was *No Transportation* (22.5%). In 2015, this category was also the leading barrier to employment (28.7%). This category decreased by 6.2% between 2015 and 2016.
- Between 2015 and 2016, there was a 5.0% increase in respondents identifying that *Disability* among top barriers to getting employment.

### 4.2c.2 Income - From Government Benefits

Figure 26: Total (Gross) Monthly Income From All Government Benefits



N: 2013= 816; 2014 = 907; 2015 = 919; N: 2016 = 970

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 18.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than \$500 per month in government benefits, which is, in general, more than previous years.
- The amount of survey respondents receiving between \$201 and \$500 per month decreased by 3.7% compared to 2015.
- The amount of survey respondents (33.3%) who reported to be receiving no money from government benefits decreased by 15.3% since 2015.

#### *4.2c.3 Income - From Private Non-Government Sources*

##### Summary:

- 2016 data indicates homeless individuals seem to be receiving lower amounts of income from other sources (e.g. panhandling, recycling, etc.). More specifically, 74.8% of 2016 survey respondents claimed to be receiving no money from other sources. This is a 1.1% increase from 2015 (73.7%).
- 94.0% of the 2016 survey respondents were receiving \$500 or less from other sources. This is less than 2015 (94.9%).

#### *4.2c.4 Income - From Other Sources*

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

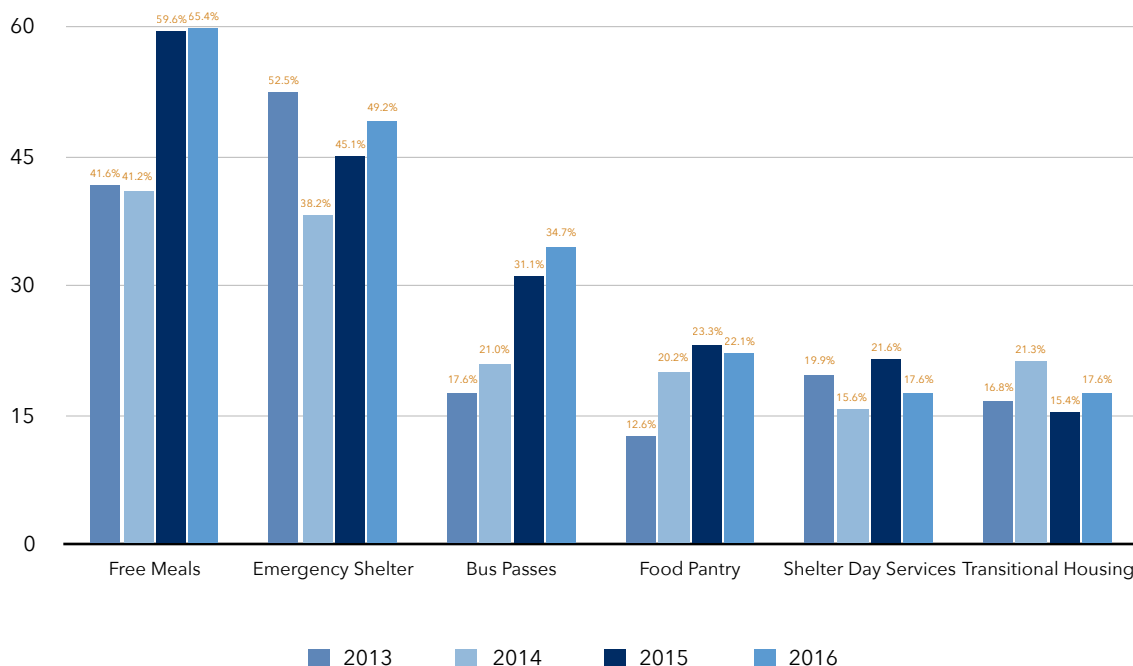
##### Summary:

- From 2015 to 2016, the amount of survey respondents receiving income from family and friends decreased from 17.2% to 17.1%.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of income survey respondents were obtaining through recycling decreased from 10.5% to 5.1%.

## 4.3 Utilization of Government Assistance & Homelessness Programs

### 4.3a Services & Programs: Type of Assistance & Barriers to Assistance

Figure 27: Of Those Using Any Services or Assistance, Types of Services or Assistance Used (Top 6 Responses in 2016)



Multiple response question.

831 respondents provided 1,717 in 2013; 929 respondents provided 1,962 responses in 2014; 914 respondents provided 2,308 responses in 2015; 958 respondents provided 2,419 responses in 2016.

Source:

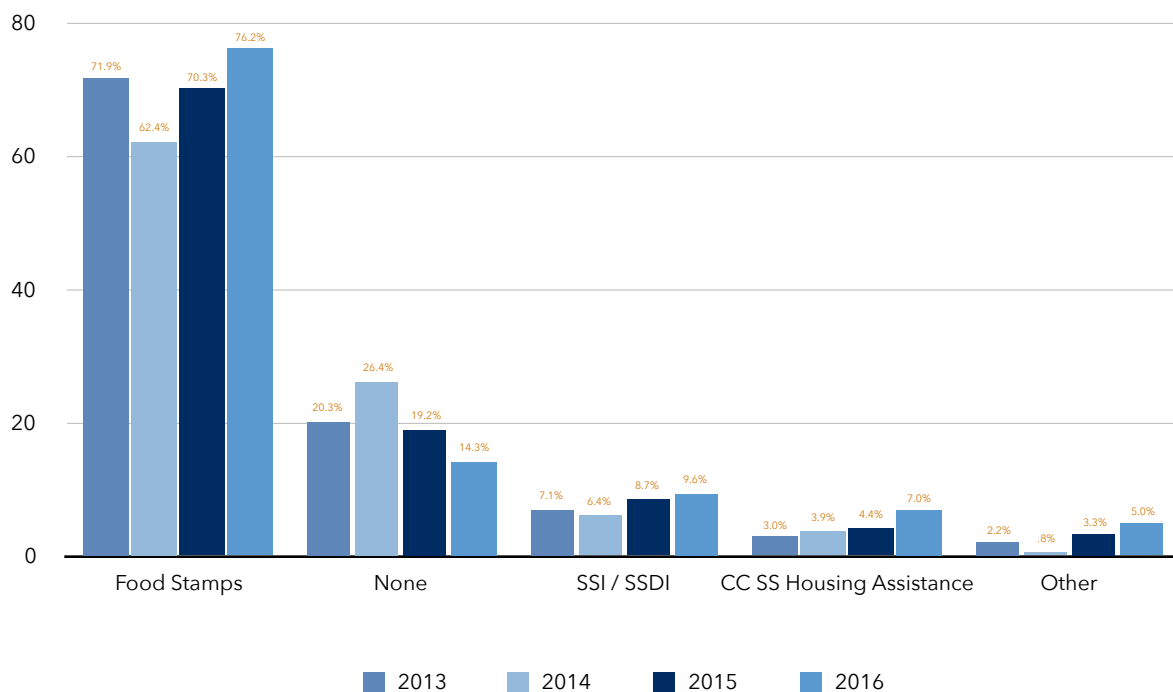
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

#### Summary:

- Between 2015 and 2016, utilization of *Emergency Shelters* increased by 4.1%.
- Usage of *Food Pantry* services decreased by 1.2% between 2015 and 2016.
- 17.6% of 2016 survey respondents reported using *Shelter Day Services*, which is less than 2015 (21.6%).
- 17.6% of 2016 survey respondents reported using *Transitional Housing*, which is more than 2015 (15.4%).

Figure 28: Of Those Receiving Some Form of Government Assistance, Types of Assistance Received (Top 5 Responses in 2016)



Multiple response question.

807 respondents provided 927 responses in 2013; 916 respondents provided 1,097 responses in 2014; 899 respondents provided 1,105 responses in 2015; 942 respondents provided 1,173 responses in 2016.

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

### Summary:

- 85.7% of 2016 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits, which is higher than than 2015 (51.4%).\*
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of respondents receiving *Social Security* benefits decreased from 4.8% to 4.6%.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of survey respondents receiving *Food Stamps* increased from 70.3% to 76.2%.

\* For the purposes of this study, the following forms of government assistance were included: general assistance or general relief; food stamps; service-connected VA disability compensation; not service-connected VA pension; other veterans' benefits; social security; SSI/SSDI; TANF; WIC; Clark County Social Service housing assistance; other governmental assistance; no government assistance.



### 4.3b Aging Out of Foster Care

In 2016, 0.5% of survey respondents cited *Aging Out Of Foster Care* as their reason for homelessness. In 2015, 0.4% of respondents claimed that *Aging Out Of Foster Care* was the reason they were homeless.

## 4.4 Medical

Many homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless subpopulation, suffer physical and/or development disabilities, chronic health problems, and mental illnesses such as PTSD and depression.

Although medical problems amongst homeless populations are disproportionate to that of the general population, members of this population are the least likely to find, or even have access to, health care. Homeless persons typically seek out hospital emergency rooms when in need of medical attention, but those who do seek medical care at hospitals suffer from higher incidences of untreated mental illness and/or substance abuse.\*

In 2015, 36.5 percent of the Southern Nevada survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care compared to 11.6 percent that stated they utilize free/community clinics. In contrast, 40.2 percent of 2016 survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care, and the utilization of free/community clinics increased to 11.9 percent.

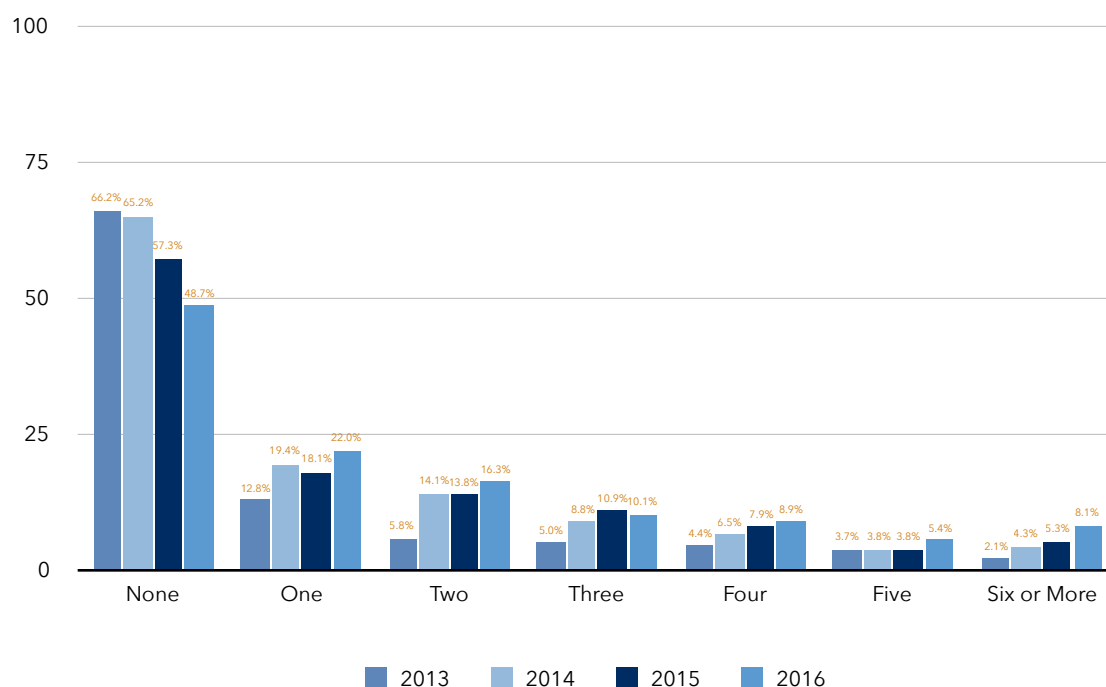
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\* Ku, BS et al. *Factors Associated with Use of Urban Emergency Departments by the U.S. Homeless Population*. *Public Health Rep.* 2010 May-Jun; 125(3): 398-405

## 4.4a Health & Disability

### 4.4a.1 Disabling Conditions

Figure 29: Number of Disabling Conditions Among All Homeless Respondents, 2016



N: 2013 = 860; 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016: N = 973

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:\*

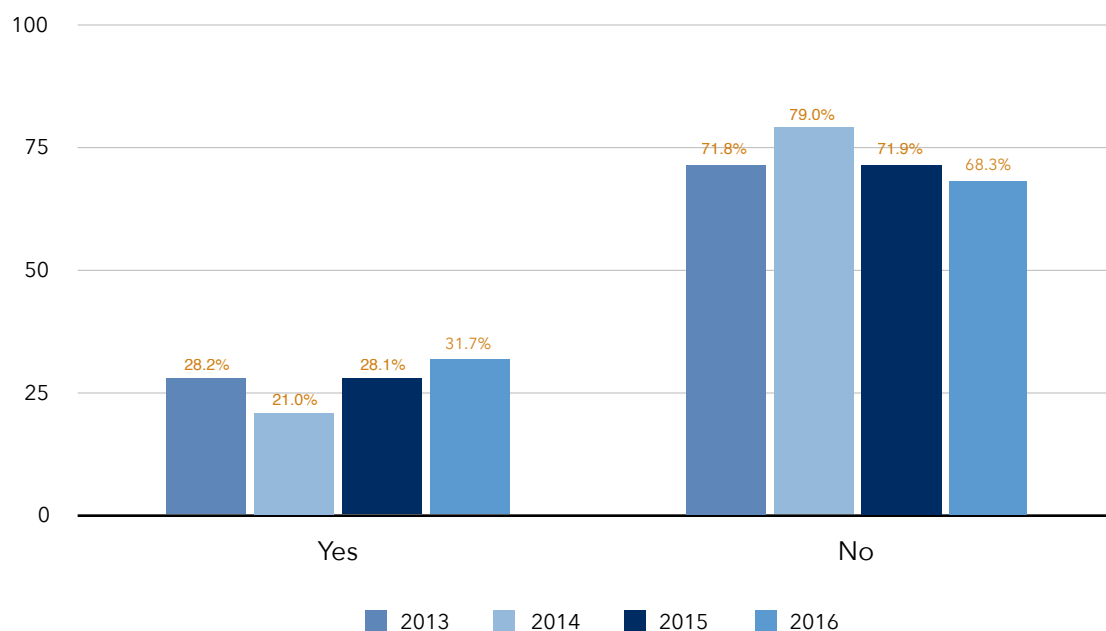
- 70.8% of survey respondents reported one or more disabling conditions. This is a 11.0% increase compared to 2015 when 59.8% of survey respondents were in this category.
- 48.7% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions. This is a 8.6% decrease since 2015 when 57.3% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions.

\* Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that: which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. The survey questions that were applied to these standards included the existence of one or more of the following: physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence/abuse, chronic health problem, AIDS/HIV related illness, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, PTSD, Developmental Disability, Emphysema, Diabetes, Asthma, Cancer, Kidney disease/renal/dialysis, history of hypothermia/frostbite, liver disease/cirrhosis, heart disease/arrhythmia.

- 8.1% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions. In 2015, 5.3% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of survey respondents reporting three disabling conditions decreased from 10.9% to 10.1%.

#### 4.4a.2 Chronic Health Problems

Figure 30: Are You or Have You Ever Experienced Chronic Health Problems?



N: 2013 = 684, 2014 = 865, 2015 = 912; N: 2016 = 969

Source:

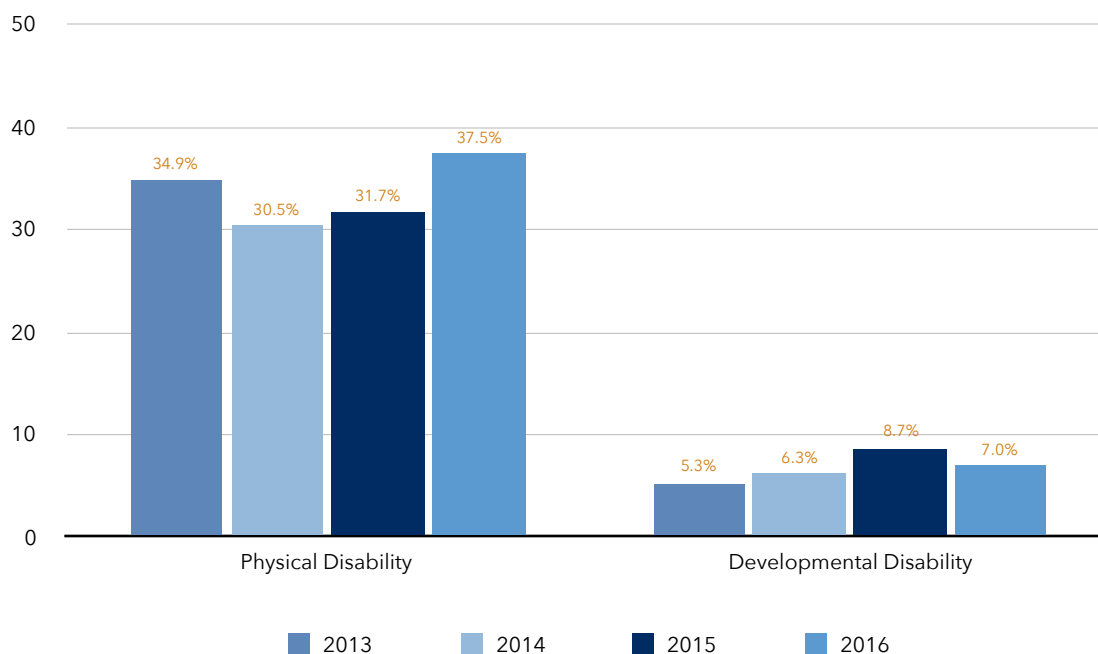
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 31.7% of survey respondents reported that they ever experienced chronic health problems. This amount is higher compared to 2015 when 28.1% of respondents indicated they ever experienced chronic health problems.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the percentage of respondents saying they ever experienced chronic health problems increased by 3.6%.

#### 4.4a.3 Physical & Developmental Disabilities

Figure 31: Percentage of Respondents Who Currently or in the Past Experienced a Physical or Developmental Disability



2013: Physical Disability N = 684; Developmental Disability N = 681; 2014: Physical Disability N = 888; Developmental Disability N = 895; 2015: Physical Disability N = 913; Developmental Disability N = 916; 2016: Physical Disability N = 970; Developmental Disability N = 969  
NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

##### Summary: Physical Disabilities

- 37.5% of survey respondents indicated they were currently or had ever experienced a physical disability.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of respondents reporting physical disabilities increased by 5.8%.

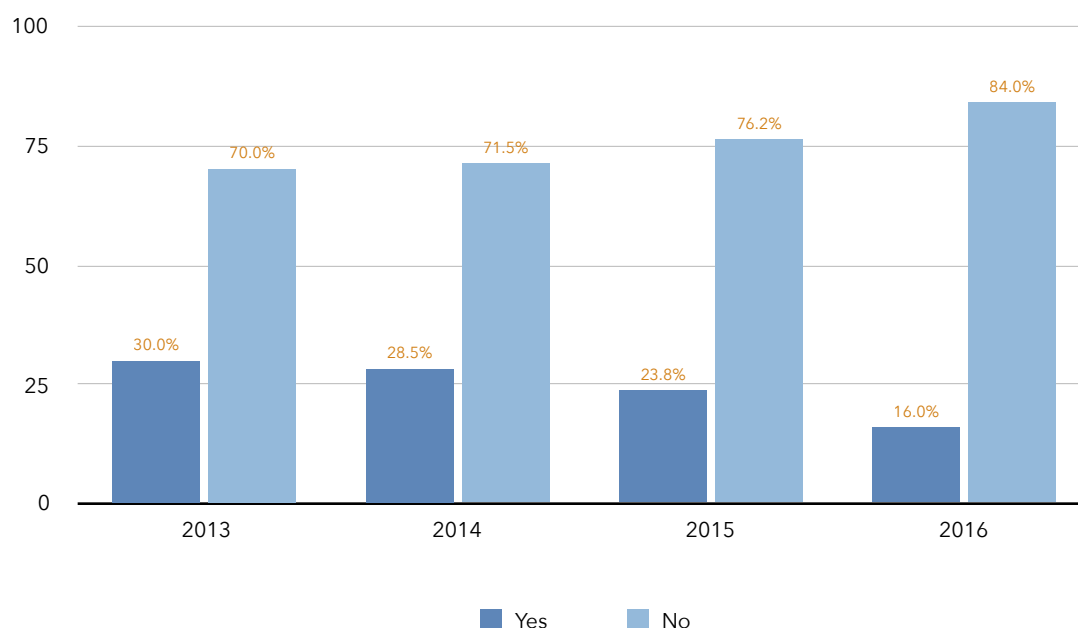
##### Summary: Developmental Disabilities

- In 2016, 7.0% of survey respondents indicated they currently or had ever experienced a developmental disability.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of respondents reporting developmental disabilities decreased by 1.7%.

## 4.4b Medical Care

### 4.4b.1 Access to Medical Care

Figure 32: Have You Needed Medical Care and Been Unable to Receive It Since Becoming Homeless This Last Time?



N: 2013 = 766, 2014 = 916, 2015 = 906; 2016 = 961

Source:

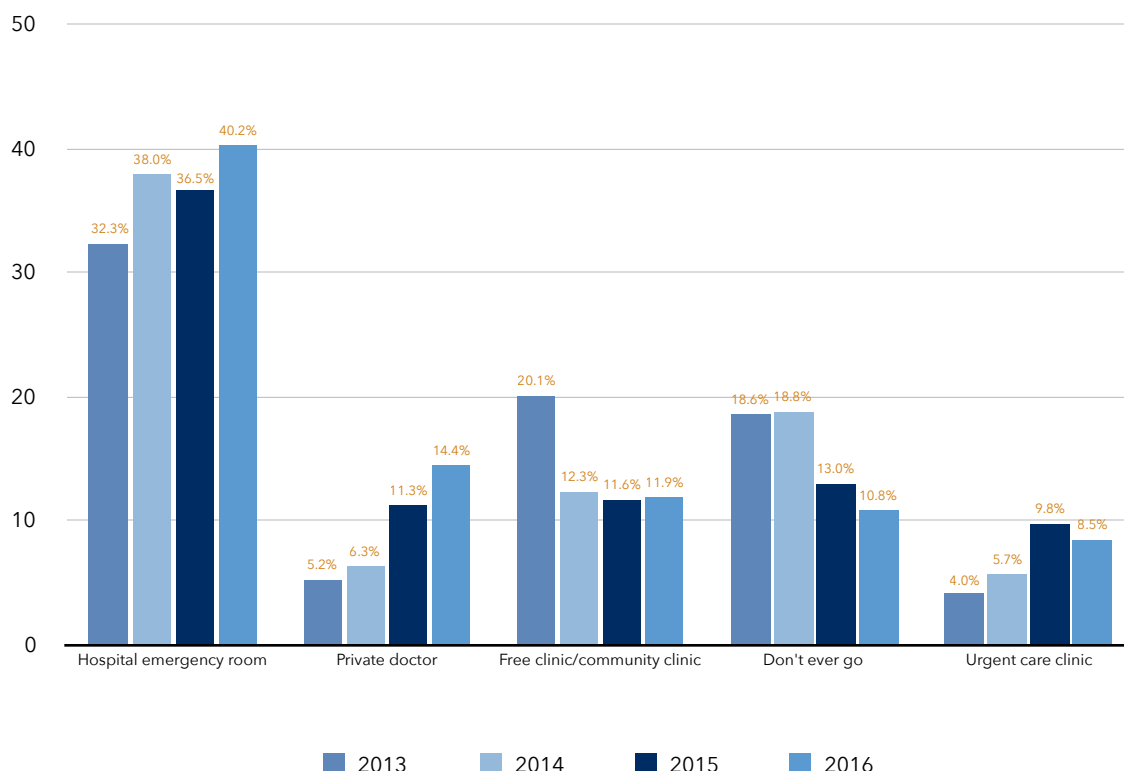
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015. & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- From 2015 to 2016, the amount of survey respondents reporting they needed medical attention but were unable to receive it decreased by 7.8%.
- 84.0% of 2016 survey respondents indicated that they have been able to receive medical care when they needed it since most recently becoming homeless. This is a 7.8% increase from 2015 when 76.2% of the respondents reported they were able to receive medical care when they needed it.

#### 4.4b.2 Sources of Medical Care

Figure 33: Respondents' Usual Source of Medical Care (Top 5 Responses in 2016)



N: 2013 = 824; 2014 = 922; 2015 = 917; 2016 = 969

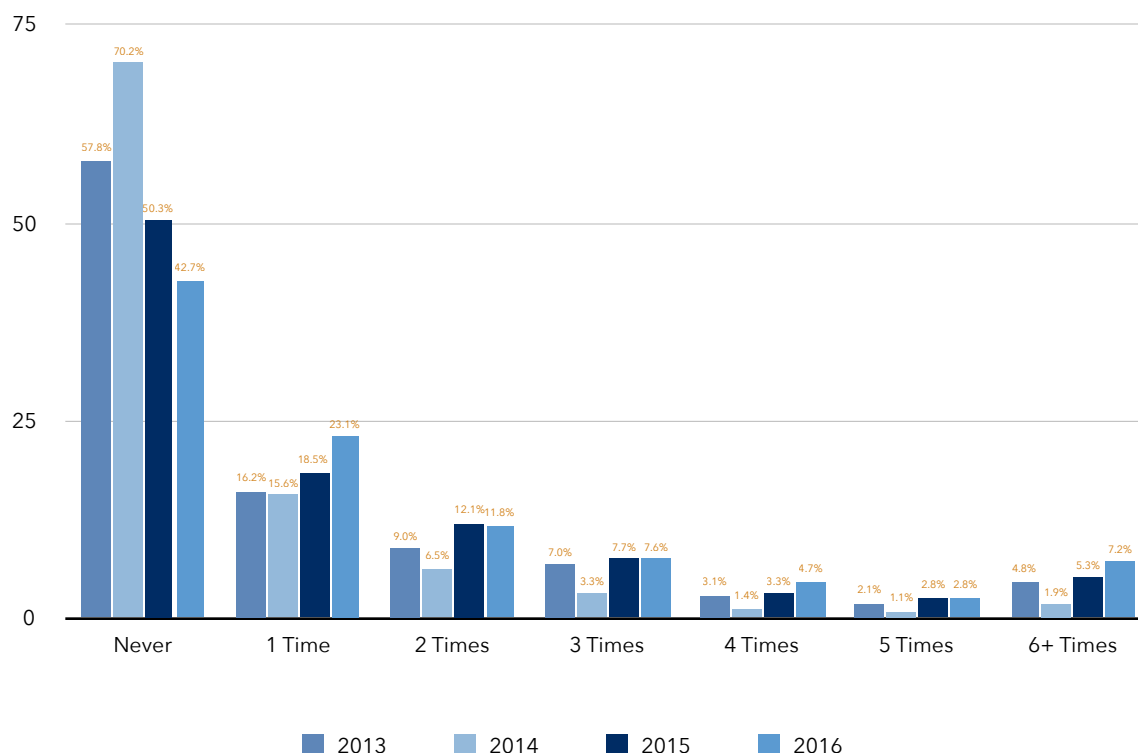
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, & 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 40.2% of survey respondents reported using the *Hospital Emergency Room (ER)* as their usual source of medical care. This amount is higher than that of 2015, when 36.5% of survey respondents indicated they used the *ER* as their usual source of medical care.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of survey respondents who cited the *Free Clinic/Community Clinic* as their usual source of medical care increased from 11.6% to 11.9%.
- 10.8% of survey respondents indicated that they did not receive any medical services. This decreased by 2.2% between 2015 and 2016.

Figure 34: Number of Times Respondents Had Used The Emergency Room For Any Treatment In The Year Prior to the Survey



N: 2013 = 845, 2014 = 899; 2015 = 920; 2016 = 969

Source:

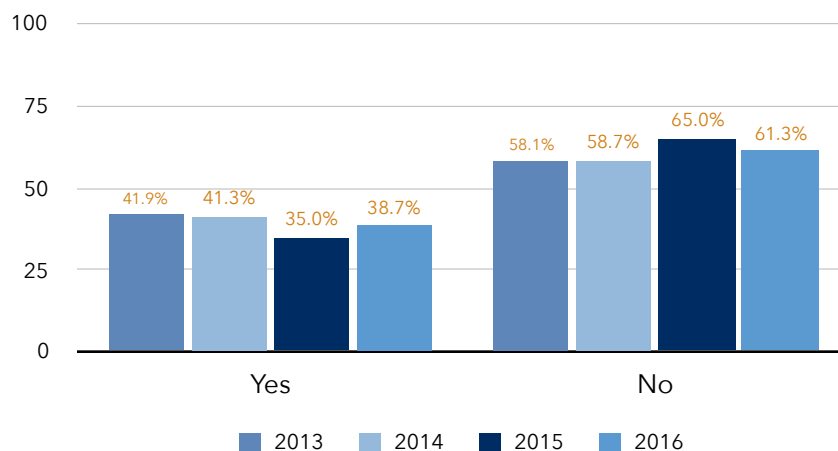
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, & 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- In 2016, 57.3% of respondents indicated that they used the ER at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey. This represents a 7.6% increase from 2015 (49.7%).
- The amount of respondents who claimed to never use the ER during the 12 months prior to the survey decreased from 50.3% in 2015 to 42.7% in 2016.
- 7.2% of survey respondents claimed to have used the ER six or more times in the 12 months prior to the survey. This amount is higher than that of 2015 (5.3%).

#### 4.4c Current and/or past Substance Abuse Experiences

Figure 35: Have You Ever Abused Drugs/Alcohol Or Been Told You Do?



N: 2013 = 740; 2014 = 925; 2015 = 913; 2016 = 966

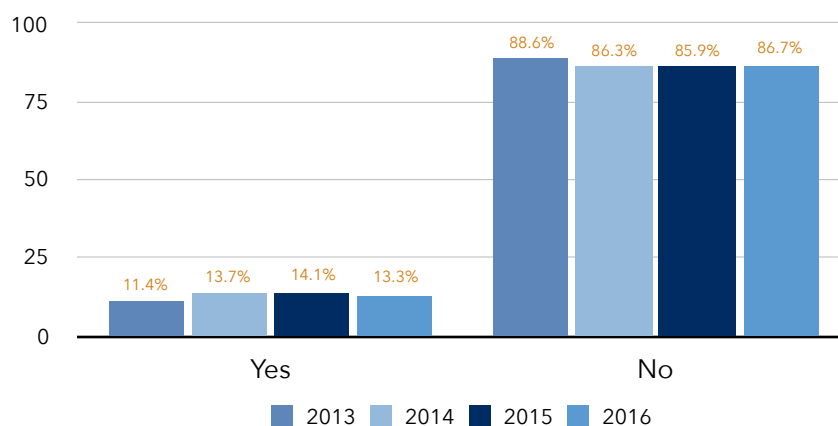
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- In 2016, 38.7% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Abused Drugs/Alcohol* or had been told they do. This is higher than 2015 (35.0%).

Figure 36: Have You Ever Consumed Alcohol Every Day For The Past Month?



N: 2013 = 731; 2014 = 915; 2015 = 911; 2016 = 968

Source:

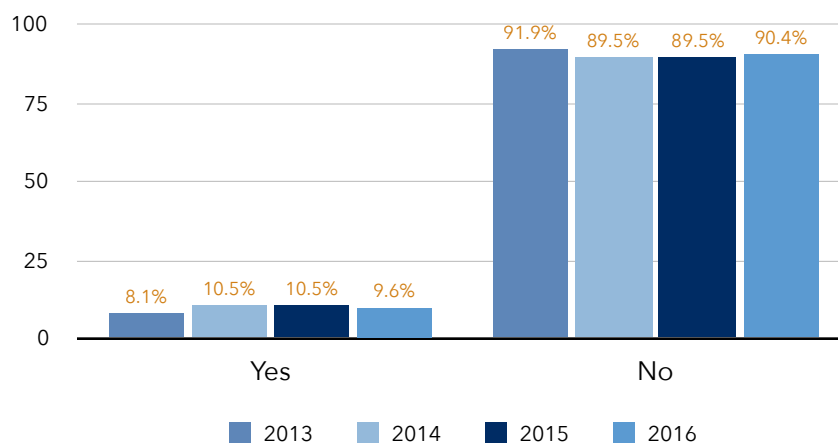
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.



Summary:

- 13.3% of survey respondents indicated that they had consumed *Alcohol* every day for the past month. This is lower than 2015 (14.1%).

Figure 37: Have You Ever Used Injection Drugs Or Shots?



N: 2013 = 731; 2014 = 912; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 964

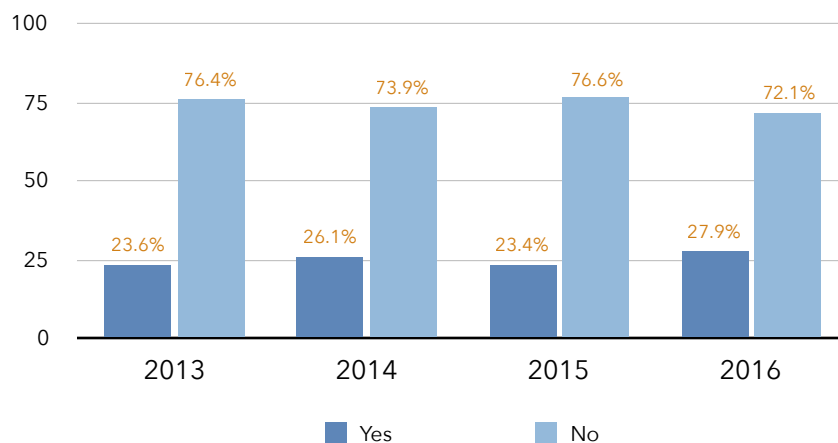
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 9.6% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever used *Injection Drugs or Shots*. This is lower than 2015 (10.5%).

Figure 38: Have You Ever Been Treated For Alcohol Or Drug Abuse?



N: 2013 = 712; 2014 = 909; 2015 = 913; 2016 = 969

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

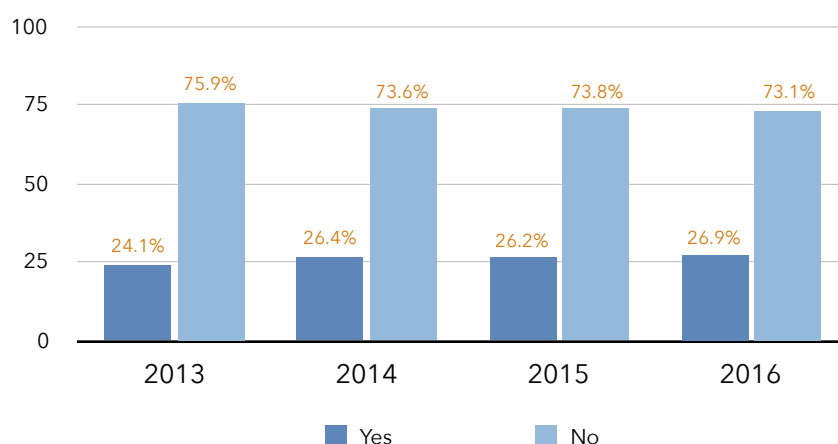
NOTE: 2011 data is not comparable

#### Summary:

- 27.9% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Been Treated for Alcohol or Drug Abuse*. This is higher than 2015 (23.4%).

#### 4.4d Current and/or past Mental Health Experiences

Figure 39: Are You Currently, Or Have You Ever, Received Treatment For Mental Health Issues?



N: 2013 = 734; 2014 = 914; 2015 = 920; 2016 = 970

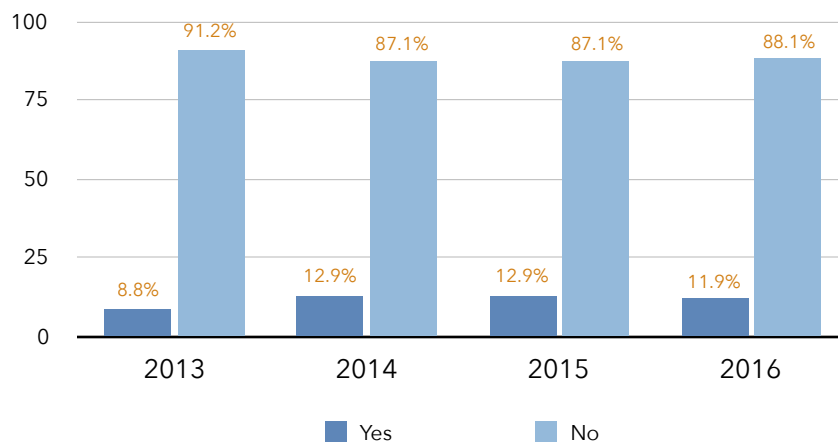
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 26.9% of survey respondents indicated that they are *Currently Receiving Treatment for Mental Health Issues, Or Have in the Past*. This is higher than 2015 (26.2%).

Figure 40: Were You Ever Taken To The Hospital Against Your Will For Mental Health Reasons?



N: 2013 = 725; 2014 = 904; 2015 = 919; 2016 = 966

Source:

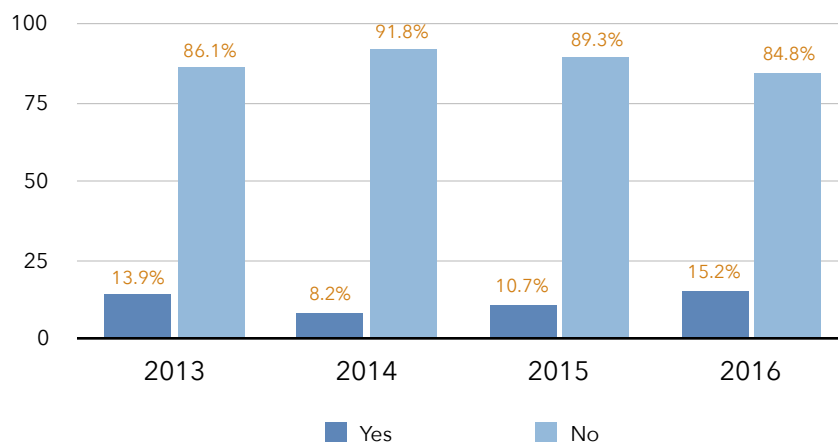
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- 11.9% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Been Taken to the Hospital Against their will for Mental Health Reasons*. This is lower than 2015 (12.9%).

