HelpHopeHome
Ending Homelessness in Southern Nevada

HOMELESS
CENSUS & SURVEY
2017

SOUTHERN
NEVADA

COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT

Report produced by

Bitfocus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of this endeavor is the result of a convergence of considerable talents and efforts of a dedicated team of individuals. Clark County Social Service (CCSS) and Bitfocus, Inc., would like to thank the generous donors and sponsors who helped to make this project possible.

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- Caridad
- Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
- City of Henderson Neighborhood Services
- City of Henderson Department of Public Works & Parks and Recreation
- City of Las Vegas Administrative Services
- City of Las Vegas Office of Community Services
- City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation Department
- City of North Las Vegas Neighborhood and Leisure Services Department

- Clark County Parks and Recreation
- Clark County Public Communications
- Clark County Public Response Office
- Clark County Fire Department
- Clark County IT/GISMO
- Clark County School District
- Clark County Social Service
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- HELP USA
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- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
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- Nevada Homeless Alliance
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
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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 1729, Philadelphia passed a law allowing citizens to deport local homeless persons. 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 after the 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 2017: 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.[†] 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 tireless advocative efforts from both government entities and grassroots organizations alike. These efforts spurred the establishment of national reporting, which has been undeniably the most effective tool in the fight to end homelessness to date.

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

[†] *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. 2010.*

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1.2 National Reporting to End Homelessness

Information is power. The data generated by national reporting informed the policymakers 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 Continuum of Care (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 CoCs 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 has the option to conduct 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:

- Point-In-Time (PIT) Counts conducted nationwide to enumerate homeless populations and capture information about homeless populations in each state
- Housing Inventory Counts (HIC) to determine the number of homeless assistance programs and beds
- Data from the Homeless Management Information System (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. policymakers 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.[*]

The benefits of this systematic research are beginning to emerge. According to the 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, in January 2016, almost 550,000 people were

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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.*

homeless on a single night, with more than two-thirds (68%) found in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens. Since the release of *Opening Doors* in 2010, homelessness has declined by 14% (or 87,000 people), and unsheltered homelessness has declined by 25% (or 57,000 people).[*]

The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress summarizes the following findings:[†]

- In January 2016, 549,928 people were experiencing homelessness on a given night. Most (68%, or 373,571 people) were staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, while 32% (or 176,357 people) were staying in unsheltered locations.

- Between 2015 and 2016, there was a 7% decline (5,684 fewer people) in the number of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness. The number of sheltered chronically homeless individuals decreased by 13% (3,759 fewer people), while the number of unsheltered chronically homeless decreased by 4% (1,925 fewer people). Between 2007 and 2016, the number of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness declined by 42,327 people (35%). The number of individuals who were unsheltered and chronically homeless decreased by 25,155 (32%), and the number of sheltered chronically homeless individuals declined by 17,172 (41%).

- Between 2015 and 2016, homelessness among veterans declined by 17% (8,254 fewer veterans) overall. Since 2009, veteran homelessness declined by 46% (33,896 veterans) overall.

- In 2016, just under 60% of people experiencing homelessness in families were children under 18 years of age. Nearly one-third were 25 or older, and the remaining 8% were between 18 and 24 years old.

1.4 The 2017 Southern Nevada Census and Survey Report

1.4a Summary of Methodology

The 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey project was composed of 2 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.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

The HUD definition for "homeless" is as follows:

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well as an individual or family 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 persons intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.[*]

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 24, 2017. 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 86% to enumerate unsheltered persons 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 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. Bitfocus is an international system integration and development company specializing in the development of application infrastructure

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[*] *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''*

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

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, policymakers, 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.

1.4c Project Objectives

The primary goals of the 2017 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 2017 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 2014[*], 2015[†], 2016[‡], and the current year 2017 will be included in the comparisons.

1.4d Important Changes to 2017 Methodology

2017 HUD guidance contained methodology changes compared to prior years.

1.4d.1 Chronic Homelessness by Household Type

HUD is requiring CoCs to report persons experiencing chronic homelessness by household type – persons in households with at least one adult and one child, persons in households without children, and persons in households with only children. In addition, HUD is clarifying that when reporting on any chronically homeless households (whether or not there are children), if one member of the household qualifies as chronically homeless, then all persons in the household should be counted as chronically homeless.

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[*] Bitfocus, Inc., (2014). 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[†] Bitfocus, Inc., (2015). 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[‡] Bitfocus, Inc., (2016). 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada.

For purposes of reporting in the 2017 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.

1.4d.2 Expanding the Gender Identify Options

HUD convened a team of experts regarding the most appropriate ways to collect data on gender identity. As a result, HUD is expanding the gender identity options in the PIT count to include an additional gender option – "Don't identify as male, female, or transgender."

1.4e Summary of Document

This document comprises the following main sections:

Executive Summary	Summary of findings from each main section of both the PIT count and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.
Homeless Census Findings	This section presents the key findings of the 2017 PIT Count.
Homeless Survey Findings – Homelessness Profile	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.).
Homeless Survey Findings – Homeless Subpopulations	This section summarizes general findings from the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey in regards to the HUD-defined homeless supbpopulations (chronically homeless, severely mentally ill adults, adults with substance abuse, adults with HIV/AIDs, and victims of domestic violence).
Homeless Survey Finding - Youth Survey Data	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.
Conclusion	This section summarizes the findings of the PIT and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey in relation to the State of Nevada.
Appendices	The series of appendices located at the end of the document provide information such as methodology and summaries of responses.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In collaboration with Bitfocus, Clark County Social Service (CCSS) conducted the 2017 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 on January 24, 2017. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2017 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2014, 2015, and 2016 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 2017 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 86 percent.

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 number 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, 727 surveys were administered to homeless persons throughout Southern Nevada. A detailed account of the methodology for the 2017 PIT Count can be found in *Appendix IV*. In 2017, the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey was conducted electronically using the PIT Module (Surveus). Full survey questions are outlined in *Appendix I* and *Appendix II*.

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

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

survey was designed to unveil additional details in regards to the scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

The 2017 Southern Nevada PIT Count indicates that between 2016 and 2017, the total number of homeless persons increased from 6,208 to 6,490, respectively. The number of unsheltered homeless persons increased from 3,731 to 4,353 respectively during this time period.

2.1 2017 Homeless Census and Survey: Summary of Findings

Figure 1: Point-In-Time Homeless Census and Annual Estimate of Homelessness Data

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016-2017 Net Change	2016-2017 Percent Change
Unsheltered	3,494	3,916	3,731	4,353	622	16.7%
Sheltered	3,949	3,593	2,477	2,137	-340	-13.7%
Total Point-In-Time Count	7,443	7,509	6,208	6,490	282	4.5%
Annual Estimate	34,744	34,397	30,016	24,981	-5,035	-16.8%

Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV

The 2017 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 24,981. This represents a 16.8% decrease (5,035 persons) from the 2016 annual estimate of 30,016 persons.

It's important to note that the HUD-approved method for determining annual estimates factors in the length of time homeless to determine annual inflow. Due to this methodology, it's entirely possible for the annual estimate to be lower than in previous years, while the actual PIT total may be greater — as is the case in 2017.

In 2016, 1.4% of the total Nevada population was homeless. In 2017, this percentage decreased to 1.2% (based on population estimates from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation).[*]

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[*] *In 2016, the State of Nevada Department of Taxation estimated the population total for the State of Nevada to be 2,166,181, which represents a 2.3% increase (47,828 people) compared to 2015. Note: The 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census & Survey used a population estimate from the U.S. Department of Commerce. For this 2017 report, all population totals have been updated to the population estimates from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation.*

2.2 Conditions: Sheltered/Unsheltered

67.1% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered.

67.1% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered. Between 2016 and 2017, unsheltered homelessness increased by 16.7% (622 persons). When comparing the unsheltered totals to the overall homeless total relative to their year, there was a 7.0% increase since 2016. In 2016, unsheltered homeless represented 60.1% of the entire homeless population (3,731 persons). In 2017, unsheltered homeless represented 67.1% of the entire homeless population (4,353 persons).

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is important to emphasize the fact that, per HUD, hidden homeless were not enumerated in 2017, 2016, or 2015. However, the hidden homeless were enumerated in all years prior to 2015, including 2014. To accommodate this change in official requirements, the totals for 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.****

32.9% of the persons enumerated in the PIT Count were in sheltered facilities.

- Between 2016 and 2017, sheltered homelessness decreased by 13.7% (340 persons). In Southern Nevada, in the late night of January 24th overnight into January 25th, 1,635 persons were in emergency shelters, 482 persons were in transitional housing, and 20 persons were in safe havens (including the FAS beds from Clark County Social Service (CCSD).

- There was a decrease (9.7%, 175 persons) in emergency shelter utilization between 2016 and 2017, and a decrease in transitional housing utilization (24.9%, 160 persons). Safe haven utilization decreased by 20.0% (5 persons) between 2016 and 2017.

2.3 Demographics

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

Gender

- 68.1% of survey respondents identified as *male,* 30.8% of respondents identified as *female,* 0.4% of respondents identified as *transgender,* and 0.7% of respondents reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*.

Age

- Youth homelessness decreased between 2016 and 2017. In 2017, 2.7% of respondents were between the ages of *18 and 21;* this represents a 0.5% decrease from the number of homeless persons in this category in 2016 (3.2%). 0.3% of survey respondents were *under the age of 18*; this represents a 0.2% decrease compared to 2016.

- The majority (30.3%) of respondents were between the ages of *51 and 60.* This percentage is lower for this age group than in 2016 (31.2%).

Race and Ethnicity

- The majority of respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian* (55.3%), and 34.8% identified as *Black / African American*. The fewest number of respondents identified as *Pacific Islander* (1.5%).

- 12.0% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*. 88.0% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

Residency Prior to Homelessness

- The majority of survey respondents (76.9%) reported living in Southern Nevada when they most recently became homeless.

2.4 HUD-Defined Households

In 2017, there were 111 households with at least one adult and one child; homeless veterans comprised 3.6% (4 households) of this population. There were 5,875 households without children; homeless veterans comprised 11.7% (686 households) of this population. There were 257 households with only children (under the age of 18). There were 20 parenting youth households, and there were 2,052 unaccompanied youth households in 2017.

Households with At Least One Adult and One Child

- In 2017, 60.7% of the homeless population living in households with at least one adult and one child were under the age of 18, 7.0% were between the ages of 18–24, and 32.3% were over the age of 24.

Households Without Children

- In 2017, 30.3% of the homeless population living in households without children were between the ages of 18–24, and the remaining population were over the age of 24.

Households with Only Children

- In 2017, there were 258 people in households with only children (under 18).

Youth Households

- In 2017, 31.6% (2,052 persons) of the entire point-in-time count total (6,490 persons) were Unaccompanied Youth (between ages 18–24) and Unaccompanied Children (under age 18).

- Out of the 22 Parenting Youths (youth parents only) enumerated, 1 was under the age of 18, and 21 were between the ages of 18 and 24. There were 22 children with these parenting youth, collectively.

- The 2,052 Unaccompanied Youth Households comprised 256 Unaccompanied Children (under age 18) and 1,796 Unaccompanied Youth (ages 18–24).

2.5 Veterans

Definition

For the purposes of homeless services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 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 2016 AHAR (which is the most recent data available at the time of this report), veteran homelessness dropped by 47%, nearly 35,000 people, between 2010 and 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, veteran homelessness dropped by 17%, or about 8,000 fewer homeless veterans. This is a much higher decline than between 2014 and 2015, in which there was a 4% decline. In 2016, the highest rate of decline was among the unsheltered population, which

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[*] *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. 2010.*

decreased by 19% (3,153 persons.) The number of sheltered homeless veterans fell by 16% (5,101 persons) between 2015 and 2016.[*]

In Southern Nevada:

- 12.8% (93) of survey respondents were veterans. This is less than the percentage of veteran respondents in 2016 when 14.0% of survey respondents were veterans.

- 63.4% (59) of the 93 veteran respondents were *unsheltered.*

- 6 (6.5%) were *female* and 86 (92.5%) were *male*. There was 1 veteran survey respondent who identified as *transgender*. There were no veteran survey respondents who reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender.*

- The majority of homeless veterans reported they are *White/Caucasian* (58.1%) and 93.5% of veteran respondents are *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

- 68.8% of veteran respondents reported *Honorable Discharge*.

- 63.4% reported at least one disabling condition.

2.6 Causes, Occurrence, and Duration of Homelessness

- 54.1% of 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. 6% of survey respondents cited *aging out of foster care* as their reason for homelessness.

- 50.6% of survey respondents reported that they were *homeless for the first time*, and 28.1% of survey respondents reported that they had been *homeless four or more times in the last three years*. In 2017, 37.6% of the survey respondents reported that they had been *homeless for a year or more* since their last permanent housing situation; which is one criterion included in the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.

- The majority of survey respondents (76.9%) reported living in *Southern Nevada* when they most recently became homeless, and the majority (52.6%) of survey respondents reported that they were *renting a home or apartment* prior to becoming homeless.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

2.7 Income, Employment, and Circumstances Preventing Permanent Housing

- 84.5% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing *unemployment* at the time of the survey. *Need Clothing* was the leading barrier to obtaining employment (32.4%), closely followed by *Need Education* (25.8%) and *No Phone* (23.7%).

- 19.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than $500 per month in government income benefits, and (36.6%) 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 91.9% of survey respondents were receiving $500 or less from private non-government income sources.

- The majority of respondents cited *No Job / No Income* (71.0%) or *Inability To Afford Rent* (56.4%) as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing.

2.8 Utilization of Government Assistance and Programs

- In 2017, the most commonly used service/assistance was *Free Meals* (70.2%).

- In regards to government assistance and programs, 83.2% of 2017 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits. Of the respondents receiving government assistance, 75.1% were receiving food stamps, 14.2% were receiving SSI/SSDI assistance, and 3.8% were receiving social security.

2.9 Nighttime Accommodations

- 39.5% of survey respondents reported typically staying in sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other shelter). The census data indicated that 1,594 persons of the unsheltered (street) population were found to be living in cars/vans/RVs, abandoned buildings, encampments, and parks.

2.10 Medical

- In 2017, 16.4% of homeless respondents indicated that since they most recently became homeless, they had needed medical care but had been unable to receive it.

- From 2016 to 2017, the number of homeless individuals reporting chronic health conditions decreased from approximately 31.7% to 29.9%.

- 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	• HIV/AIDS
• Mental illness	• Tuberculosis
• Severe depression	• Hepatitis C
• Alcohol or drug abuse	• Trauma
• Chronic health problems	• Developmental disabilities

- 74.5% of homeless survey respondents reported they had at least 1 disabling condition. 34.6% of the population surveyed currently have or have ever had a physical disability.

2.11 Incarceration

- 2.8% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time, and 8.7% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. 5.9% of homeless respondents indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing, and 6.9% indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment.

- The majority (72.9%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. 8.3% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, 16.5% of survey respondents reported spending 1 separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, and 1.2% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

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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; 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 2017, it is estimated that Southern Nevada has approximately 440 chronically homeless individuals. This is a 54.4% (155 persons) increase since 2016 (285).

- In 2016, 22.0% of all homeless individuals nationwide were considered chronically homeless.[†] The estimated number of chronically homeless individuals in Southern Nevada in 2017 represents 6.8% of the total 2017 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, 55.6% (10 persons) were unsheltered.

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.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

- Overall, 47.6% of survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. This is lower than that of 2016 (49.4%).

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.

- 35.7% of the survey respondents reported to be currently experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the survey. This represents a decrease compared to 2016, when 27.2% 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 policymakers. 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.

- 13.9% 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.
- 16.4% 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.
- 6.2% 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.

- Of the total 2017 Southern Nevada point-in-time homeless population, 0.6% were experiencing HIV or AIDS related illnesses. This percentage is lower than the percentage reported in 2016 (1.3%).

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.

- Of the total 2017 Southern Nevada point-in-time homeless population, 13.5% were considered victims of domestic violence. This represents a slight increase from 2016 (13.3%).

2.13 Conclusion

The 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless PIT Count identified 6,490 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. Of these persons, 32.9% (2,137 persons) were sheltered, and 67.1% (4,353 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 not included in 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 2017 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 2017. 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 persons experiencing homelessness. Through its impact on the policymakers 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 Continuums of Care (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 number 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 and Unsheltered Homeless Persons
2. HUD-Defined Homeless Households
3. Utilization 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 policymakers in their allocation of funds for homeless services and programs.

3.1 Point-In-Time Count Procedure

This PIT Count is an enumeration of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Southern Nevada. The 2017 PIT Count was carried out in accordance with the most recent guidelines set forth by HUD.[*]

3.1a Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless

The 2017 Southern Nevada PIT Count targeted 2 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. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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 2017 HUD definitions of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness are as follows:[*]

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.[†]

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

[†] *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 persons who are not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

Family

Persons in households with at least one adult (18 or older) and one child (under 18).

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)

Unaccompanied children are people who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness, and who are under the age of 18.

Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied youth are people who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness, and who are between the ages of 18 and 24.

Parenting Youth

People under age 25 who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children (under age 18) 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 2017 Southern Nevada PIT Count of unsheltered homeless persons was conducted during the late evening hours of January 24, 2017, and early morning hours of January 25, 2017. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2017 enumeration effort. Census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2014, 2015, and 2016 were overlaid with data

from first responder calls related to someone experiencing homelessness, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2017 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 86%. This method is in accordance with permission from HUD 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 24, 2017.

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 6,490 persons experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada were enumerated on January 24, 2017. This is a 4.5% increase from the 2016 PIT Count.

3.2a Unsheltered Homeless

Nationwide, the number of unsheltered homeless persons (those living in unsheltered locations such as under bridges, in cars, or in abandoned buildings, etc.) decreased 31% (or 79,500 people) between 2007 and 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of unsheltered homeless increased by 1.8% (3,089 persons). This 1.8% increase is a change from the 1.2% decrease in homelessness in this population between 2014 and 2015. In 2016, almost one-third of all homeless people (32.1%) were living in unsheltered locations; this percentage has increased since 2015 when 30.7% of all homeless persons were unsheltered.[*]

In Southern Nevada, the total unsheltered homeless population increased from 3,731 to 4,353 between 2016 and 2017, respectively. This represents a 16.7% increase (622 persons) 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.

In 2017, 238 (5.5%) of the entire unsheltered homeless population counted were under the age of 18 (i.e. unsheltered unaccompanied children). Annually, this number typically includes the unsheltered unaccompanied youth enumerated by the Clark County School District. However, there

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2016) The 2016 Annual Housing Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1. November 2016. (This document provides the most recently published nationwide data available)*

were no unsheltered unaccompanied youth to account for in 2017 within the Clark County School District. When comparing these totals to those of 2016, the total number of unsheltered unaccompanied children decreased by 9.9%. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of unsheltered unaccompanied children enumerated by the Clark County School District remained the same at zero persons.

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 2017 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 2014, 2015, and 2016, 64 persons were counted each year.[*] In 2017, 265 were 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 2016, 68% or (373,571 persons) of the homeless population were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. This represents a 4.6% decrease since 2015.[†]

In Southern Nevada, of the total number of persons experiencing homelessness counted in 2017, 32.9% (2,137 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.[‡]

The 2017 sheltered homeless population represents a 13.7% decrease from the 2016 sheltered homeless population.

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

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2016) The 2016 Annual Housing Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1. November 2016. (This document provides the most recently published nationwide data available)*

[‡] *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.*

In 2017, 179 (8.4%) 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 2016, 225 (9.1%) of sheltered homeless persons counted were under the age of 18. Thus, between 2016 and 2017, the number of sheltered homeless persons under the age of 18 decreased by 46 persons, representing a 20.4% decrease.

In 2017, 292 sheltered homeless persons enumerated were persons in families (i.e. households with at least one adult and one child). This is a 15.6% decrease (54 persons) compared to 2016. These 292 persons in families comprised 108 family households. This can be compared to 2016 data, which showed that the 346 persons in families comprised 114 households.

Figure 2: Point-In-Time Count Homeless Census Population
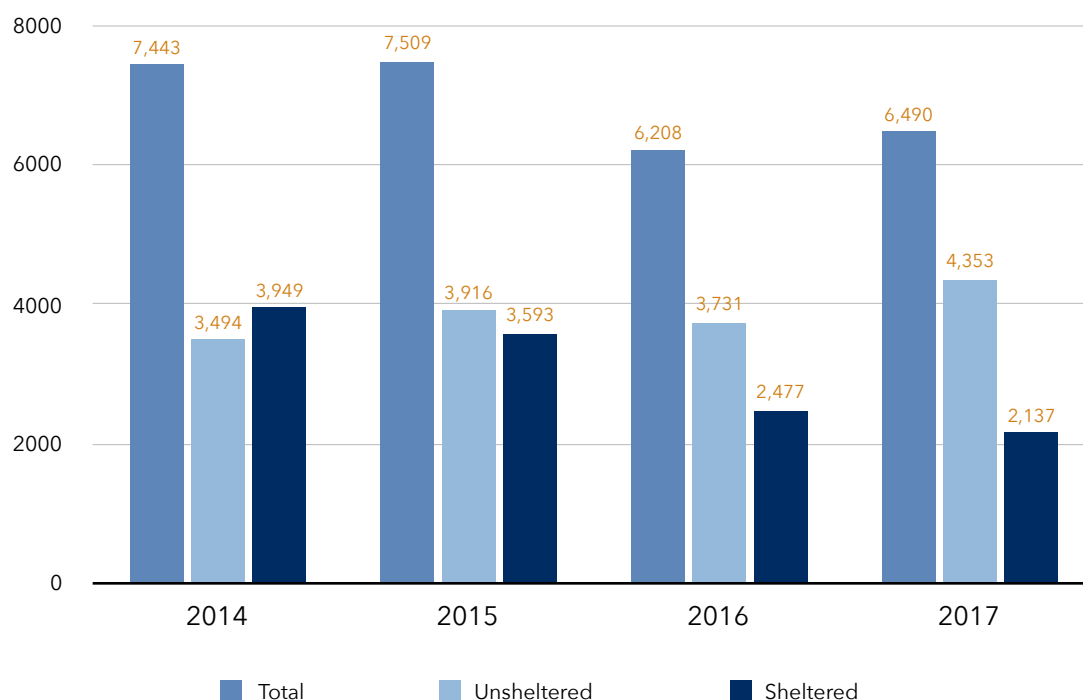
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

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Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Point-In-Time Homeless Census Population
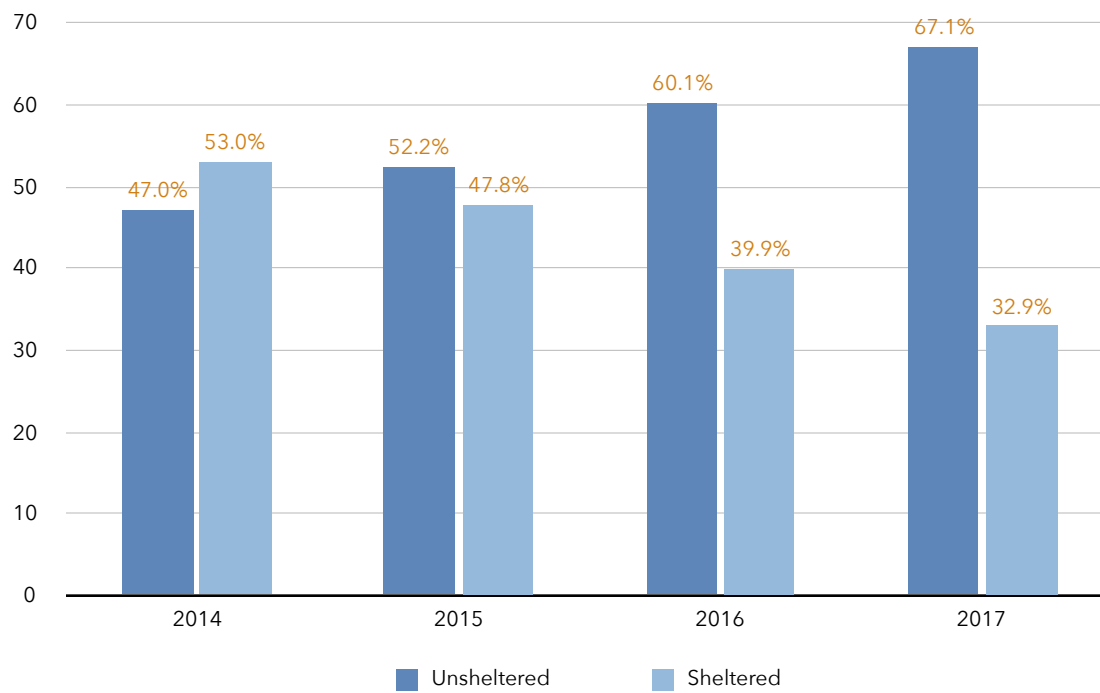
N: 2014 = 7,443; 2015 = 7,509, 2016 = 6,208, 2017 = 6,490
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

3.2c HUD-Defined Households

In 2017, HUD required CoCs to collect and report information on the following HUD-defined household types for both sheltered and unsheltered persons:

General Households

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

Veteran Households

- Veteran households with at least one adult (over age 18) and one child (under age 18)
- 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.