#### 4.4e Survey Administrator Observations

Figure 41: Observation – Serious Physical Health Conditions



N: 2013 = 649; 2014 = 719; 2015 = 833; 2016 = 970

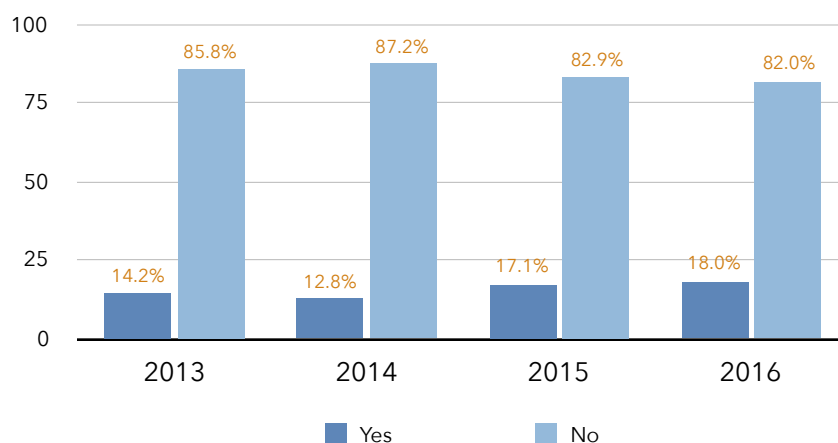
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 15.2% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Serious Physical Health Conditions*. This is higher than 2015 (10.7%).

Figure 42: Observation – Alcohol Or Drug Abuse



N: 2013 = 641; 2014 = 713; 2015 = 829; 2016 = 966

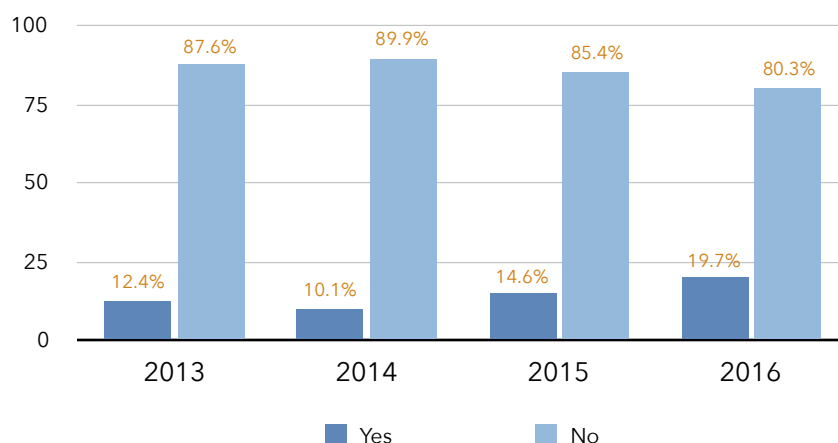
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 18.0% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Alcohol or Drug Abuse*. This is higher than 2015 (17.1%).

Figure 43: Observation – Severe Persistent Mental Illness



N: 2013 = 623; 2014 = 712; 2015 = 830; 2016 = 970

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- 19.7% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Severe Persistent Mental Illness*. This is higher than 2015 (14.6%).

## 4.5 Incarceration

The transition from incarceration to general society leaves many at risk for homelessness. A released prisoner has a 1-in-13 odds of becoming homeless.\* Past survey results revealed that some individuals struggle with this transition in Southern Nevada.

### 4.5a Transition from Jail or Prison

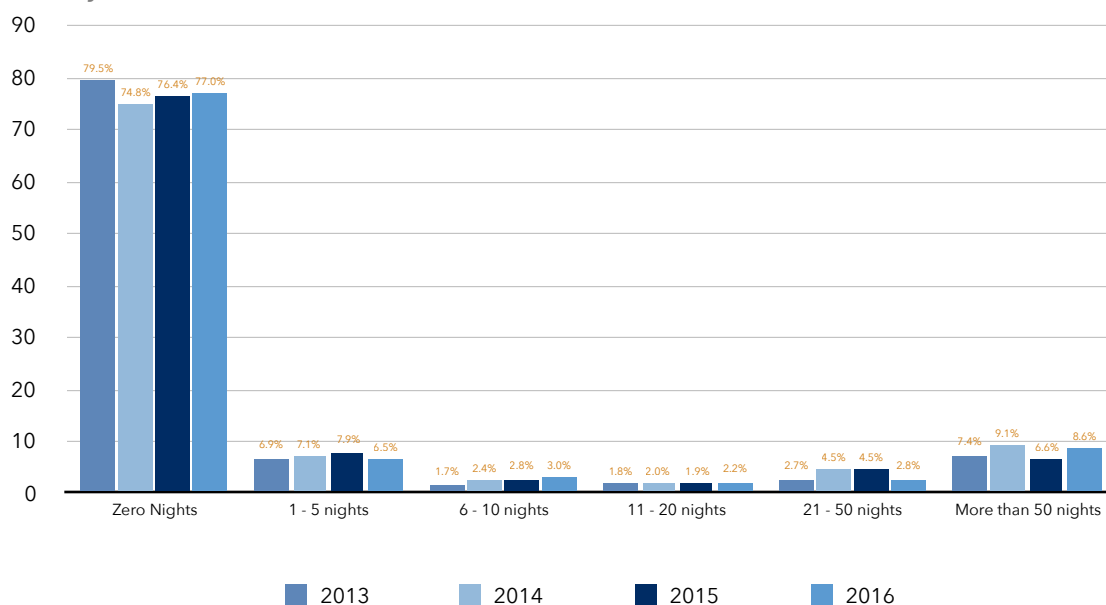
- 5.4% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. This is lower than 2015, when 5.5% of respondents reported being incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. Of those respondents who reported being incarcerated, 69.5% reported that they became homeless immediately after being released from jail or prison.

\* National Alliance to End Homelessness: The State of Homelessness in America 2012.

- 10.2% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. This is a lower than 2015, when this same category was 10.7%.
- A criminal record prevents many homeless individuals from securing permanent housing and employment. Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of homeless respondents who indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing decreased from 9.1% to 7.1%.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the amount of homeless respondents who indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment decreased from 10.8% to 7.7%.

#### 4.5b Nights in Jail or Prison

Figure 44: Number of Nights Respondents Reported Spending in Jail/Prison In The Year Prior To The Survey



N: 2013 = 845; 2014 = 898; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 968

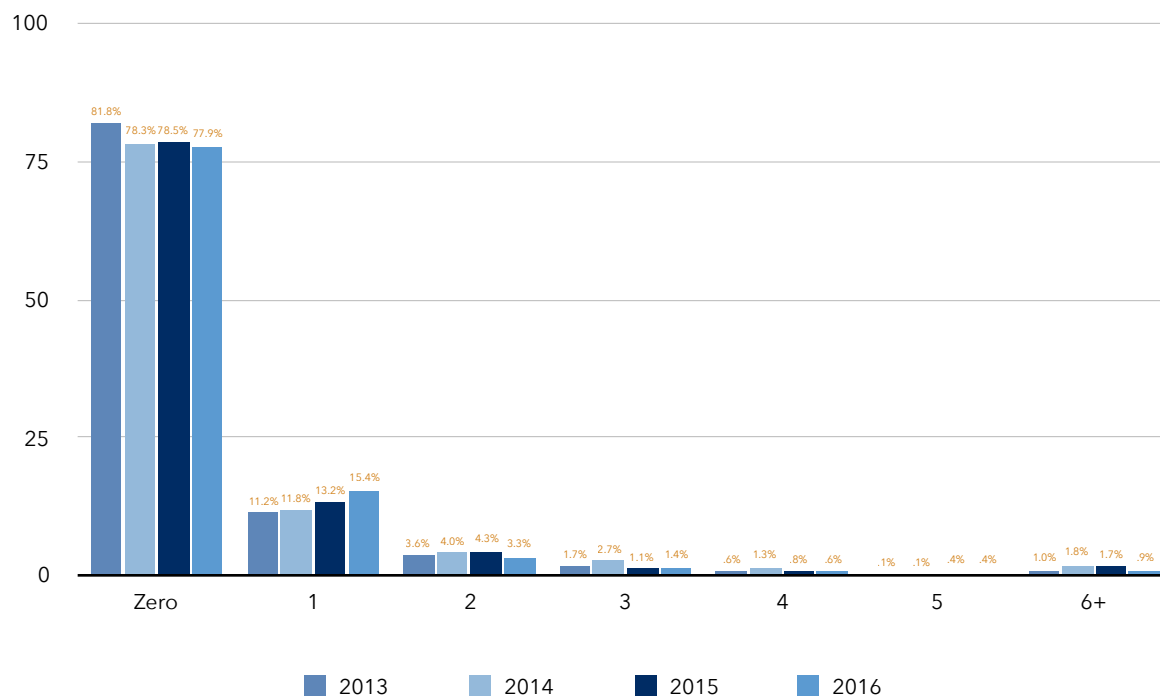
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority (77.0%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is an increase from 2015 (76.4%).
- 6.5% spent 1-5 nights in jail or prison, and 8.6% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

**Figure 45: Number of Separate Terms Respondents Reported Serving in Jail/Prison In The Year Prior To The Survey**



N: 2013 = 619; 2014 = 899; 2015 = 917; 2016 = 972

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- 77.9% of survey respondents reported spending no time in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is slightly lower than 2015 (78.5%).
- 15.4% of survey respondents reported spending one separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is higher than 2015 (13.2%).
- 0.9% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is lower than 2015 (1.7%).

## 4.6 Homeless Families

### 4.6a Homeless Families with Children: General Information

For the purposes of this report a homeless family is defined as a household consisting of at least one adult over the age of 18 with at least one child under the age of 18.\*

- 4.6% of survey respondents reported having children.
- Of these children (ages 5-17), 44.4% were reported to be in school.

Figure 46: Of Respondents With Children (Living With Them Or Not), Percentage with Children In The Following Age Groups, 2016)

Age Group & Number of Children	2015%	2016%	2015 to 2016 Percent Change
<b>0-5 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	65.9%	67.7%	1.8%
2 Children	31.8%	22.5%	-9.2%
3 Children	2.3%	6.5%	4.2%
4+ Children	0.0%	3.2%	3.2%
<b>6-12 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	52.2%	61.9%	9.7%
2 Children	39.1%	28.6%	-10.5%
3 Children	4.3%	9.5%	5.2%
4+ Children	4.3%	0.0%	-4.3%
<b>13-17 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	64.3%	62.5%	-1.8%
2 Children	21.4%	37.5%	16.1%
3 Children	7.4%	0.0%	-7.4%
4+ Children	7.4%	0.0%	-7.4%
<b>18+ Years Old</b>			
1 Child	53.8%	25.0%	-28.8%
2 Children	30.8%	50.0%	19.2%
3 Children	15.4%	25.0%	9.6%
4+ Children	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

2015 - 0-5=44; 6-12=23; 13-17= 14;18+= 13 ; 2016 - 0-5=31; 6-12= 21; 13-17=8; 18+=4

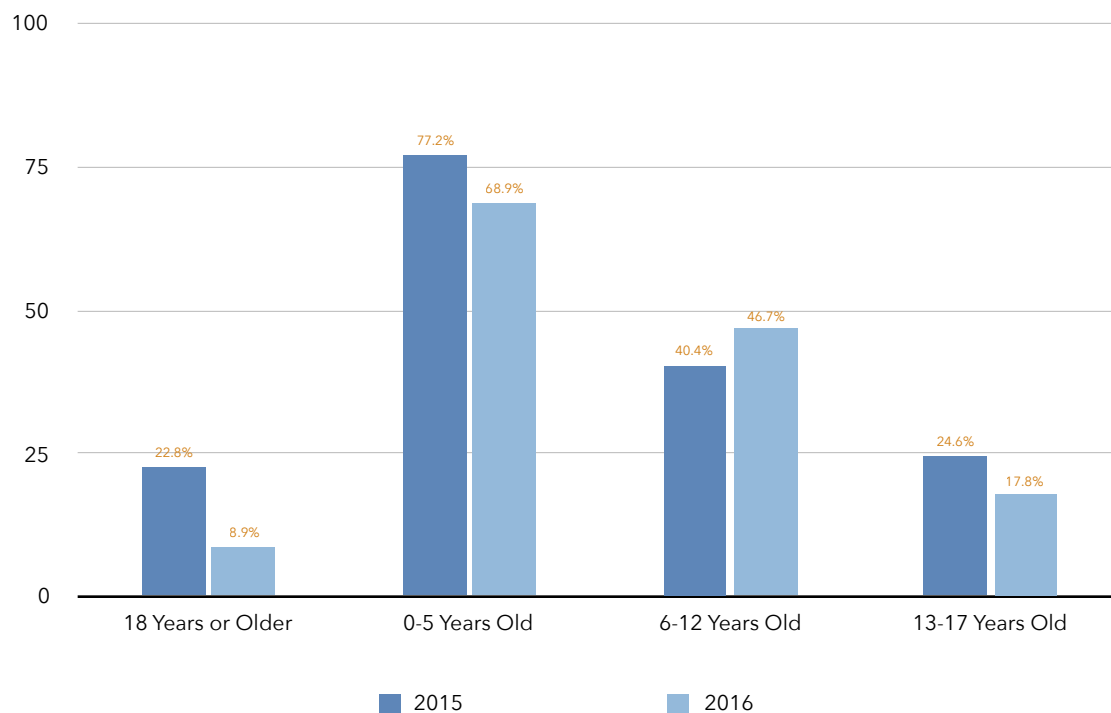
Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV

\* NOTE: In previous years, the Homeless Families with Children discussed in this particular section of the document included those with adult children. Moving forward, any Homeless Families with Children with only adult children will be excluded. The 2015 and 2016 data presented in this section reflects this change.



Figure 47: Of Respondents With Children (Living With Them Or Not), Percentage With Children In The Following Age Groups, 2016)



N: 2015 - 0-5=44; 6-12=23; 13-17=14; 18+=13; N: 2016 - 0-5=31; 6-12=21; 13-17=8; 18+=4  
Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

## 4.6b Homeless Families with Children: Additional Information

### 4.6b.1 Child Education

90.9% of respondents with children claimed that their school-aged children (ages 5-17) were enrolled in school. This is a higher amount compared to 2015, when 89.9% of respondents reported their children being in school

### 4.6b.2 Children Living in Foster Care or With Other Family Members

Of the respondents who claimed to have children, 4.0% claimed their children (one or more) were in foster care. This is lower than 2015 (8.2%).

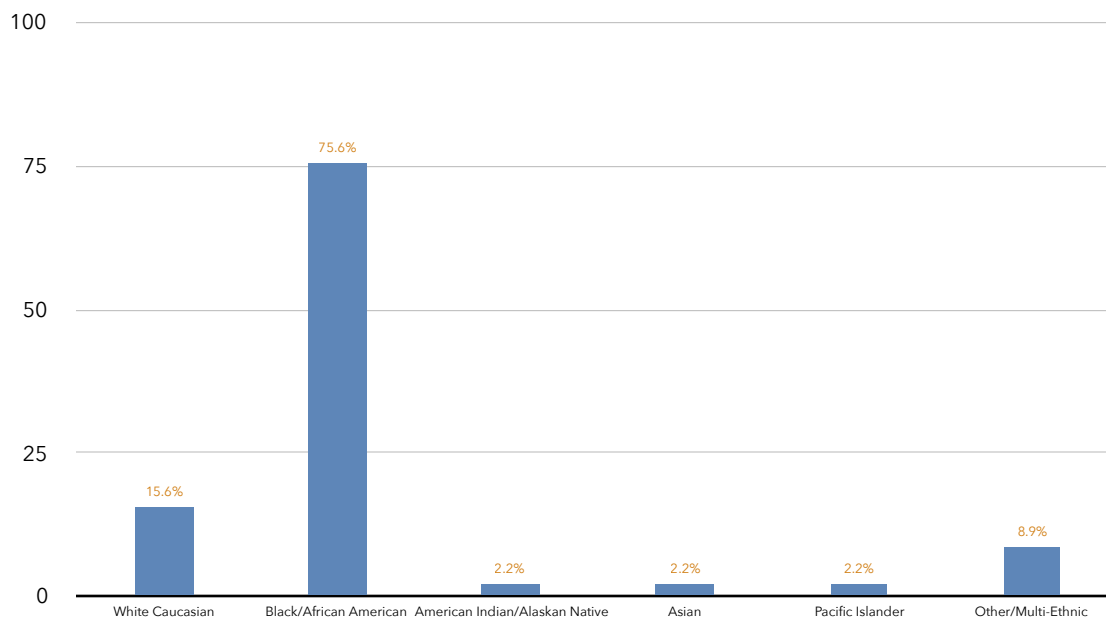
## 4.6c Homeless Families with Children: Demographics

### 4.6c.1 Individuals with Children by Gender

Of the survey respondents with children, 22.2% were *male*, 77.8% were *female*, and none were *transgender*.

#### 4.6c.2 Individuals with Children by Race

Figure 48: Individuals with Children by Race



N: 2016 = 45

Source:

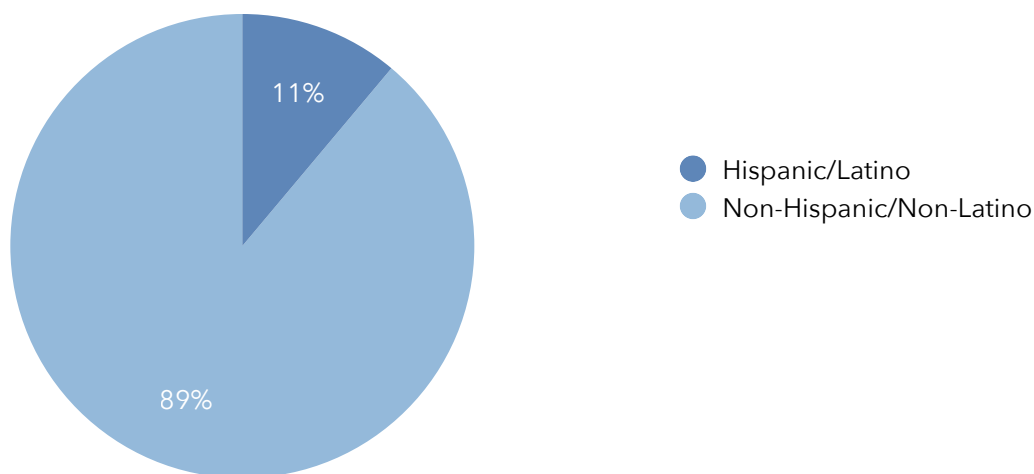
Bitfocus Inc., (2016) 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- Of the homeless individuals with children, the highest percentage reported they were *Black/African American* (75.6%), followed by *White/Caucasian* (15.6%).

#### 4.6c.3 Individuals with Children by Ethnicity

Figure 49: Individuals with Children by Ethnicity



N: 2016 = 45

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2016) 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- Of the homeless individuals with children, the highest percentage reported they were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino* (89.0%).

### 4.7 Unaccompanied Homeless Children

Unaccompanied children and youth who experience homelessness face far more challenges than their adult counterparts. Not only do they have more difficulty finding employment, they also have a harder time accessing services, shelter, and medical care.

Despite the fact that the unaccompanied children and youth homeless populations face the greatest challenges, data on this population is very limited on both a local and national level. This is partly due to the fact that this particular homeless subpopulation is difficult to locate and enumerate.

In attempt to overcome this challenge, Southern Nevada increased its effort to include as many unaccompanied homeless children and youth in its 2016 census and survey as possible. To do so they scheduled their street count for the morning and afternoon as opposed to early morning hours, as during school hours is the optimal time of day to locate members of this homeless subpopulation.

They are defined as follows:

**Unaccompanied Children:** persons under age 18 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** persons between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian.

Beginning in 2016, HUD requires CoCs to report on Parenting Youth. This population is defined as follows:

**Parenting Youth:** youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household. Parenting youth is limited to persons in households where there is no adult parent or guardian over age 24 in the household.

The following sections discuss the characteristics of homelessness among unaccompanied children, unaccompanied youth, and parenting youth.

#### **4.7a Unaccompanied Children (under 18):**

##### **4.7a.1 Demographics**

- 0.005% (5 persons) of all survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless children and 4 of these children were unsheltered.
- There were 2 *female* (40.0%) unaccompanied children and 3 *male* (60%) unaccompanied children. There were no *transgender* unaccompanied children.
- The unaccompanied children were *Black/African American* (4 children, 80%) and *Other* (1 child, 20%). There were no *White/Caucasian*, *American Indian/Alaskan Native*, *Asian*, or *Hawaiian/Pacific Islander* unaccompanied children in 2016.
- 4 (80%) were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*, and 1 (20%) were *Hispanic/Latino*. (NOTE: These responses were not mutually exclusive).

#### 4.7a.2 Unaccompanied Children: County of Residency

- All 5 of the unaccompanied children reported living in *Nevada* when they became homeless this most recent time, and all 5 reported they were living in *Clark County*.
- No unaccompanied children reported *staying with friends* prior to becoming homeless, and 1 (20%) was *renting a home or apartment* immediately before becoming homeless. 2 (40%) of the unaccompanied children reported they were *staying with relatives* immediately before becoming homeless, 1 (20%) reported being *in a jail or prison*, and 1 (20%) reported *other* living conditions immediately before becoming homeless.

#### 4.7a.3 Unaccompanied Children: Occurrence and Length of Homelessness

- 3 (60%) of the unaccompanied children reported that this was the *first time* they had been homeless.
- 3 (60%) of the unaccompanied children reported that it had been *7 days or less* since their last permanent housing situation at the time of the survey.
- 2 (40%) of the unaccompanied children reported that *4 months* had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- None of the unaccompanied children reported that it had been *1-2 years* since their last permanent housing situation, and none reported that it had been more than *3 years* since their last permanent housing situation.

#### 4.7a.4 Unaccompanied Children: Mental Health & Well-Being

- None of the unaccompanied children reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling) or *mental illness* (not disabling).

#### 4.7a.5 Unaccompanied Children: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- 1 (20%) of the unaccompanied children claim they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey.

### 4.7b Unaccompanied Youth (ages 18-24):

#### 4.7b.1 Demographics

- 7.0% (68) of survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless youth, and 37 of these youth were *unsheltered*.
- There were 26 *female* (38.2%) unaccompanied youth and 42 *male* (61.8%) unaccompanied youth. There were no *transgender* unaccompanied youth.

- The unaccompanied youth were *White/Caucasian* (17 youth), *Black/African American* (36 youth), *Asian* (1 youth), and *Hawaiian/Pacific Islander* (4 youth). 10 youth reported race category *Other*, and 4 youth reported race category *American Indian/Alaskan Native*.
- 51 (75%) were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*, and 16 (23.5%) were *Hispanic/Latino*. (NOTE: There were only 67 responses to this question, and these responses were not mutually exclusive).

#### 4.7b.2 Unaccompanied Youth: County of Residency

- 46 (67.6%) of the unaccompanied youth survey respondents reported they were living in *Clark County* at the time they became homeless, 2 (2.9%) were from an *other area in Nevada* (outside of Clark County) when they became homeless, and 19 (27.9%) were living *outside of the State of Nevada* when they became homeless. Only 67 respondents answered this question.
- Most unaccompanied youth (22 youth, 32.4%) were *living with relatives* prior to becoming homeless. 15 (22.1%) were *staying with friends* prior to becoming homeless, 12 (17.6%) were *renting a home or apartment*, and 7 (10.3%) were *in a jail or prison* prior to becoming homeless.
- 7 (10.3%) unaccompanied youth were *living in a home owned by them or a partner* prior to becoming homeless, and 1 (1.5%) reported *foster care* living situations prior to becoming homeless.

#### 4.7b.3 Unaccompanied Youth: Occurrence and Length of Homelessness

- 42 (61.8%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that this was the *first time* they had been homeless.
- 5 (7.4%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *7 days or less* since their last permanent housing situation at the time of the survey.
- 15 (22.1%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that *8-30 days* had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- 29 (42.6%) of the unaccompanied youth surveyed reported timeframes between *2-11 months* that had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- 8 (11.8%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *1-2 years* since their last permanent housing situation, and 2 (2.9%) reported that *2-3 years* had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- 1 (1.5%) unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *more than 3 years* since their last permanent housing situation.

#### 4.7b.4 Unaccompanied Youth: Mental Health & Well-Being

18 (26.5%) of the unaccompanied youth reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling). 10 (14.7%) of the unaccompanied youth reported to be currently experiencing *mental illness* (not disabling).

#### 4.7b.5 Unaccompanied Youth: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

20 (29.4%) of the unaccompanied youth claim they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey.

#### 4.7c Parenting Youth:

##### 4.7c.1 Demographics

- 1.0% (10 persons) survey respondents were parenting homeless youth (ages 18-24), and 8 of these youth were *unsheltered*. No respondents were parenting children under the age of 18.
- There were 9 *female* (90%) parenting youth and 1 *male* (10%) parenting youth. There were no *transgender* parenting youth.
- The parenting youth were *Black/African American* (9 youth) and *Hawaiian/Pacific Islander* (1 youth). No youth reported any other race category. (NOTE: These responses were not mutually exclusive).
- 9 (90%) of parenting youth reported to be *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. (NOTE: Only 9 of the 10 parenting youth responded to this particular survey question).

##### 4.7c.2 Parenting Youth: County of Residency

- 5 (50%) of the parenting youth survey respondents reported they were living in *Clark County* at the time they became homeless, and 4 (40%) were living *outside of the State of Nevada* when they became homeless. There were 9 responses to this survey question.
- Most parenting youth (3 youth, 30%) were *renting a home or apartment* before becoming homeless, and 2 (20%) were *living in a home owned by them or a partner* prior to becoming homeless. 1 (10%) parenting youth was *staying with friends* prior to becoming homeless, and 2 (20%) were *living with relatives* prior to becoming homeless. 1 (10%) parenting youth reported other living situations prior to becoming homeless. There were 9 responses to this survey question.

##### 4.7c.3 Parenting Youth: Occurrence and Length of Homelessness

- 7 (70%) of the parenting youth reported that this was the *first time* they had been homeless.
- 1 (10%) of the parenting youth reported that it had been *7 days or less* since their last permanent housing situation at the time of the survey.
- 2 (20%) of the parenting youth reported that *8-30 days* had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- 2 (20.0%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *1-2 years* since their last permanent housing situation, and no parenting youth reported that *2-3 years* had passed since their last permanent housing situation.

- No parenting youth reported that it had been *more than 3 years* since their last permanent housing situation.
- There were 9 responses to the survey question associated with *Occurrence and Length of Homelessness*.

#### 4.7c.4 Parenting Youth: Mental Health & Well-Being

1 (10%) of the parenting youth reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling), and 1 (10%) reported *general mental illness* (not disabling).

#### 4.7c.5 Parenting Youth: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

1 (10%) of the parenting youth claim they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey.

## 4.8 Veteran Homelessness

### 4.8a Definition of Veteran Homelessness

For the purposes of homeless services, the VA recommends two questions to determine veteran status:

1. *"Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?"*
2. *"Were you activated into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?"*

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition for veteran is as follows:

*...persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.*

Below is information pertaining to homeless Veterans in Southern Nevada CoC in 2016, collected through the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.\*

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\* Please note that this section does NOT contain information on the HUD-defined Chronically Homeless Veteran subpopulation. This population is discussed in the following **Homeless Survey Findings: Homeless Subpopulations** section of this document.



#### 4.8b Veteran Survey Respondents: Totals

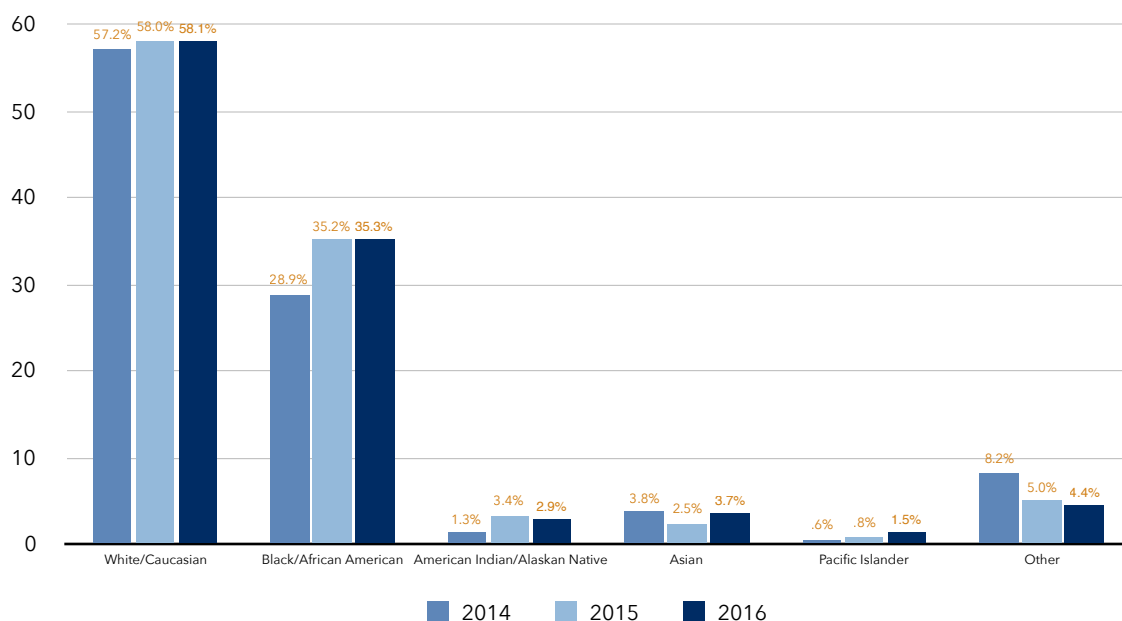
A total of 136 Veterans were surveyed. 56 (41.2%) of these respondents were unsheltered.

#### 4.8c Veteran Survey Respondents: Gender

10 (7.4%) were *female* and 126 (92.6%) were *male*. There were no Veteran survey respondents who identified as *transgender*.

#### 4.8d Veteran Survey Respondents: Race & Ethnicity

Figure 50: Homeless Veteran Population By Race, 2016



N: 2014 = 159; 2015 = 119; 2016 = 136

Source:

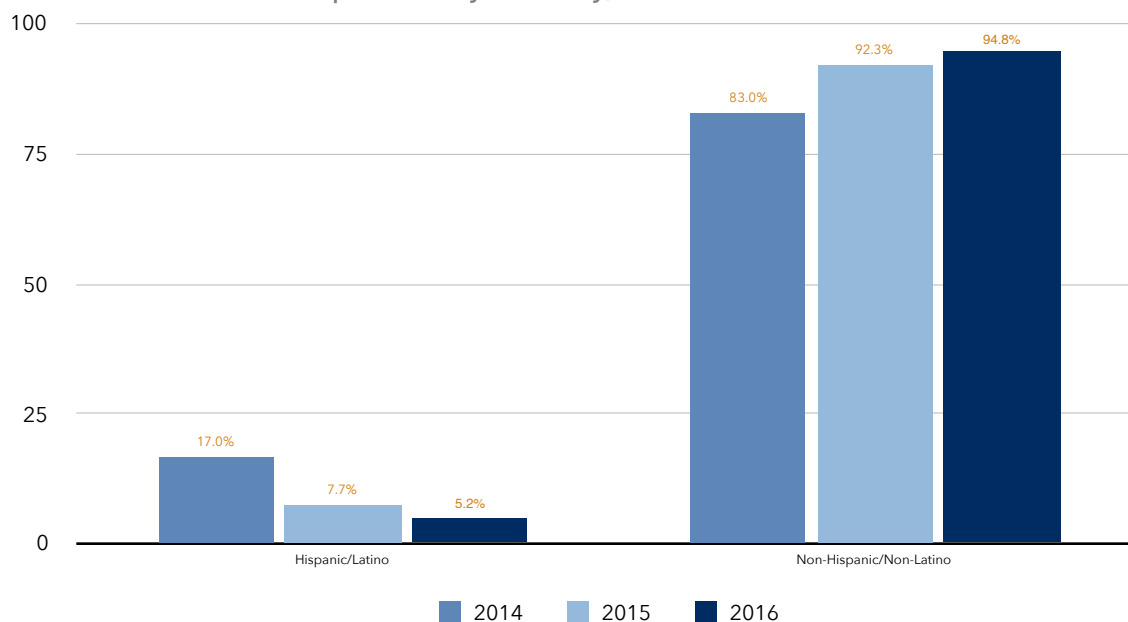
Bitfocus Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016), 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Data not comparable to 2013

#### Summary:

- The highest percentage of homeless veterans reported they are *White/Caucasian* (58.1%), followed by *Black/African American* (35.3%). Both categories were higher than 2015.
- The least amount of homeless veterans (1.5%) reported they were *Pacific Islander*. This category was the lowest in 2015 (0.8%) as well.

Figure 51: Homeless Veteran Population By Ethnicity, 2016



N: 2014 = 57; 2015 = 117, 2016 = 135

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016), 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

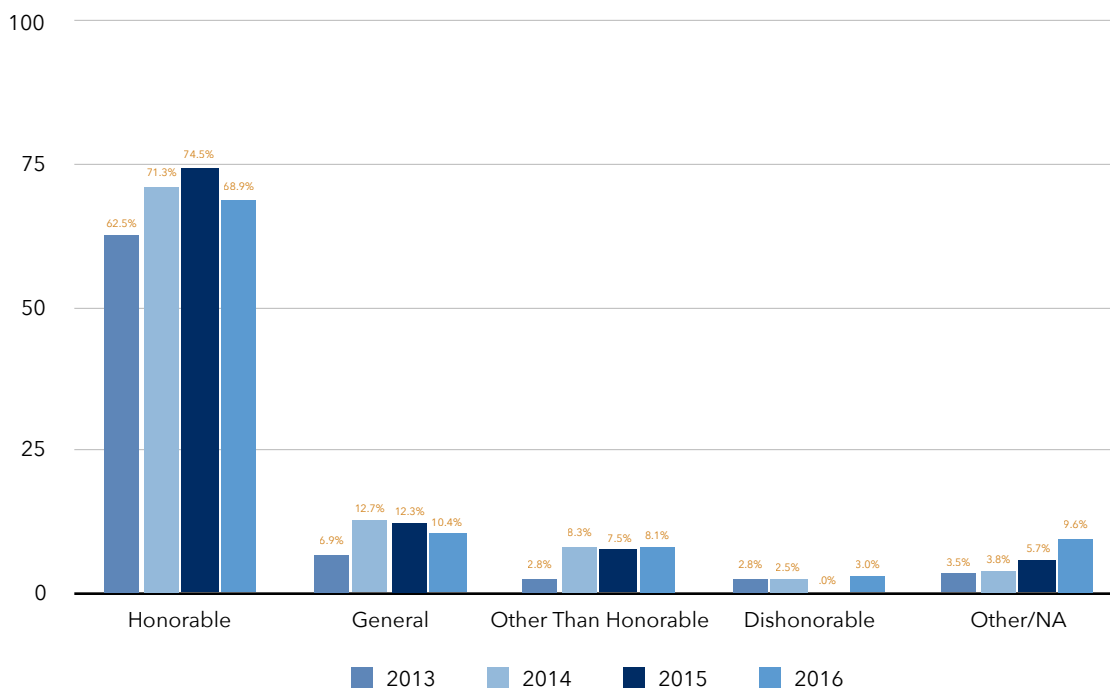
NOTE: Data not comparable to 2013

#### Summary:

The highest percentage of homeless veterans (94.8%) reported they are *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. This is higher than 2015 when 92.3% of respondents were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

#### 4.8e. Veteran Survey Respondents: Discharge Status

Figure 52: Discharge Status Of Veteran Respondents



N; 2011 = 79; 2013 = 114, 2014 = 157; 2015 = 105, 2016 = 135

Source:

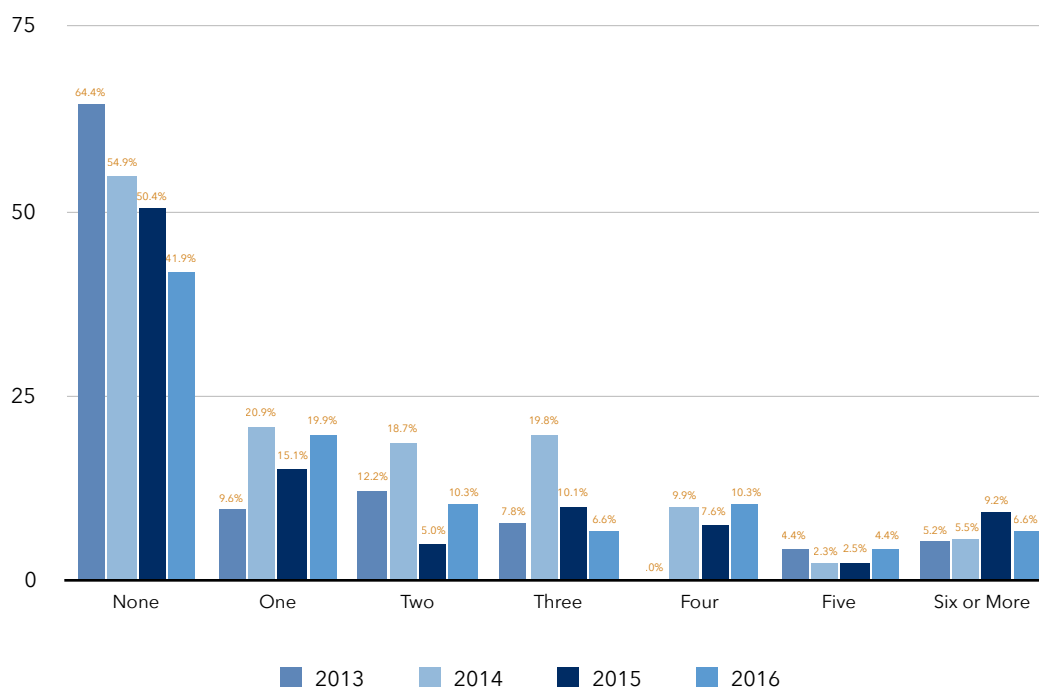
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- In regards to discharge status of Veteran respondents, 68.9% reported *Honorable Discharge*. This is lower than 2015 (74.5%).
- 3.0% of Veteran respondents reported a discharge status of *Dishonorable* in 2016. This is higher than 2015 (0.0%).
- 8.1% of Veteran respondents reported a discharge status of *Other Than Honorable*. This is noteworthy, as these Veterans do not qualify for multiple types of standard government Veteran benefits.