In 2017, HUD is requiring CoCs to report persons experiencing chronic homelessness by household type – persons in households with at least one adult and one child, persons in households without children, and persons in households with only children. HUD has also clarified that when reporting on any chronically homeless households (whether or not there are children), if one member of the household qualifies as chronically homeless, then all persons in the household should be counted as chronically homeless.

The following tables summarize these findings.

3.2c1. All Households

Figure 4: Households with At Least One Adult and One Child, 2017

	Sheltered			
	ES	**TH**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
Total Number of Households	81	27	3	111
Total Number of Persons	221	71	8	300
Number of Children	140	39	3	182
Number of Young Adults (Age 18–24)	9	8	4	21
Number of Adults (Over Age 24)	72	24	1	97
Gender (Adults and Children)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	157	54	2	213
Male	64	17	6	87
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (Adults and Children)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	177	69	7	253
Hispanic/Latino	44	2	1	47
Race (Adults and Children)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	60	6	6	72
Black or African American	145	55	2	202
Asian	2	3	0	5
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	0	0	7
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	7	7	0	14
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	1	0	1	2
Total Number of Persons	2	0	4	6

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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.

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Figure 5: Households Without Children, 2017

	Sheltered				
	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	1,376	406	20	4,073	5,875
Total Number of Persons	1,397	408	20	4,107	5,932
Number of Young Adults (Age 18–24)	51	83	0	1,662	1,796
Number of Adults (Over Age 24)	1,346	325	20	2,445	4,136
Gender	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	299	83	7	1,106	1,495
Male	1,098	322	13	2,982	4,415
Transgender	0	3	0	19	22
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,255	362	19	3,547	5,183
Hispanic/Latino	142	46	1	560	749
Race	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
White	760	212	14	2,462	3,448
Black or African American	532	165	3	1,097	1,797
Asian	38	8	0	123	169
American Indian or Alaska Native	16	2	0	151	169
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	9	0	38	59
Multiple Races	39	12	3	236	290
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Persons	72	0	12	356	440

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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), 2017

	Sheltered			
	ES	**TH**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
Total Number of Households	17	2	238	257
Total Number of Persons (Under 18)	17	3	238	258
Gender	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	9	2	130	141
Male	8	1	108	117
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	15	0	195	210
Hispanic/Latino	2	3	43	48
Race	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	2	1	32	35
Black or African American	13	0	163	176
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	2	2	43	47
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Persons	0	0	0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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, 2017

	Sheltered			
	ES	**TH**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
Total Number of Households	1	3	0	4
Total Number of Persons	2	8	0	10
Total Number of Veterans	1	3	0	4
Gender (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	1	0	0	1
Male	0	3	0	3
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1	3	0	4
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	0	0
Race (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	0	2	0	2
Black or African American	1	0	0	1
Asian	0	1	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons	0	0	0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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, 2017

	Sheltered			
	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	115	247	324	686
Total Number of Persons	116	249	327	692
Total Number of Veterans	115	248	324	687
Gender (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	4	17	87	108
Male	111	231	235	577
Transgender	0	0	2	2
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	108	231	280	619
Hispanic/Latino	7	17	44	68
Race (Veterans Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	74	139	194	407
Black or African American	35	91	86	212
Asian	3	5	10	18
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	1	12	13
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	3	3	8
Multiple Races	1	9	19	29
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Persons	8	0	10	18

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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, 2017

| | Sheltered | | | |
	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth Households	68	84	1,900	2,052
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth	68	84	1,900	2,052
Number of Unaccompanied Youth (Under Age 18)	17	1	238	256
Number of Unaccompanied Youth (Age 18–24)	51	83	1,662	1,796
Gender	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	33	23	578	634
Male	35	61	1,315	1,411
Transgender	0	0	7	7
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	60	69	1,478	1,607
Hispanic/Latino	8	15	422	445
Race	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	25	31	1,028	1,084
Black or African American	35	45	607	687
Asian	2	2	61	65
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	50	50
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	2	15	17
Multiple Races	6	4	139	149
Chronically Homelesss	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Persons	0	0	5	5

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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, 2017

| | Sheltered | | | |
	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Parenting Youth Households	9	9	2	20
Total Number of Persons in Parenting Youth Households	19	19	6	44
Total Number of Parenting Youth	9	9	4	22
Number of Parenting Youth (Under Age 18)	0	1	0	1
Number of Parenting Youth (Age 18-24)	9	8	4	21
Number of Children with Parenting Youth (Children Under Age 18 with Parents Under Age 25)	10	10	2	22
Gender (Parents Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Female	9	9	2	20
Male	0	0	2	2
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (Parents Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	6	8	3	17
Hispanic/Latino	3	1	1	5
Race (Parents Only)	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
White	3	0	1	4
Black or African American	6	7	2	15
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	2	1	3
Chronically Homeless	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons	0	0	0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2017), 2017 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, and Parks

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016-2017 Net Change	2016-2017 Percent Change
Persons in Cars	73	97	125	127	2	1.6%
Persons in Vans and RVs	259	115	117	87	-30	-25.6%
Persons in Abandoned Buildings	111	36	100	84	-16	-16.0%
Persons in Encampments	473	657	695	1,293	598	86.0%
Persons in Parks	0	0	0	3	3	0.0%
Total	916	905	1,037	1,594	557	53.7%

Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV

3.3 Countywide Annual Estimation

Many 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:

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

For Southern Nevada in 2017: 6,490 + [(480.225 x 51) x (1 - 0.245)] = 24,981.064 = 24,981 persons
For Southern Nevada in 2016: 6,208 + [(583.540 x 51) x (1 - 0.200)] = 30,016.432 = 30,016 persons
For Southern Nevada in 2015: 7,509 +[(653.290 X 51) x (1 - 0.193)] = 34,396.446 = 34,397 persons
For Southern Nevada in 2014: 7,443 +[(809.862 x 51) x (1 - 0.339)] = 34,744.258 = 34,744 persons

The 2017 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 24,981. This represents a 16.8% decrease (5,035 persons) from the 2016 annual estimate of 30,016 persons.

It's important to note that the HUD-approved method for determining annual estimates factors in the length of time homeless to determine annual inflow. Due to this methodology, it's entirely possible for the annual estimate to be lower than in previous years, while the actual PIT total may be greater — as is the case in 2017.

According to the annual estimate above, and the 2016 estimates from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation, homelessness makes up 1.2% of Southern Nevada's total population of 2,166,181 people.

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[*] *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 and Annual Estimate of Homelessness Net Change

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016-2017 Net Change	2016-2017 Percent Change
Point-In-Time Count	7,443	7,509	6,208	6,490	282	4.5%
Annual Estimate	34,744	34,397	30,016	24,981	-5,035	-16.8%
Total Population	2,031,723 (2013 updated)	2,069,450 (2014 updated)	2,118,353 (2015 updated)	2,166,181 (2016 updated)	47,828	2.3%
Point-In-Time to Annual Multiplier	4.7	4.6	4.8	3.9	-0.9	-18.8%
Percentage of Total Population	1.7%	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	-0.2%	-14.3%

Source:

Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV

* It is important to emphasize the fact that, per HUD, hidden homeless were not enumerated in 2016 or 2017. However, the hidden homeless were enumerated in all years prior. To accommodate this change in official requirements, the totals for 2014 and 2015 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.

** Previous Southern Nevada Census & Survey documents used 2010 population estimates from the U.S. Department of Commerce. In this 2017 report, we have updated all years' population estimates to reflect the population estimates from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation, last updated in 2016.

4. SURVEY FINDINGS: PROFILE OF HOMELESSNESS

This section of the 2017 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 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.

The 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey was administered during the weeks directly following the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. A total of 727 unique surveys were completed. Missing values have been intentionally omitted from the survey results. Thus, the total number 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 IV.*

4.1a Age

Figure 13: Survey Respondents by Age
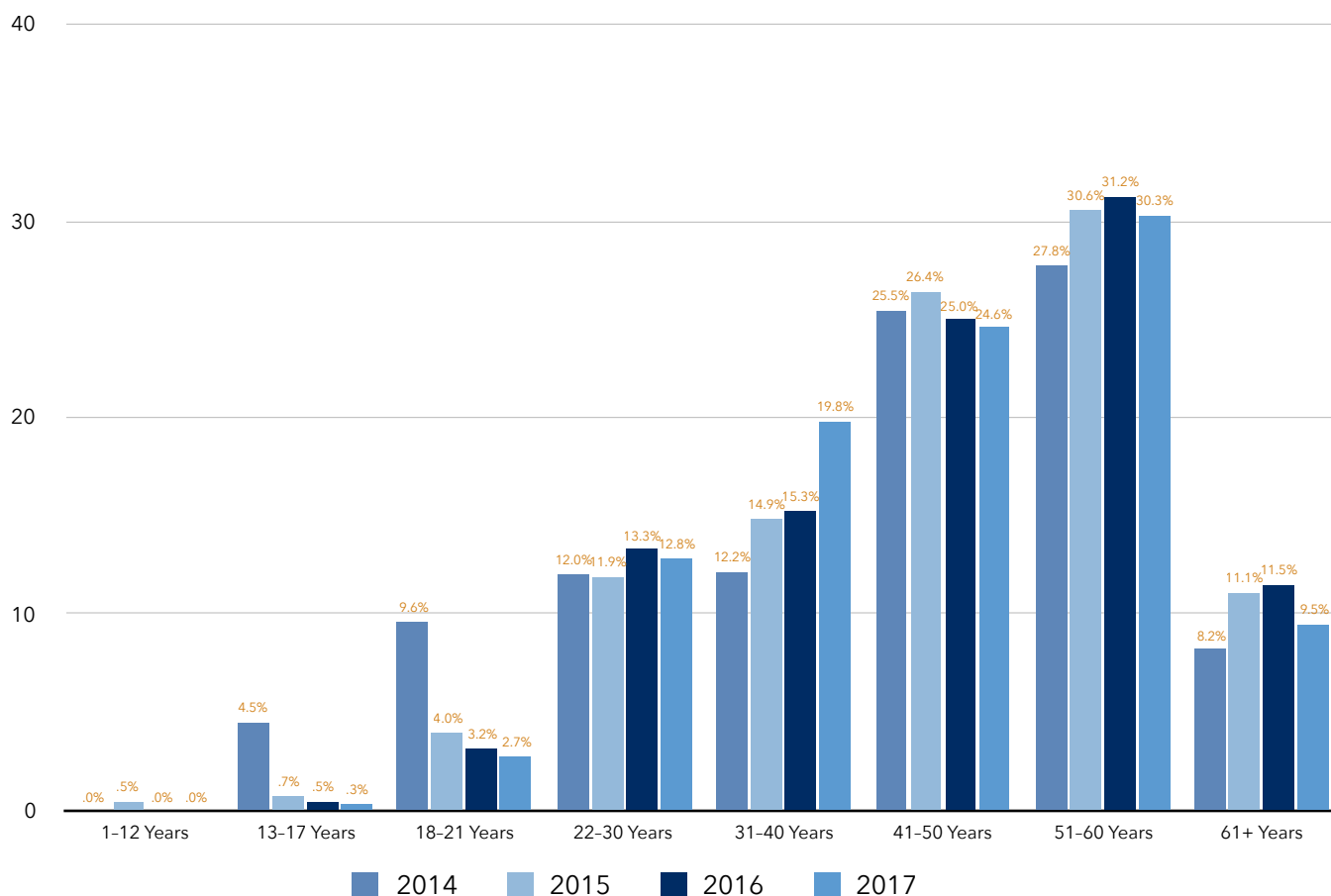
N: 2014 = 897, 2015 = 922, 2016 = 973, 2017 = 727

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 30.3% of respondents were between the ages of 51 and 60. The percentage is less for this age group than in 2016 (31.2%).

- 0.3% of survey respondents were under the age of 18. This represents a 0.2% decrease compared to 2016.

- 2.7% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21. This is a 0.5% decrease from the number of homeless persons in this category in 2016 (3.2%).

- 9.5% of survey respondents were over the age of 61. This is less than in 2016 when 11.5% reported belonging to this age group.

4.1b Race/Ethnicity

The most recent surveys conducted in Southern Nevada prior to 2017 (years 2014, 2015, and 2016) have shown that individual homeless persons are more likely to be white/Caucasian males over the age of 30. In 2014, 71.4% of the Southern Nevada survey respondents identified as male, and 47.3% of 2014 survey respondents identified their racial/ethnic group as White/Caucasian. Similarly, 68.7% of the 2015 respondents identified as male, and 48.2% identified as White/Caucasian. In 2016, 71.6% identified as male, and 50.6% of the respondents identified as White/Caucasian.[*] In 2017, 68.1% identified as male, and 55.3% of the respondents identified as white/Caucasian.

Figure 14: Adult Respondents by Race
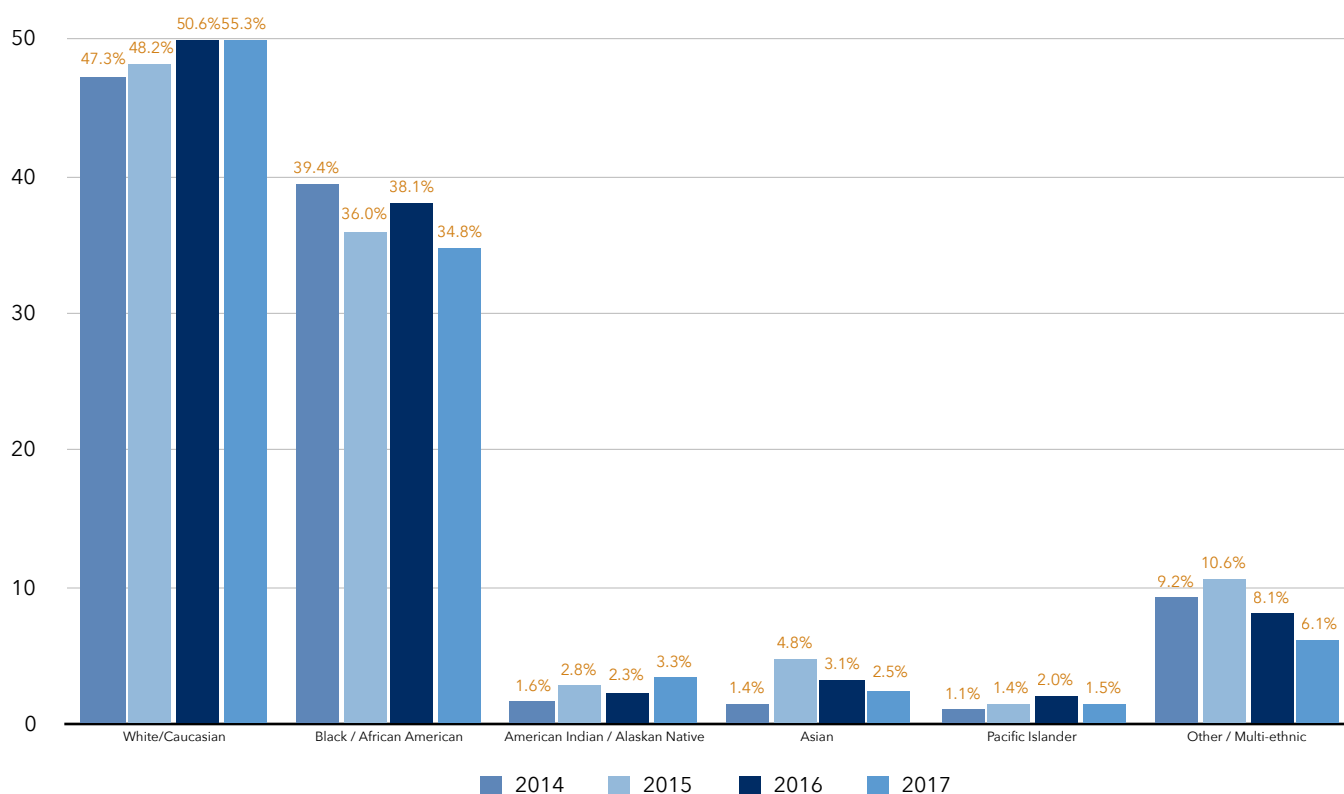
N: 2014 = 885, 2015 = Multiple response question with 922 respondents offering 957 responses[†], 2016 = Multiple response question with 973 respondents offering 1,013 responses, 2017 = Multiple response question with 727 respondents offering 752 responses,
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

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

[†] *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**:**

- 55.3% of survey respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian*.

- 34.8% of respondents identified their racial group as *Black / African American*.

- 3.3% of respondents identified their racial group as *American Indian / Alaskan Native*.

- 4.0% of respondents identified their racial group as *Asian / Pacific Islander*.

- 6.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Other/Multi-Ethnic*.

Figure 15: Respondents by Ethnicity
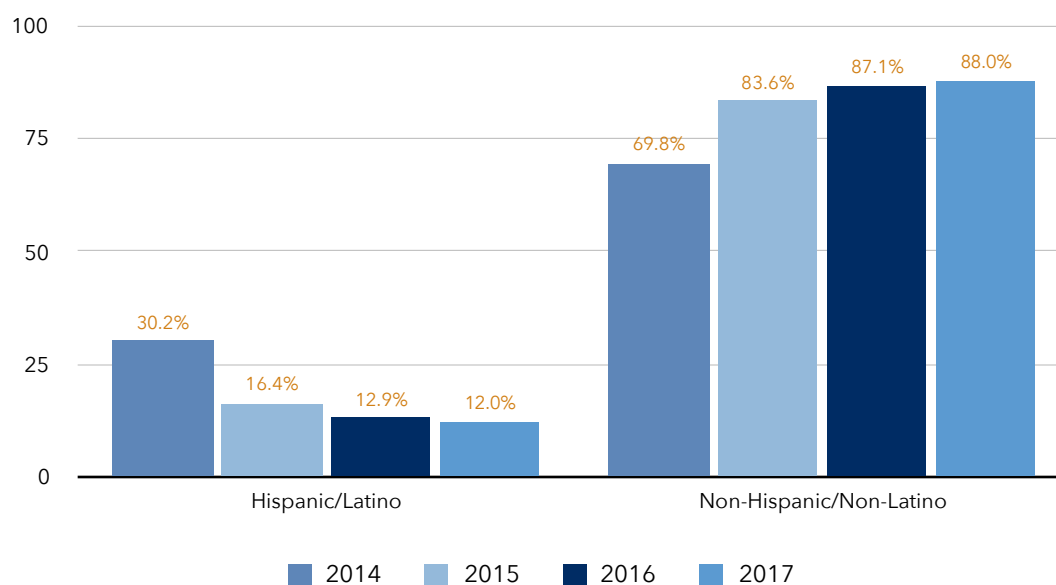
N: 2014 = 351; 2015 = 899, 2016 = 967, 2017 = 724
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 12.0% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*.

- 88.0% 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 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Surveys reflected the continuation of this trend; in both 2016 and 2017 the majority of survey respondents identified as male gender.

Summary**:**

- 68.1% of respondents identified as *male*. This is lower than in 2016 (71.6%).
- 30.8% of respondents identified as *female*. This is higher than in 2016 (28.2%).
- 8.9% of female respondents reported they were pregnant. This is nearly double the rate in 2016 (4.7%).
- 0.4% of respondents identified as *transgender*. This is double the rate in 2016 (0.2%).
- 0.7% of respondents reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender.* This data was not collected in previous years.

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?
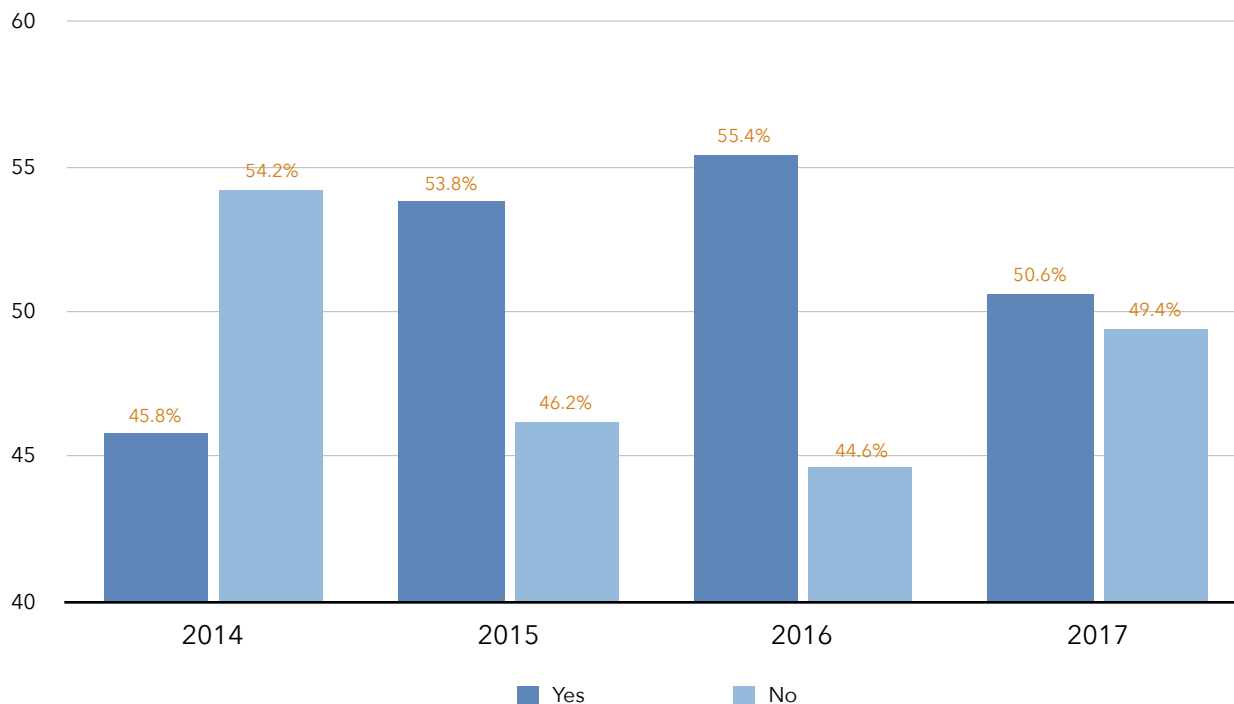
N: 2014 = 936; 2015 = 913, 2016 = 965, 2017 = 722
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- Fewer survey respondents (365) reported that they were homeless for the first time than did survey respondents in 2016 (535).

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

N: 2014 = 493, 2015 = 362, 2016 = 427, 2017 = 357
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- Between 2016 and 2017, the percentage of survey respondents who have been homeless 4 or more times in the last 3 years increased from 24.6% to 28.1%. This is important due to this is one of the criteria that determines whether a person can be deemed chronically homeless. More details on the definition for chronic homelessness are available in the *Appendix V: Glossary*.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents reporting more than 6 homeless episodes within the last 3 years increased by 1.3%.

In January 2016, 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 a disability; and

3. 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

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**.

To comply with this new requirement, the survey was altered to capture length of time experiencing homelessness.

For those respondents who reported being homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the past 3 years (100 respondents), 79.0% (79 respondents) of these respondents reported that the combined length of time for these homeless episodes was at least 12 months.