#### 4.8f Veteran Survey Respondents: Disabling Conditions

Figure 53: Number Of Disabling Conditions Among Homeless Veteran Respondents



N: 2013 = 115; 2014 = 91; 2015 = 119; 2016 = 136

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority (41.9%) of homeless veterans reported that they had no disabling conditions. This is lower than 2015 (50.4%).
- 10.3% of the homeless veteran population reported having two disabling conditions, which is higher than the 5.0% who reported having two disabling conditions in 2015.
- 27.9% of homeless veteran respondents reported having three or more disabling conditions. This is lower than 2015 (29.4%).

## 5. SURVEY FINDINGS: HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

The following sections provide information regarding certain homeless subpopulations that are of particular interest to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). By identifying the specific characteristics of these subpopulations, CoCs and HUD can accurately measure progress within each subgroup as outlined in the government initiative *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, which was implemented by the Obama Administration in 2010.\*

The following information is based upon data from both the 2016 Southern Nevada PIT Count and the data from the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. It breaks the data into the HUD-defined homeless subpopulations and provides estimates that were calculated by applying the survey results to the PIT Count population. This process is termed **extrapolation** (for more information, see *Appendix VII Glossary and Definitions of Terms*).

It is worthy to note that in 2016, HUD introduced several important changes to subpopulation data collection and reporting.

### New Definition for Chronic Homelessness

HUD introduced a new definition for chronic homelessness. For purposes of reporting in the PIT count, a chronically homeless person:<sup>†</sup>

- 1) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- 2) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
- 3) Has a disability.

### Chronically Homeless Unaccompanied Children/Youth and Parenting Children/Youth

HUD now also requires communities to collect and report chronically homeless status on heads of households that are under 18, which includes both unaccompanied youth and parenting youth

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\* United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. 2011.

† United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Notice CPD CPD-15-010 HIC PIT Data Collection Notice*. 2015.

under age 18 (in addition to reporting on individuals and persons in families over 18 experiencing chronic homeless). This also includes persons in chronically homeless parenting households.\*

## 5.1 Sheltered & Unsheltered Homeless Persons

The following tables contain information regarding the conditions pertaining to each subpopulation. They are divided into sheltered and unsheltered categories.

### 5.1a 2016 Sheltered Homeless Definition

In addition to meeting the definition of homelessness as defined by *24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule*, a person must meet the following criteria to be considered “sheltered homeless”:

This includes individuals and families “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low- income individuals)” on the night designated for the count. This includes persons residing in Safe Haven projects.

### 5.1b 2016 Unsheltered Homeless Definition

In addition to meeting the definition of homelessness as defined by *24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule*, a person must meet the following criteria to be considered “unsheltered homeless”:

This includes individuals and families “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground” on the night designated for the count.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Notice CPD CPD-15-010 HIC PIT Data Collection Notice. 2015.

Figure 54a: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation Definitions\*

Homeless Subpopulation	Definition
<b>CH Individuals</b>	For purposes of reporting in the PIT count, a chronically homeless person: 1) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and 2) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and 3) Has can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability. NOTES: (1) This includes heads of households that are under 18, which includes both unaccompanied youth and parenting youth under age 18. (2) For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count are not included in this category; (3) Persons with disabilities identified above must also meet the qualification identified in the term for "disability" (e.g. "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").
<b>CH Veteran Individuals</b>	Any individual who meets the definition for Chronically Homeless Individual and has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.
<b>CH Unaccompanied Children/ Youth</b>	Unaccompanied youth who are chronically homeless are counted as a chronically homeless individual, including unaccompanied youth who are under 18 and unaccompanied youth age 18-24.
<b>CH Parenting Children/Youth</b>	Parenting youth, including those under 18 and age 18-24 ("minor heads of households" per the definition of a chronically homeless family with children are counted as a chronically homeless family with children.
<b>CH Families</b>	A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.
<b>Persons in CH Families</b>	People experiencing homelessness in families in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.
<b>CH Veteran Families</b>	A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual AND the criteria for Chronically Homeless Veteran Individual. This includes a family whose composition has fluctuated while the Veteran head of household has been homeless.
<b>Persons in CH Veteran Families</b>	People experiencing homelessness in families in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years. The Head of Household must also have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Notice CPD 14-014 2015 HIC PIT Data Collection Notice. 2014

Figure 54b: Additional Subpopulation Definitions

Homeless Subpopulation	Definition
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	Adults with severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (i.e. "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	Adults with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both). They must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (i.e. "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").
Adults with HIV/AIDS	Adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.
Victims of Domestic Violence	Adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### 5.1c Homeless Subpopulation Estimates

The following tables break down the homeless count data into HUD-defined subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless 2016 PIT count and data from the subsequent homeless survey.

As mentioned before, it is important to define *household*, *individual*, *family*, and a *household with only children*, as used for the purposes of this report. According to HUD, a household is defined as follows:\*

"...occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status."

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, persons in a household without children will be referred to as **Individuals**; persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18) will be referred to as a **Family**; and persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as **Only Children**.†

\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (2012) *Equal Access To Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation Or Identity*. Final Rule, 77 FR 5661, 5661.

† United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. *The 2012 Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons Data Collection Guidance*



Figure 55: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates – Sheltered & Unsheltered Yearly Comparisons: Part 1

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
CH Individuals	218	36	35	32	310	422	420	253
CH Families	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in CH Families	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
CH Veteran Individuals	NA	NA	19	6	NA	NA	10	14
CH Veteran Families	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	0	0
Persons in CH Veteran Families	NA	NA	0	0	NA	NA	0	0

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\*\*“Sheltered” chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

\*\*\*Data for Chronically Homeless Veteran individuals/families, and persons in chronically homeless Veteran families were not collected in years prior to 2015 per HUD requirements.

\*\*\*CH = Chronically Homeless

\*\*\*\* The following changes were made per HUD in 2016; 1.) Chronically Homeless Unaccompanied Children (under age 18) and Chronically Homeless Youth (between ages 18-24) are included in the Chronically Homeless Individuals totals. 2.) Chronically Homeless Parenting Children (under age 18) and Chronically Homeless Parenting Youth (between ages 18-24) are included in Chronically Homeless Families totals, and all household members are included in Persons in Chronically Homeless Families.

Figure 56: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates – Sheltered & Unsheltered Yearly Comparisons: Part 2

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	629	308	311	215	770	1,004	753	1,171
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	178	234	357	377	320	355	441	672
Adults with HIV/AIDS	10	5	12	9	40	33	59	72
Victims of Domestic Violence	332	217	251	212	290	348	484	614

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* “Sheltered” chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

Figure 57: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates –Totals, Net Change &amp; Percent Change: Part 1

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered & Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2015-2016	Percent Change 2015-2016
	2013	2014	2015	2016		
CH Individuals	528	458	455	285	-170	-37.4%
CH Families	0	1	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Persons in CH Families	0	2	3	0	-3	-100.0%
CH Veteran Individuals	NA	NA	29	20	-9	-31.0%
CH Veteran Families	NA	NA	0	0	0	0.0%
Persons in CH Veteran Families	NA	NA	0	0	0	0.0%

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

\* NOTE: No data prior to 2015 is available for Chronically Homeless Veteran individuals, families, and persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran families.

Figure 58: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates –Totals, Net Change &amp; Percent Change: Part 2

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered & Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2015-2016	Percent Change 2015-2016
	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	1,399	1,312	1,064	1,386	322	30.3%
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	498	589	798	1,049	251	31.5%
Adults with HIV/AIDS	50	38	71	81	10	14.1%
Victims of Domestic Violence	622	565	735	826	91	12.4%

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

\*\* Serious Mental Illness data are estimates based on survey respondents who reported experiencing mental illness and/or severe depression.

## 5.2 Chronically Homeless Persons

HUD introduced a new definition for chronic homelessness in 2016. For purposes of reporting in the PIT count, a chronically homeless person:<sup>\*</sup>

- 1) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- 2) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
- 3) Has a disability.

### NOTES:

- Persons under the age of 18 are not counted as chronically homeless, with the exception of those who meet the definition of chronically homeless AND a.) meet the definition of an unaccompanied homeless child, OR b.) meet the definition of a parenting homeless child. Any dependents of a chronically homeless parenting child are included in Persons in Chronically Homeless Families.
- For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count should not be included in this subpopulation category.
- Persons with the disabling conditions identified above must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (e.g., "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").

The mortality rate for chronically homeless persons is 4 to 9 times that of the general populace. Homelessness impedes access to healthcare, making tasks such as taking medication, eating a healthy diet, and caring for injuries difficult. Due to their social isolation, many chronically homeless persons receive little, if any, medical attention.

The problem of chronic homelessness is interpersonal in nature, but also presents in the form of public cost. Research shows that the chronically homeless incur high expense through emergency room visits, incarceration, and run-ins with the law.<sup>†</sup>

Nationwide, chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 1 percent, or by 819 people between 2014 and 2015. The number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness declined

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<sup>\*</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Notice CPD CPD-15-010 HIC PIT Data Collection Notice. 2015.

<sup>†</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

by 22 percent, or 22,892 people, between 2010 and 2015.\* 2015 data is the most recent nationwide data to date, therefore no comparison to 2016 national data can be made.

The information in the following sections below pertains to the state of chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, and people in chronically homeless families located in Southern Nevada during the time of the 2016 survey for Veteran and non-Veteran populations.

### 5.2a Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Sheltered & Unsheltered

Data indicates that on any given night in 2016, Southern Nevada has approximately 285 chronically homeless individuals. This is a 37.4% (170 persons) decrease since 2015 (455).

On any given night in 2016, it can be estimated that 4.6% (285 persons) of Southern Nevada's total point-in-time homeless population (6,208 persons) is composed of chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, and people in chronically homeless families. In contrast, of the 83,170 people comprising the 2015 nationwide population of chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, and people in chronically homeless families, represented 23% of the total homeless population in 2015.†

As for the Veteran chronically homeless population, on any given night in 2016, it can be estimated that 0.3% (20 persons) of Southern Nevada's total point-in-time homeless population (6,208) is composed of chronically homeless Veteran individuals. There were no chronically homeless Veteran families, and thus no people in chronically homeless Veteran families in 2016.

The information in the tables below is based on both the data from the PIT Count and data from the homeless survey. The amounts were calculated by applying the survey results to the 2016 PIT Count population.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. 2015.

† United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. 2015.

Figure 59a: Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Non-Veteran

Homeless Subpopulation	2013		2014		2015		2016		2015-2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>CH Individuals</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-170</b>	<b>-37.4%</b>
Unsheltered	310	58.7%	422	92.1%	420	92.3%	253	88.8%	-167	-39.8%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	218	41.3%	33	7.2%	31	6.8%	23	8.1%	-8	-25.8%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0%	3	0.7%	4	0.9%	9	3.1%	5	125%
<b>CH Families</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Unsheltered	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0%	1	100%	1	100%	0	0.0%	-1	-100%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>People in CH Families</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0.0%	2	100%	3	100%	0	0.0%	-3	-100%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2011) 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 88.8% (253) were unsheltered.
- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 8.1% (23 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters. This is a 25.8% decrease (8 persons) since 2015 when 6.8% (31 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters.

Figure 59b: Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Veteran

Homeless Subpopulation	2015		2016		2015 - 2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>CH Veteran Individuals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-31.0%</b>
Unsheltered	10	34.5%	14	70.0%	4	40.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	19	65.5%	6	30.0%	-13	-68.4%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>CH Veteran Families</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Unsheltered	0	100%	0	100%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>People in CH Veteran Families</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Unsheltered	0	100%	0	100%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

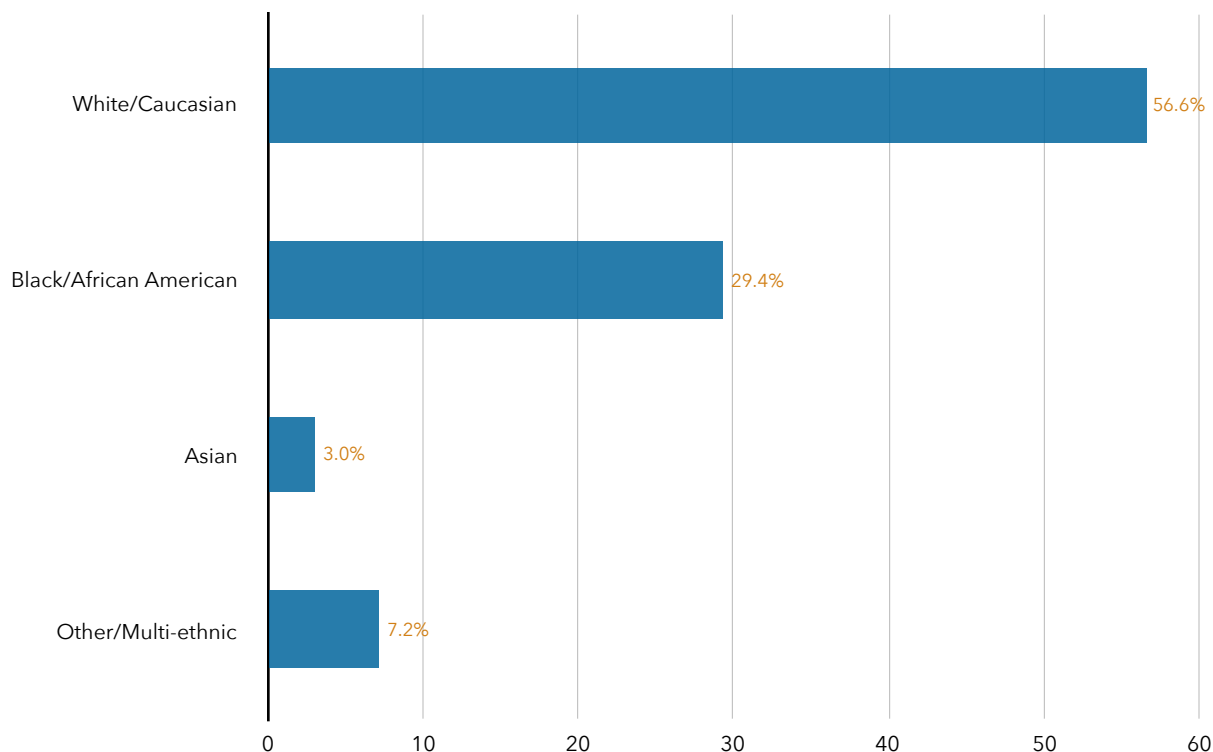
*Note: Data not available for 2011, 2013, and 2014 as 2015 marks the first year this subpopulation was included in the HUD-defined homeless subpopulations.*

#### Summary:

- Of the chronically homeless Veteran individuals, 70.0% (14 persons) were unsheltered.
- Of the chronically homeless Veteran individuals, 30.0% (6 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters.
- There were 0 chronically homeless Veteran families (sheltered or unsheltered) in 2016.

## 5.2b Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Race & Ethnicity

Figure 60a: Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Race (Top 4 Races)



N: 2016 = 265

Source:

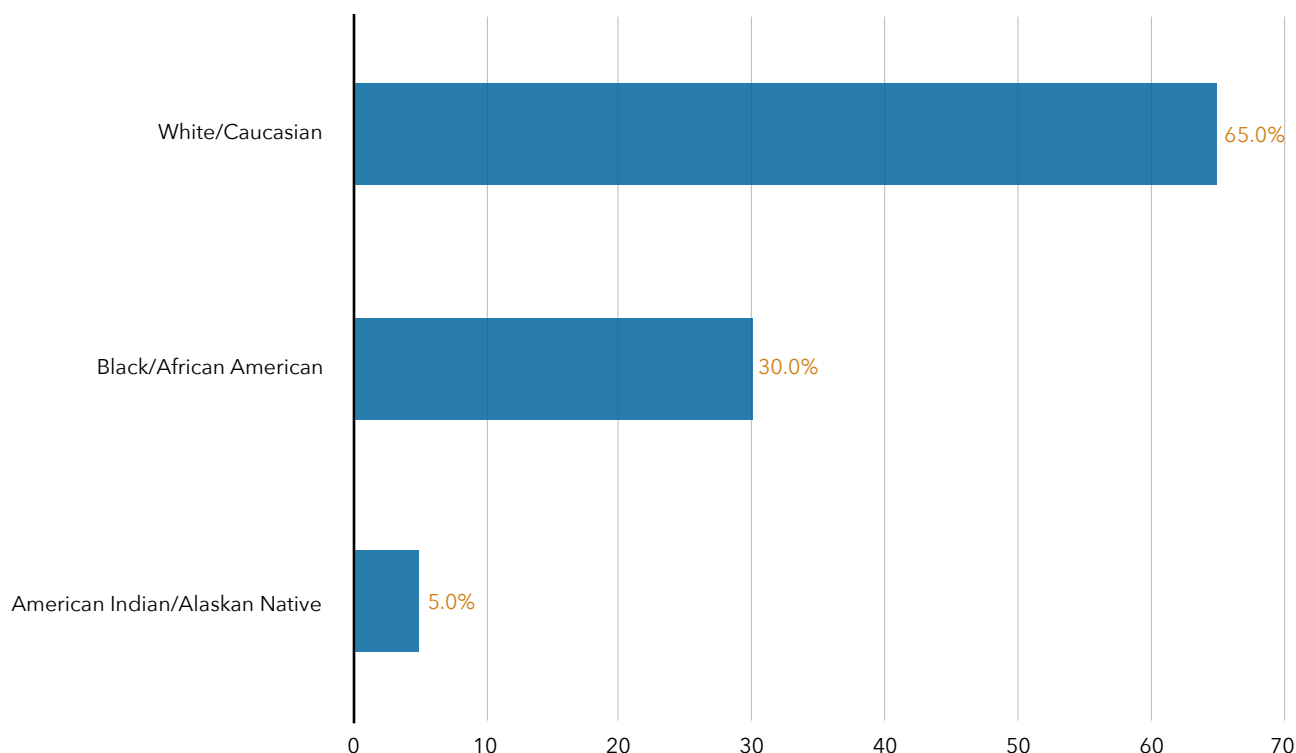
Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:\*

- 56.6% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *White/Caucasian*.
- 29.4% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *Black/African American*.
- 3.0% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *Asian*.
- 7.2% of chronically homeless individuals identified as *Other/Multi-Ethnic*.

\* Percentages based on the extrapolated total within the Veteran Chronically Homeless survey respondents.

Figure 60b: Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Race (Top 3 Races)



N: 2016 = 20

Source:

2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

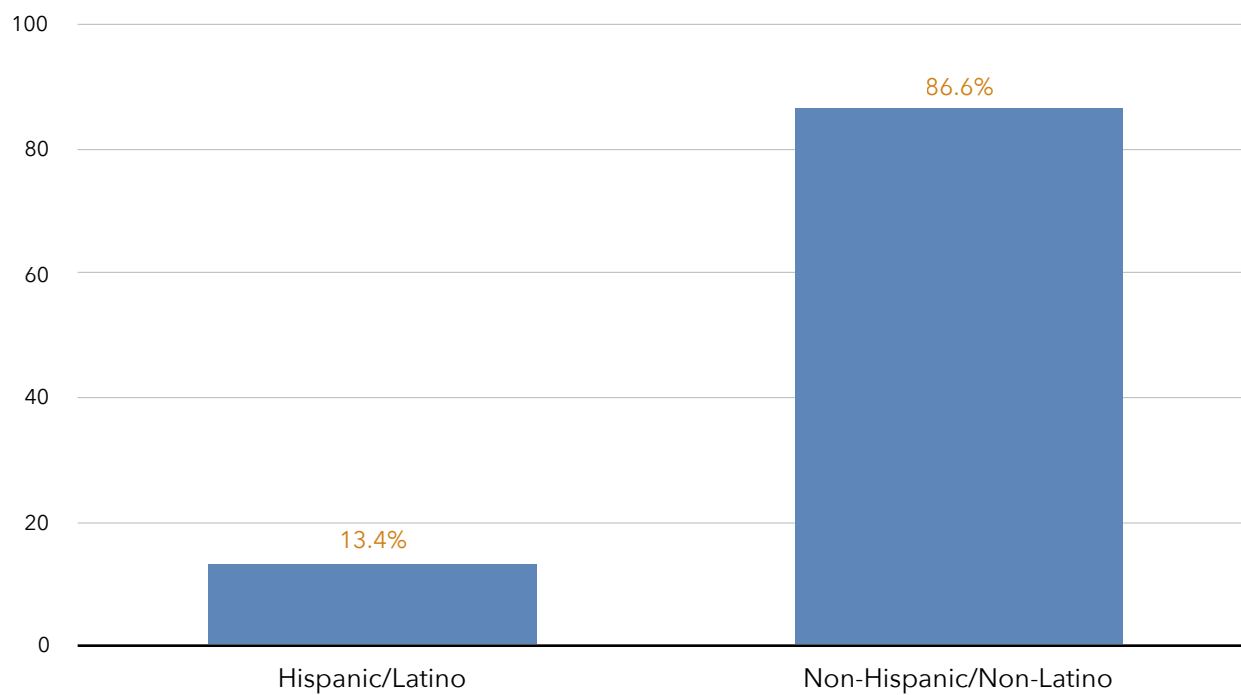
Summary:\*

- 65.0% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless Veteran individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *White/Caucasian*.
- 30.0% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless Veteran individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *Black/African American*.

\* Percentages based on the extrapolated total within the Veteran Chronically Homeless survey respondents.



Figure 61: Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Ethnicity



N: 2016 = 264

Source:

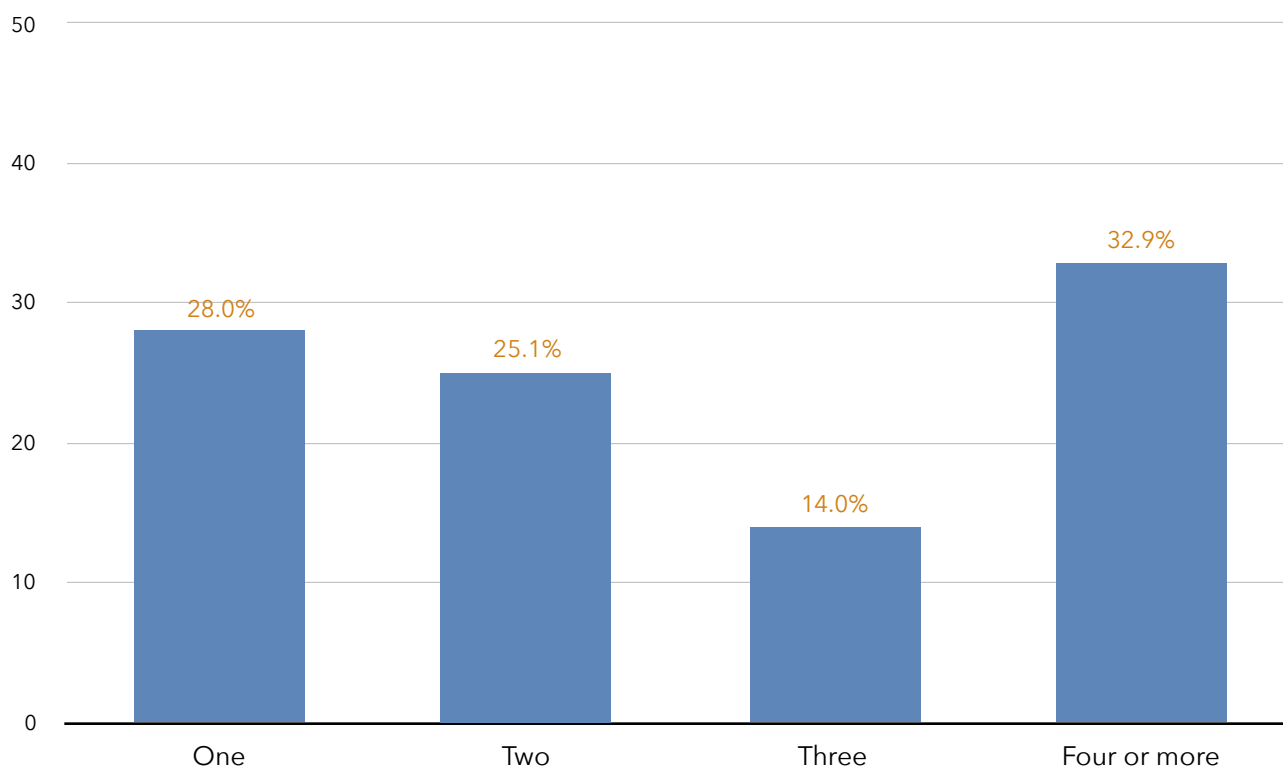
Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 13.4% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*.
- As for Veteran chronically homeless survey respondents, one (5%) identified their ethnic group as Hispanic/Latino (N=20).

## 5.2c Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Disabling Conditions

Figure 62: Number of Disabling Conditions Among Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Respondents



N: 2015 = 265

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2016), 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- 28.0% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition had only one disabling condition.
- 72.0% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition reported two or more co-occurring disabling conditions.
- As for *Veteran chronically homeless respondents*, 10.0% of these respondents reported two disabling conditions, and 40.0% reported four or more disabling conditions.

## 5.3 Chronically Homeless Families

In families experiencing homelessness, the rates of health problems and exposure to violence are high. Compared to children with consistent living accommodations, children belonging to homeless families exhibit more emotional and behavioral problems.\* Thus, quality data about this subpopulation is invaluable. However, gathering accurate information about homeless families is challenging. They tend to reside on private property, making them less visible and thus more difficult to count.

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition for a chronically homeless family is as follows: †

*A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.*

Summary:

- There were no chronically homeless families (unsheltered, sheltered, veteran, non-veteran) in 2016.

## 5.4 Adults with HIV/AIDS

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of adults with HIV or AIDS is as follows:

*...Adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.*

Summary:

- 1.3% of the homeless population were experiencing HIV or AIDS related illnesses. This amount is higher than the amount reported in 2015 (0.95%).

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\* National Alliance to End Homelessness: *The State of Homelessness in America 2012*

† The definition of each subpopulation was taken directly from United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Notice CPD-15-010 2016 HIC PIT Data Collection Notice.

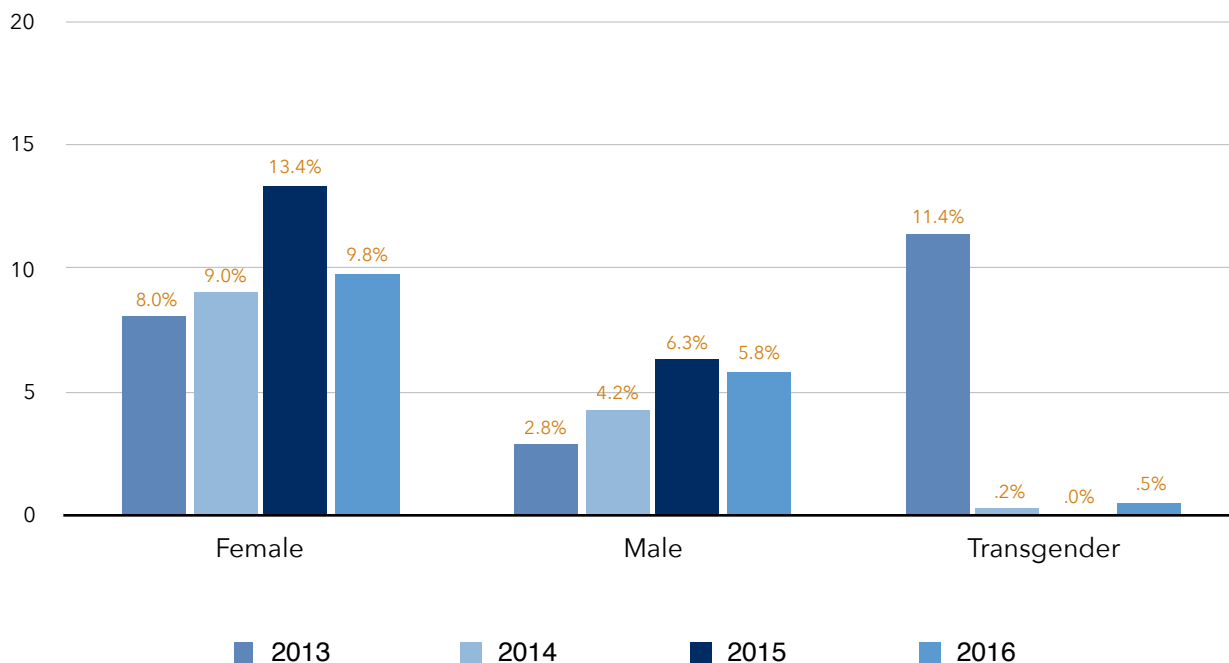
## 5.5 Victims of Domestic Violence

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of victim of domestic/partner violence is as follows:

*... adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*

It should be noted that the definition for Victims of Domestic Violence was updated in 2014 to include dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.\*

Figure 63: Respondents Who Were Experiencing Domestic/Partner Violence or Abuse (By Gender)



N: 2013= 98, 2014 = 127; 2015 = 182; 2016 = 151

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 16.1% (157 persons) of survey respondents reported experiencing domestic violence or abuse.
- Of all survey respondents, 9.8% were female victims of domestic violence, 5.8% were male victims of domestic violence, and 0.5% were transgender victims of domestic violence.

\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2013) Notice CPD-13-011: 2014 HIC and PIT of Homeless Persons Data Collection Guidance. 2014

## 5.6 Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Individuals suffering from serious mental illness have severe and chronic mental disorders that impair their ability to provide self-care, develop interpersonal relationships, or obtain/sustain employment and housing. For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of serious mental illness is as follows:

*Adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (e.g., "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").*

The severely mentally ill data presented below are estimates based on survey respondents who reported experiencing mental illness and/or severe depression. Per HUD's guidelines, these estimates exclude those who reported experiencing trauma.\* Severe depression includes those who reported that they were experiencing depression, and that their depression prevents them from getting work or housing.

Research consistently indicates that homelessness for these individuals often occurs directly following hospital (psychiatric) discharge. Research also indicates that a disproportionate amount of the general homeless population suffers from some form of mental illness.<sup>†</sup>

The 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey included questions inquiring about mental health status. This included questions about depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a disorder that can develop after one experiences a traumatic event. Among other debilitating symptoms, PTSD is characterized by intense anxiety, panic attacks, depression, flashbacks/re-experiencing, and nightmares of the traumatic event. According to the VA definition of PTSD, a traumatic event is any event that threatens one's own life or the life of someone close to them. This can include military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or physical/sexual assault in childhood or adulthood.<sup>‡</sup>

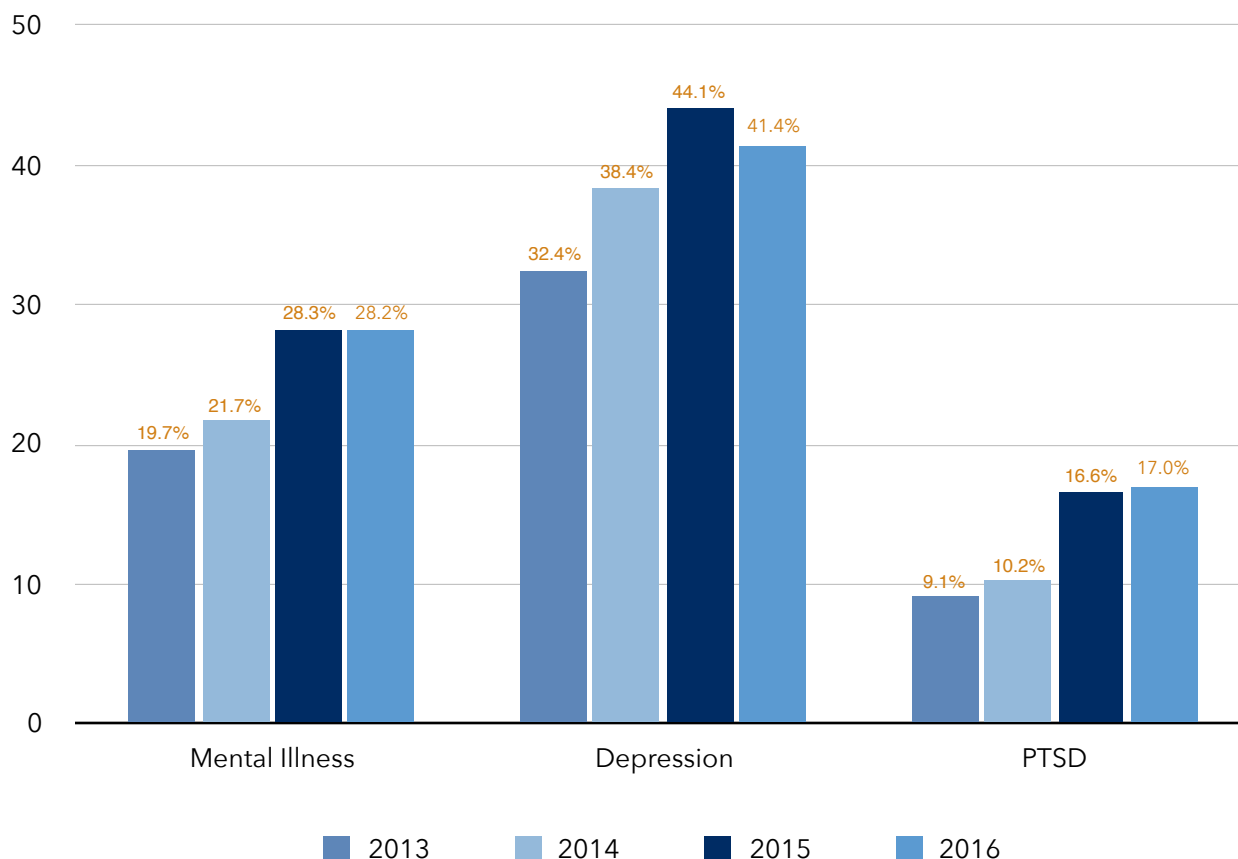
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\* John Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. *The Severely Mentally Ill Homeless: Housing Needs and Housing Policy*. 1992.

† National Coalition for the Homeless. *Fact Sheet*. 2009

‡ US Department of Veterans Affairs & Elliot & Briere, *Trauma Symptom Checklist - 40 (TSC-40)*. 1992. [<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/adult-sr/tsc-40.asp>]

Figure 64: Percentage Of Respondents Who Were Currently or Ever Had Experienced Mental Illness, Depression, and PTSD



Mental Illness\_N: 2011= 488; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 968

Depression N: 2011= 509; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 967

PTSD\_N: 2011= 488; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948; ; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 964

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

Overall, 49.4% survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. This is lower than that of 2015 (50.2%).