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4.2a.2 Primary Causes of Homelessness

Figure 18: Top Events That Led to Respondents' Homelessness (Top 6 Responses in 2017)
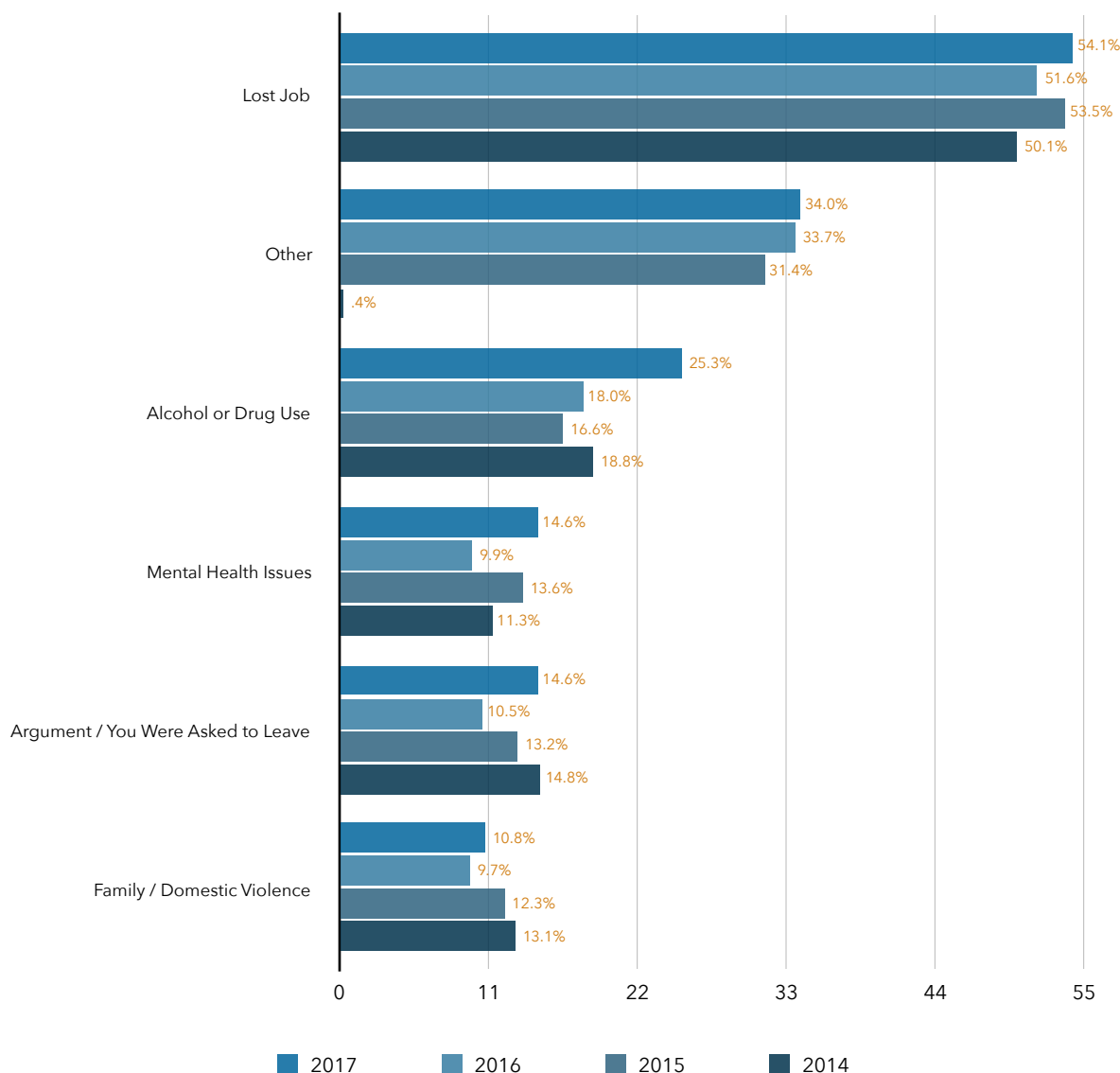
Multiple response question.
2014: 933 respondents provided 1,728 responses; 2015: 920 respondents provided 1,824 responses; 2016: 966 respondents provided 1,797 responses; 2017: 724 respondents provided 1,472 responses
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 54.1% of 2017 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 2016, *Job Loss* was also the most frequently cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising of 51.6% of respondents.

- *Other* was the second most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness in 2017 (34.0%). This is slightly more than that of 2016 (33.7%).

- *Alcohol or Drug Use* was the third most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness in 2017 (25.3%). In 2016, it was also the third most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising 18.0% of survey respondents.

- *Mental Health Issues* was the fourth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2017. Between 2016 and 2017, *Mental Health Issues* increased from 9.9% to 14.6% of survey responses.

- 14.6% of 2017 respondents cited *Argument / Family or Friend Asked You to Leave* as their primary reason for homelessness. This was more than in 2016 (10.5%).

- The *Family / Domestic Violence* category was the sixth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2017 (10.8%). This is more than in 2016 (9.7%)

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4.2a.3 County of Residency Prior to Homelessness

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

N: 2014 = 921; 2015 = 912, N: 2016 = 964, 2017 = 723
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- The majority of survey respondents (76.9%) reported living in *Southern Nevada* when they most recently became homeless.

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4.2a.4 Previous Living Arrangements

Figure 20: Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless This Time (Top 6 Responses in 2017)
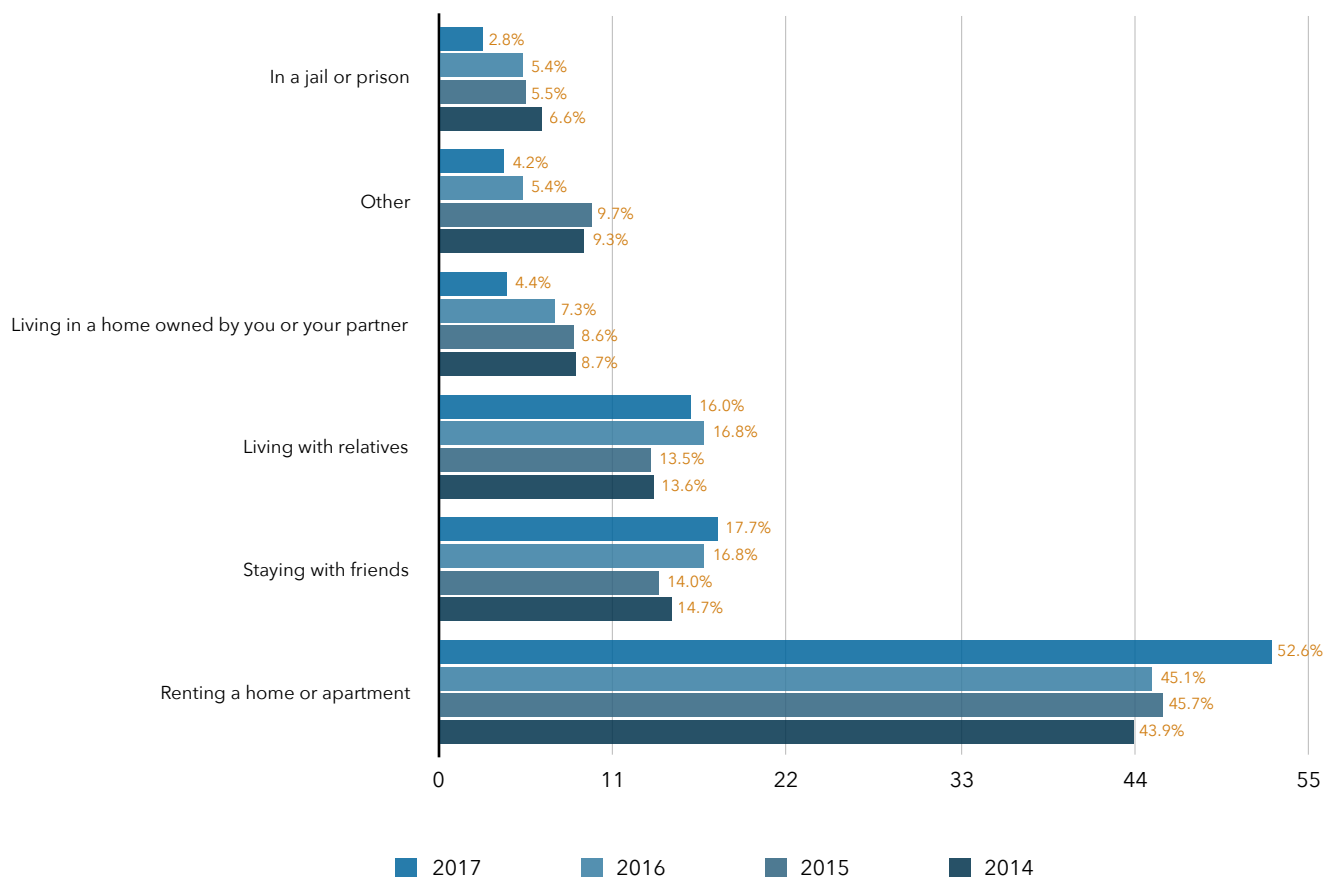
N: 2014 = 931; 2015 = 921; N: 2016 = 965; N: 2017 = 724
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (52.6%) of survey respondents reported that they were *renting a home or apartmen*t prior to becoming homeless. This is more than in 2016, when 45.1% of respondents cited the same information.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents reporting that they were *in a jail or prison* immediately prior to becoming homeless decreased from 5.4% (52 persons) to 2.8% (20 persons).

4.2b Living Conditions

4.2b.1 Duration of Homelessness

Figure 21: Length of Time Since Last Permanent Housing Situation

N: 2014 = 927; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 966; 2017 = 726
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 37.6% of the 2017 survey respondents reported that they had been been homeless for a year or more since their last permanent housing situation.* This has decreased from 2016 (38.7%).

- 18.3% of 2017 survey respondents reported having been homeless for 31 days or less, which is a decrease from the 21.4% recorded in 2016.

- 15.4% of 2017 survey respondents indicated they had been homeless for more than 3 years. The number of persons homeless for more than 3 years increased since 2016, when 14.5% of survey respondents qualified for this category.

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* 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).

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4.2b.2 Typical Nighttime Accommodations

Figure 22: Where Respondents Typically Stay at Night

N: 2014 = 932, 2015 = 920; N: 2016 = 967; N: 2017 = 725
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 50.8% of survey respondents reported typically living outdoors (streets, parks, encampments). This is a 15.9% increase from 2016.

- 39.5% of survey respondents reported typically staying in sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, other shelter). This is less than in 2016 (52.0%).

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4.2b.3 Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Figure 23: Circumstances That Were Preventing Respondents from Securing Permanent Housing (Top 5 Responses in 2017)

Multiple response question.

930 respondents provided 1,693 responses in 2014; 919 respondents provided 2,081 responses in 2015; 966 respondents provided 2,019 responses in 2016; 723 respondents provided 1,834 responses in 2017

Source:

Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

Summary:

- As with previous surveys, *No Job / No Income* was the most commonly cited obstacle to obtaining housing in 2017 (71.0%). This number is more than that of 2016 (69.7%).

- 56.4% of 2017 survey respondents cited *Inability to Afford Rent* as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing. This number is more than in 2016 (43.7%).

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4.2c Income and Employment

4.2c.1 Employment Status

Effective January 26, 2017, the poverty guidelines — updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2) — indicates that the official 2017 poverty level for an individual is $12,060 annually, or $1,005 per month.[*] Note that the poverty level has increased slightly since 2016 when it was $990/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. 82, No. 19, p. 8832, 2017*

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

[‡] *Center for Women's Welfare, Self Sufficiency Calculator. Retrieved June 2, 2017 from: http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/.*

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Figure 24: Employment Status of Respondents
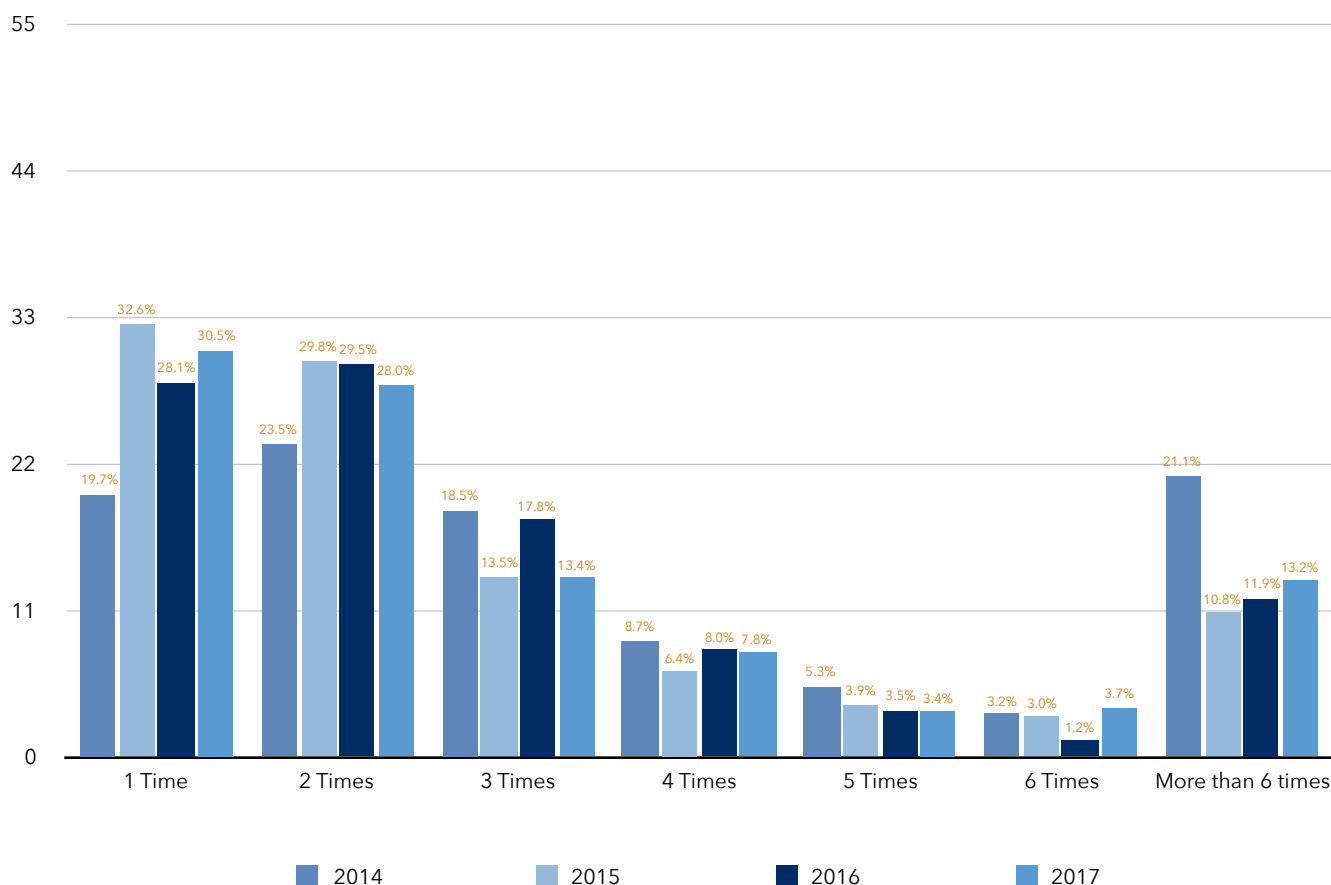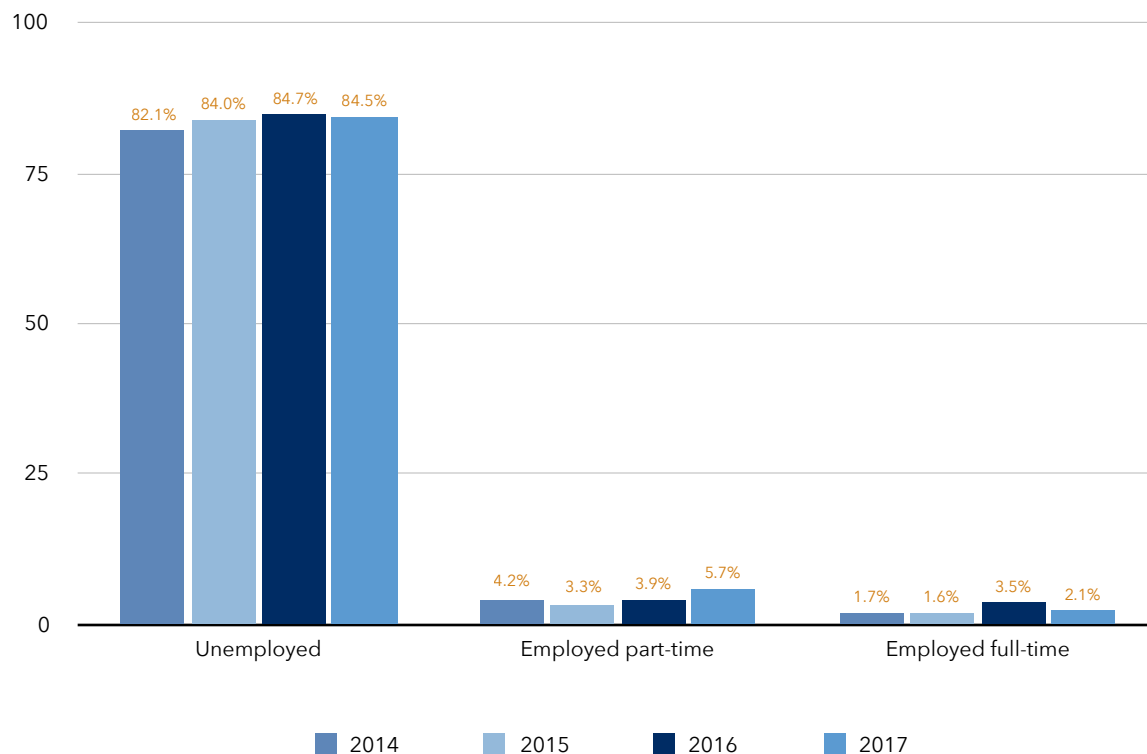

N: N: 2014 = 926; N: 2015 = 915; N: 2016 = 971; N: 2017 = 723
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 84.5% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing unemployment at the time of the survey. This percentage is slightly smaller than in 2016 (84.7%).

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Figure 25: Respondent's Barriers to Getting Employment (Top 10 Responses in 2017)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016-2017 Net Change
Need Clothing	15.3%	17.2%	16.8%	32.4%	15.6%
Need Training	12.5%	17.5%	15.9%	29.6%	13.7%
No Transportation	27.4%	28.7%	22.5%	29.5%	7.0%
Need Education	13.1%	12.5%	10.6%	25.8%	15.2%
No Permanent Address	23.4%	19.5%	17.9%	24.1%	6.2%
No Phone	9.1%	14.2%	9.1%	23.7%	14.6%
No Shower Facilities	6.7%	9.7%	10.2%	21.9%	11.7%
No Photo Identification	10.9%	11.5%	14.0%	19.7%	5.7%
Disabled	13.6%	14.6%	19.6%	17.1%	-2.5%
Other	15.5%	19.3%	19.9%	15.1%	-4.8%

Multiple response question.
880 respondents with 1,907 responses in 2014; 907 respondents provided 2,093 responses in 2015; 950 respondents provided 1,998 responses in 2016; 709 respondents provided 2,164 responses in 2017
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.
NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

Summary:

- In 2017, the leading barrier to employment was *Need Clothing* (32.4%). This category increased by 15.6% between 2016 and 2017.

- Between 2016 and 2017, there were also significant increases for the categories *Need Training, Need Education, No Phone,* and *No Shower Facilities.*

- Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 2.5% decrease in respondents identifying *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: 2014 = 907; N: 2015 = 919; N: 2016 = 970; N: 2017 = 724
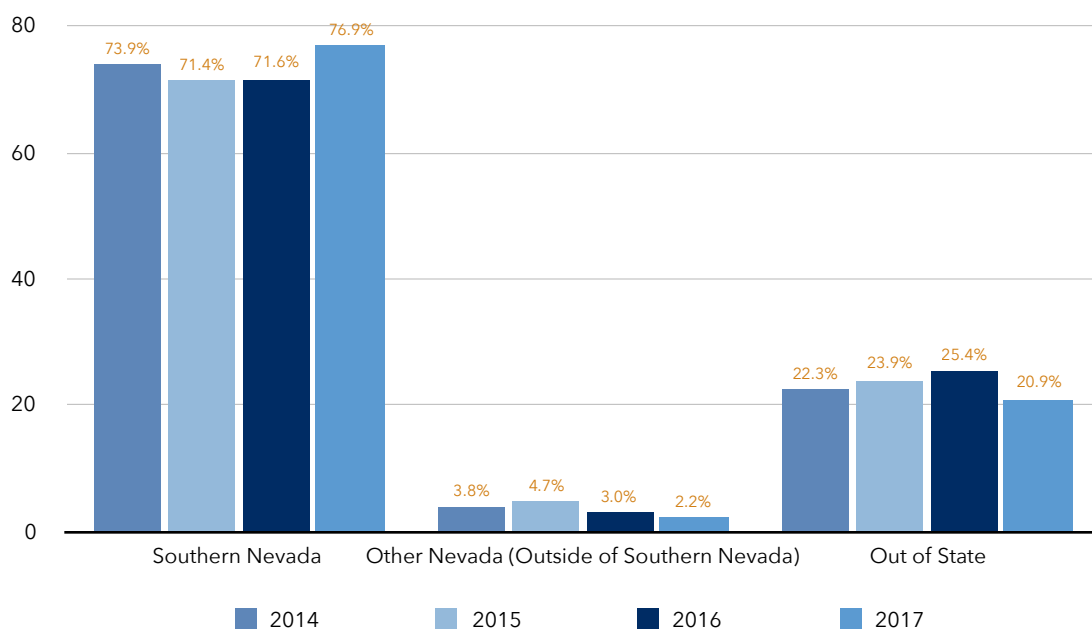*Source:*
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 19.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than $500 per month in government benefits, which is, in general, more than previous years.

- The number of survey respondents receiving between $201 and $500 per month decreased by 1.6% compared to 2016.

- The number of survey respondents (36.6%) who reported to be receiving no money from government benefits increased by 3.4% since 2016.

4.2c.3 Income – From Private Non-Government Sources

Summary**:**

- 2017 data indicates homeless individuals may be receiving lower amounts of income from other sources (e.g. panhandling, recycling, etc.). More specifically, 74.8% of 2017 survey respondents claimed to be receiving no money from other sources. This is the same as in 2016.
- 91.9% of the 2017 survey respondents were receiving $500 or less from other sources. This is less than in 2016 (94.0%).

4.2c.4 Income – From Other Sources

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

Summary:

- From 2016 to 2017, the number of survey respondents receiving income from family and friends decreased from 17.1% to 16.2%.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents obtaining income through recycling increased from 5.1% to 9.0%.