### Mental Illness

- In 2016, 28.2% of the survey respondents claimed they were or ever had suffered from mental illness. This is lower than 2015 (28.3%).
- Of those suffering from mental illness in 2016, 67.0% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

### Depression

- In 2016, 41.4% claimed they were or ever had suffered from depression. This is lower than 2015 (44.1%).
- Of those suffering from depression in 2016, 53.2% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

### Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

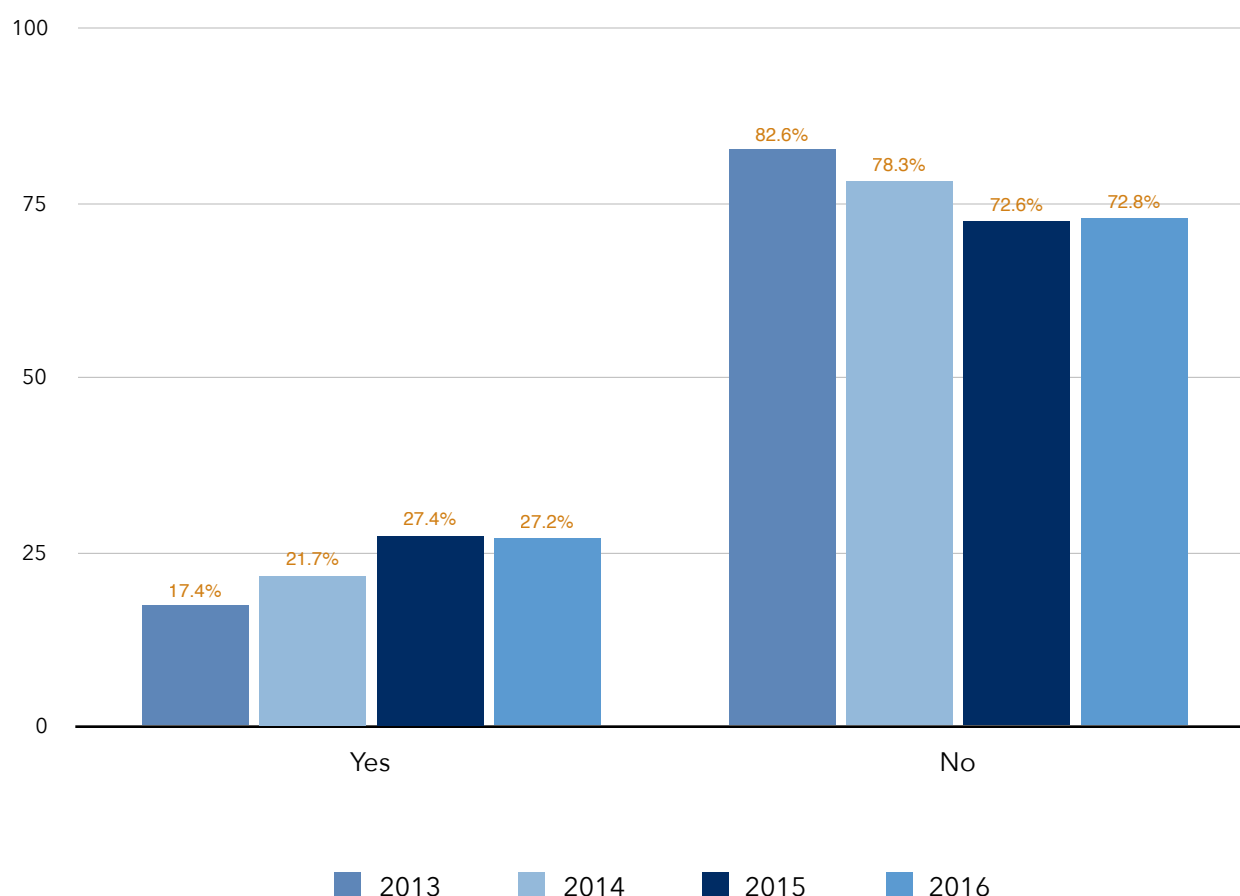
- In 2016, 17.0% claimed they were or ever had suffered from PTSD. This is higher than 2015 (16.6%).
- Of those suffering from PTSD, 63.1% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

## 5.7 Adults with Substance Use disorders

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of a substance use disorder is as follows:

*Adults with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both). Adults with a substance use disorder must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (e.g., "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").*

Figure 65: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing Alcohol or Drug Abuse



N: 2013= 860; 2014 = 948; 2015 = 913; 2016 = 973

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, & 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.



Summary:

- 27.2% of the survey respondents reported to be currently experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the survey. This represents a 0.2% decrease compared to 2015, when 27.4% of respondents cited problems with alcohol/drug abuse.

### 5.7a Co-Occurring Disorders

Chronic substance abuse among the homeless population is misunderstood at both local and national levels. It is often carelessly attributed to personality and/or character flaws. In reality, however, mental illness plays a significant role in struggles with chronic substance abuse. Thus, the possibility of a co-occurring disorder is often overlooked in many cases of chronic substance abuse, especially among the homeless population.

The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) agree that Individuals diagnosed with mental illness are twice as likely to have co-occurring problems with substance abuse.\*

In 2010, 54.3% of those persons enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing programs reported problems with both mental illness and substance abuse. However, only 24% of this population reported mental illness alone, and only 11.9% reported substance abuse alone.<sup>†</sup> This disparity highlights the prevalence of the co-occurrence of mental illness and substance abuse in the homeless population.

Although individuals with co-occurring disorders do not constitute a HUD-defined subpopulation in their own right, this population is of great concern and interest to both policy-makers and the general public. No previous data exists before 2013 for this population in regards to Southern Nevada; 2013 marked the beginning of data-collection for this population.

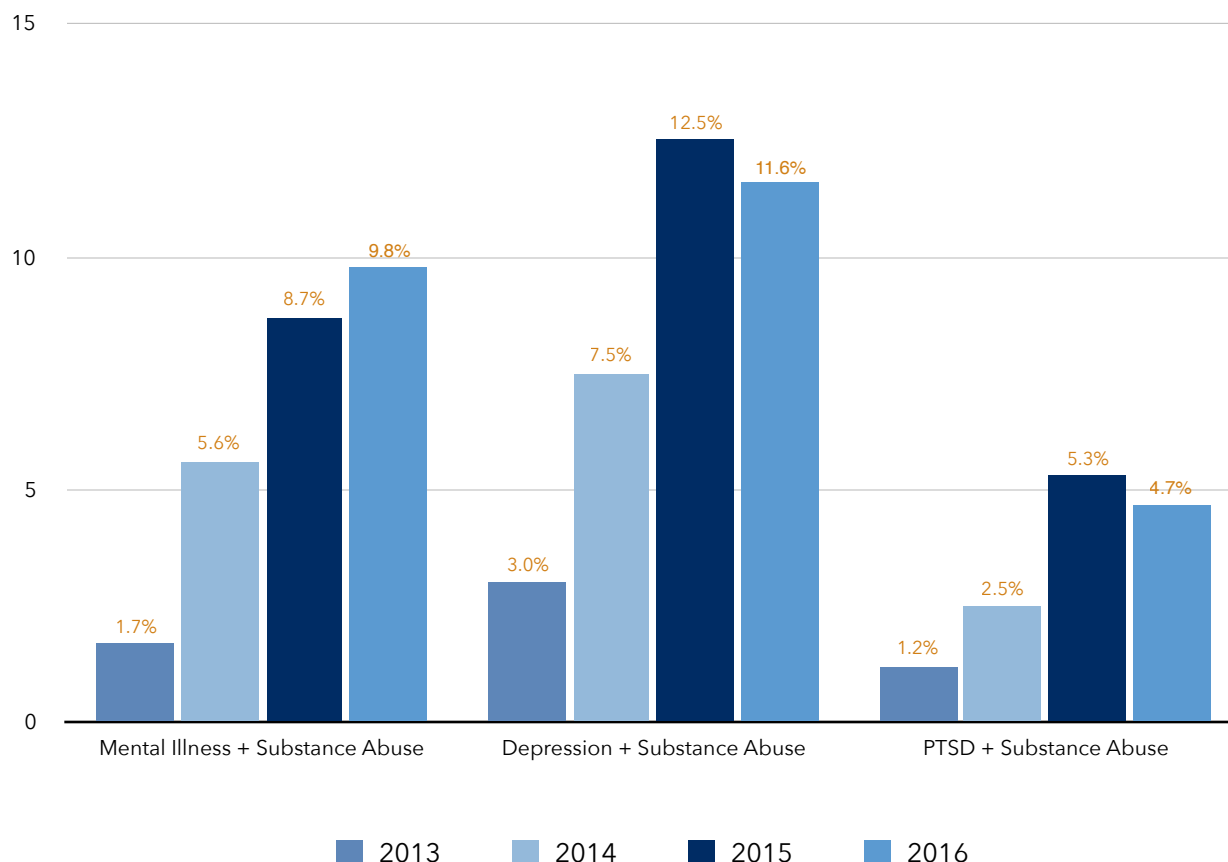
Below is 2014, 2015, and 2016 data depicting the state of co-occurring disorders in Southern Nevada.

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\*United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Employment Situation of Veterans 2011*. Press Release, 20 March 2012; "Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey."

<sup>†</sup>John Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. *The Severely Mentally ill homeless: Housing needs and housing policy*.

Figure 66: Respondents Reporting Co-Occurring Substance Abuse with Mental Illness, Depression, or PTSD



N: 2013= 860; 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 973

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014, 2015), 2013, 2014, & 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: For the purposes this figure, 'Disabling' is defined as a condition that prevents the respondent from getting work or housing.

#### Summary:

- 9.8% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 11.6% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring depression and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 4.7% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring PTSD and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.

## 6. Youth Homelessness

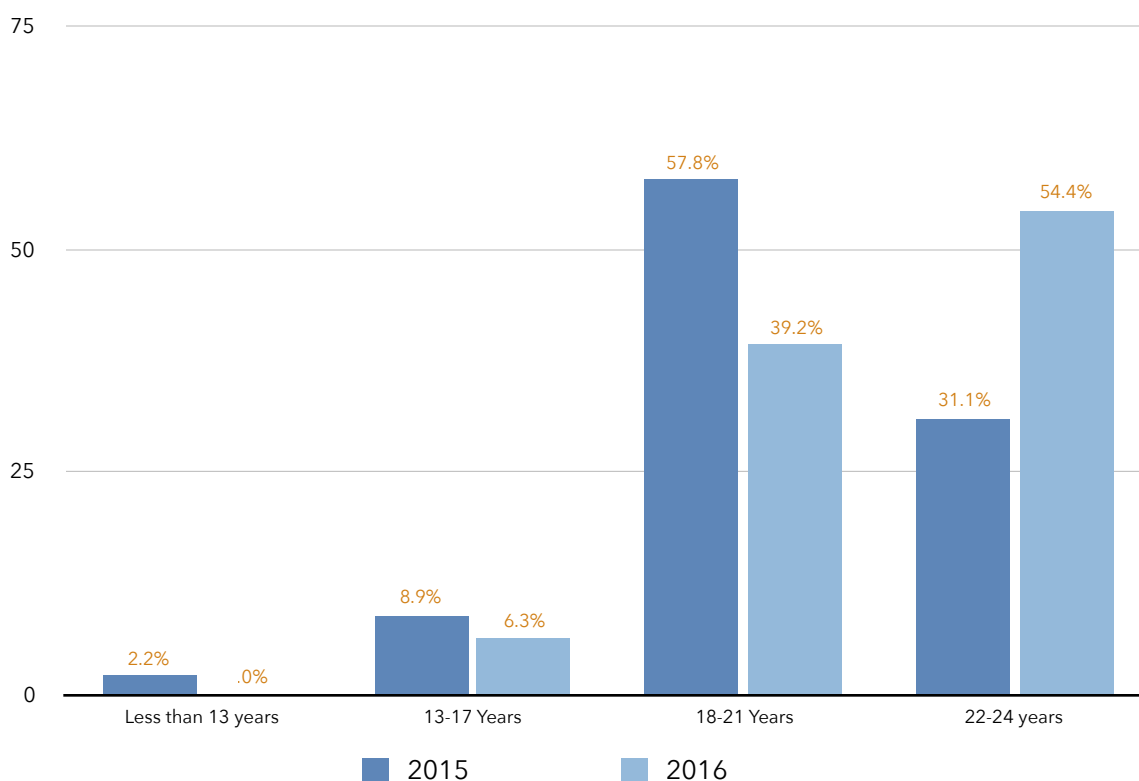
### 6.1 Demographics

Understanding the demographics of the Southern Nevada homeless youth population is key to defining the specific needs of this population. This information can be used to create more effective programs, alter existing programs, and predict future challenges.

In order to obtain demographic information characterizing the homeless residents in Southern Nevada, the survey participants answered several questions pertaining to age, gender, ethnicity, race, and family status in both 2015 and 2016.

#### 6.1a Age

Figure 67: Survey Respondents by Age, 2016



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 79

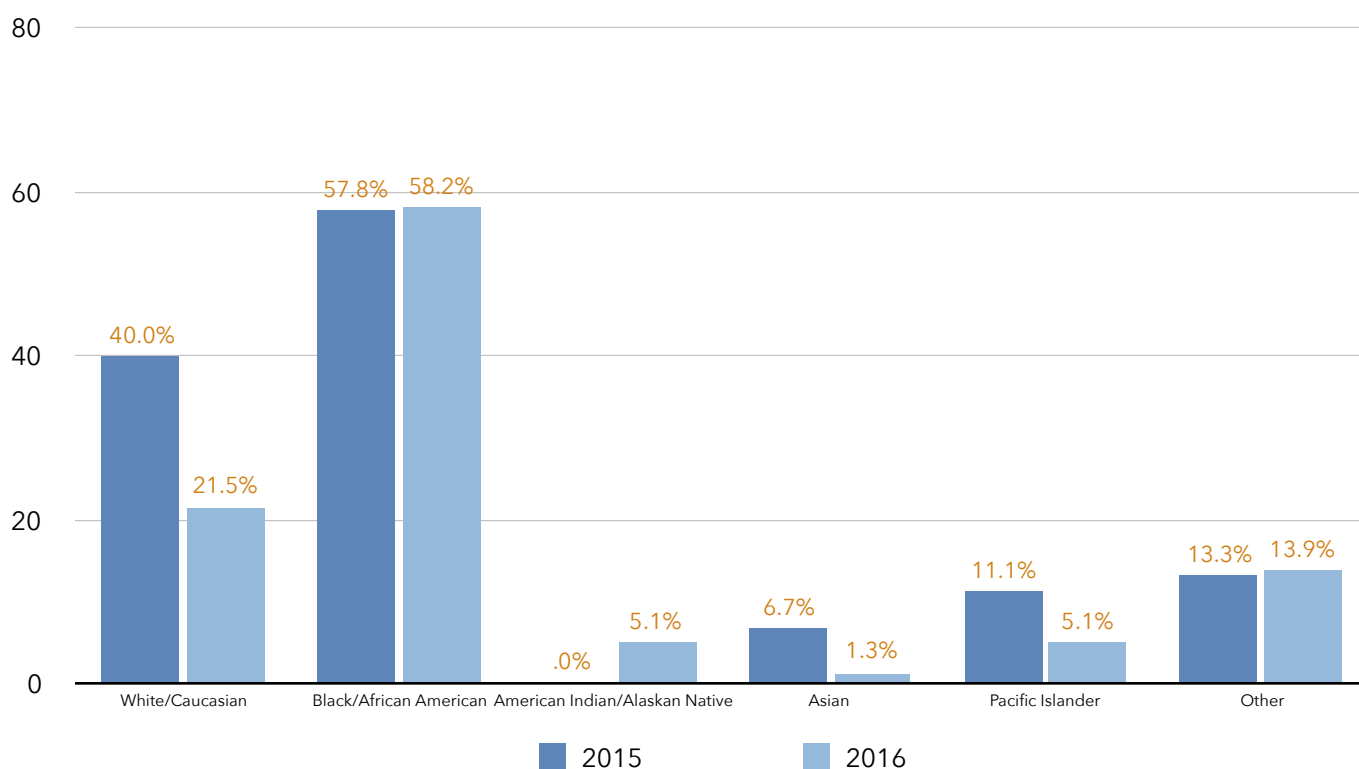
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 54.4% of respondents were between the ages of 22 and 24. This is higher than 2015 (31.1%).
- 39.2% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21. This is lower than 2015 (57.8%).
- 6.3% of respondents were between the ages of 13 and 17. This is lower than 2015 (8.9%).
- No 2016 respondents were under the age of 13. In 2015, 2.2% of respondents were less than 13 years old.

### 6.1b Race/Ethnicity

Figure 68: Youth Respondents by Race



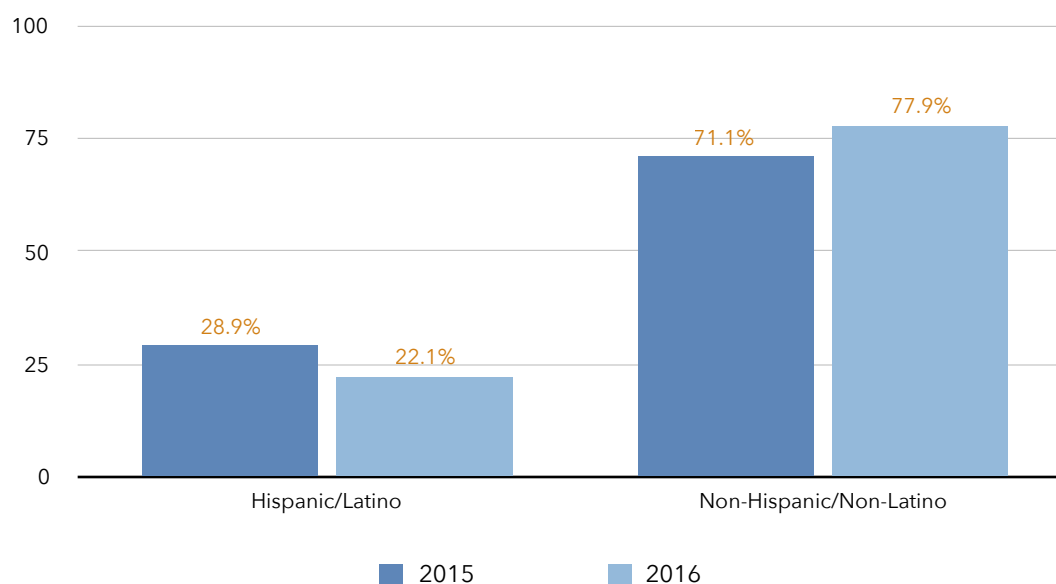
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 79

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 21.5% of survey respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian*. This is lower than 2015 (40.0%).
- 58.2% of respondents identified their racial group as *Black/African American*. This is higher than 2015 (57.8%).
- 5.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *American Indian/Alaskan Native*. This is higher than 2015 when no respondents identified with this race category.
- 1.3% of respondents identified their racial group as *Asian*. This is lower than 2015 (6.7%).
- 5.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Pacific Islander*. This is lower than 2015 (11.1%).
- 13.9% of respondents identified their racial group as *Other*. This is higher than 2015 (13.3%).

Figure 69: Respondents by Ethnicity



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 22.1% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*. This is lower than 2015 (28.9%).
- 77.9% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. This is higher than 2015 (71.1%).

### 6.1c Gender

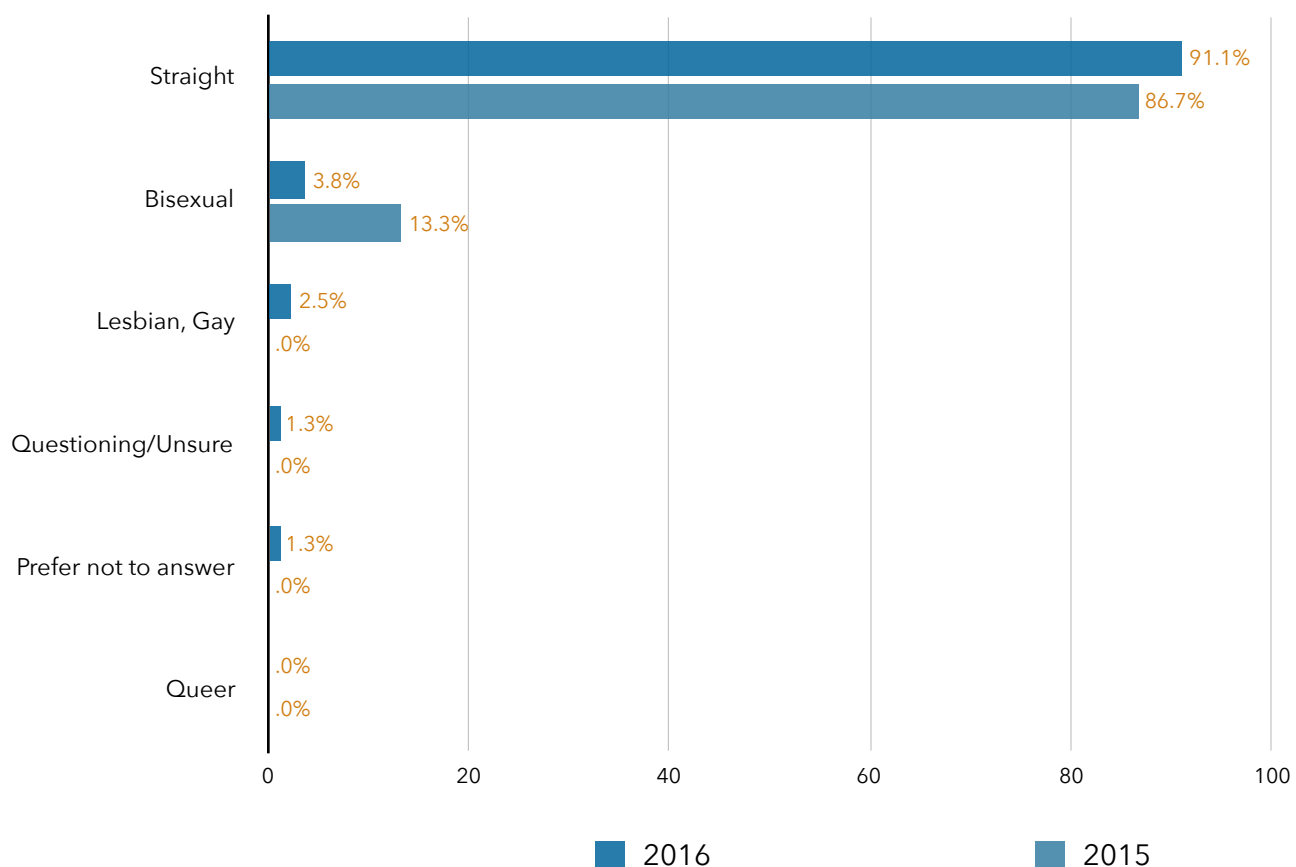
Past homeless surveys nationwide have consistently found that the majority of homeless adults are male. This trend was reflected in the homeless youth population. In 2016, the majority (57%) of youth surveyed were *Male*. This is in contrast to 2015, when the majority (55.6%) of youth surveyed were *Female*.

Summary:

- 57.0% of respondents identified as *Male*. This is higher than 2015 (44.4%).
- 43.0% of respondents identified as *Female*. This is lower than 2015 (55.6%).
  - 20.6% of female respondents reported they were pregnant. This is higher than 2015 (16.0%).
- None of the youth surveyed identified as *transgender*. This is the same as 2015.

### 6.1d: Sexual Orientation

Figure 70: Sexual Orientation



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 81

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 91.1% of respondents identified as *Straight*. This is higher than 2015 (86.7%).
- 2.5% of respondents identified as *Lesbian/Gay*. None of the 2015 youth surveyed identified as *Lesbian/Gay*.
- 3.8% of respondents identified as *Bisexual*. This is lower than 2015 (13.3%).
- 0.0% of respondents identified as *Queer*. None of the 2015 youth surveyed identified as *Queer*.
- 1.3% of respondents identified as *Questioning/Unsure*. None of the 2015 youth surveyed identified as *Questioning/Unsure*.
- 1.3% of respondents *Preferred Not to Answer*. None of the 2015 youth surveyed *Preferred Not to Answer*.

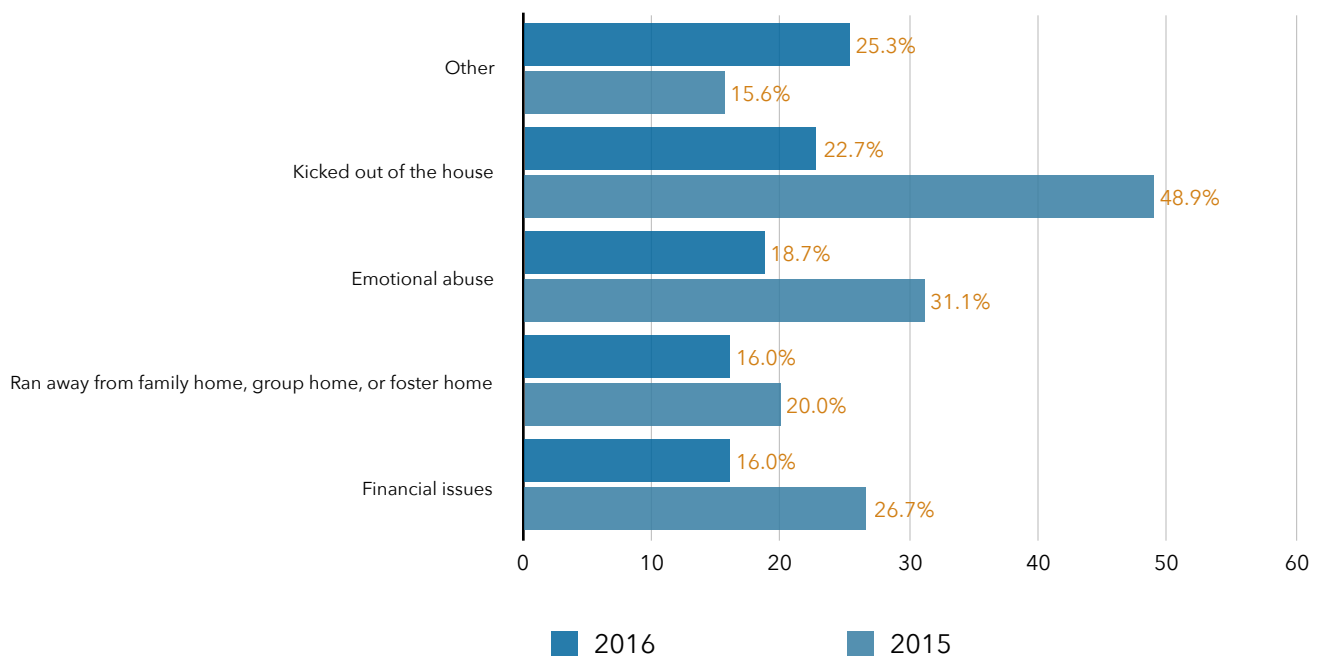
## 6.2 Conditions of Homelessness

The following section presents a broad view of the various characteristics and causes of homelessness. This section details the duration and frequency of homelessness, living conditions, and obstacles that homeless youth face when trying to secure permanent housing.

### 6.2a Conditions Prior To Becoming Homeless

#### 6.2a.1 Primary Causes of Homelessness

Figure 71: Top Events That Led to Respondents' Homelessness (Top 5 Responses in 2016)



Multiple response question.

N: 2015: 45 respondents provided 133 responses; 2016: 75 respondents provided 159 responses.

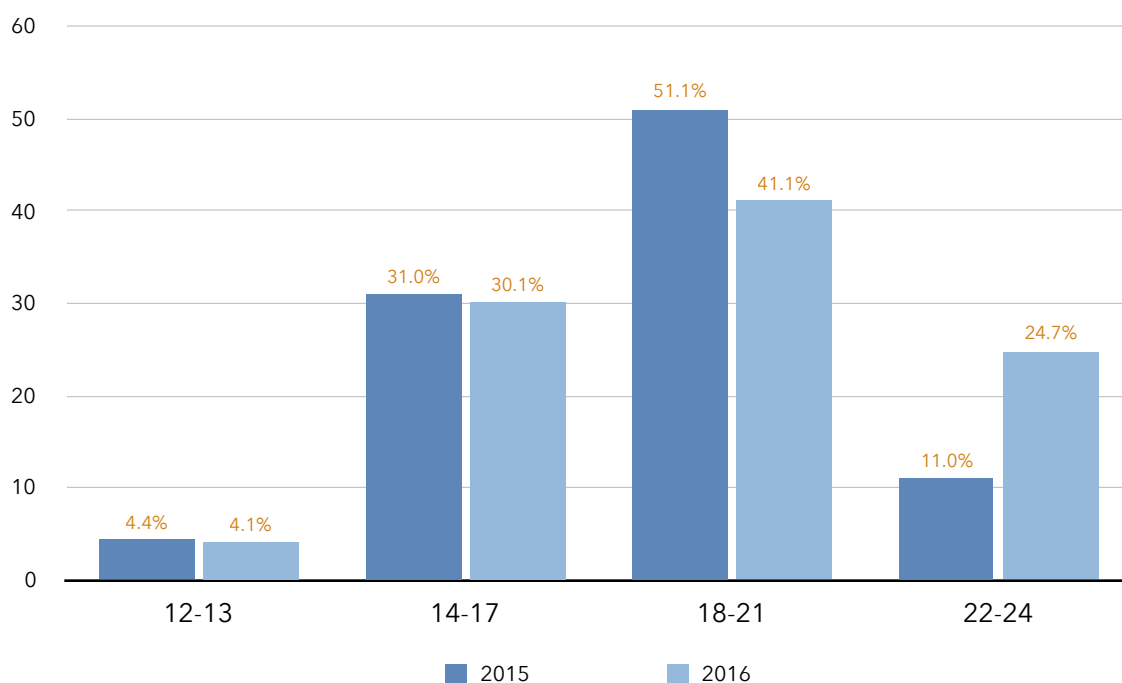
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- *Other* was the most frequently selected response option in 2016. This is higher than 2015 (15.6%) when *Other* was not among the top 5 events that led to respondents' homelessness.
- *Kicked out of the House* was the second most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2016 (22.7%). This is lower than 2015 when the majority of respondents (48.9%) cited *Kicked out of the House* as the primary cause of their homelessness.
- *Emotional Abuse* was the third most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2016 (18.7%). This is lower than 2015 (31.1%).
- *Financial Issues* (16.0%) and *Ran away from family home, group home, or foster home* (16.0%) were the fourth and fifth most commonly cited causes of homelessness in 2016. They were both lower than 2015 (26.7% and 20.0%, respectively).

### 6.2a.2 Occurrence of Homelessness

Figure 72: How Old Were You When You First Experienced Homelessness?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 73

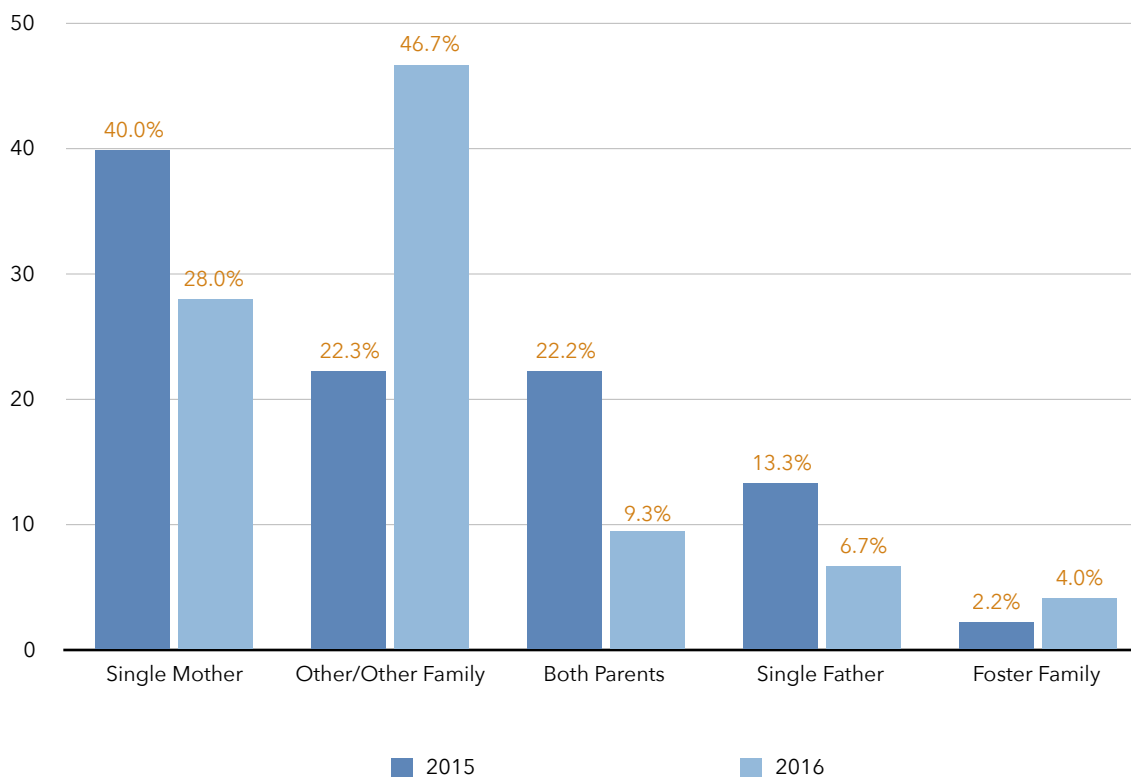
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.



**Summary:**

- 41.1% of youth survey respondents were between the ages of 18-21 when they first became homeless.

**Figure 73: Just Before Becoming Homeless, Did You Live With: (Top 5 responses in 2015 & 2016)**



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75

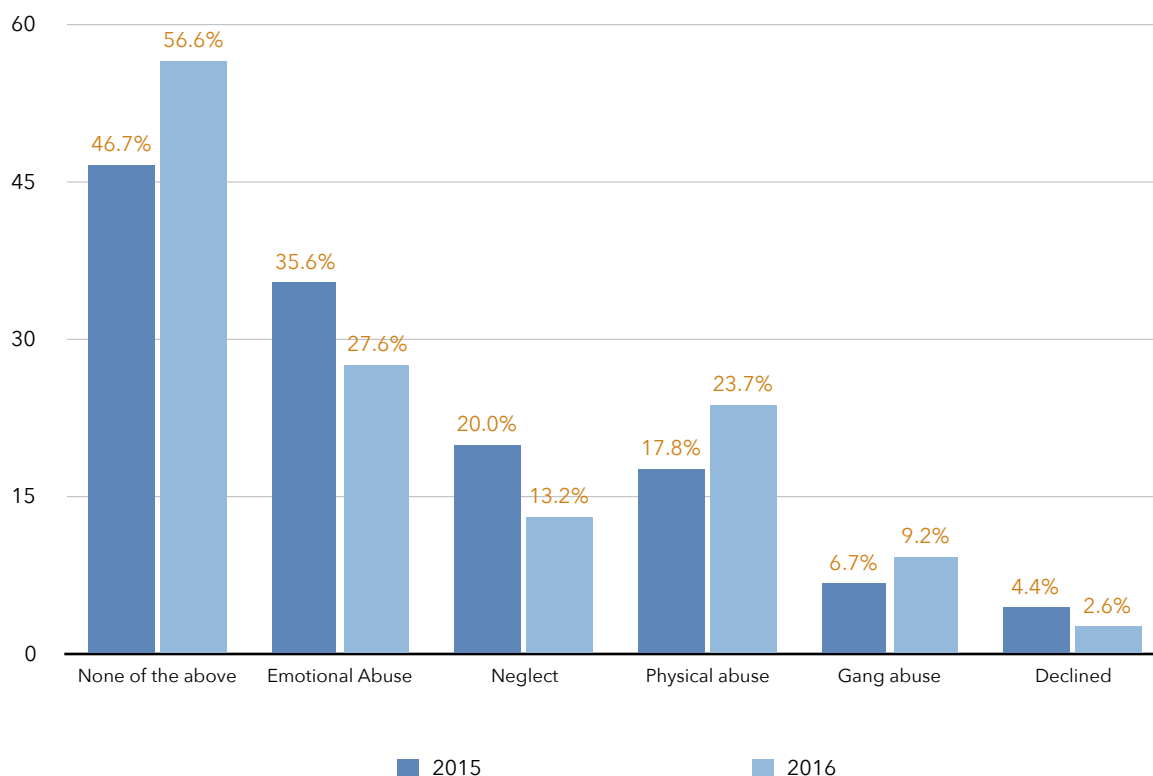
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

**Summary:**

- In 2016, the most frequently cited family member respondents were living with prior to becoming homeless was *Other/Other Family* (46.7%). This is higher than 2015 (22.3%).
- 9.3% of respondents reported that they were living with *Both Parents* prior to becoming homeless. This is lower than 2015 (22.2%).
- 28.0% of respondents reported that they were living with a *Single Mother* prior to becoming homeless. This is lower than 2015 (40.0%).

### 6.2a.3 Experiences Prior to Becoming Homeless

Figure 74: Prior to Becoming Homeless, Experienced:



*Multiple response question.*

*45 respondents provided 59 responses in 2015; 76 respondents provided 108 responses in 2016.*

*Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.*

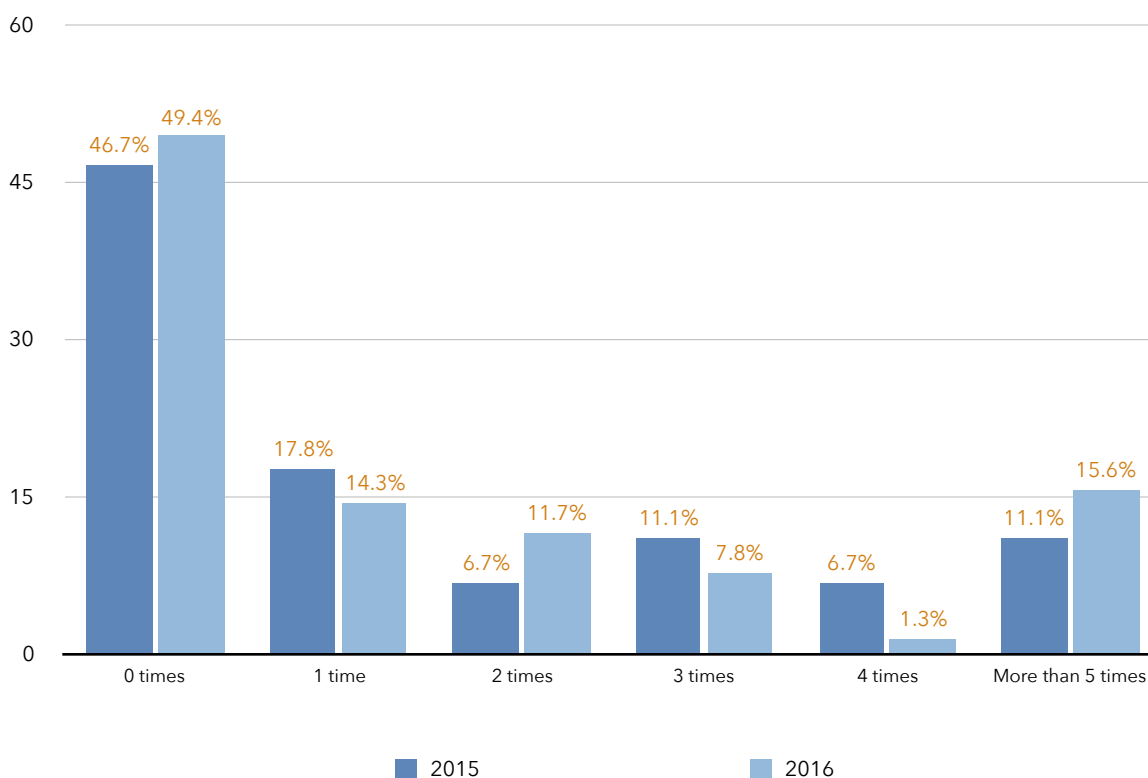
#### Summary:

- *Emotional Abuse* was the most commonly cited experience prior to becoming homeless (27.6%). This is lower than 2015 (35.6%).
- 13.2% of survey respondents reported *Neglect*. This is lower than 2015 (20.0%).
- 23.7% of survey respondents reported *Physical Abuse* prior to becoming homeless. This is higher than 2015 (17.8%).

### 6.2a.5 Arrest, Probation, & Incarceration

- 66.2% of survey respondents stated that they had never been involved with the justice system before they were 18 (as a minor).<sup>\*</sup> This is lower than 2015 (73.3%).
- 92.2% of survey respondents had never been on parole. This is lower than 2015 (97.7%).
- 76.6% had never been on probation. This is higher than 2015 (65.9%).

Figure 75: How Many Times Have You Been Arrested?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

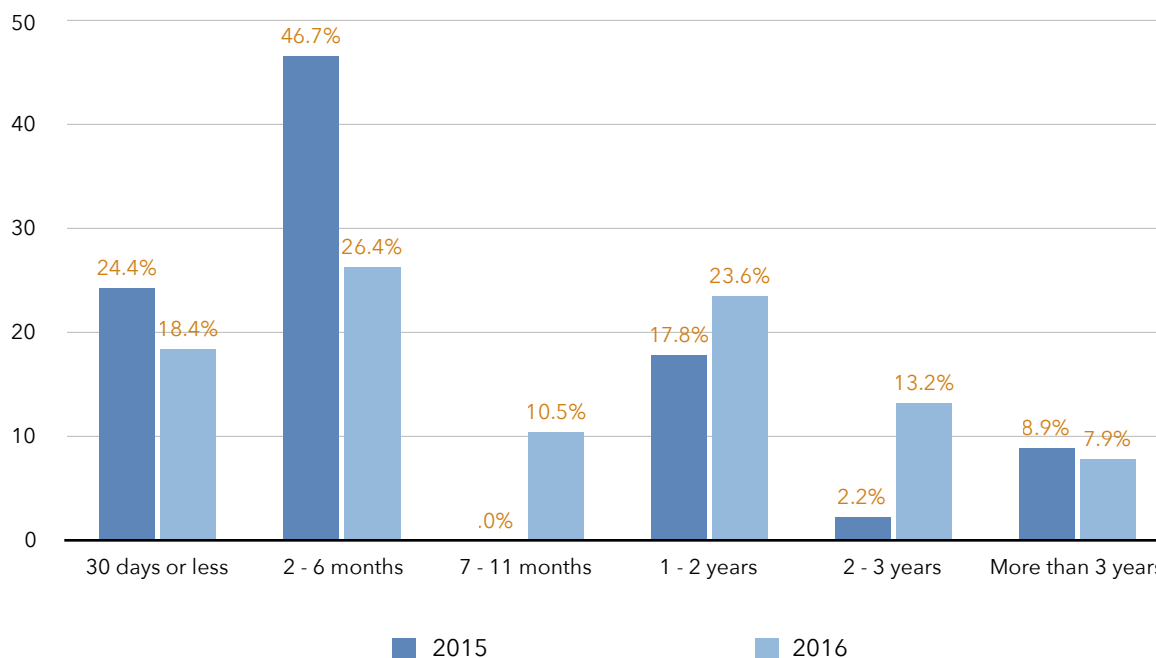
- 49.4% of survey respondents had *never been arrested*. This is higher than 2015 (46.7%).
- 14.3% of survey respondents had been arrested *once*. This is lower than 2015 (17.8%).
- 15.6% of survey respondents had been arrested *more than five times*. This is higher than 2015 (11.1%).

<sup>\*</sup> This includes jail, juvenile hall, camp programs, probation, detention, etc.

## 6.2b Current Conditions of Homelessness

### 6.2b.1 Duration of Homelessness

Figure 76: Total Length of Time Homeless/Without Home/Regular Place to Stay or Sleep



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

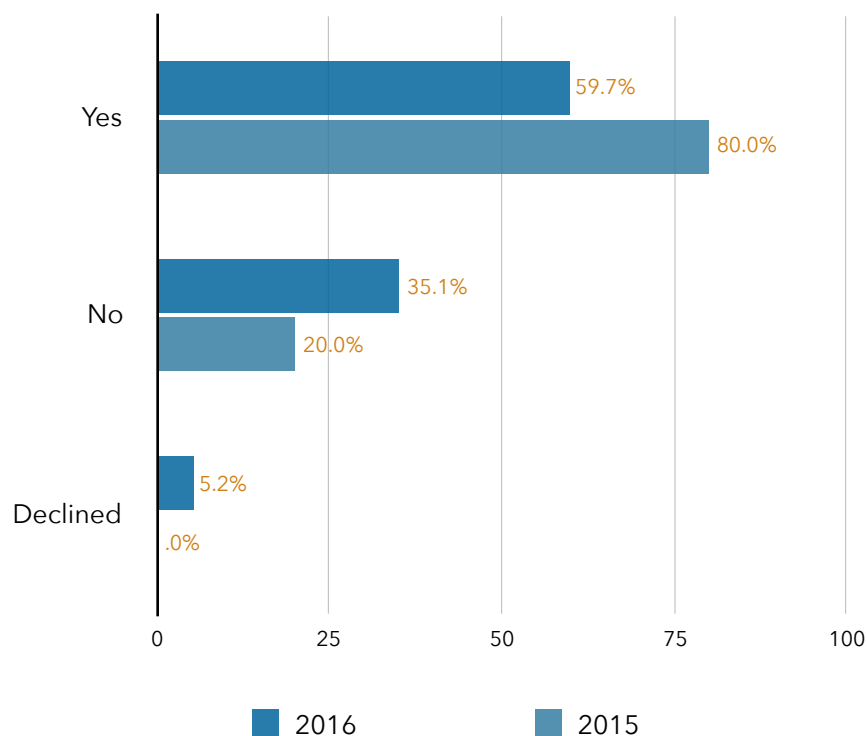
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 44.7% of the survey respondents reported that they had been without a home, or a regular place to stay/sleep, or been homeless for over a year in their entire lives. This is higher than 2015 (28.9%).
- 18.4% of 2016 survey respondents reported that they had been without a home, or a regular place to stay/sleep, or been homeless for 30 days or less in their entire lives. This is lower than 2015 (24.4%).
- 7.9% of survey respondents indicated that they had been without a home, or a regular place to stay/sleep, or been homeless for three years or longer in their entire lives. This is lower than 2015 (8.9%).

### 6.2b.2 Typical Nighttime Accommodations

Figure 77: Ever Able to Stay in a Motel or Doubled Up With a Friend at Any Time During Life



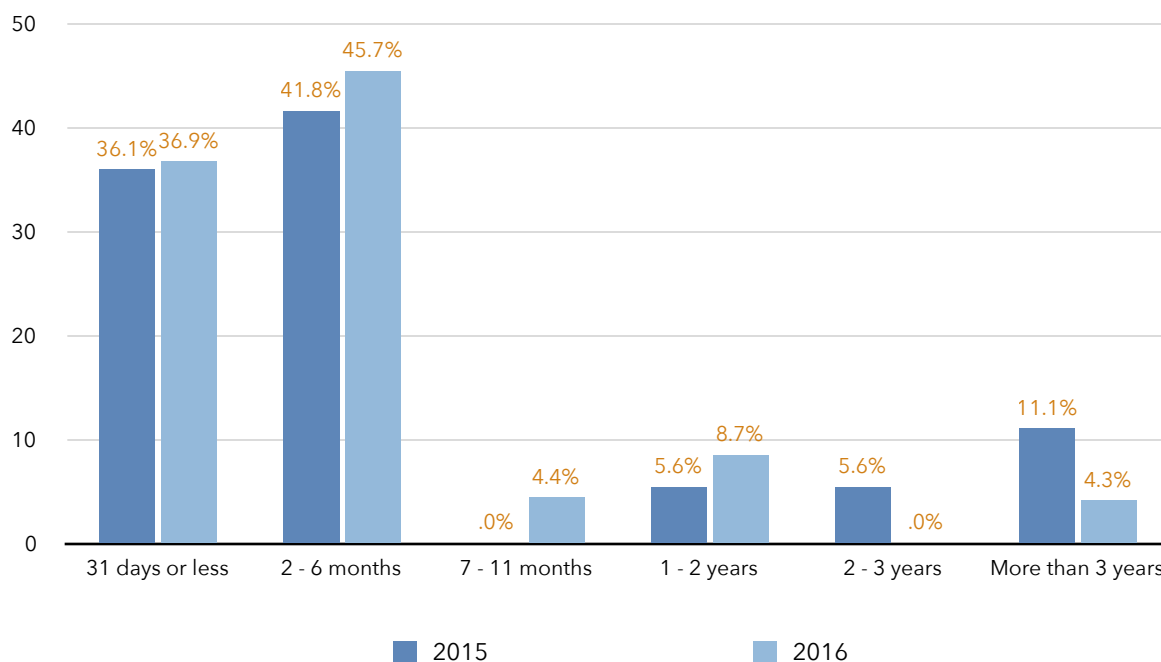
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 59.7% of survey respondents reported that they were ever able to stay in a motel or doubled up with a friend at any time during their lives. This is lower than 2015 (80.0%).
- 35.1% of survey respondents reported that they were not ever able to stay in a motel or doubled up with a friend at any time during their lives. This is higher than 2015 (20.0%).

Figure 78: How Long Have You Been Couch Surfing?



N: 2015 = 36; 2016 = 46

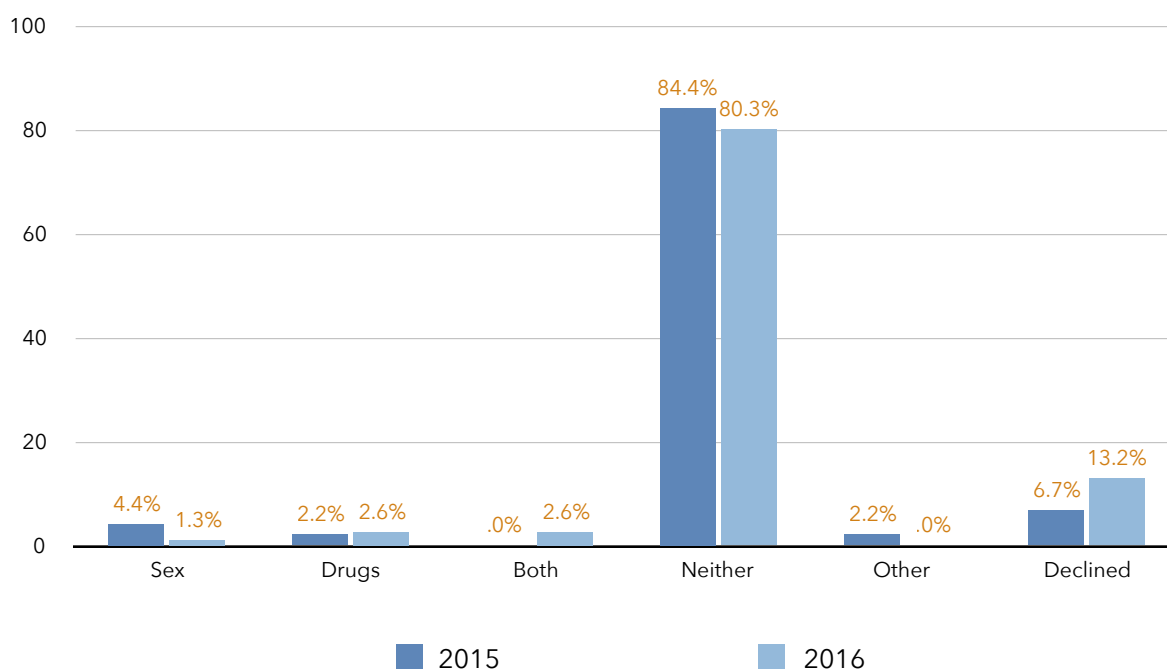
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority (45.7%) of survey respondents had been couch surfing for 2-6 *months* at the time of the survey. This is higher than 2015 (41.8%).
- 36.9% had been couch surfing for 30 *days or less*. This is higher than 2015 (36.1%).
- 4.3% had been couch surfing for *more than 3 years* at the time of the survey. This is lower than 2015 (11.1%).

### 6.2b.3 Adverse Experiences While Being Homeless

Figure 79: Have You Traded Sex or Drugs for a Place to Stay?



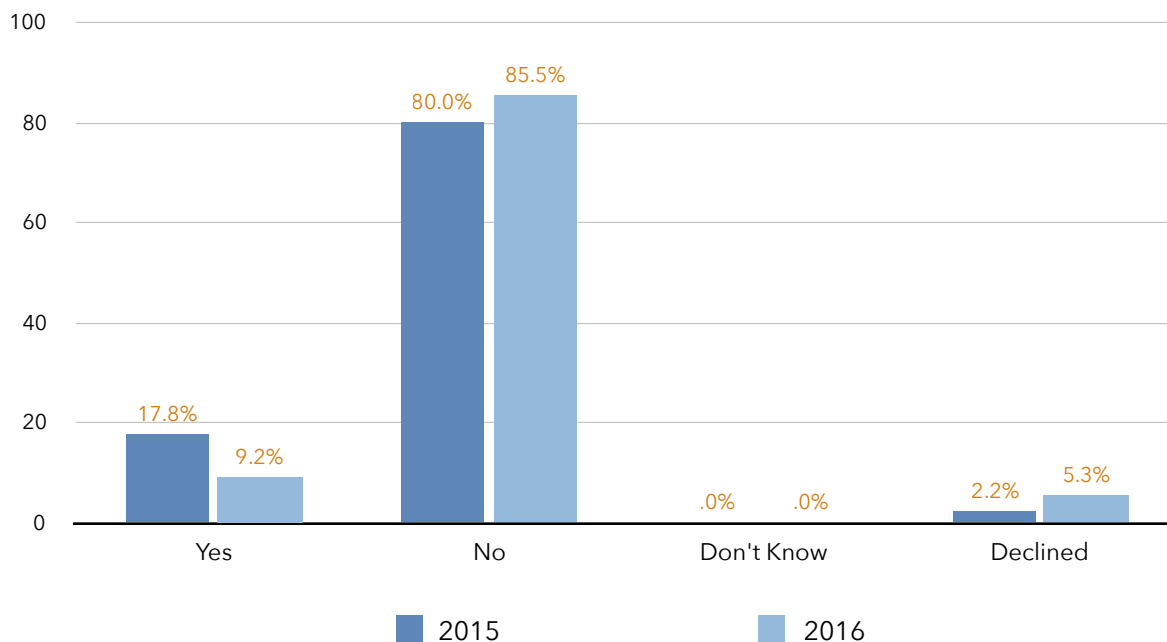
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- The overwhelming majority (80.3%) of survey respondents reported not exchanging either sex or drugs for a place to stay. This is lower than 2015 (84.4%).
- 1.3% of survey respondents reported exchanging sex for a place to stay. This is lower than 2015 (4.4%).
- 2.6% reported exchanging drugs for a place to stay. This is higher than 2015 (2.2%).

**Figure 80: Have You Committed A Crime in Exchange for Food or Shelter While On The Streets?**



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

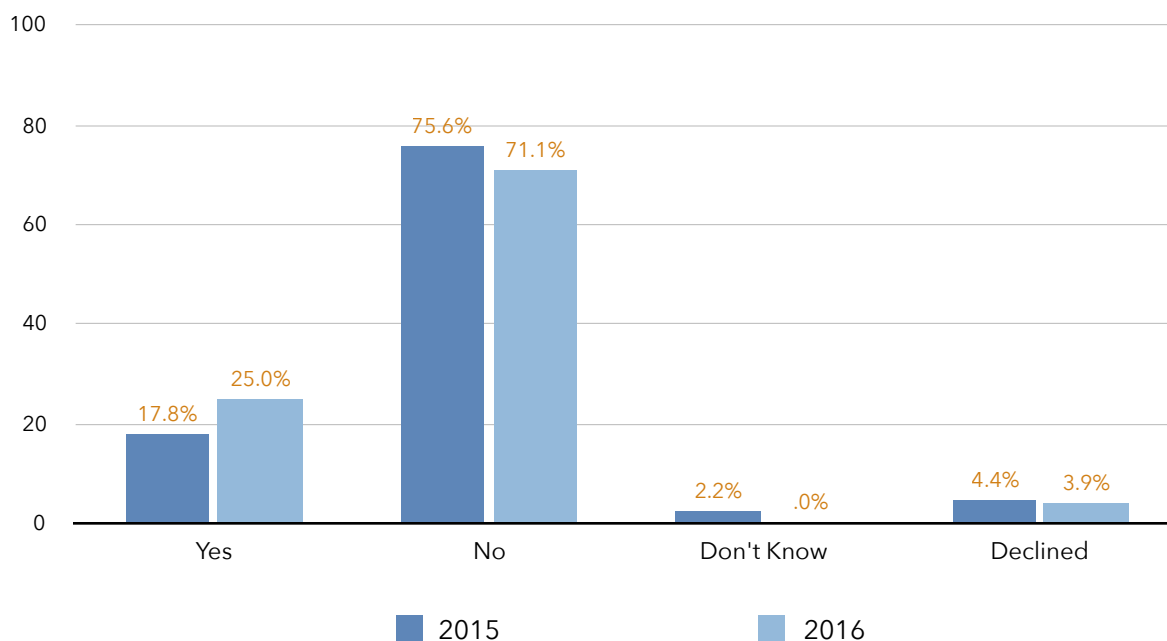
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- The majority (85.5%) of survey respondents reported that they had not committed a crime in exchange for food or shelter while experiencing homelessness. This is higher than 2015 (80.0%).



Figure 81: Have You Been a Victim of Crime While On The Streets?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

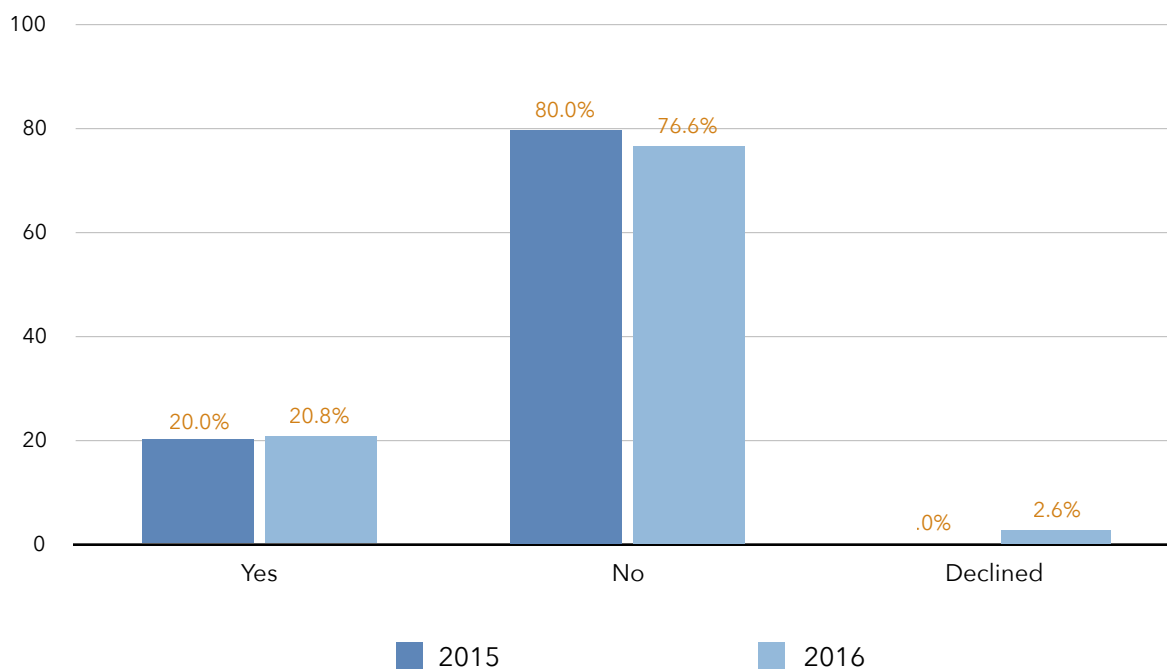
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 71.1% of survey respondents reported that they had not been the victim of crime while experiencing homelessness. This is lower than 2015 (75.6%).

### 6.2b.4 Mental and Behavioral Health

Figure 82: Have You Ever Attempted Suicide?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

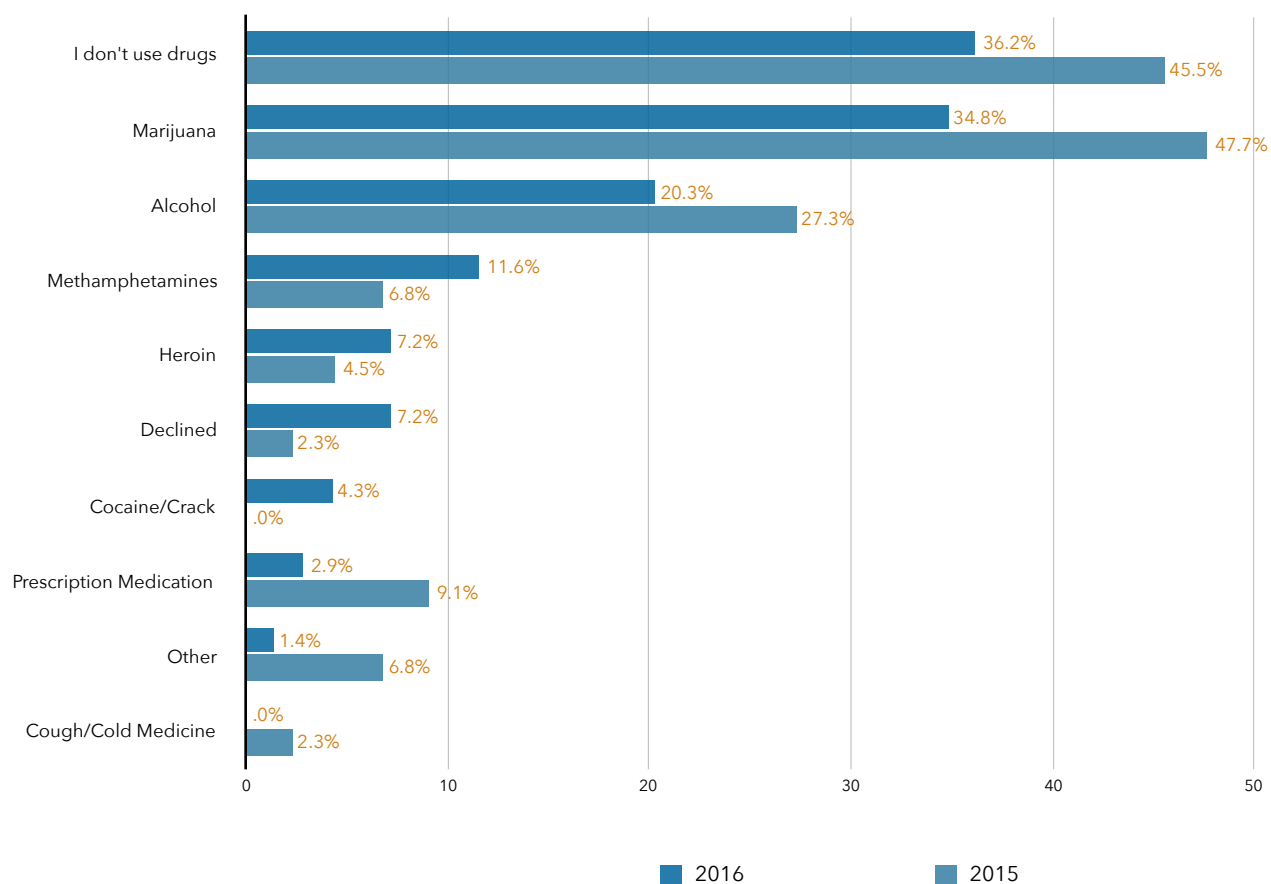
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 76.6% of survey respondents had never attempted suicide at the time of the survey. This is lower than 2015 (80.0%).
- 20.8% of survey respondents stated they had attempted suicide in the past. This is higher than 2015 (20.0%).

### 6.2b.5 Drugs and Alcohol

Figure 83: If You Use Drugs, What Are Your Primary Drugs of Choice?



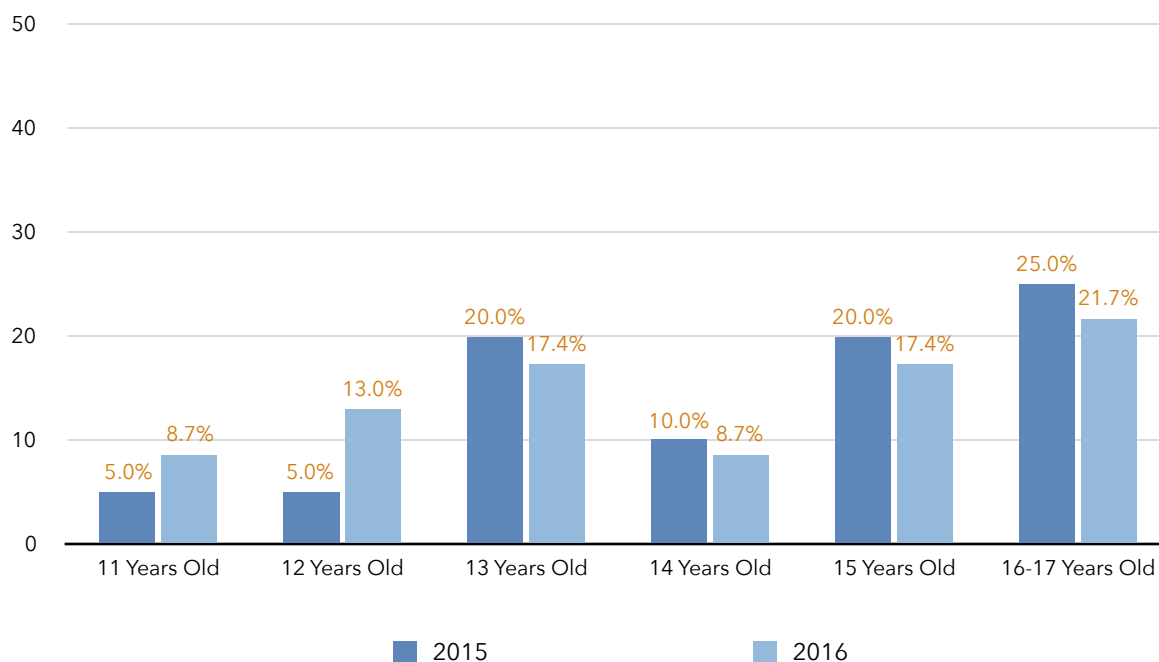
N: Multiple response question with 44 respondents offering 67 responses in 2015; Multiple response question with 69 respondents offering 87 responses in 2016.

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 36.2% of survey respondents reported *not using drugs* at the time of the survey. This is lower than 2015 (45.5%).
- *Marijuana* (34.8%) and *Alcohol* (20.3%) were the most commonly used drugs reported by respondents. Both of these categories are lower than 2015 (47.7% and 27.3%, respectively).
- 11.6% of survey respondents reported using *Methamphetamines*. This is higher than 2015 (6.8%).
- 4.3% of survey respondents reported using *Cocaine/Crack*. This is higher than 2015 (0.0%).

Figure 84: How Old Were You When You First Tried Marijuana?



N: 2015 = 20; 2016 = 23

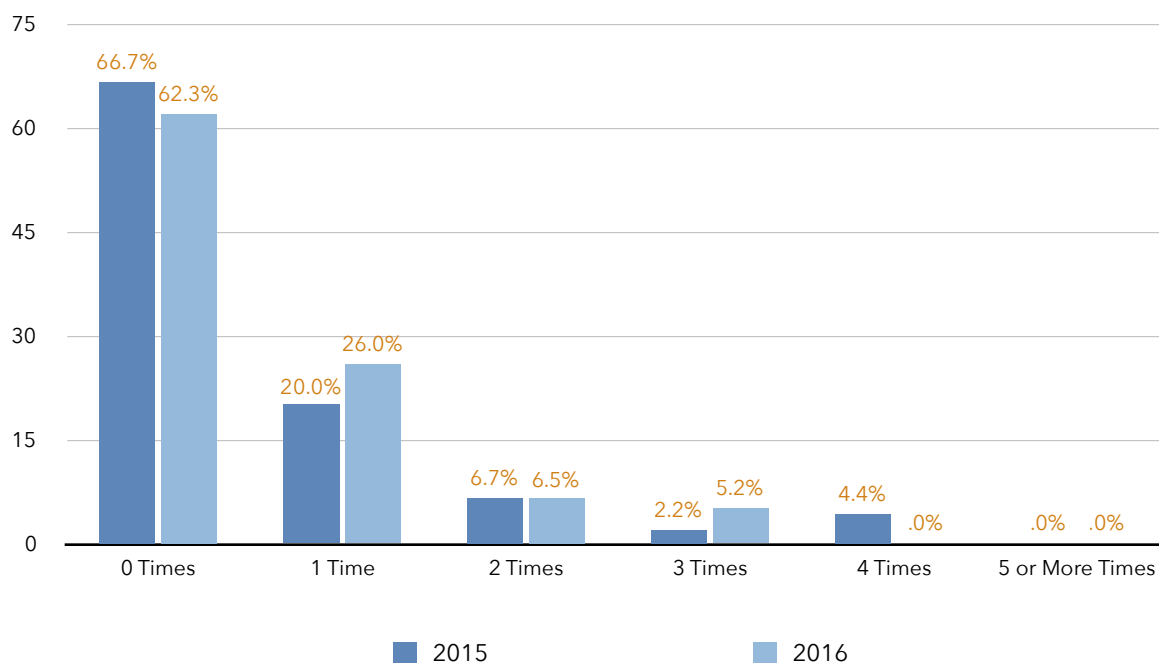
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 39.1% of survey respondents were between the ages of 11-13 years of age when they first tried Marijuana. This is higher than 2015 (30.0%).
- 26.1% of survey respondents were between the ages of 14-15 when they first tried Marijuana. This is lower than 2015 (30.0%).
- 21.7% of survey respondents were between the ages of 16-17 years old when they first tried Marijuana. This is lower than 2015 (25.0%).

### 6.2b.6 Children and Dependents

Figure 85: How Many Times in Your Life Have You Ever Been Pregnant or Gotten Someone Pregnant? (Include a Current Pregnancy, If Any)



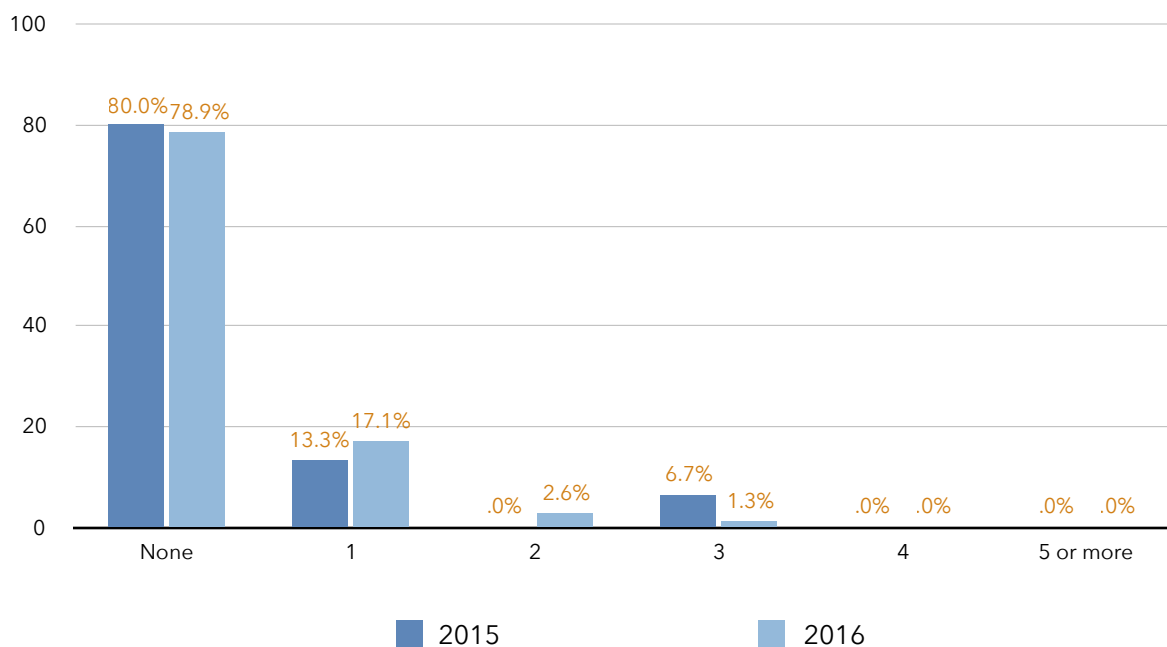
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (62.3%) had never been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant. This is lower than 2015 (66.7%).
- 26.0% of respondents had been pregnant one time, or had gotten someone pregnant one time at the time of the survey. This is higher than 2015 (20.0%).

Figure 86: How Many Biological Children Have You Had?



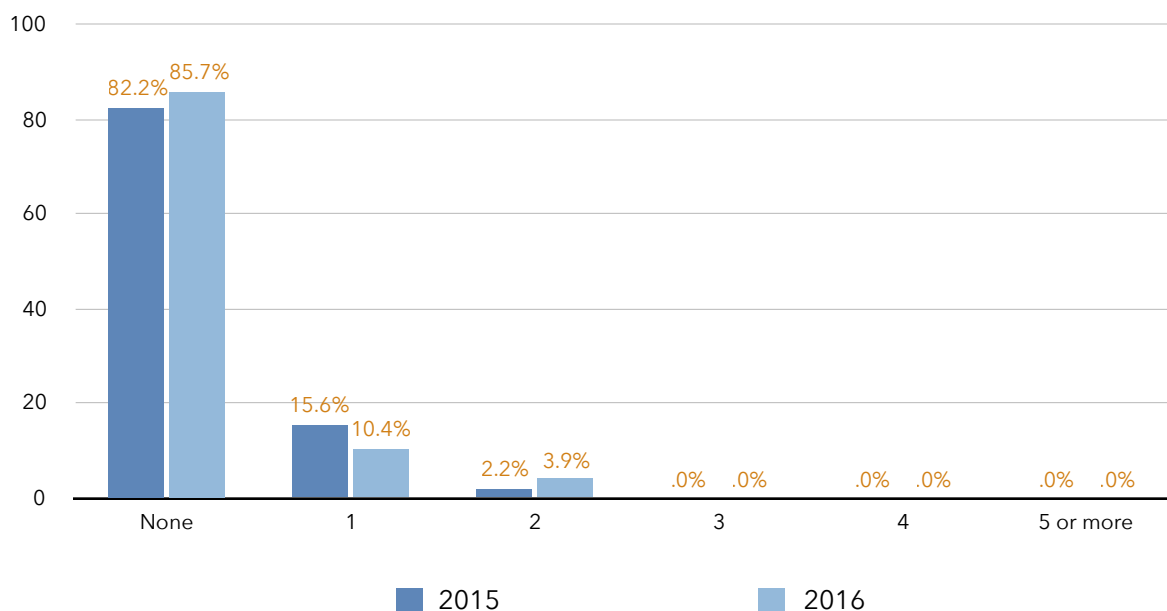
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority (78.9%) of survey respondents have had no biological children. This is lower than 2015 (80.0%).
- 17.1% of survey respondents have had 1 biological child. This is higher than 2015 (13.3%).
- 1.3% have had 3 biological children. This is lower than 2015 (6.7%).

Figure 87: How Many Children Do You Currently Have Custody Of?