4.3 Utilization of Government Assistance and Homelessness Programs

4.3a Services and Programs: Type of Assistance and Barriers to Assistance

Figure 27: Of Those Using Any Services or Assistance, Types of Services or Assistance Used (Top 6 Responses in 2017)
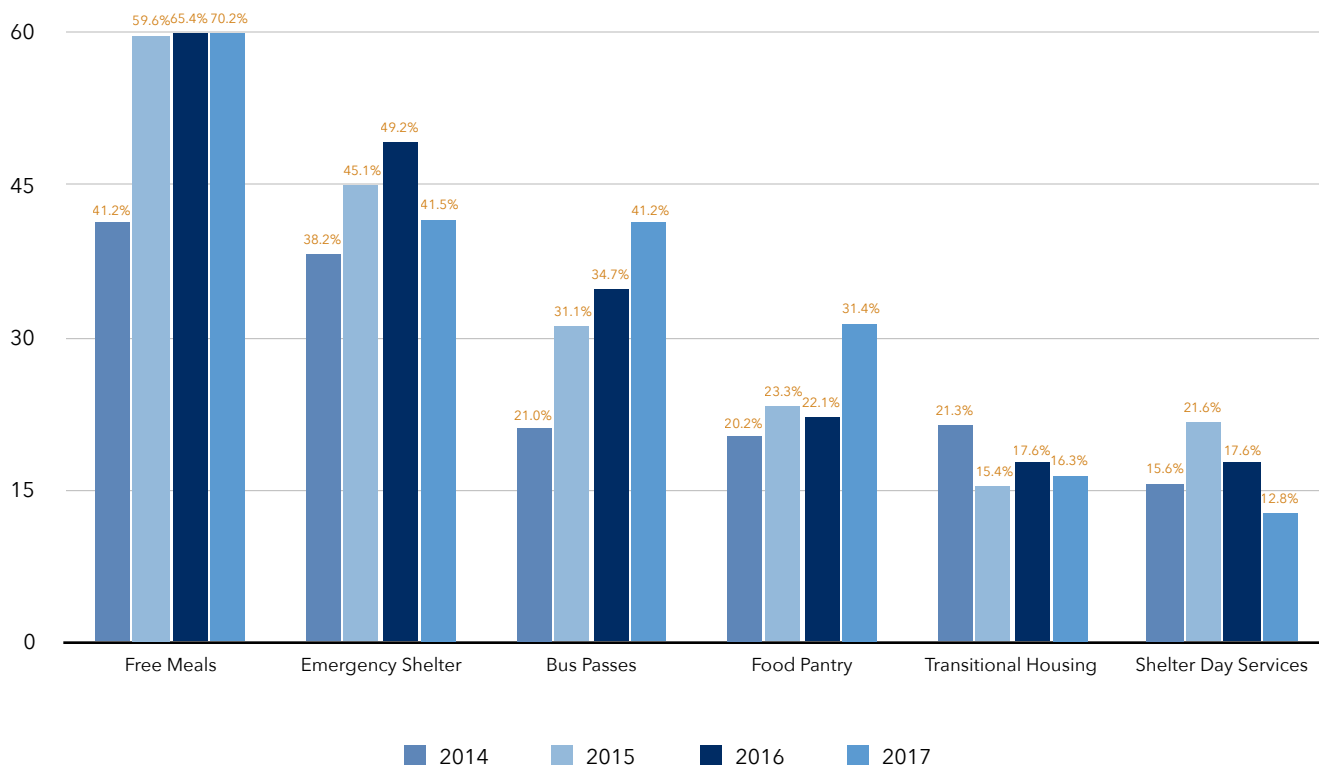
Multiple response question.
29 respondents provided 1,962 responses in 2014; 914 respondents provided 2,308 responses in 2015; 958 respondents provided 2,419 responses in 2016; 711 respondents provided 1,858 in 2017
Source:
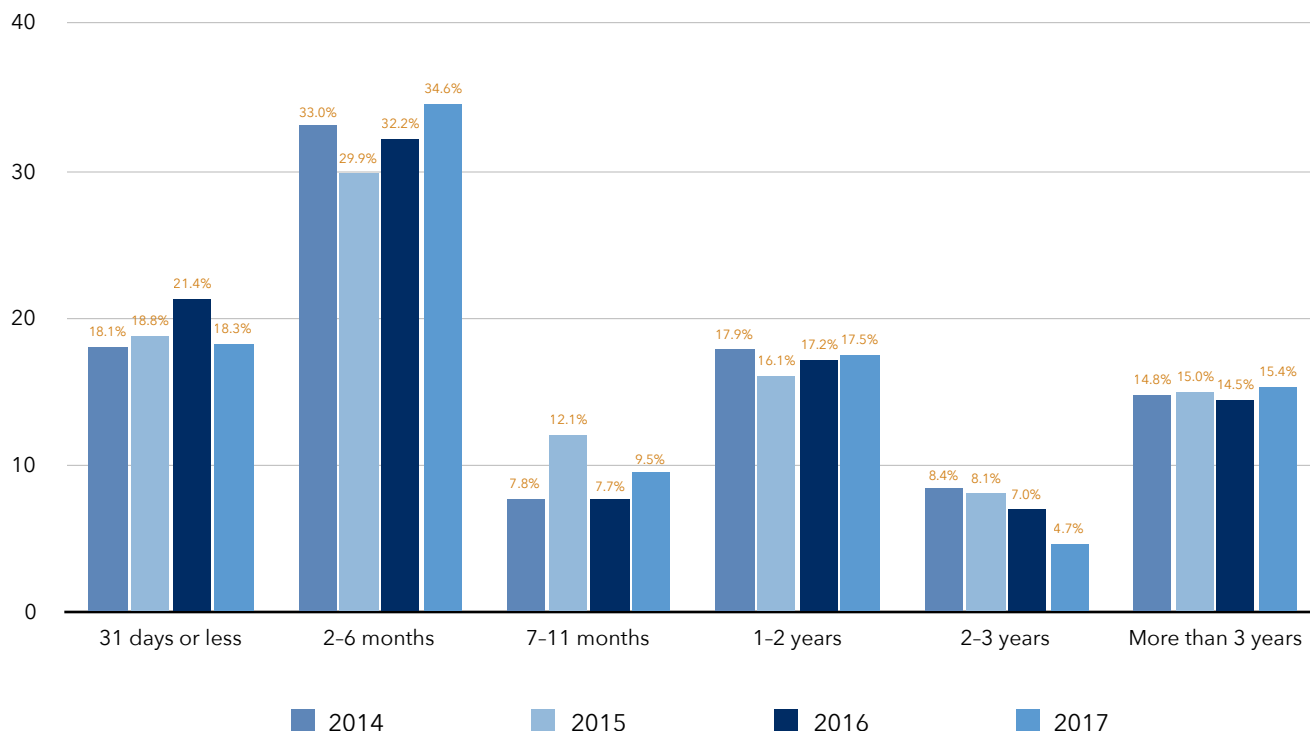*Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*
NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

Summary**:**

- Between 2016 and 2017, utilization of *Emergency Shelters* decreased by 7.7%.

- Usage of *Food Pantry* services increased by 9.3% between 2016 and 2017.

- 12.8% of 2017 survey respondents reported using *Shelter Day Services*, which is less than in 2016 (17.6%).

- 16.3% of 2017 survey respondents reported using *Transitional Housing*, which is less than in 2016 (17.6%).

Figure 28: Of Those Receiving Some Form of Government Assistance, Types of Assistance Received (Top 5 Responses in 2017)

Multiple response question. 916 respondents provided 1,097 responses in 2014; 899 respondents provided 1,105 responses in 2015; 942 respondents provided 1,173 responses in 2016; 692 respondents provided 843 responses in 2017.
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.
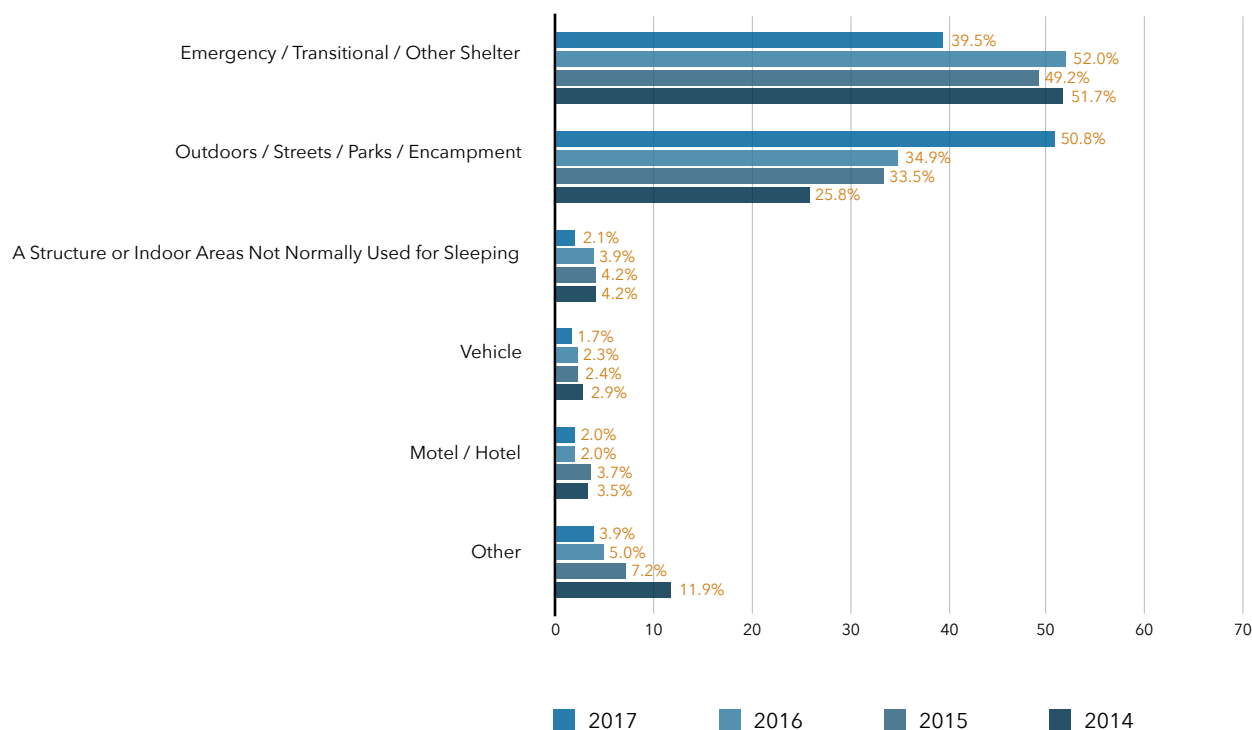*NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.*

Summary:

- 83.2% of 2017 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits, which is lower than in 2016 (85.7%).[*]

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents receiving *Social Security* benefits decreased from 4.6% to 3.8%.

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[*] *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.*

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents receiving *Food Stamps* decreased from 76.2% to 75.1%.

4.3b Aging Out of Foster Care

In 2017, 0.6% of survey respondents cited *Aging Out of Foster Care* as their reason for homelessness. In 2016, 0.5% 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 2016, 40.2% of the Southern Nevada survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care compared to 11.9% that stated they utilize free/community clinics. In contrast, 52.9% of 2017 survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care, and the utilization of free/community clinics decreased to 6.5%.

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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*