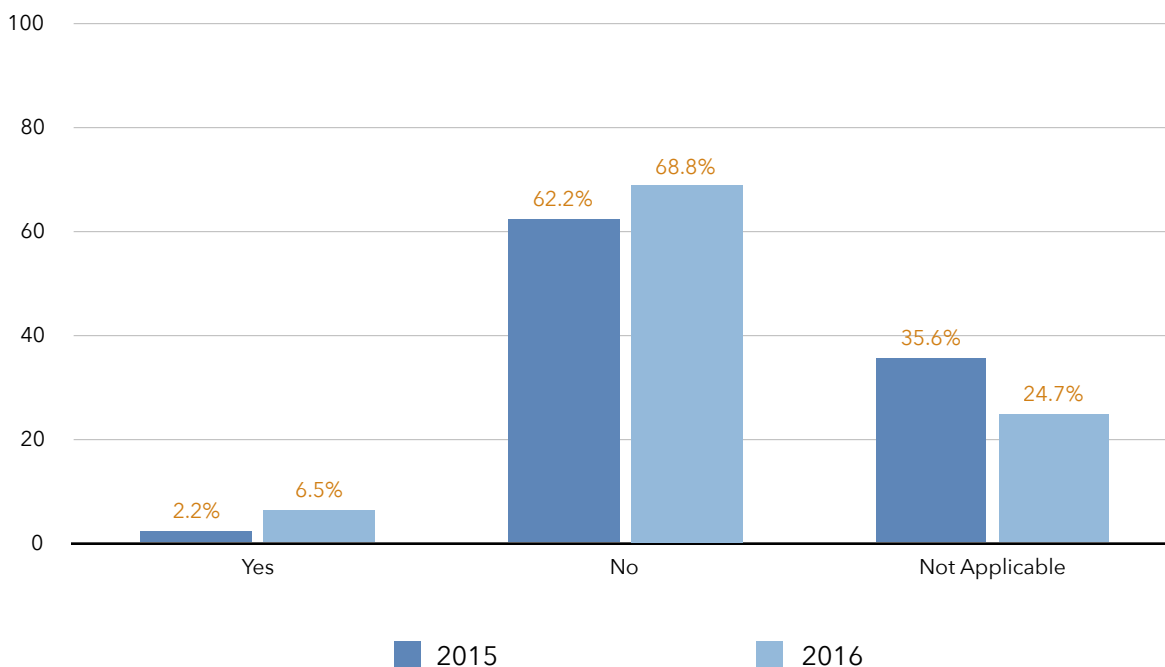
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 85.7% of survey respondents do not currently have custody of any children. This is higher than 2015 (82.2%).
- 10.4% of survey respondents had custody of 1 child. This is lower than 2015 (15.6%).
- 3.9% of survey respondents had custody of 2 children at the time of the survey. This is higher than 2015 (2.2%).

**Figure 88: Have you Ever Had a Child Removed From Your Care or Taken Away (by CPS, DCFS)?**



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

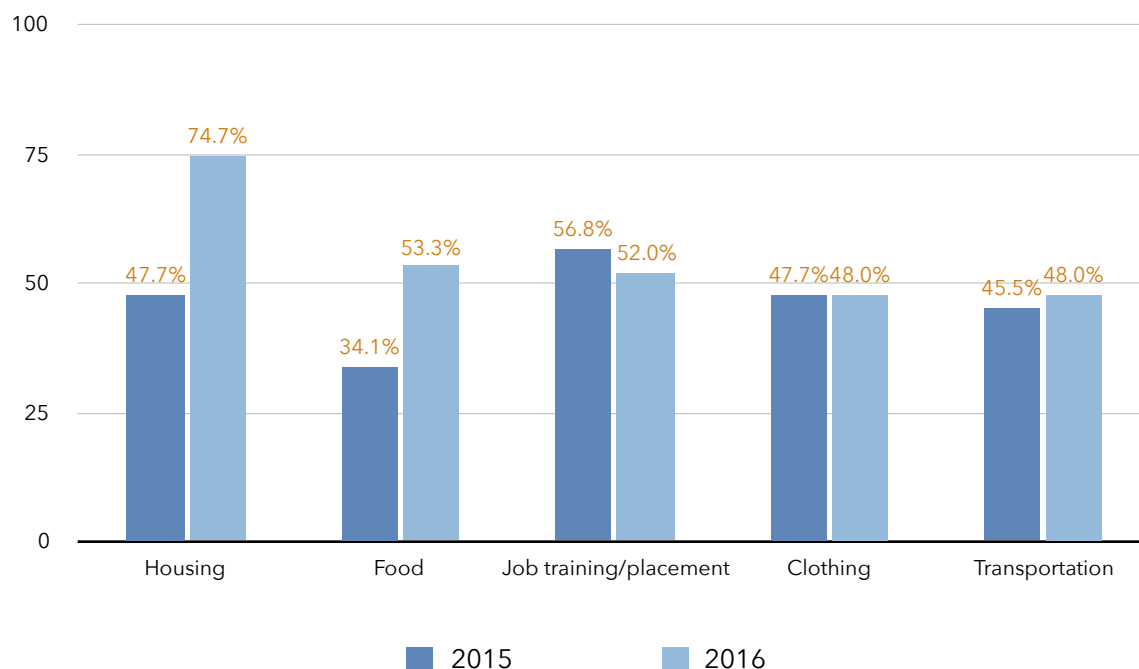
- 68.8% of survey respondents stated that CPS/DCFS had never removed a child from their care. This is higher than 2015 (62.2%).



## 6.3 Current Needs and Support

### 6.3a Current Service Needs

Figure 89: Current Needs (Top 5 Responses in 2015 & 2016)



*Multiple response question.*

*44 respondents provided 188 responses in 2015; 75 respondents provided 326 responses in 2016.*

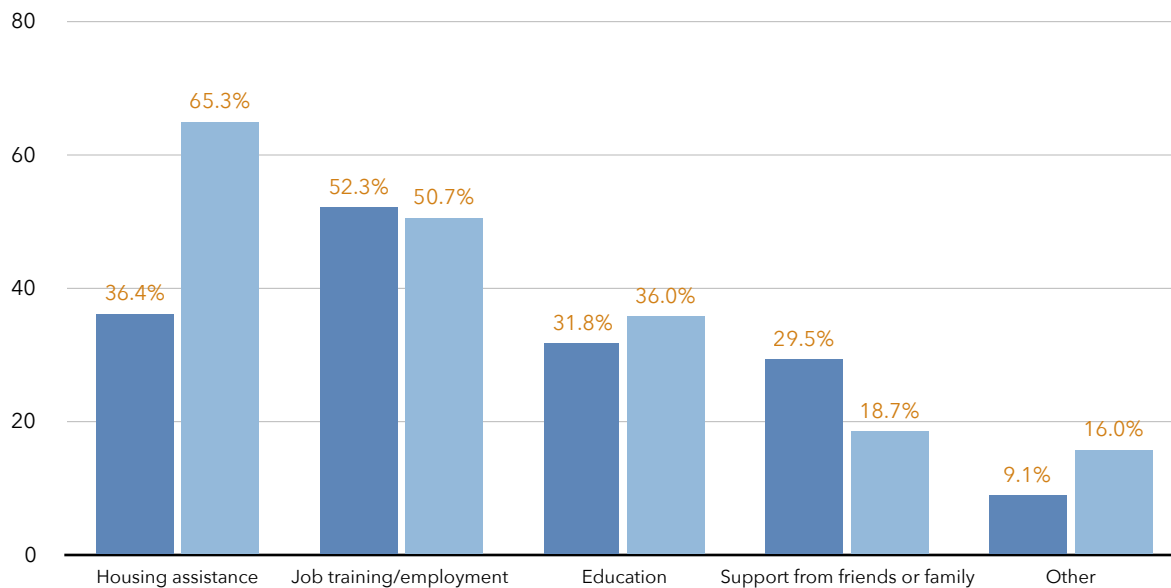
*Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.*

#### Summary:

- The most commonly cited service need was *Housing* (74.7%). This is higher than 2015 (47.7%).
- 53.3% of all respondents cited *Food* needs. This is higher than 2015 (34.1%).
- 52.0% of all respondents cited *Job training/placement* needs. This is lower than 2015 (56.8%).
- 48.0% of all respondents cited *Clothing* needs. This is higher than 2015 (47.7%).
- 48.0% of respondents cited *Transportation* needs. This is higher than 2015 (45.5%).

Figure 90: Assistance Identified as Helpful to Prevent Homelessness (Top 5 Responses in 2015 & 2016)

The following service types were identified by respondents as services that could help them "get off the streets":



Multiple response question.

44 respondents provided 84 responses in 2015; 75 respondents provided 160 responses in 2016.

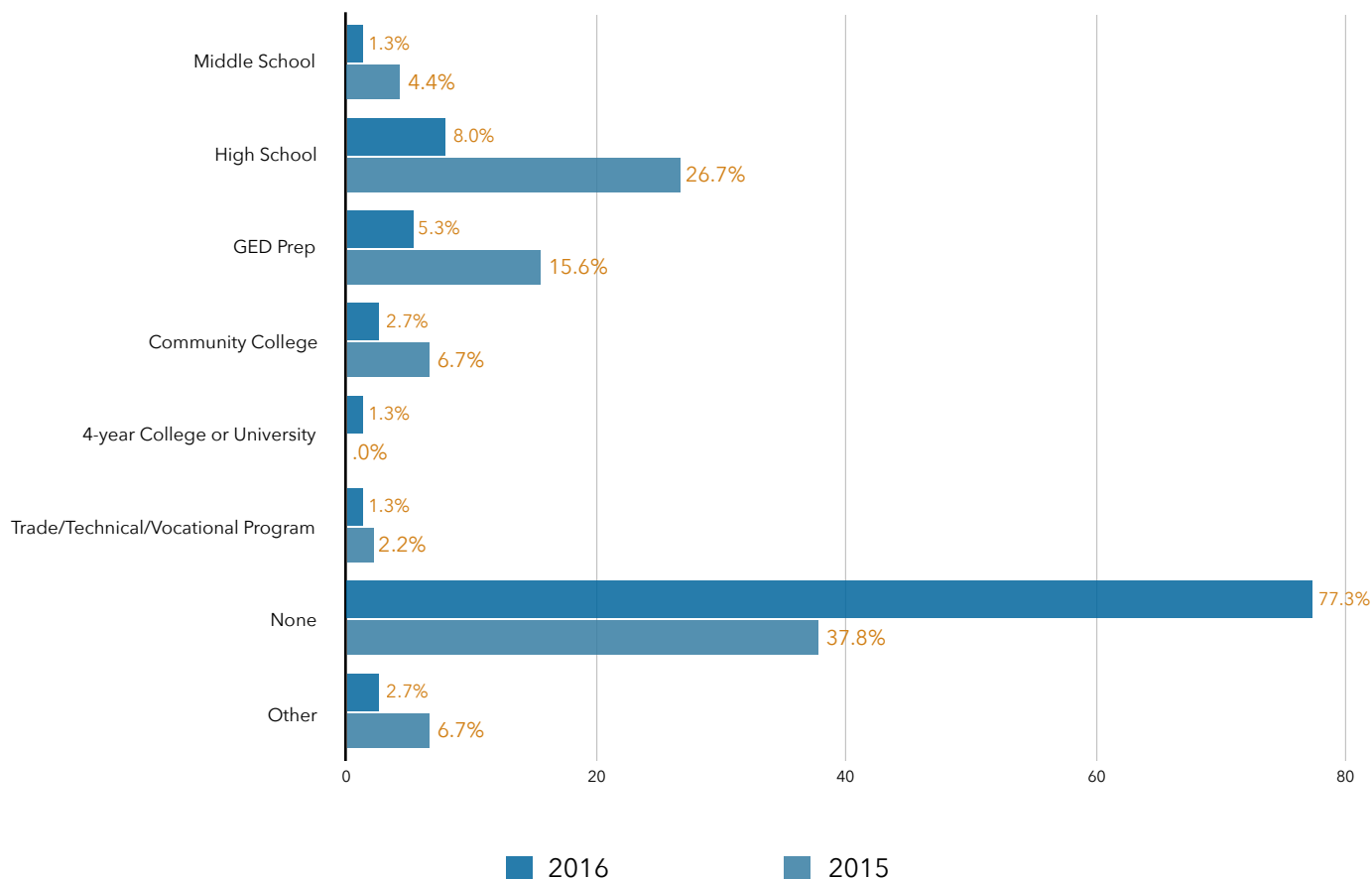
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- *Housing Assistance* was the most commonly cited service that would help respondents get off the streets (65.3%). This is higher than 2015 (36.4%).
- 50.7% of respondents cited *Job training/employment* as a service category that would help them get off the streets. This is lower than 2015 (52.3%).
- 36.0% of respondents cited *Education* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is higher than 2015 (31.8%).
- 18.7% of respondents cited *Support from friends or family* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is lower than 2015 (29.5%).
- 16.0% of respondents cited *Other* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is higher than 2015 (9.1%).

### 6.3b Educational Situation and Needs

Figure 91: Are You Currently In Any Kind Of Educational Program?



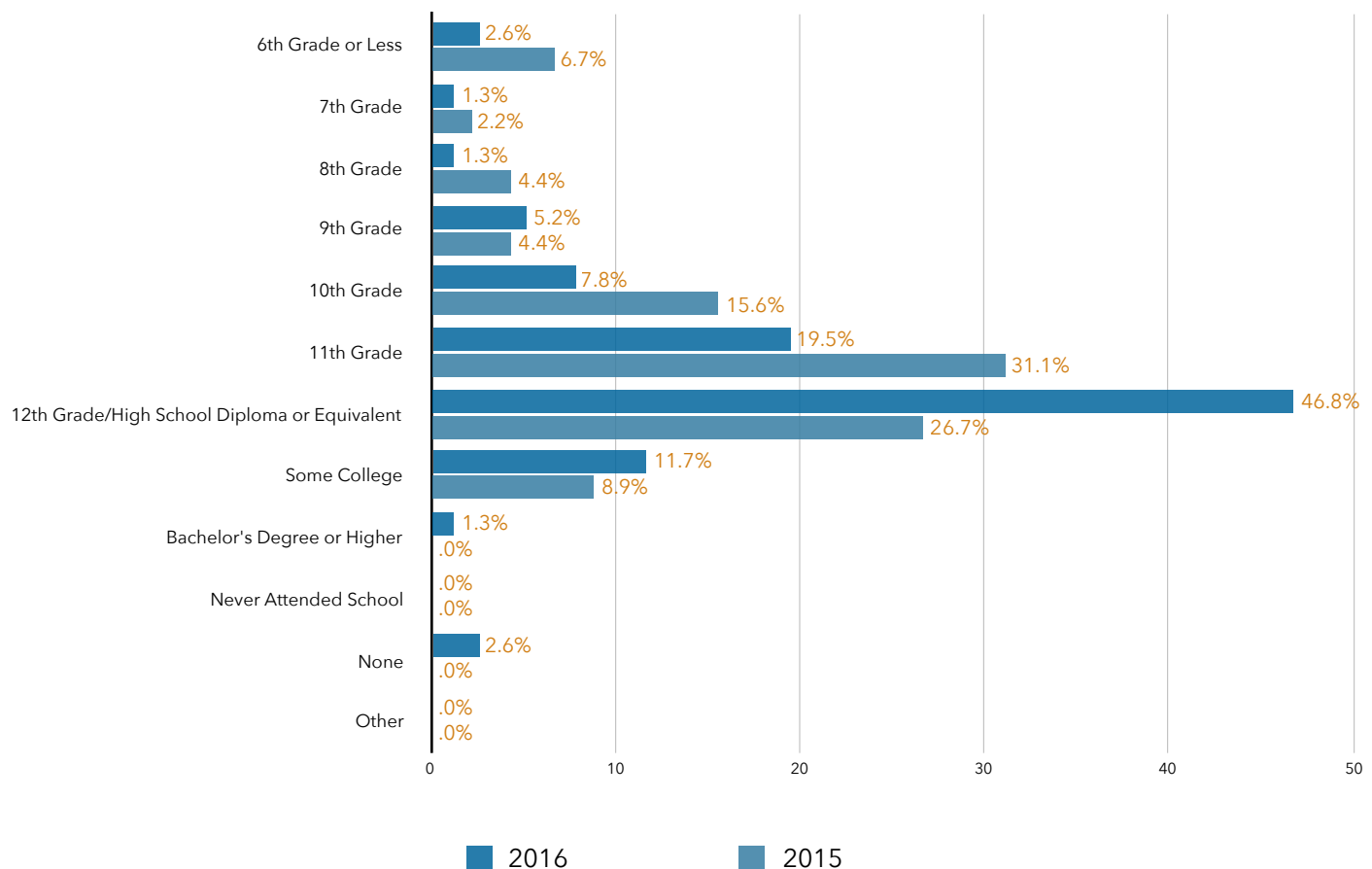
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- Most (77.3%) of survey respondents reported that they were not currently in any educational program at the time of the survey. This is higher than 2015 (37.8%).
- 8.0% of survey respondents were in *high school* at the time of the survey. This is lower than 2015 (26.7%).
- 5.3% were in a *GED Prep program*. This is lower than 2015 (15.6%).

Figure 92: What Is the Highest Grade You Have Completed?



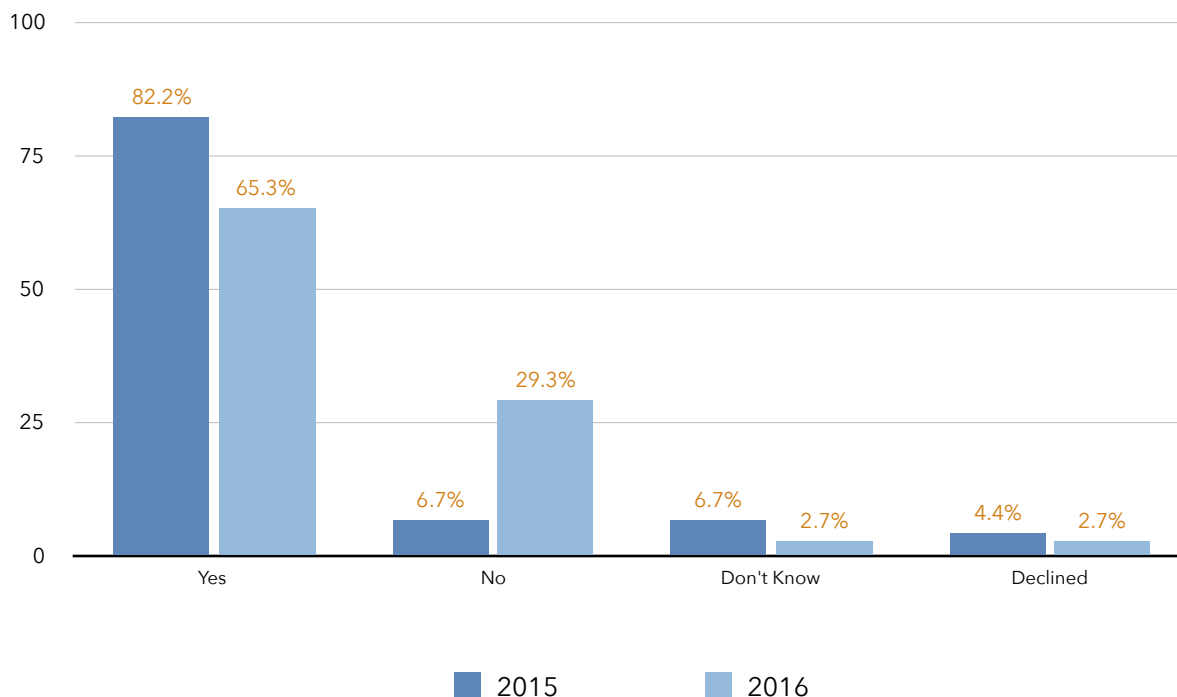
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

- 46.8% of respondents had finished 12th grade or earned their diploma/equivalent. This is higher than 2015 (26.7%).
- 19.5% of survey respondents had reached 11th grade. This is lower than 2015 (31.1%).
- 2.6% of survey respondents had reached only 6th grade. This is lower than 2015 (6.7%).
- 11.7% of survey respondents had some college experience. This is higher than 2015 (8.9%).
- 1.3% of survey respondents had at least a bachelor's degree. This is higher than 2015 (0.0%).

Figure 93: Would You Be Interested In Receiving Educational Services If They Were Available To You?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75

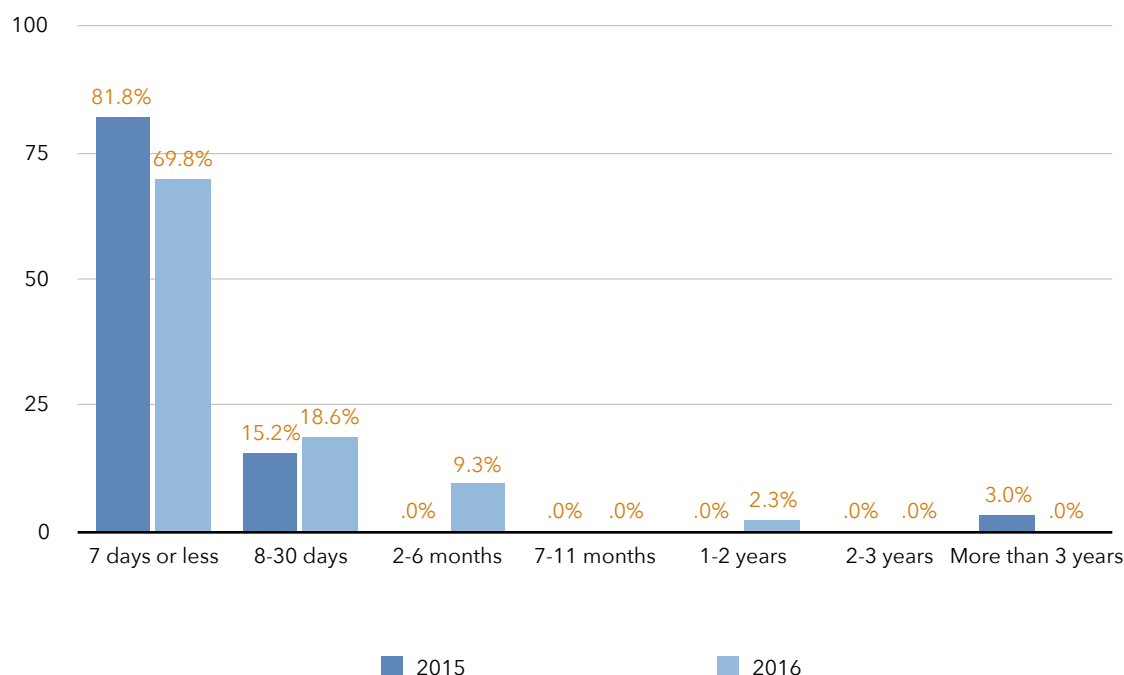
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 65.3% of survey respondents would be interested in receiving educational services if they were available. This is lower than 2015 (82.2%).

### 6.3c Structure and Components of Social Support System

Figure 94: Last Time Respondents Were in Contact with Parent(s) or Primary Caregiver(s)



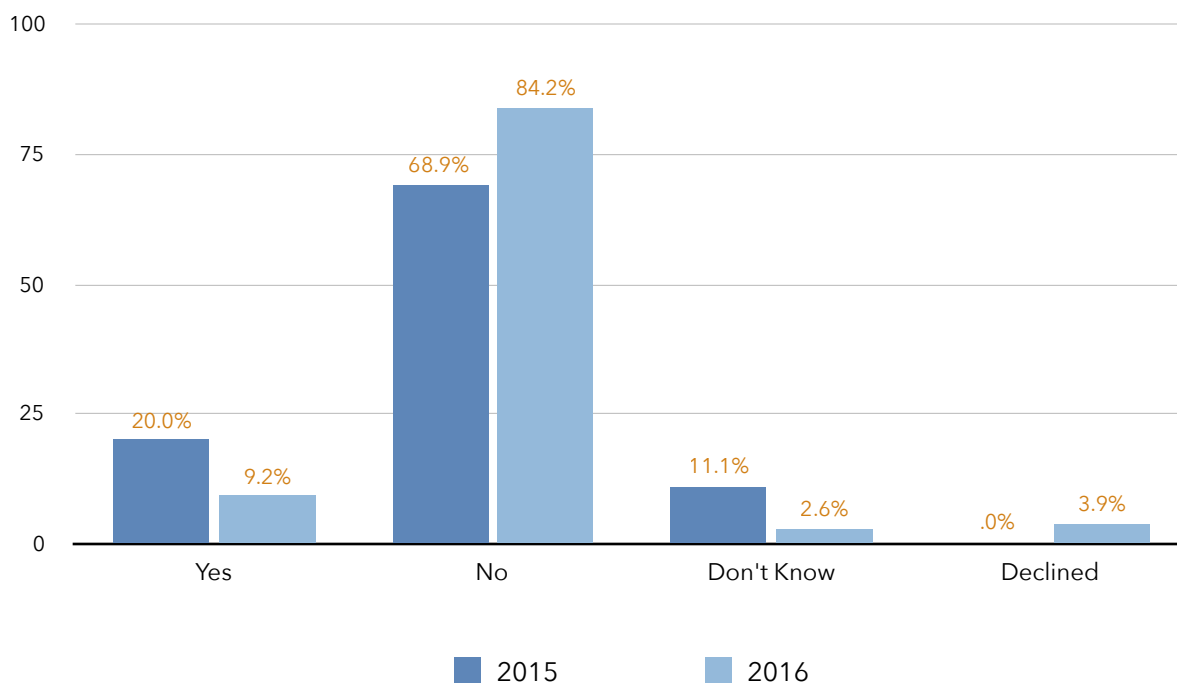
N: 2015 = 33; 2016 = 43

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (69.8%) last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *7 days or less* before they were surveyed. This percentage is lower than 2015 (81.8%).
- 18.6% of respondents last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *8-30 days* before they were surveyed. This percentage is higher than 2015 (15.2%).
- None of the respondents last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *more than 3 years* before they were surveyed. In 2015, 3.0% of survey respondents cited this length of time.

Figure 95: Were/Are Your Parent(s) or Primary Caregiver(s) Homeless?



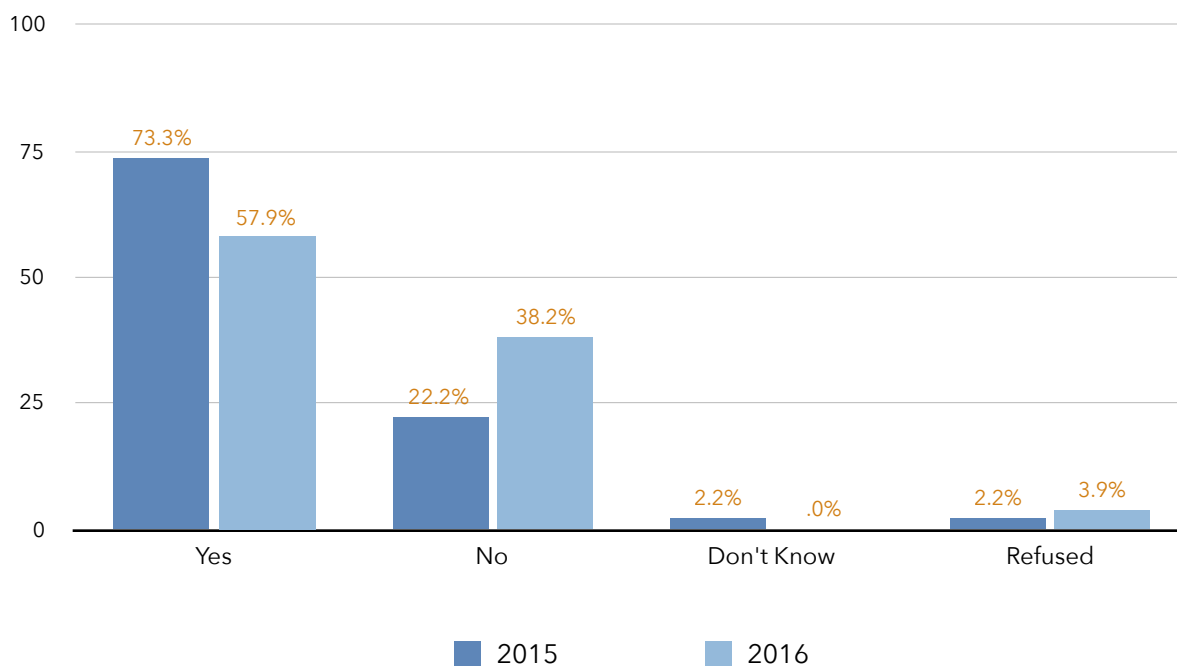
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority (84.2%) of survey respondents reported that their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) were not ever homeless, or were not homeless at the time of the survey. This is higher than 2015 (68.9%).

Figure 96: Do You Have Contact With Your Parent(s) or Primary Caregiver(s)?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76

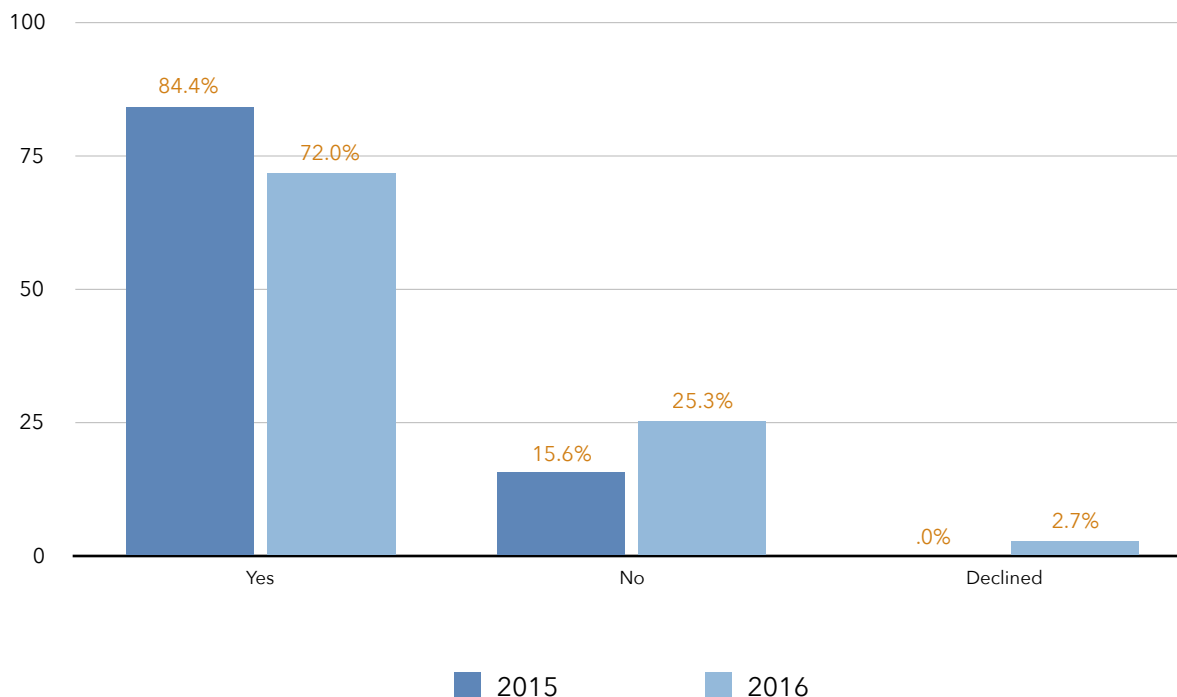
Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of respondents (57.9%) were still in contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s). This is lower than 2015 (73.3%).



Figure 97 Part 1: Currently Is There At Least One Adult in Your Life to Whom You Can Go For Advice or Emotional Support?



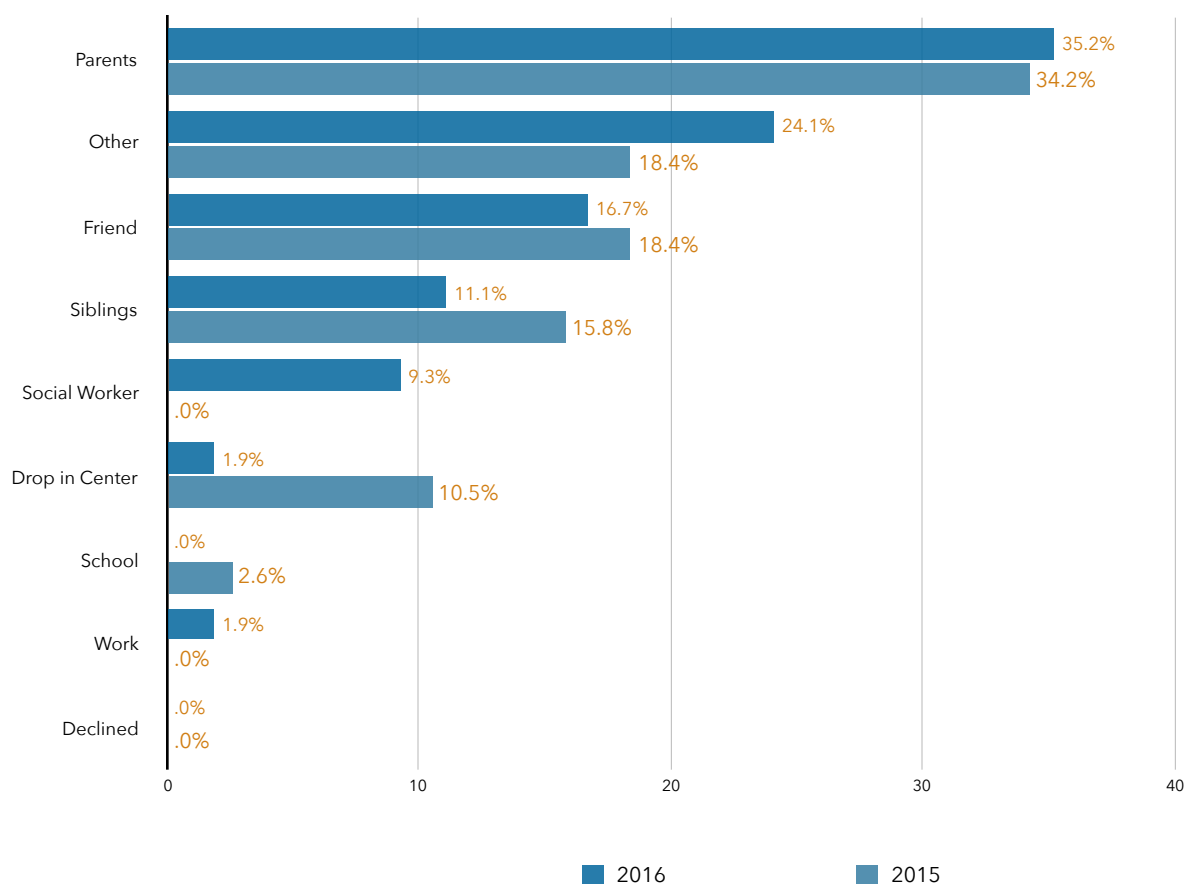
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (72.0%) reported that they had an adult to whom they could go for advice and emotional support. This is less than 2015 (84.4%).

Figure 97 Part 2: How Do You Know This Person?



N: 2015 = 38; 2016 = 54

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

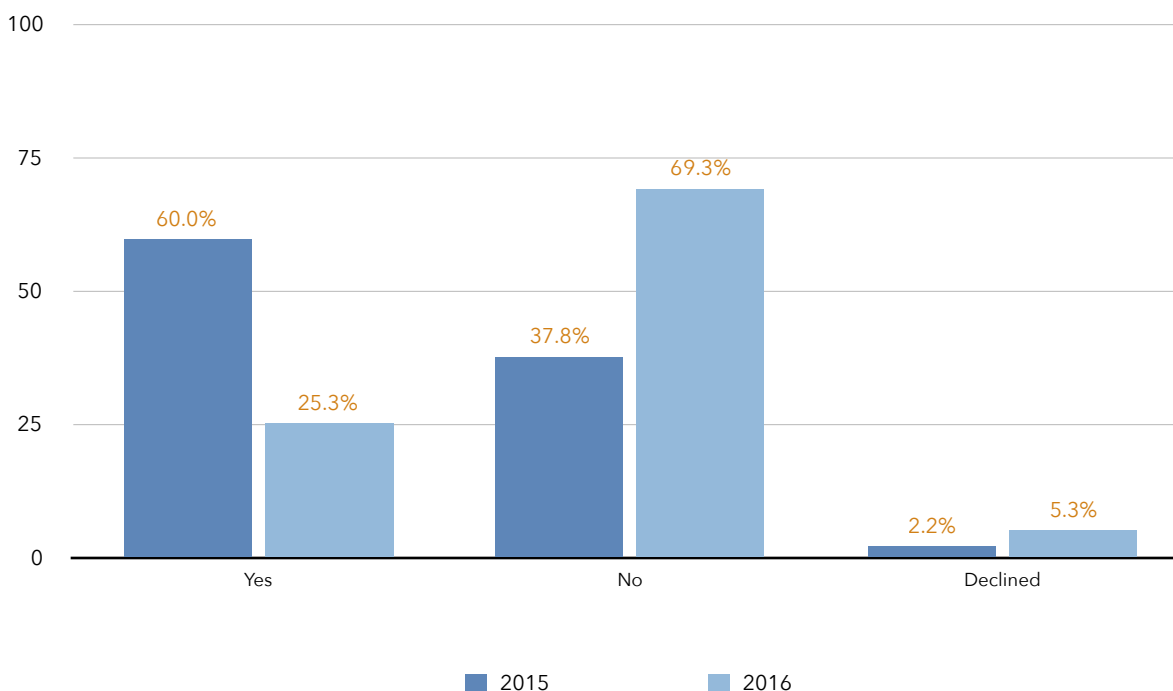
#### Summary:

- Most survey respondents (35.2%) reported that their parent was the individual to whom they could go to for advice and emotional support. This is more than 2015 (34.2%).
- 1.9% of survey respondents found their supportive adult at a drop-in center. This is less than 2015 (10.5%).
- 9.3% reported their supportive adult was a social worker. This is higher than 2015 (0.0%).

## 6.4 Service Utilization

### 6.4a Type of Assistance Utilized

Figure 98: Have You Ever Voluntarily Sought Formal Counseling Services Through a Government, Church, or Youth Program?



N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

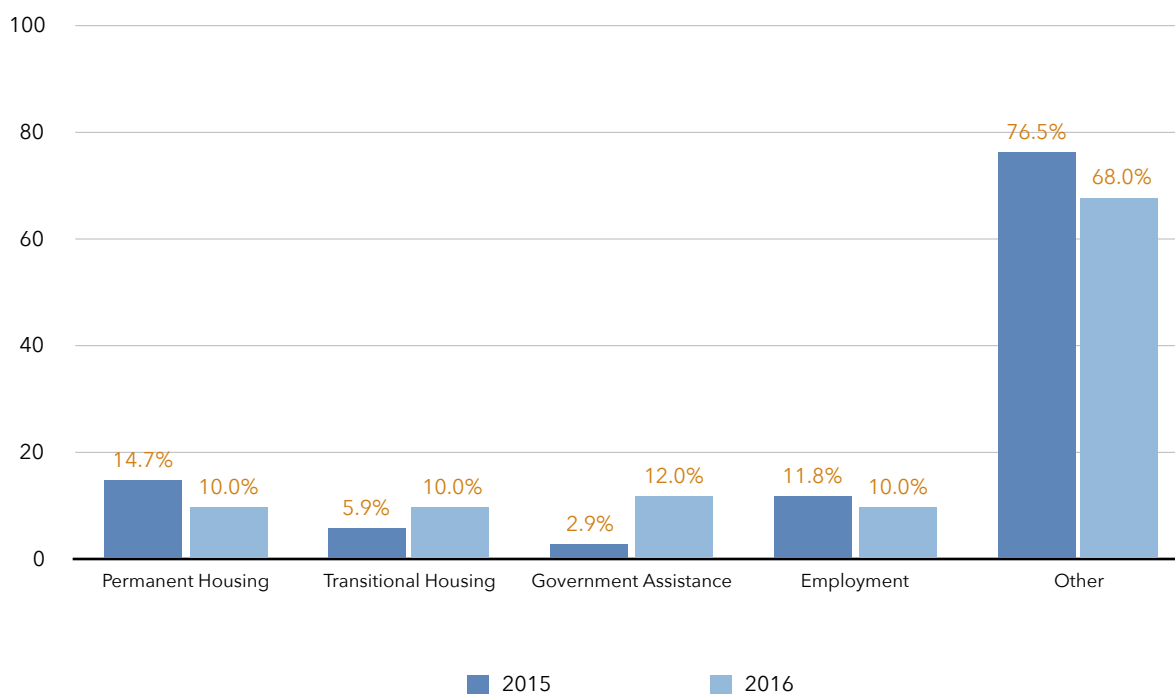
- 25.3% of survey respondents had voluntarily sought formal counseling services through a government, church, or youth program at some point in their past. This is less than 2015 (60.0%).

### 6.4b Barriers to Assistance

#### 6.4b.1 Factors Preventing Respondents from Seeking Services

- In 2016, the majority of respondents (68.0%) cited *Other* as a primary factor preventing them from seeking services. 12.0% reported *Don't trust anyone* as a primary reason, and 10.0% cited *Don't have transportation* as a reason. 10.0% cited *Afraid that their parents will be contacted* as a primary reason, and 10.0% cited *Afraid they will be put in Child Protective Services* as a primary reason.

Figure 99: Does Your Age Prevent You From Receiving Any of the Following?



Multiple response question.

34 respondents provided 38 responses in 2015; 50 respondents provided 55 responses in 2016.

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2015, 2016), 2015 & 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

#### Summary:

- 10.0% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *permanent housing*. This is lower than 2015 (14.7%).
- 10.0% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *transitional housing*. This is higher than 2015 (5.9%).
- 12.0% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *government assistance*. This is higher than 2015 (2.9%).
- 10.0% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from obtaining *employment*. This is lower than 2015 (11.8%).
- 68.0% stated their age prevented them from receiving *other* services or goals. This is lower than 2015 (76.5%).

## 7. CONCLUSION

The information collected in the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report is of both local and nationwide importance. On a local level, this report will offer providers and agencies the information they need to apply for the necessary funding to alter and improve existing services. In general, this information will enhance the homeless services available to those in need within the Southern Nevada region. It also raises community awareness regarding the scope and characteristics of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

On a national level, the data provided in this report will be merged with the confluence of other data provided by communities across the nation. This information will help to build the next Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which is to be presented to Congress to assist policy-makers in their funding decisions. The AHAR is used to provide nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service-use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. Therefore, important decisions will be based upon the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report, and other reports like it.

The Southern Nevada Point-in-Time (PIT) Count took place on January 27, 2016. The results of any Point-in-Time Count, including that of Southern Nevada, must be regarded in a conservative manner, as they may not represent the true number of homeless individuals and families. Even the most comprehensive methodology cannot account for those homeless individuals who remain hidden or not visible to enumeration teams (e.g. women and children). Despite these challenges, the 2016 PIT Count was able to identify 6,208 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. 39.9% of those enumerated were sheltered, while 60.1% were unsheltered.

Between January 2014 and January 2015, homelessness declined by 2 percent (or 11,742 people) between 2014 and 2015 and by 12.8 percent (or 82,550) since 2007. Most (69%) people experiencing homelessness were staying in sheltered locations, and 31 percent were unsheltered. Most (nearly two-thirds) of people experiencing homelessness were individuals; the remaining 36 percent, were people in homeless families with children. Most ( 185,824 people) of these homeless families with children were sheltered, while only 20,462 people in families with children were counted in unsheltered locations such as under bridges, in cars, or in abandoned buildings. At the time of this report, the national homeless data for 2016 has not been published.\*

Regarding Southern Nevada, the amount of homeless persons enumerated in the 2016 PIT Count represents a 17.3% (1,301 persons) decrease from the 2015 Southern Nevada PIT Count.

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2014

"... the amount of homeless persons enumerated in the 2016 PIT Count represents a 17.3% (1,301 **persons**) decrease from the 2015 Southern Nevada PIT Count."

In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2016 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2013, 2014, and 2015 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2016 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 77%.

It is important to note that the 2015 PIT count encountered unexpected challenges to conduct a full canvassing of Southern Nevada (as was conducted in 2016). However, with the 77% coverage and utilizing the HUD approved extrapolation of like census tract data, HUD still considered the 2015 count to hold the validity and reliability of a full canvassing. Therefore, because 2016 used the same full canvassing methodology as 2015 and previous years, any comparisons made between the data collected in 2013, 2014, 2015, and now 2016 can be viewed as valid and reliable.

Homelessness is an interpersonal issue, with varied catalysts. Likewise, the contributing factors that reduce and successfully address the issue is multi-faceted with many variables such as; employment rates, access to physical and mental health care, housing assistance programs and community planning/growth. The full list of contributing factors is explored in the Help Hope Home Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Plan 2013 5-year update.

# APPENDIX I: 2016 HOMELESS SURVEY INSTRUMENT

**2016 CLARK COUNTY HOMELESS SURVEY**

(Office use)

REFUSALS \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's (Your) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood or city of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER: Read question & answers to the respondent.

SHADE CIRCLES LIKE THIS --> ●

BLACK PEN ONLY NOT LIKE THIS --> ✗

**1. VI: What is your birth date?**  
Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**2a. Which racial AND ethnic group do you identify with most? (Shade all that apply)**

☐ White/Caucasian ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native

☐ Black/African American ☐ Asian ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Other

**2b.** ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Non Hispanic/Latino

**3. How do you identify yourself?**

☐ Female ☐ Male

**Are you pregnant?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Transgender Male to Female ☐ Transgender Female to Male

**4. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐ Decline to state

**4b. Were you activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐ Decline to state

**4c. What is your discharge status?**  
☐ Honorable ☐ Other than Honorable ☐ Other

☐ General ☐ Dishonorable ☐ N/A

**4d. In which war theater did you serve? (Shade all that apply)**

☐ World War II ☐ Gulf War I ☐ Other

☐ Korea ☐ Gulf War II ☐ None

☐ Vietnam ☐ Afghanistan ☐ Iraq

**5. Are you alone tonight?**  
☐ Yes (Skip to question 6) ☐ No

**5a. Tonight are you staying with: (Shade all that apply)**

☐ Spouse or significant other ☐ Other family member(s)

☐ Child/children ☐ Friend(s)

☐ Parent or legal guardian ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Street family

**6. Do you have any children?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No (Skip to question 7)

**6a. Are any of your children currently living with you?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No

**6b. Are your children: (Shade all that apply)**

	1	2	3	4+
<input type="radio"/> 18 years or over	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> 0-5 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> 6-12 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> 13-17 years old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6c. Are your children ages 5-17 in school?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**6d. Do you have any children in foster care?**  
☐ Yes ☐ No

**6e. For persons in households with at least one adult and one child:**

	1	2	3	4+
How many children do you have under 18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many adults aged 18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many adults over age 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6f. Persons in household without children:**

	1	2	3	4+
How many adults ages 18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many adults over age 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?**  
☐ Yes (Skip to question 8) ☐ No

**7a. VI: In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

☐ One time ☐ 3 times ☐ 5 times ☐ More than 6 times

☐ 2 times ☐ 4 times ☐ 6 times

**7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

☐ One time ☐ 3 times ☐ 5 times ☐ More than 6 times

☐ 2 times ☐ 4 times ☐ 6 times

**8. VI: How long have you been homeless since this present time? (Shade only 1)**

☐ 7 days or less ☐ 1-3 months ☐ 7-11 months

☐ 8-30 days ☐ 3-6 months ☐ 1 year ☐ More than 1 year

**8a. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation? (Shade only 1)**

☐ 7 days or less ☐ 4 months ☐ 8 months ☐ 12 months

☐ 8-30 days ☐ 5 months ☐ 9 months ☐ 1-2 years

☐ 2 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 10 months ☐ 2-3 years

☐ 3 months ☐ 7 months ☐ 11 months ☐ More than 3 years

**9. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless? (Shade only 1)**

☐ Outdoors/streets/parks ☐ A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)

☐ Uncovered Garage/attic/basement ☐ Emergency Shelter

☐ Backyard or storage structure ☐ Public Facilities

☐ Motel/hotel ☐ Transitional Housing

☐ Automobile ☐ Other Shelter

☐ Van ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Camper/RV ☐ Encampment

☐ Abandoned building *How many people, including yourself, usually stay here?* \_\_\_\_\_ *About how many people sleep in each tent, tarp or structure?* \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you: (Shade only 1)**

☐ Living in a home owned by you or your partner ☐ In jail or prison

☐ Renting a home or apartment ☐ In a hospital

☐ Staying with friends ☐ In a mental health facility

☐ Living with relatives ☐ In a substance abuse treatment program

☐ Living in subsidized housing ☐ In foster care

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless (Shade only 1)**

☐ Clark County ☐ Out of State

☐ Other area in Nevada, outside of Clark County

**12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing? (Shade all that apply)**

☐ Can't afford rent ☐ Bad credit

☐ No job / no income ☐ Eviction record

☐ No money for moving costs ☐ Criminal record

☐ No housing available ☐ In jail or prison

☐ No transportation ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**13. What do you think are the top three events or conditions that led to your homelessness? (Shade up to 3)**

☐ Lost Job ☐ Family/domestic violence

☐ Landlord sold/stopped renting ☐ Gambling problem

☐ Landlord raised rent ☐ Got too old for foster care

☐ Alcohol or drug use ☐ Divorced or separated

☐ Incarceration ☐ Natural disaster/fire/flood

☐ Illness or medical problem ☐ For being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

☐ Mental health issues ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Argument/family or friend asked you to leave ☐ Don't know / decline to state

☐ Hospitalization/treatment program

☐ Lost home I owned through foreclosure

☐ Lost home I rented due to landlord's foreclosure

☐ Did not receive housing assistance when I left jail/prison

(Office use)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

14. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Emergency Shelter	<input type="radio"/> Shelter day services
<input type="radio"/> Transitional Housing	<input type="radio"/> Legal assistance
<input type="radio"/> Free meals	<input type="radio"/> Health services
<input type="radio"/> Food Pantry	<input type="radio"/> Mental health services
<input type="radio"/> Bus passes	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Job training	<input type="radio"/> Not using any services
<input type="radio"/> Alcohol / Drug counseling	

15. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> General Assistance or General Relief
<input type="radio"/> Food Stamps
<input type="radio"/> Service-connected VA Disability Compensation
<input type="radio"/> Not service-connected VA Disability Pension
<input type="radio"/> Other Veteran's Benefits
<input type="radio"/> Social Security
<input type="radio"/> SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI
<input type="radio"/> TANF
<input type="radio"/> WIC
<input type="radio"/> Clark County Social Service housing assistance
<input type="radio"/> Other governmental assistance (State disability benefits, workers compensation, unemployment, etc)

(If yes to any of these, go to 16)

☐ I am not currently receiving any of these (Continue with question 15a)

16. What is your total monthly income from all Government benefits? (County, State, Federal monies) (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Zero	<input type="radio"/> \$301 - \$400	<input type="radio"/> \$701 - \$800
<input type="radio"/> \$1 - \$100	<input type="radio"/> \$401 - \$500	<input type="radio"/> \$801 - \$900
<input type="radio"/> \$101 - \$200	<input type="radio"/> \$501 - \$600	<input type="radio"/> \$901 - \$1,000
<input type="radio"/> \$201 - \$300	<input type="radio"/> \$601 - \$700	<input type="radio"/> Over \$1,000

17. What is your current employment status? (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Unemployed	<input type="radio"/> Employed full-time
<input type="radio"/> Retired	<input type="radio"/> Employed part-time
<input type="radio"/> Student	<input type="radio"/> Self-employed (Skip to question 18)
<input type="radio"/> Homemaker	<input type="radio"/> Seasonal Worker

17a. What is keeping you from getting employment? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Need education	<input type="radio"/> No permanent address
<input type="radio"/> Need training	<input type="radio"/> No transportation
<input type="radio"/> Need clothing	<input type="radio"/> No tools for trade
<input type="radio"/> No shower facilities	<input type="radio"/> No work permit (No SS #)
<input type="radio"/> No phone	<input type="radio"/> No photo identification
<input type="radio"/> Health problems	<input type="radio"/> Don't want to work
<input type="radio"/> Disabled	<input type="radio"/> No jobs
<input type="radio"/> Criminal record	<input type="radio"/> Retired
<input type="radio"/> Alcohol / drug issue	<input type="radio"/> Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work
<input type="radio"/> No child care	<input type="radio"/> Other _____

18. What are your other sources of income? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Family / Friends	<input type="radio"/> Selling other found items
<input type="radio"/> Pension	<input type="radio"/> Selling blood / plasma
<input type="radio"/> Child support	<input type="radio"/> Gambling
<input type="radio"/> Recycling	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Sex work	

19. What is your total monthly income from all non-Government sources? (Job, panhandling, recycling, etc) (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Zero	<input type="radio"/> \$301 - \$400	<input type="radio"/> \$701 - \$800
<input type="radio"/> \$1 - \$100	<input type="radio"/> \$401 - \$500	<input type="radio"/> \$801 - \$900
<input type="radio"/> \$101 - \$200	<input type="radio"/> \$501 - \$600	<input type="radio"/> \$901 - \$1,000
<input type="radio"/> \$201 - \$300	<input type="radio"/> \$601 - \$700	<input type="radio"/> Over \$1,000

20. Where do you usually get medical care? (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Hospital emergency room	<input type="radio"/> Private doctor
<input type="radio"/> Urgent care clinic	<input type="radio"/> Friend / family
<input type="radio"/> Public health clinic	<input type="radio"/> Don't ever go
<input type="radio"/> Veteran Affairs clinic	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Free clinic / community clinic	

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

☐ Yes ☐ No

22. VI: How many times in the last 3 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

23. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

24. VI: How many times in the last 12 months have you been hospitalized as an inpatient?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

25. How many nights in the last 12 months have you spent in jail or prison, if any?

\_\_\_\_\_ nights (Office use)

26. How many separate terms have you served in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

☐ Zero (Skip to question 26)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6+ (Ask 26a and 26b)

26a. How long were you in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ months (Office use)

26b. Did you become homeless immediately after you were released from jail/prison?

☐ Yes ☐ No

27. VI: Are you experiencing now or in the past any of the following:

	Yes	No	27a. Does it prevent you from getting work or housing?	Yes	No
27a. Physical Disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27b. Mental illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27c. Depression	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27f. Chronic health problem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27h. Tuberculosis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27i. Hepatitis C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27j. PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27k. Developmental Disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27l. Emphysema	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27m. Diabetes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27n. Traumatic brain injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27o. Cancer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27p. Kidney disease/end stage renal disease or dialysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27q. History of hypothermia, frostbite, or immersion foot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27r. Liver disease, cirrhosis, or end-stage liver disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27s. Heart disease, arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. VI: Have you ever abused drugs/alcohol, or been told you do?

☐ Yes ☐ No

29. VI: Have you ever consumed alcohol everyday for the past month?

☐ Yes ☐ No

30. VI: Have you ever used injection drugs or shots?

☐ Yes ☐ No

31. VI: Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?

☐ Yes ☐ No

32. VI: Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

33. VI: Were you ever taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of:

34. VI: Serious physical health conditions ☐ Yes ☐ No

35. VI: Alcohol or drug abuse ☐ Yes ☐ No

36. VI: Severe persistent mental illness ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. Do you have a pet?

☐ No

Yes, Number: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6+

What Kind: ☐ Dog ☐ Cat ☐ Reptile ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

38. Were you ever in foster care? ☐ Yes ☐ No



## APPENDIX II: HOMELESS SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

### 3. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13-17	5	0.5%
18-21	31	3.2%
22-30	129	13.3%
31- 40	149	15.3%
41-50	243	25.0%
51-60	304	31.2%
More than 60 years	112	11.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2. Which racial group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasian	492	50.6%
Black/African American	371	38.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	22	2.3%
Asian	30	3.1%
Pacific Islander	19	2.0%
Other/Multi-Ethnic	79	8.1%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 973 respondents offering 1013 responses.		

### 2b. Which ethnic group do you identify with?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	125	12.9%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	842	87.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Female	274	28.2%
Male	697	71.6%
Transgender	2	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 3a. Are you pregnant?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	4.7%
No	261	95.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	134	13.8%
No	837	86.1%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Declined to State	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4b. Were you activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	3.1%
No	923	96.2%
Don't Know	3	0.3%
Declined to State	3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4c. What is your discharge status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Honorable	93	68.9%
General	14	10.4%
Other than honorable	11	8.1%
Dishonorable	4	3.0%
Other	6	4.4%
N/A	7	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4d. In which war theater did you serve?

Response	Frequency	Percent
World War II	1	0.7%
Korea	2	1.5%
Vietnam	27	20.0%
Gulf War I	16	11.9%
Gulf War II	8	5.9%
Afghanistan	4	3.0%
Iraq	9	6.7%
Other	14	10.4%
None	61	45.2%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 135 respondents offering 142 responses.		

#### 5. Are you alone tonight?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	803	82.8%
No	167	17.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>

5a. Tonight are you staying with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Spouse or significant other	70	42.2%
Child/children	28	16.9%
Parent or legal guardian	5	3.0%
Street family	14	8.4%
Other family member(s)	7	4.2%
Friend(s)	37	22.3%
Other	22	13.3%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 166 respondents offering 183 responses.		

6. Do you have any children?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	448	46.1%
No	523	53.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100%</b>

6a. Are any of your children currently living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	49	10.9%
No	400	89.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>100%</b>

6b. Are your children:

Response	Frequency	Percent
18 years or older	4	8.9%
0-5 years old	31	68.9%
6-12 years old	21	46.7%
13-17 years old	8	17.8%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 45 respondents offering 64 responses		

6ba. How many children do you have that are 18 years or older?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	1	2.2%
2	2	4.4%
3	1	2.2%
4+	0	0.0%
None	41	91.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

6bb. How many children do you have that are 0-5 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	21	46.7%
2	7	15.6%
3	2	4.4%
4+	1	2.2%
None	14	31.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

6bc. How many children do you have that are 6-12 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	13	29.5%
2	6	13.6%
3	2	4.5%
4+	0	0.0%
None	23	52.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

6bd. How many children do you have that are 13-17 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	5	11.1%
2	3	6.7%
3	0	0.0%
4+	0	0.0%
None	37	82.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

6c. Are your children ages 5 - 17 in school?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	90.9%
No	2	9.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>

6d. Do you have any children in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	4.5%
No	42	95.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

6ea. [Families] How many children do you have under 18?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	17	34.7%
2	8	16.3%
3	7	14.3%
4+	5	10.2%
None	12	24.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>

6eb. [Families] How many adults aged 18-24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	3	6.1%
2	1	2.0%
3	0	0.0%
4+	0	0.0%
None	45	91.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>

6ec. [Families] How many adults over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	11	22.4%
2	3	6.1%
3	1	2.0%
4+	0	0.0%
None	34	69.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>

6fa. [Adults Only Households] How many adults ages 18-24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	87	22.0%
2	38	9.6%
3	13	3.3%
4+	11	2.8%
None	247	62.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>100%</b>

6fb. [Adults Only Households] How many adults over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	88	22.1%
2	45	11.3%
3	36	9.0%
4+	35	8.8%
None	195	48.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100%</b>

7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	535	55.4%
No	430	44.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>100%</b>

7a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	233	54.4%
2 times	99	23.1%
3 times	41	9.6%
4 times	13	3.0%
5 times	5	1.2%
6 times	6	1.4%
More than 6 times	31	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100%</b>



7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	120	28.1%
2 times	126	29.5%
3 times	76	17.8%
4 times	34	8.0%
5 times	15	3.5%
6 times	5	1.2%
More than 6 times	51	11.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>100%</b>

7ba. In the last 3 years, what is the combined length of time homeless during the above occasion(s)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 12 months	149	35.1%
12 months or more	276	64.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100%</b>

8a. How long have you been homeless this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	91	9.4%
8-31 days	116	12.0%
2 months	79	8.2%
3 months	94	9.7%
4 months	46	4.8%
5 months	37	3.8%
6 months	55	5.7%
7 months	20	2.1%
8 months	21	2.2%
9 months	14	1.4%
10 months	11	1.1%
11 months	8	0.8%
12 months	68	7.0%
1-2 years	98	10.1%
2-3 years	68	7.0%
More than 3 years	140	14.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>100%</b>

9. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors/streets/parks	324	33.5%
Uncovered garage/attic/basement	2	0.2%
Backyard or storage structure	7	0.7%
Motel/hotel	19	2.0%
Automobile	17	1.8%
Van	2	0.2%
Camper/RV	3	0.3%
Abandoned building	6	0.6%
A place in a house not normally meant for sleeping	18	1.9%
Emergency shelter	368	38.1%
Public Facilities	5	0.5%
Transitional Housing	105	10.9%
Other shelter	29	3.0%
Other	48	5.0%
Encampment	14	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>100%</b>

10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Living in a home owned by you or your partner	70	7.3%
Renting a home or apartment	435	45.1%
Staying with friends	162	16.8%
Living with relatives	162	16.8%
Living in subsidized housing	11	1.1%
In a jail or prison	52	5.4%
In a hospital	8	0.8%
In a mental health facility	4	0.4%
In a substance abuse treatment program	7	0.7%
In foster care	2	0.2%
Other	52	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 11. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Clark County	690	71.6%
Other area in Nevada, outside of Clark County	29	3.0%
Out of state	245	25.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Can't afford rent	422	43.7%
No job / no income	673	69.7%
No money for moving costs	235	24.3%
No housing available	94	9.7%
No transportation	173	17.9%
Bad credit	81	8.4%
Eviction record	40	4.1%
Criminal record	69	7.1%
In jail or prison	28	2.9%
Other	204	21.1%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 966 respondents offering 2,019 responses..		

### 13. What do you think are the top three events or conditions that led to your homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lost job	498	51.6%
Landlord sold / stopped renting	59	6.1%
Landlord raised rent	59	6.1%
Alcohol or drug use	174	18.0%
Incarceration	99	10.2%
Illness or medical problem	118	12.2%
Mental Health issues	96	9.9%
Argument / family or friend asked you to leave	101	10.5%
Hospitalization / treatment program	35	3.6%
Lost home I owned through foreclosure	15	1.6%
Lost home I rented due to landlord's foreclosure	14	1.4%
Didn't receive housing assistance when I left jail/prison	23	2.4%
Family / domestic violence	94	9.7%
Gambling problem	19	2.0%
Got too old for foster care	5	0.5%
Divorced or separated	39	4.0%
Natural disaster / fire / flood	4	0.4%
For being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	1	0.1%
Other	326	33.7%
Don't Know / Decline to state	18	1.9%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 966 respondents offering 1,797 responses.		

#### 14. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Emergency Shelter	471	49.2%
Transitional Housing	169	17.6%
Free meals	627	65.4%
Food Pantry	212	22.1%
Bus Passes	332	34.7%
Job training	66	6.9%
Alcohol / Drug counseling	56	5.8%
Shelter day services	169	17.6%
Legal assistance	19	2.0%
Health services	114	11.9%
Mental health services	72	7.5%
Other	38	4.0%
Not using any services	74	7.7%

**Total:** Multiple response question with 958 respondents offering 2,419 responses.

#### 15. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of Government assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
General Assistance or General Relief	11	1.2%
Food Stamps	718	76.2%
Service-connected VA Disability Compensation	17	1.8%
Not service-connected VA Pension	5	0.5%
Other Veteran's Benefits	9	1.0%
Social Security	45	4.8%
SSI / SSDI	90	9.6%
TANF	18	1.9%
WIC	12	1.3%
Clark County Social Service housing assistance	66	7.0%
Other governmental assistance	47	5.0%
I am not currently receiving any of these	135	14.3%

**Total:** Multiple response question with 942 respondents offering 1,173 responses.

### 16. What is your total monthly income from all Government benefits?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	322	33.2%
\$1 - \$100	38	3.9%
\$101 - \$200	388	40.0%
\$201 - \$300	20	2.1%
\$301 - \$400	15	1.5%
\$401 - \$500	9	0.9%
\$501 - \$600	42	4.3%
\$601 - \$700	25	2.6%
\$701 - \$800	52	5.4%
\$801 - \$900	16	1.6%
\$901 - \$1,000	14	1.4%
Over \$1,000	29	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 17. What is your current employment status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	822	84.7%
Retired	51	5.3%
Student	11	1.1%
Homemaker	3	0.3%
Employed full-time	34	3.5%
Employed part-time	38	3.9%
Self-employed	5	0.5%
Seasonal worker	7	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100%</b>

17a. What is keeping you from getting employment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Need education	101	10.6%
Need training	151	15.9%
Need clothing	160	16.8%
No shower facilities	97	10.2%
No phone	86	9.1%
Health problems	132	13.9%
Disabled	186	19.6%
Criminal record	73	7.7%
Alcohol / drug issue	75	7.9%
No child care	13	1.4%
No permanent address	170	17.9%
No transportation	214	22.5%
No tools for trade	38	4.0%
No work permit (No SS#)	22	2.3%
No photo identification	133	14.0%
Don't want to work	18	1.9%
No jobs	98	10.3%
Retired	37	3.9%
Spouse / partner doesn't want me to work	5	0.5%
Other	189	19.9%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 950 respondents offering 1,998 responses.		



### 18. What are your other sources of income?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Family / Friends	111	17.1%
Pension	11	1.7%
Child support	9	1.4%
Recycling	33	5.1%
Sex work	4	0.6%
Selling other found items	12	1.8%
Selling blood / plasma	42	6.5%
Gambling	9	1.4%
Other	459	70.7%

**Total:** Multiple response question with 649 respondents offering 690 responses.

### 19. What is your total monthly income from all non-Government sources (job, panhandling, recycling, etc)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	720	74.8%
\$1 - \$100	74	7.7%
\$101 - \$200	61	6.3%
\$201 - \$300	30	3.1%
\$301 - \$400	11	1.1%
\$401 - \$500	10	1.0%
\$501 - \$600	4	0.4%
\$601 - \$700	5	0.5%
\$701 - \$800	9	0.9%
\$801 - \$900	5	0.5%
\$901 - \$1,000	7	0.7%
Over \$1,000	27	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 20. Where do you usually get medical care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hospital emergency room	390	40.2%
Urgent care clinic	82	8.5%
Public health clinic	42	4.3%
Veteran Affairs clinic	69	7.1%
Free clinic / community clinic	115	11.9%
Private Doctor	140	14.4%
Friend / Family	2	0.2%
Don't ever go	105	10.8%
Other	24	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	154	16.0%
No	807	84.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 22. How many times in the last 3 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	577	59.7%
1 time	191	19.8%
2 times	91	9.4%
3 times	50	5.2%
4 times	20	2.1%
5 times	13	1.3%
More than 5 times	24	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>100%</b>

23. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	414	42.7%
1 time	224	23.1%
2 times	114	11.8%
3 times	74	7.6%
4 times	46	4.7%
5 times	27	2.8%
More than 5 times	70	7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>100%</b>

24. How many times in the last 12 months have you been hospitalized as an inpatient?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	703	72.5%
1 time	144	14.8%
2 times	54	5.6%
3 times	28	2.9%
4 times	14	1.4%
5 times	9	0.9%
More than 5 times	18	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>

25. How many nights in the last 12 months have you spent in jail or prison, if any?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 nights	745	77.0%
1-5 nights	63	6.5%
6-10 nights	29	3.0%
11-20 nights	21	2.2%
21-50 nights	27	2.8%
More than 50 nights	83	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>100%</b>

26. How many separate terms have you served in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 terms	757	77.9%
1 term	150	15.4%
2 terms	32	3.3%
3 terms	14	1.4%
4 terms	6	0.6%
5 terms	4	0.4%
6+ Terms	9	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>100%</b>

26a. How long were you in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 month or less	99	47.4%
2 months	18	8.6%
3 months	23	11.0%
4 months	12	5.7%
5 months	4	1.9%
6 months	12	5.7%
7 months	2	1.0%
8 months	5	2.4%
9 months	2	1.0%
10 months	7	3.3%
11 months	1	0.5%
12 months	2	1.0%
1-2 years	10	4.8%
2-3 years	4	1.9%
More than 3 years	8	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100%</b>

26b. Did you become homeless immediately after you were released from jail/prison?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	146	69.5%
No	64	30.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100%</b>

27. Are you experiencing now or in the past any of the following:

Response	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	37.5% 364	62.5% 606	100% 970
27b. Mental Illness	28.2% 273	71.8% 695	100% 968
27c. Depression	41.4% 400	58.6% 567	100% 967
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	27.3% 265	72.7% 706	100% 971
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	16.7% 162	83.3% 806	100% 968
27f. Chronic health problem	31.7% 307	68.3% 662	100% 969
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	1.1% 11	98.9% 960	100% 971
27h. Tuberculosis	1.7% 16	98.3% 952	100% 968
27i. Hepatitis C	4.9% 47	95.1% 921	100% 968
27j. PTSD	17% 164	83% 800	100% 964
27k. Developmental Disability	7% 68	93% 901	100% 969
27l. Emphysema	4.3% 42	95.7% 929	100% 971
27m. Diabetes	10.1% 98	89.9% 872	100% 970
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	11.2% 108	88.8% 860	100% 968
27o. Cancer	3.2% 31	96.8% 937	100% 968
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	2.9% 28	97.1% 941	100% 969
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	4.5% 43	95.5% 918	100% 961
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	3.2% 31	96.8% 939	100% 970
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	10% 97	90% 872	100% 969

## 27. Does it prevent you from getting work or housing?

Response	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	77.5% 282	22.5% 82	100% 364
27b. Mental Illness	67% 183	33% 90	100% 273
27c. Depression	53.2% 209	46.8% 184	100% 393
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	50.9% 135	49.1% 130	100% 265
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	32.3% 52	67.7% 109	100% 161
27f. Chronic health problem	70.9% 217	29.1% 89	100% 306
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	45.5% 5	54.5% 6	100% 11
27h. Tuberculosis	18.8% 3	81.3% 13	100% 16
27i. Hepatitis C	42.6% 20	57.4% 27	100% 47
27j. PTSD	63.1% 101	36.9% 59	100% 160
27k. Developmental Disability	69.7% 46	30.3% 20	100% 66
27l. Emphysema	64.3% 27	35.7% 15	100% 42
27m. Diabetes	38.8% 38	61.2% 60	100% 98
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	57.8% 63	42.2% 46	100% 109
27o. Cancer	32.3% 10	67.7% 21	100% 31
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	53.6% 15	46.4% 13	100% 28
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	30.2% 13	69.8% 30	100% 43
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	45.2% 14	54.8% 17	100% 31
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	46.4% 45	53.6% 52	100% 97

28. Have you ever abused drugs / alcohol, or been told you do?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	374	38.7%
No	592	61.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>100%</b>

29. Have you ever consumed alcohol every day for the past month?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	129	13.3%
No	839	86.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>100%</b>

30. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	93	9.6%
No	871	90.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>100%</b>

31. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	270	27.9%
No	699	72.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	261	26.9%
No	709	73.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>



33. Were you ever taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	115	11.9%
No	851	88.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>100%</b>

34. OBSERVED: Serious physical health conditions?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	147	15.2%
No	823	84.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>

35. OBSERVED: Alcohol or drug abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	174	18.0%
No	792	82.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>100%</b>

36. OBSERVED: Severe persistent mental illness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	191	19.7%
No	779	80.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>100%</b>

37. Do you have a pet?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	71	7.3%
No	900	92.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 37a. What kind of pet?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Dog	61	85.9%
Cat	12	16.9%
Reptile	2	2.8%
Other	1	1.4%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 71 respondents offering 76 responses.		

### 38. Were you ever in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	11.7%
No	854	88.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>100%</b>

## APPENDIX III: HOMELESS YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

4. What is your birth date?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13-17 years	5	6.3%
18-21 years	31	39.2%
22-24 years	43	54.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>

2. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Female	34	43.0%
Male	45	57.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>

3. Are you pregnant?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	8	23.5%
No	26	76.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>

4. Which Racial group do you identify with most? (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasion	17	21.5%
Black/African American	46	58.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4	5.1%
Asian	1	0.1%
Pacific Islander	4	5.1%
Other	11	13.9%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 79 respondents offering 83 responses.		

5. Which Ethnic group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	17	22.0%
Non Hispanic/Non Latino	60	78.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

6. Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Straight	72	88.9%
Lesbian, Gay	2	2.5%
Bisexual	3	3.7%
Queer	0	0.0%
Questioning/Unsure	1	1.2%
Prefer not to answer	1	1.2%
Other	2	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 7. How old were you when you first experienced homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
12	2	2.7%
13	1	1.4%
14	2	2.7%
15	2	2.7%
16	9	12.3%
17	9	12.3%
18	7	9.6%
19	9	12.3%
20	5	6.8%
21	9	12.3%
22	6	8.2%
23	10	13.6%
24	2	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. In thinking about your whole life, how long in total have you been without a home, or a regular place to stay/sleep, or been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	6	7.9%
8-30 days	8	10.5%
2 months	4	5.3%
3 months	4	5.3%
4 months	4	5.3%
5 months	4	5.3%
6 months	4	5.3%
7 months	0	0.0%
8 months	2	2.6%
9 months	4	5.3%
10 months	1	1.3%
11 months	1	1.3%
12 months	3	3.9%
1-2 years	15	19.7%
2-3 years	10	13.2%
More than 3 years	6	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

9. Were you ever able to stay in a motel or doubled up with a friend at any time during your life (i.e., couch surfing, temporarily staying with friends or family)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	46	59.7%
No	27	35.1%
Declined	4	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 10. How long have you been couch surfing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	7	15.2%
8-30 days	10	21.7%
2 months	8	17.4%
3 months	8	17.4%
4 months	0	0.0%
5 months	0	0.0%
6 months	5	10.9%
7 months	1	2.2%
8 months	0	0.0%
9 months	1	2.2%
10 months	0	0.0%
11 months	0	0.0%
12 months	0	0.0%
1-2 years	4	8.7%
2-3 years	0	0.0%
More than 3 years	2	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 11. Have you traded sex or drugs for a place to stay?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Sex	1	1.3%
Drugs	2	2.6%
Both	2	2.6%
Neither	61	80.3%
Other	0	0.0%
Declined	10	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

12. Have you been the victim of a crime while on the streets?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	25.0%
No	54	71.1%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Declined	3	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

13. Have you committed a crime in exchange for food or shelter while on the streets?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	9.2%
No	65	85.5%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Declined	4	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

14. Before becoming homeless, did you experience:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Physical abuse	18	23.7%
Sexual abuse	7	9.2%
Emotional abuse	21	27.6%
Gang abuse	7	9.2%
Neglect	10	13.2%
None of the above	43	56.6%
Declined	2	2.6%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 76 respondents offering 108 responses.		



15. Did any of the following contribute to your homelessness (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Ran away from family home, group home, or foster home	12	16.0%
Became pregnant or got someone pregnant	6	8.0%
Violence at home between family members	11	14.7%
Because of differences with parents about religious beliefs	1	1.3%
Kicked out of the house	17	22.7%
Aging out of foster care system	4	5.3%
Death of parents	2	2.7%
Emotional abuse	14	18.7%
Physical abuse	11	14.7%
Addiction or substance use	10	13.3%
Sexual abuse	2	2.7%
Neglect	7	9.3%
Mental health issues	4	5.3%
School issues	5	6.7%
Sexual identity	0	0.0%
Legal issues	3	4.0%
Financial issues	12	16.0%
Fight or conflict with parents/guardian	10	13.3%
Parent/guardian moved or relocated	4	5.3%
Gang violence activity	5	6.7%
Other	19	25.3%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 75 respondents offering 159 responses.		

16. Were/are your parents or primary caregivers homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	9.2%
No	64	84.2%
Don't Know	2	2.6%
Declined	3	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

17. Just before becoming homeless, did you live with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Both Parents	7	9.3%
Single Mother	21	28.0%
Single Father	5	6.7%
A Step Parent	2	2.7%
Other Family Members	11	14.7%
Foster Family	3	4.0%
Juvenile Hall or detention	2	2.7%
Group home or other group settings	0	0.0%
Other	24	32.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

18. Do you have contact with your parent(s) or primary caregiver?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	44	57.9%
No	29	38.2%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Refused	3	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

19. Does your age prevent you from receiving any of the following (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Permanent housing	5	10.0%
Transitional housing	5	10.0%
Government assistance	6	12.0%
Employment	5	10.0%
Other	34	68.0%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 50 respondents offering 55 responses.		

20. When was the last time you were in contact with your parent(s) or primary caregiver?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	30	69.8%
8-30 days	8	18.6%
2 months	3	7.0%
3 months	0	0.0%
4 months	1	2.3%
5 months	0	0.0%
6 months	0	0.0%
7 months	0	0.0%
8 months	0	0.0%
9 months	0	0.0%
10 months	0	0.0%
11 months	0	0.0%
12 months	0	0.0%
1-2 years	1	2.3%
2-3 years	0	0.0%
More than 3 years	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

21. Do any of the following prevent you from seeking services (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Afraid that your parents will be contacted	1	10.0%
Afraid you will be put in Child Protective Services	0	10.0%
Don't trust anyone	8	12.0%
You don't have transportation	15	10.0%
Other	35	68.0%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 53 respondents offering 59 responses.		

22. What are your current needs (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Housing	56	74.7%
Food	40	53.3%
Clothing	36	48.0%
Shower	23	30.7%
Education	29	38.7%
Health care	19	25.3%
Dental care	20	26.7%
Transportation	36	48.0%
Job training/placement	39	52.0%
Substance abuse treatment	6	8.0%
Counseling/mental health care	9	12.0%
Other	13	17.3%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 75 respondents offering 326 responses.		

23. What would help you get off the streets (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Housing assistance	49	65.3%
Support from friends or family	14	18.7%
Treatment for drugs or alcohol	9	12.0%
Treatment for mental health issues	6	8.0%
Job training/employment	38	50.7%
Education	27	36.0%
Not applicable	5	6.7%
Other	12	16.0%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 75 respondents offering 160 responses.		

24. Have you ever voluntarily sought formal counseling services through a government, church, or youth program?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	25.3%
No	52	69.3%
Declined	4	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

25. Have you ever attempted suicide?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	16	20.8%
No	59	76.6%
Declined	2	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

26. If you use drugs, what are your primary drugs of choice (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Alcohol	14	20.3%
Marijuana	24	34.8%
Methamphetamines	8	11.6%
Cocaine/crack	3	4.3%
Cough/cold medicine	0	0.0%
Heroin	5	7.2%
Prescription medicine	2	2.9%
I don't use drugs	25	36.2%
Other	1	1.4%
Declined	5	7.2%
<b>Total:</b> Multiple response question with 69 respondents offering 87 responses.		

27. How old were you when you first tried Marijuana?

Response	Frequency	Percent
10	1	4.3%
11	2	8.7%
12	3	13.0%
13	4	17.4%
14	2	8.7%
15	4	17.4%
16	4	17.4%
17	1	4.3%
18	2	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

28. Are you \*currently\* in any kind of educational program now?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Middle school	1	1.3%
High school	6	8.0%
GED Prep	4	5.3%
Community College	2	2.7%
Four-year college or university	1	1.3%
Trade/technical/vocational program	1	1.3%
None	58	77.3%
Other	2	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

29. What is the highest grade you have completed?

Response	Frequency	Percent
6th grade or less	2	2.6%
7th grade	1	1.3%
8th grade	1	1.3%
9th grade	4	5.2%
10th grade	6	7.8%
11th grade	15	19.5%
12th grade/High school diploma or equivalent	36	46.8%
Some college	9	11.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	1	1.3%
Never attended school	0	0.0%
None	2	2.6%
Other	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

30. Would you be interested in receiving educational services if they were available to you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	49	65.3%
No	22	29.3%
Don't Know	2	2.7%
Declined	2	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

31. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	54	72.0%
No	19	25.3%
Declined	2	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 32. How do you know this person?

Response	Frequency	Percent
School	0	0.0%
Work	1	1.9%
Friend	9	16.7%
Drop in center	1	1.9%
Social worker	5	9.3%
Parents	19	35.2%
Siblings	6	11.1%
Declined	0	0.0%
Other	13	24.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 33. Were you ever involved with the justice system before you were 18 (as a minor)? This includes jail, juvenile hall, camp programs, probation, detention, etc?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	29.9%
No	51	66.2%
Declined	3	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 34. How many times have you been arrested?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 times	38	49.4%
1 time	11	14.3%
2 times	9	11.7%
3 times	6	7.8%
4 times	1	1.3%
More than 5 times	12	15.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>



35. Have you ever been on parole?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	6.5%
No	71	92.2%
Declined	1	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

36. Have you ever been on probation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	22.1%
No	59	76.6%
Declined	1	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

37. How many times in your life have you ever been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant? (include a current pregnancy, if any)

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 times	48	62.3%
1 time	20	26.0%
2 times	5	6.5%
3 times	4	5.2%
4 times	0	0.0%
5 or more times	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

38. How many biological children have you had?

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	60	78.9%
1	13	17.1%
2	2	2.6%
3	1	1.3%
4	0	0.0%
5 or more	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>

39. How many children do you currently have custody of?

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	66	85.7%
1	8	10.4%
2	3	3.9%
3	0	0.0%
4	0	0.0%
5 or more	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

40. Have you ever had a child removed from your care or taken away (by CPS, DCFS)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	6.5%
No	53	68.8%
Not applicable	19	24.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## APPENDIX IV: SUMMARY FOR THE COC APPLICATION

The following summaries provide local jurisdictions with consolidated information to enable the completion of the application for Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. These summaries are based upon the results discussed in this report. It is important to note that any information regarding sheltered homeless populations and subpopulations reflect only those sheltered in emergency shelters (ES), transitional housing (TH), and safe havens (SH). The exception to this rule is in regards to the Chronically Homeless subpopulation (i.e. Chronically Homeless Individuals, Chronically Homeless Families, and Persons in Chronically Homeless Families); transitional housing does not apply to this subpopulation.

This section comprises the following:

### **Part 1. Household Data**

- General Homeless Population

- Homeless Veteran Population

- Homeless Youth Population

### **Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations**

- Chronically Homeless Subpopulations

- Other Homeless Subpopulations

## Part 1. Household Data

The following table details the results of the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey for all Households (General Homeless Population, Homeless Veteran Population, Homeless Youth Population). Each category presents sheltered and unsheltered status.

### General Homeless Population

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
General Homeless Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH		
1.) Households With At Least One Adult and One Child					
1a.) Number of Households	65	49		4	118
1b.) Total Number of Persons (adults & children)	204	142		11	357
1c.) Number of Persons (under age 18)	134	91		5	230
1d.) Number of Persons (age 18-24)	6	16		5	27
1e.) Number of Persons (over age 24)	64	35		1	100
2.) Households With Only Children (under age 18)					
2a.) Total Number of Households	9	7		264	280
2b.) Total Number of Persons	9	8		264	281
3.) Households Without Children					
3a.) Number of Households	1,565	457	25	3,379	5,426
3b.) Number of Persons (adults)	1,597	492	25	3,456	5,570
3c.) Number of Persons (age 18-24)	119	79	2	1,052	1,252
3d.) Number of Persons (over age 24)	1,478	413	23	2,404	4,318
Total Households and Persons					
Total Households (Lines: 1a + 2a + 3a)	1,639	513	25	3,647	5,824
Total Persons (Lines: 1b + 2b + 3b)	1,810	642	25	3,731	6,208

*Number of households without dependent children is an estimate based on survey results*

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
General Homeless Population - Demographics	ES	TH	SH		
6.) Gender					
6a.) Female	475	198	12	807	1,492
6b.) Male	1,331	443	13	2,924	4,711
6c.) Transgender	4	1	0	0	5
7.) Ethnicity					
7a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,584	554	23	3,230	5,391
7b.) Hispanic/Latino	226	88	2	501	817
8.) Race					
8a.) White	973	341	14	2,065	3,393
8b.) Black or African American	703	272	10	1,076	2,061
8c.) Asian	48	0	0	131	179
8d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	18	12	0	92	122
8e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	11	3	0	104	118
8f.) Multiple Races	57	14	1	263	335

## Homeless Veteran Population

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Homeless Veteran Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH		
9.) Households With At Least One Adult and One Child					
9a.) Number of Households	0	0		0	0
9b.) Total Number of Persons (adults & children)	0	0		0	0
9c.) Total Number of Veterans	0	0		0	0
10.) Households Without Children					
10a.) Number of Households	77	251	0	402	730
10b.) Number of Persons (adults)	77	253	0	411	741
10c.) Total Number of Veterans	77	251	0	402	730
Veteran Total Households and Persons					
Total Households (Lines: 9a + 10a)	77	251	0	402	730
Total Persons (Lines: 9b + 10b)	77	253	0	411	741

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Homeless Veteran Population - Demographics	ES	TH	SH		
11.) Gender					
11a.) Female	9	11	0	82	102
11b.) Male	68	240	0	320	628
11d.) Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
12.) Ethnicity					
12a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	70	236	0	348	654
12b.) Hispanic/Latino	7	15	0	54	76
13.) Race					
13a.) White	59	152	0	221	432
13b.) Black or African American	18	90	0	116	224
13c.) Asian	0	0	0	15	15
13d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	4	0	10	14
13e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	1	0	12	13
13f.) Multiple Races	0	4	0	28	32

## Homeless Youth Population

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Unaccompanied Youth Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH		
15.) Total Number of Households					
15a.) Number of Parenting Youth Households	6	17	0	5	28
15b.) Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth Households	128	85	2	1,316	1,531
16.) Total Number of Persons					
16a.) Total Number of Persons in Parenting Youth Households	14	40	0	10	64
16a.1) Number of Parenting Youth (youth parents only)	6	17	0	5	28
16a.1a.) Number of Parenting Youth (under age 18)	0	1	0	0	1
16a.1b.) Number of Parenting Youth (age 18-24)	6	16	0	5	27
16b.1.) Number of Children With Parenting Youth	8	23	0	5	36
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth					
Number of Unaccompanied Children (under age 18)	9	6	0	264	279
Number of Unaccompanied Youth (age 18-24)	119	79	2	1,052	1,252

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Unaccompanied Youth Population - Demographics	ES	TH	SH		
17.) Gender					
17a.) Female	40	26	1	270	337
17b.) Male	86	58	1	1,046	1,191
17c.) Transgender	2	1	0	0	3
18.) Ethnicity					
18a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	110	69	1	1139	1,319
18b.) Hispanic/Latino	17	16	1	177	211
19.) Race					
19a.) White	45	32	1	728	806
19b.) Black or African American	78	44	1	379	502
19c.) Asian	1	0	0	31	32
19d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	1	0	47	48
19e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	1	0	37	39
19f.) Multiple Races	2	7	0	94	103

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
Parenting Youth Population - Demographics (Youth Parents Only)	ES	TH	SH		
17.) Gender					
17a.) Female	6	17	0	2	25
17b.) Male	0	0	0	3	3
17d.) Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
18.) Ethnicity					
18a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	6	14	0	4	24
18b.) Hispanic/Latino	0	3	0	1	4
19.) Race					
19a.) White	2	2	0	3	7
19b.) Black or African American	4	13	0	2	19
19c.) Asian	0	0	0	0	0
19d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	2	0	0	2
19e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
19f.) Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0

## Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations

The following table further breaks down the homeless count data into subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless count and data from the homeless survey. The data presented in the following chart is based on estimates calculated by applying the 2016 Homeless Survey results to the 2016 Point-In-Time homeless count population.

### Chronically Homeless Subpopulations

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
<b>1. Chronically Homeless Subpopulations</b>					
1a. Chronically Homeless Individuals	23	0	9	253	285
1b. Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0
1c. Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0
1d. Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	6	0	0	14	20
1e. Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0	0	0
1f. Persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0	0	0

### Other Homeless Subpopulations

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	ES	TH	SH		
<b>2. Other Homeless Subpopulations</b>					
2a.) Adults with Serious Mental Illness	118	84	13	1,171	1,386
2b.) Adults with Substance Use Disorder	277	86	14	672	1,049
2c.) Adults with HIV/AIDS	4	3	2	72	81
2d.) Victims of Domestic Violence	128	83	1	614	826



## APPENDIX V: METHODOLOGY

### 1. Overview

The purpose of the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey was twofold: to produce a point-in-time estimate of the number of homeless persons present in Southern Nevada, and to broaden the scope of understanding regarding the experience and characteristics of homelessness in Southern Nevada through a survey.

The ultimate goal of both the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and the Homeless Survey was to obtain valuable data to be utilized by policy-makers to improve homeless services and programs on both a local and national level.

The following summary of methodology is divided into two sections; the first section details the methodology applied to the Point-in-Time Count and the second section details the methodology applied to the Homeless Survey.

### 2. Point in Time Count Census Methodology

The PIT Count methodology is divided into two components: Street Count and Shelter Count.\*

The Street Count is the enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals. For the purposes of this study, the 2016 HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless individual is as follows:

*This includes individuals and families "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground" on the night designated for the count.*

The Shelter Count is the enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals. For the purposes of this study, the 2016 HUD definition of a sheltered homeless individual is as follows:

*This includes individuals and families "living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable*

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\* United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (November 2015) Notice CPD-15-010: Notice for Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program. (Source for both sheltered homelessness and unsheltered homelessness)

*organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)” on the night designated for the count.*

The Street Count and the Shelter Count were conducted during the same time period to minimize the potential for duplicate counting of homeless persons.\*

## 2.1 Street Count Methodology

### 2.1a Research Design:

Persons residing in the following were NOT included in the 2016 PIT Count per HUD.

- Persons residing in Permanent Supportive housing (PSH) programs, including persons housed using HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers.
- Persons residing in Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration (RRHD) projects, funded in the FY2008 CoC Competition.
- Persons counted in any location not listed on the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) (e.g., staying in projects with beds/units not dedicated for persons who are homeless).
- Persons temporarily staying with family or friends (i.e., “doubled-up” or “couch surfing”).
- Persons residing in housing they rent or own (i.e., permanent housing), including persons residing in rental housing with assistance from an RRH project on the night of the count.
- Persons residing in institutions (e.g., jails, juvenile correction facilities, foster care, hospital beds, or detox centers).

### 2.1b Enumerators:

In order to properly enumerate a homeless population of such substantial size as that of Southern Nevada, individuals with an intimate knowledge of the typical activities and location of homeless persons are imperative. Thus, it is necessary to recruit and train homeless individuals to work as enumerators. These homeless workers are an invaluable component of the street count methodology.

In order to participate in the Street Count as a Homeless Navigator, homeless individuals were required to attend a one-hour information and training session. During the week prior to the street count, training sessions were held at various locations throughout Southern Nevada.

Homeless individuals, staff from homeless service agencies, and various staff from Southern Nevada attended the enumeration trainings. Members of the Clark County Social Service trained these teams of volunteers prior to the PIT count. Deployment captains were chosen to provide observation, guidance, and in-the-field training.

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*\*In order to generate data that is comparable to previous reports, the methodology outlined in this section closely parallels the methodology of previous years. Therefore, the information in this section is partially derived from: Applied Survey Research 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census And Survey Appendix V: Homeless Census And Survey Methodology.*

During each training session, trainers presented techniques and methods that would be utilized to enumerate the homeless population during the street count.

Two-person teams were created on the morning of the Street Count. In areas that utilized Homeless Navigators, each Homeless Navigator was paired with a volunteer. This combination has been proven to be particularly effective for the Street Count, as both the Homeless Navigator and the volunteer possess unique knowledge and expertise that can be applied to working in the field.

### *2.1c Street Count Procedure*

#### *Precautions*

Significant efforts were implemented to avoid potentially hazardous situations. A safe environment was created in all deployment centers, and law enforcement officials in each district were notified of the pending PIT Count that was to take place in their jurisdictions.

#### *Preparation:*

Using a full canvassing technique, this enumeration was conducted in the early morning of January 27, 2016. The enumeration teams achieved 77% coverage of existing census tracts.

After the teams were created, each team was provided with a census tract map outlining the particular area to which they were assigned. They were also given a review document highlighting the enumeration techniques, a tally sheet, and other supplies. Shortly before each team deployed to their assigned locations, the leaders conducted a brief review of the enumeration techniques, emphasizing the importance of not disturbing the homeless persons during the enumeration.

#### *Street Count Deployment:*

The 8,091 square mile area that comprises Southern Nevada is divided into 487 federally designated census tracts. Each team received official census maps that identified tract boundaries. In order to collect comprehensive data from each census tract, PIT organizers established numerous deployment stations throughout the valley.

The enumeration was conducted on January 27, 2016, and was divided into two sections: urban and rural. Both count deployments occurred in the early morning hours. More specifically, the deployment assigned to the urban sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 12:00 am on the morning of January 27th, 2016. In order to minimize duplications, both teams collected enumeration data within a 31-hour period.

The deployment team assigned to the rural sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 5:00 am on the morning of January 28, 2016. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department utilized infrared technology to focus on the unpopulated areas of these rural sections. The Clark County Public

Response Office enumerated populated areas. The early morning hours are the optimum time to obtain an accurate count of unsheltered homeless persons in these areas.

The enumeration teams included the community partners, volunteers, and jurisdictional staff. This team canvassed all accessible highways, streets, and roads in the census tracts using vehicles, or traveling by foot. The majority of workers and volunteers were transported to and from assigned census tracts via personal or agency vehicles.

In partnership with CCSD, teams collected data for homeless children and youth during daylight hours. At 8:00 a.m. on the morning of January 27, 2016, CCSD gathered data for those children attending school. Simultaneously, teams targeted all youth not present in classrooms. These teams canvassed areas frequented by homeless youth (e.g. parks, malls, libraries, recreation centers). This co-occurring count strategy ensured little to no duplicative enumeration of homeless unaccompanied children and youth.

Each person identified as homeless within the assigned census tracts was tallied according to the following household categories outlined below.

For the purposes of this report, the following definitions were used for household, individual, family, and a household with only children:

<b>Household</b>	Occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
<b>Individuals</b>	Persons in a household without children
<b>Family</b>	Persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18)
<b>Only Children</b>	Persons in households composed of only children

Beginning in 2015, HUD guidance required CoCs to enumerate Youth Households. CoCs are now required to report the total number of youth households (persons under age 25), including the race, ethnicity, and gender data for parenting youth and unaccompanied youth counted.

Pertinent definitions are as follows:

<b>Parenting Youth</b>	Youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household. Parenting youth is limited to persons in households where there is no adult parent or guardian over age 24 in the household.
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>	Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• single youth</li> <li>• youth couples</li> <li>• groups of youth presenting as a household.</li> </ul>

For purposes of reporting in the PIT, parenting youth are distinct from unaccompanied youth.

For each of the following types of households, the number of persons in each household were reported by age category (under age 18, age 18-24, over age 24).

- Total Number of Households
- Total Number of One-Child Households
- Total Number of Multi-Child Households
  - Number of Children in Multi-Child Households

Once each team had completed the enumeration process, they returned to their designated deployment station and submitted their census tally forms to the deployment station captains. Deployment station captains then debriefed each deployment team, and provided any necessary clarification, explanation, and validation of data. Each team was provided time to discuss and comment on the enumeration process, providing information regarding the integrity of the 2016 enumeration effort. Reviews were conducted to check for duplicate counting, and to ensure that all accessible portions of each census tract had been enumerated.

Gender, race, and ethnicity data was also collected for each type of household. 2014 marked the first year that Veterans and Veteran families were included in this household data, and 2015 marked the first year that Youth Households were included in the PIT as a separate category.

## *Efforts Undertaken to Ensure Enumeration Accuracy*

### **Accurately Determining Homeless Status By Observation**

Homeless enumeration is a difficult task, and undercounting is a prominent possibility. Despite the difficulties associated with enumerating the unsheltered homeless population of Southern Nevada, all people, vehicles, abandoned buildings, and encampments were reported to be visually observable by the enumeration teams. This observation-only method enables the PIT Count officials to claim the results of the count to be as accurate and valid as possible. The members of the enumeration teams, especially the Homeless Navigators, claimed that they had no difficulty identifying homeless individuals and differentiating them from members of the general population. Therefore, although there are no means by which the PIT Count officials can guarantee that those enumerated are indeed homeless, they can state that all possible measures were undertaken to ensure the accuracy and validity of the count.

### **Avoiding Duplicate Counting**

Numerous precautions were implemented into the design of the PIT Count to avoid duplicate counting of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. The count took place during a targeted timeframe when sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals are least likely to co-mingle. Additionally, volunteers and Homeless Navigators were instructed to refrain from engaging in direct contact with the enumerated homeless persons; they were instructed to maintain an observation-only approach. Also, the census and survey were at different times; administering both in tandem would have increased the amount of time each portion would take, thus increasing the likelihood of duplicate counting.

### **Enumerating Unaccompanied Homeless Youth & Parenting Youth**

For numerous reasons, homeless youth are particularly difficult to enumerate. The homeless youth population typically refrains from co-mingling with the homeless adult population, and tend to reside in places that make enumeration difficult. To overcome these enumeration barriers, specialized youth enumeration teams were created. These teams consisted of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth. The homeless youth population was enumerated at a later time than the unsheltered homeless adults. They were enumerated from 8:00am to 2:00pm while homeless unaccompanied youth are more likely to be visible on the streets during school hours. Homeless youth under the age of 18 and those between the ages of 18 and 24 typically associate in the same social circles, making it possible to enumerate both groups. Volunteers and Homeless Navigators were then assigned census tract locations post-facto before being included in the overall countywide enumeration results.

In addition to the above enumeration processes, the Clark County School District, which updated its housing inventory during the same timeframe as the census, reported all students who reported to be homeless. Only those students who matched the HUD definition for literally homeless were included in the final count.

## **2.2 Shelter Count Methodology**

### 2.2a Purpose:

The purpose of the Shelter Count was to enumerate homeless persons who are temporarily residing in Southern Nevada shelters and transitional housing. The data obtained from this count was used to capture an overall count of homeless persons in Southern Nevada, and an appraisal of where these homeless persons seek shelter.

It is important to note that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for Nevada and the PIT Module (Surveus) was also used to generate data for provider programs with 100 percent of their beds participating in the HMIS. It was verified through Provider Program Staff that their HMIS data was complete and correct for the night of the PIT Count, including correct exit dates for all persons who exited the provider program on or before the date of the PIT. Shelters included the following HUD defined housing category types:

#### HUD-Defined Shelter Housing Types

##### *Emergency Shelters*

- All emergency shelters funded by HUD ESG and/or other federal, state and local public and private sources.
- Hotel/Motel Vouchers paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals
- All VA-funded HCHV/EH and HCHV/RT provider programs including VA Community Contract Emergency Housing (prefix HCHV/EH) and Health Care for Homeless Veterans VA Community Contract Residential Treatment Program (prefix HCHV/RT)

##### *Transitional Housing*

- HUD-funded transitional housing projects renewing in 2014 CoC competition
- All transitional housing provider programs funded by HUD SHP still operating, but not renewing in 2013 CoC competition
- All transitional housing provider programs for homeless persons funded by other Federal, State, and local public and private sources that do not use the RRH model
- HUD-funded Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration (RRHD) provider programs
- VA-funded transitional housing provider programs, including:
  - VA Grant and Per Diem (prefix GPD)
  - VA Compensated Work Therapy - Transitional Residence (prefix CWT/TR)

##### *Safe Haven Programs*

- All Safe Haven provider programs funded by HUD SHP
- All VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) VA
- Community Contract Safe Haven Program (prefix HCHV/SH)

### 2.2b Research Design & Data Collection:

All persons who matched the following criteria were included in the Shelter Count:

- Entered on or before the date of the count
- Exited after the date of the count (or have not yet exited)

The participation of a broad range of Southern Nevada homeless agencies was necessary to make the Shelter Count possible. These included emergency shelters, safe havens, and agencies that provide vouchers for homeless persons to stay in motels or hotels, and transitional housing programs.

The primary task of the Shelter Count was to collect all data generated by each agency from the HMIS on the night of January 26, 2016, with the exception of domestic violence providers, who are not permitted to enter data into HMIS; these domestic violence providers sent in manual counts.

## 2.3 Persons in Tunnels and Hidden Homeless Count

### 2.3a Persons In Tunnels

Beginning in 2011, special enumeration teams have been strategically formed to target the tunnels and washes in Southern Nevada. These teams consist of outreach workers who are familiar with the tunnels and their occupants, as well as formerly homeless individuals who once occupied the tunnels. In 2013, such teams were formed, however, due to rain and risk of flooding, this enumeration was limited; 53 homeless persons were added to the 2013 enumeration total.\* In 2014, 2015, and 2016, similar conditions were present and 64 persons were enumerated in each of these years.

### 2.3b Hidden Homeless Count

In previous years, Applied Analysis conducted a telephone survey of the general population of Southern Nevada in order to locate the “hidden” homeless of Southern Nevada (those residing in unsheltered locations on private property (i.e. vehicles, unconverted garages, etc.). In 2015, however, HUD required CoCs to NOT enumerate “hidden” homeless. The totals have been adjusted to accommodate this change in order to allow for accurate comparison between 2015 data and the data from 2013, 2014, and 2015.

## 2.4 PIT Count Census Challenges & Assumptions Of Annual Estimation

### 2.4a Challenges:

Homeless enumeration is challenging for any community; Southern Nevada, however, presents its own unique set of challenges. Homeless individuals, in general, do not want to be visible; they make

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\* Bitfocus, Inc. (2013). 2013 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.



concerted efforts to avoid detection. Therefore, regardless of the methodology or the amount of effort placed into the outreach, the final enumeration amount will still be considered an undercount.

Although academically-sound, the Southern Nevada Census effort was still subject to the innate challenges of enumerating homeless populations. The non-intrusive, point-in-time, visual homeless enumeration techniques were still hindered by inherent biases and shortcomings. Several of the challenges enumerators face are discussed below.

#### *2.4a.1 Large & Diverse Community With Difficult Access:*

Southern Nevada is a large community filled with a diverse population. It is composed of large commercial districts, suburbs, and a vast amount of outlying rural counties. Most homeless persons tend to remain close to the homeless shelters and facilities, but homeless persons, especially families, can reside in the suburb and outlying rural counties, which are difficult for enumerators to access. In general, homeless populations are composed of groups that are difficult to enumerate.

These include:

- **Chronically Homeless Individuals:** These individuals are not guaranteed access to social, health, or shelter services on a frequent or consistent basis.
- **Homeless Persons with Children:** Many parents and their children remain hidden in obscure locations in fear of having to release their children to Child Protective Services. They often stay on private property, out of sight from the enumeration teams.
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Parenting Youth:** This population tends to strive to remain hidden, and is thus less visible than homeless adults.
- **Homeless Persons Residing in Unsafe Structures:** Many homeless individuals reside in buildings or locations that are unsafe for the enumerators to investigate.
- **Homeless Persons Located in Isolated Rural Areas:** The rural counties of Southern Nevada are vast and make accurate enumeration exceptionally difficult.
- **Homeless Persons Residing in Cars:** This segment of the homeless population tends to relocate every few days, making accurate enumeration difficult.

The conservative approach taken cannot ensure a fully accurate count, thus it is necessary to ensure accurate data. Coupled with the homeless survey, this methodology is the most comprehensive approach available.

#### *2.4a.2 Assumptions Of Annual Estimation:*

The calculations used to project the annual estimate of homeless persons are governed by two assumptions:

1. The homeless survey responses are homogenous to the responses that would have been provided at any other point-in-time during the year and are representative of the entire Southern Nevada homeless population.
2. The results of the PIT Count are homogenous to that of a count that would have been conducted at any time during the year.

Service providers support these assumptions, stating that demand for services remains relatively stable throughout the year. They also state that the amount of homeless persons that access services remains relatively stable, with the only major variations being the seasonal variations in the proportion of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless.

Policy-makers must take into account that most homeless experiences are fairly short-term (e.g. less than a year). However, Bitfocus Inc. is confident that the combination of the size of the survey sample (973), the statistical reliability of the projections, the unavoidable undercount inherent in any homeless census, as well as the use of a HUD-approved annualization calculation ensures that the current methodology was the most complete and accurate of all available approaches.

## 3. Homeless Survey

### 3.1 Homeless Survey Research Design

#### 3.1a Purpose

973 homeless persons were surveyed in order to yield qualitative data to enhance understanding of the scope and characteristics of the homeless community in Southern Nevada. Through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions, the survey yielded information from the following topic areas:

- Gender
- Family status
- Military service
- Length and recurrence of homelessness
- Access to homeless services and programs

The data obtained from this survey is used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application. The data broaden and enhance the efficacy of existing programs and services. In addition the survey results continue to paint a picture of homelessness in Southern Nevada, measuring changes in the composition of the homeless population since 2007.

## 3.2 Homeless Survey Research Procedure

### *3.2a Survey Workers & Volunteers:*

Clark County Social Service trained service providers and homeless workers regarding how to conduct the survey. The training consisted of a comprehensive instruction regarding confidentiality, interviewing protocol, determining respondent eligibility, and project background information. The surveys were administered within the shelters, and due to confidentiality issues, service providers administered the surveys.

### *3.2b Survey Sampling:*

The survey workers employed a random sampling strategy, as outlined by HUD, in order to minimize selection bias. This strategy was characterized as an “every third encounter” approach, meaning the survey workers approached every third person they considered to be eligible for the survey.

Interviewers inquired whether the homeless individual had already taken the survey. If they had not, they were then asked if they were willing to do so. Survey administrators also informed the homeless individuals of the ‘thank you’ gift that they would receive upon completion of the survey. If the homeless individual declined, the service providers were instructed to approach the next homeless individual they encountered. They were instructed to document the number of refusals, however, the majority (99.2%) of homeless individuals approached agreed to take the survey (there were 8 refusals). It is important to note that although this refusal rate is low, it is possible that those individuals who refused to take the survey could have provided significantly different responses than the homeless individuals who agreed to take the survey.

To bolster the randomized sampling procedure, survey workers attempted to reach homeless individuals in a wide range of various geographical locations. Various homeless sub-populations were also targeted, including minority ethnic groups, families, military veterans, etc.

In 2016, there was a point-in-time estimate of 6,208 homeless individuals. Using random sampling technique, 973 surveys were administered. When generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Southern Nevada, this amount represents a Confidence Level of 95% with a 2.92 Confidence Interval.

### *3.2c Survey Administration & Data Collection:*

The survey workers made every effort to ensure that each survey respondent felt comfortable as they took the survey. Survey workers encouraged candid responses from the survey respondents, explaining that all responses would remain confidential and anonymous.

The survey workers were trained to remain unbiased throughout the survey, making no assumption and avoiding prompts. They were also instructed to keep all responses confidential. They were

instructed to ask all of the questions on the survey, but allow the survey respondents answer only the questions they felt comfortable answering.

### *3.2d Street Homeless:*

Homeless interviewers were trained to administer the surveys to the “street” homeless as they can identify with the conditions and challenges that the street homeless individuals face. These workers also knew the likely locations where the street homeless individuals could be found. This peer-to-peer method was particularly effective at building rapport between the homeless individual and the homeless survey workers, likely encouraging honest responses.

### *3.2e Shelters & Transitional Housing:*

14 emergency shelters, 13 transitional housing facilities, and 1 safe haven located in Southern Nevada participated in the survey administration. Program staff conducted these surveys and the same survey was used in both the street and shelter environments. In order to avoid underrepresentation of transitional housing residents, survey workers created survey quotas that targeted individuals and heads of households residing in these programs.

### *3.2f Data Analysis - Elimination of Duplicate Surveys:*

A sound strategy was employed to avoid duplicate surveys. Along with documenting the respondents’ initials and date of birth, the survey workers also examined gender, ethnicity, and length of homeless in order to identify any duplicate surveys. After evaluation, it was determined that there were zero duplicate surveys, thus leaving 973 valid surveys to be analyzed.

A total of 981 surveys were administered, with a 0.8% refusal rate. There were no duplicate surveys administered. Although available, zero surveys were conducted in Spanish.

## **3.2 Survey Challenges & Limitations**

With a point-in-time estimate of 6,208 homeless persons, 973 valid surveys, and a randomized sample, the surveys represent a confidence interval of  $\pm 2.92\%$  with a 95% confidence level; the identified confidences can be applied to the survey findings despite the fact that an equal representation of all homeless experiences is not feasible.

The self-reporting research technique used in this survey effort presents a range of challenges, one of which being misrepresentation. There is no way to confidently conclude that each question was answered with honesty and accuracy.

In sum, it is important to note that carefully selected and highly trained interviewers reviewed the responses of these surveys. All surveys were reviewed for quality responses, and any incomplete surveys or falsified responses were eliminated from the final results.

## APPENDIX VI: GLOSSARY

### Annual Estimate

An estimated amount of homeless persons in a given CoC over the course of a year. This estimate is calculated in order to compensate for the bias created by the inability to include persons who experience short episodes of homelessness throughout the year, at times other than the PIT count. This reduces the degree of underrepresentation of the true number of homeless persons at any given point in time during the year.

### Annual Homeless Assessment Report AHAR

Annual Report responding to a congressional directive that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provide an annual report to Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness. The AHAR provides the results of local counts of people homeless on a single night in January, as well as estimates of the number, characteristics, and service patterns of all people who used residential programs for homeless people. It also provides national estimates on the use of the full continuum of homeless assistance programs—from homelessness prevention to homeless residential services to permanent supportive housing.

### Chronic Substance Use/Abuse

This category on the PIT includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

### Chronically Homeless Individual

An individual who: A. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and B. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and C. Has a disability.

### Chronically Homeless Family

A family with children with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family with children, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family with children whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless. Note: (1) For the purposes of reporting, a chronically homeless family with children must consist of at least one child under the age of 18.

### Continuums of Care (CoC)

A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD also refers to the group of service providers involved in the decision-making processes as the "Continuum of Care." They are responsible for coordinating the full range of homeless services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or entire state.

### Contributory HMIS Program

A program that contributes Protected Personal Information (PPI) or other client-level data to an HMIS.

### Disabling Condition

Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. For the purposes of this study, disabling condition is further specified as any of the following: physical disability, mental illness, severe depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, trauma, or a developmental disability.

### Emergency Shelter

Short-term provision of shelter that can be proffered either through a shelter facility or motel vouchers. This temporary assistance is usually provided for 30 days or less. An example of an emergency shelter is a domestic violence shelter, which offers immediate housing and safety for victims of domestic violence and their families.

### Episode of Homelessness (HUD Definition)

A separate, distinct, and sustained stay on the streets and/or in an emergency homeless shelter.

### Extrapolation

A technique for estimating the total number of unsheltered persons in your community based on the number of unsheltered persons that you have been able to observe and/or interview from your statistically reliable sample

## Family

HUD defined household with at least one adult (18 or older) and one child (under 18).

## Homeless Management Information Software (HMIS)

An HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services. An HMIS may also cover a statewide or regional area, and include several CoCs. The HMIS can provide data on client characteristics and service utilization. HMIS is an eligible budget activity and also an SHP component that allows applicants to request SHP assistance for dedicated or shared projects.

## Homelessness (HUD Definition)

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

## Individual

Persons in a household without children. They are homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

## Homeless Individual

According to the McKinney Act, 42, U.S.C § 11301, et seq. a homeless individual is a person who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and... has a primary night time residency that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations... (B) An 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, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

## Household

Occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

### **Households With Only Children**

HUD defines Households With Only Children as household configurations composed of more than one person under the age of 18. This includes unaccompanied children, adolescent parents, groups composed of adolescent siblings, and any other type of household configuration that is composed of only children.

### **Parenting Youth**

A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

### **Persons in Families**

People who are homeless as part of households that have at least one adult and one child.

### **Persons with HIV/AIDS**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

### **Permanent Supportive Housing**

Permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with disability to live independently.

### **PIT**

Point-in-Time.

### **Protected Personal Information (PPI)**

Information about a client: (1) whose identity is apparent from the information or can reasonably be ascertained from the information; or (2) whose identity can, taking into account any methods reasonably likely to be used, be learned by linking the information with other available information or by otherwise manipulating the information.

### **Safe Haven**

A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.



### **Severe Depression**

Individuals who reported experiencing depression and who reported that their depression prevents them from getting work or housing.

### **Adults with Serious Mental Illness**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons with mental health problems that are expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

### **Rapid Re-housing**

Housing model designed to provide temporary housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness, moving them quickly out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

### **Sheltered Homeless Persons**

Homeless persons who are living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.

### **Single Individual or Person**

An unaccompanied person of any age not in families.

### **Transitional Housing**

A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months, or a longer period approved by HUD. For purposes of the HOME program, there is no HUD-approved time period for moving to independent living.

### **Unaccompanied Child (Under 18)**

Minors (under 18) not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those living in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars, or on the streets. Also includes those who have been denied housing by their families and school-aged unwed mothers who have no housing of their own, and present for services alone.

### **Unaccompanied Youth**

Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren).

Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

### **Unsheltered Homeless Persons**

An individual or family who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and has a primary night time residency that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

### **Unsheltered - Street Homeless Persons**

Unsheltered homeless persons who do not reside in shelters, but instead reside in locations such as unoccupied cars, vans, RVs, encampments, and abandoned buildings, or other areas not meant for human habitation.

### **Unsheltered - Hidden Homeless Persons**

The estimated amount of unsheltered homeless persons generated from a general population telephone survey. These persons reside outside of shelters, in places not meant for human inhabitation that are not visible to enumerators.

### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Established in 1965, HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. To fulfill this mission, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management and accountability and forge new partnerships – particularly with faith-based and community organizations – that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.

### **Veteran**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

### **Victims of Domestic Violence**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at any point in the past.

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### **Victim Service Provider**

A private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs. Domestic Violence client data is not entered into the HMIS.

### **Youth**

Persons under age 25, including children under age 18 and young adults ages 18 to 24.



# 2016 CENSUS & SURVEY HOMELESS SOUTHERN NEVADA

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