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4.4a Health and Disability

4.4a.1 Disabling Conditions

Figure 29: Number of Disabling Conditions Among All Homeless Respondents
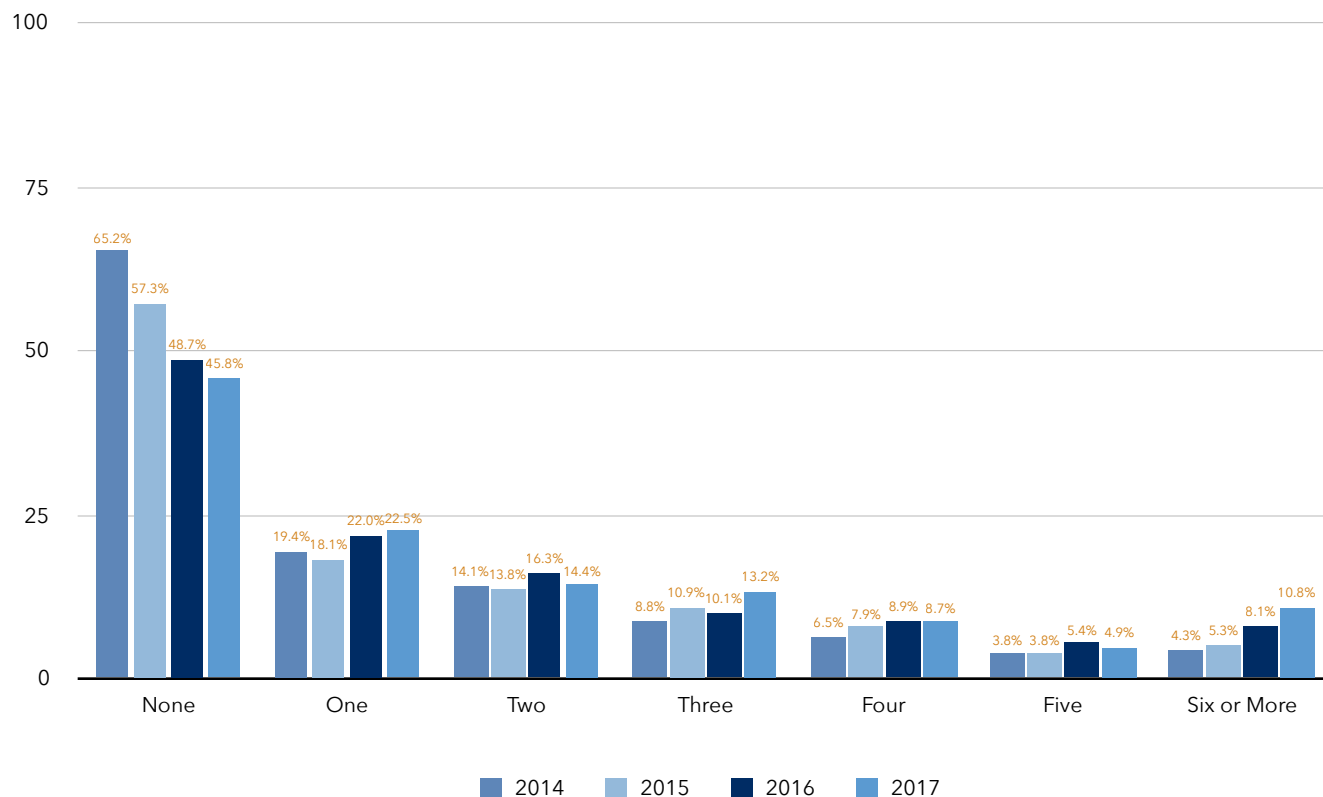
N: 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016: N = 973; 2017: N = 727
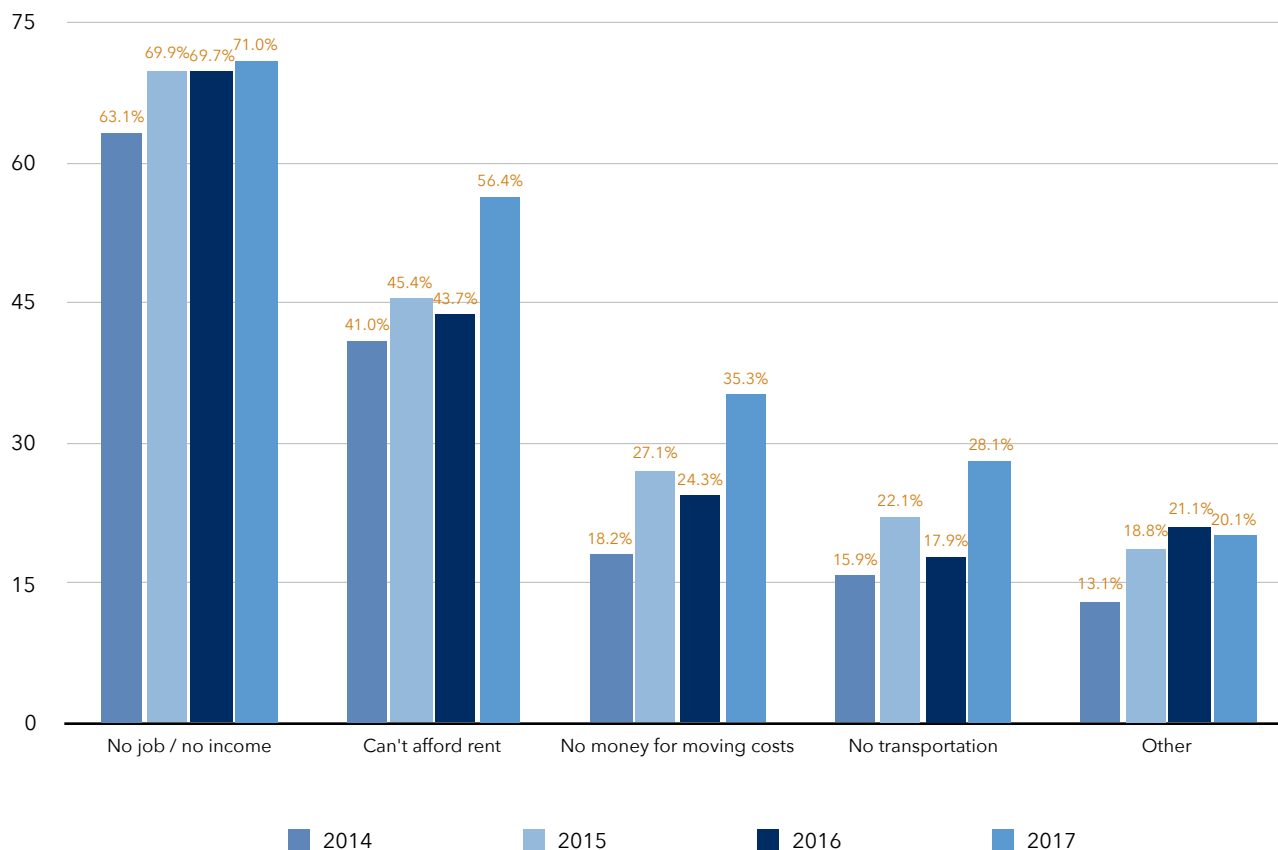Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:*

- 74.5% of survey respondents reported one or more disabling conditions. This is an increase compared to 2016 when 70.8% of survey respondents were in this category.

_____

* 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.

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- 45.8% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions. This is a decrease since 2016 when 48.7% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions.

- 10.8% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions. In 2016, 8.1% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents reporting three disabling conditions increased from 10.1% to 13.2%.

4.4a.2 Chronic Health Problems

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

N: 2014 = 865, 2015 = 912; N: 2016 = 969; N: 2017 = 723
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 29.9% of survey respondents reported that they had ever experienced chronic health problems. This percentage is lower than in 2016 when 31.7% of respondents indicated they had ever experienced chronic health problems.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the percentage of respondents saying they had ever experienced chronic health problems decreased from 31.7 % to 29.9% .

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4.4a.3 Physical and Developmental Disabilities

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

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; 2017: Physical Disability N = 723; Developmental Disability N = 720; NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.
Source:
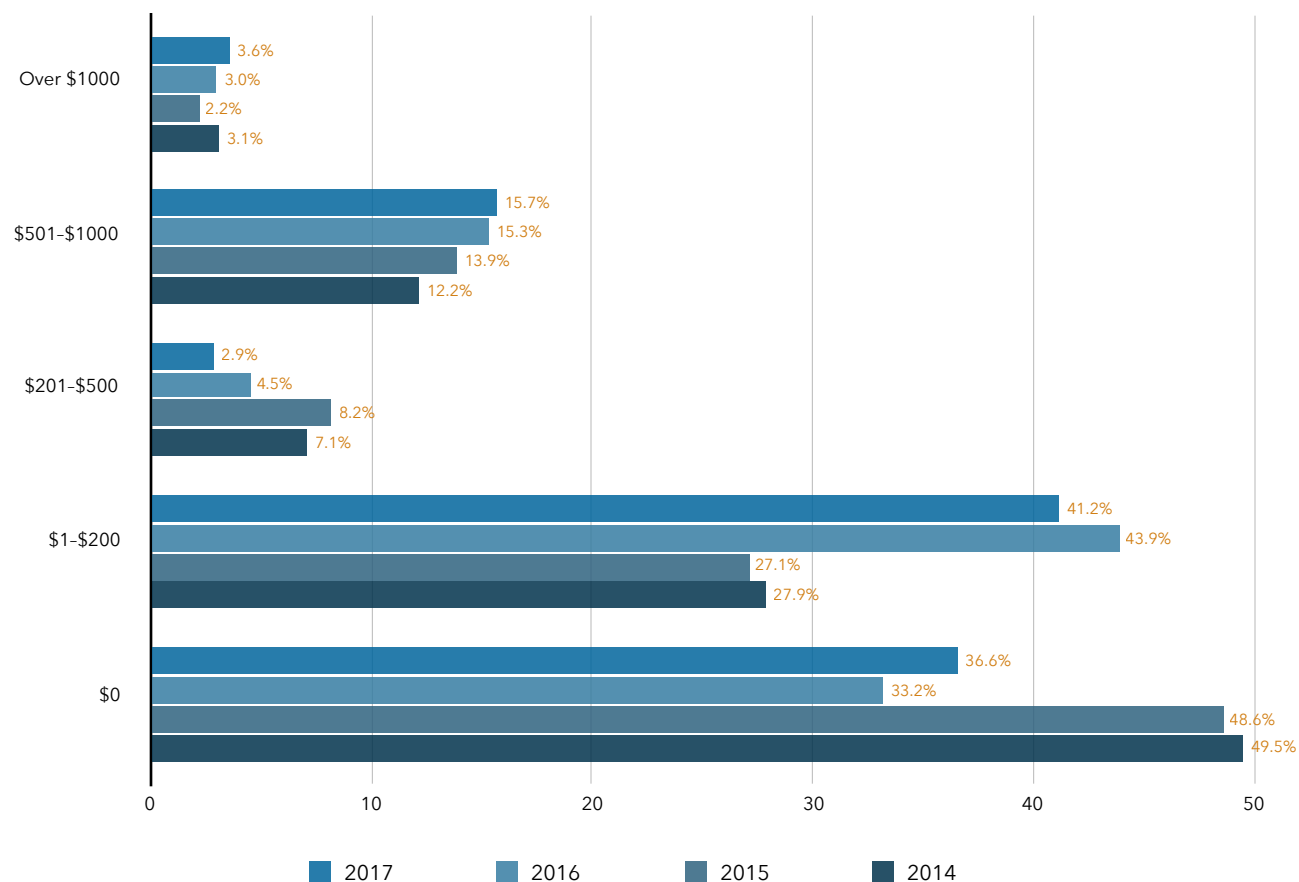*Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

Summary: Physical Disabilities

- 34.6% of survey respondents indicated they were currently or had ever experienced a physical disability.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of respondents reporting physical disabilities decreased by 2.9%.

Summary: Developmental Disabilities

- In 2017, 8.8% of survey respondents indicated they currently or had ever experienced a developmental disability.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of respondents reporting developmental disabilities increased by 1.8%.

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?
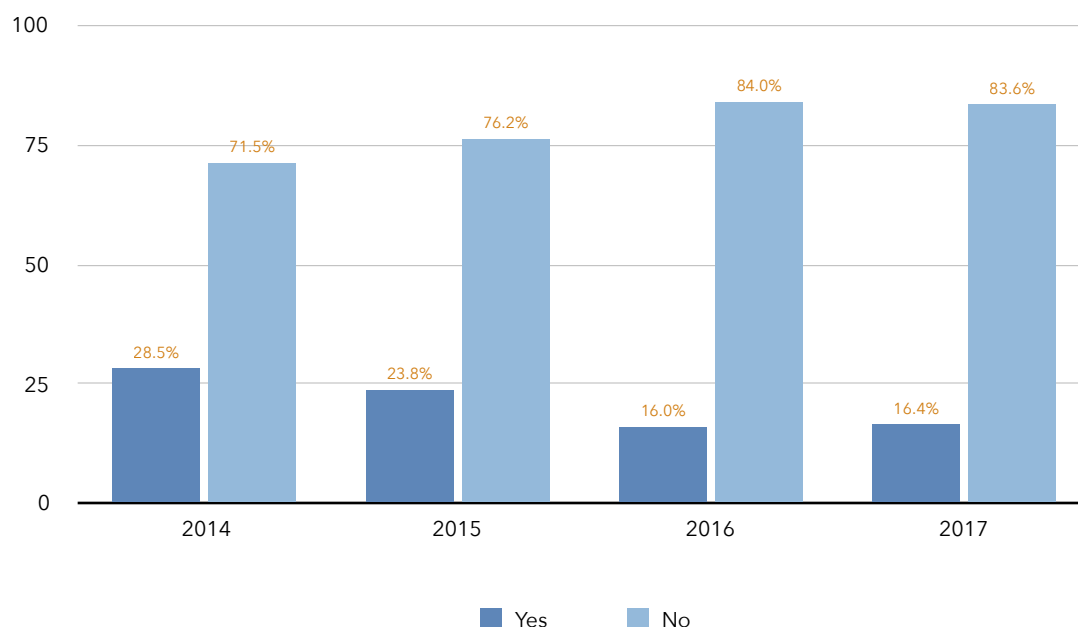
N: 2014 = 916, 2015 = 906; 2016 = 961; 2017 = 721
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- From 2016 to 2017, the number of survey respondents reporting they needed medical attention but were unable to receive it increased from 16.0% to 16.4%.

- 83.6% of 2017 survey respondents indicated that they have been able to receive medical care when they needed it since most recently becoming homeless. This is a slight decrease from 2016 when 84.0% 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 2017)
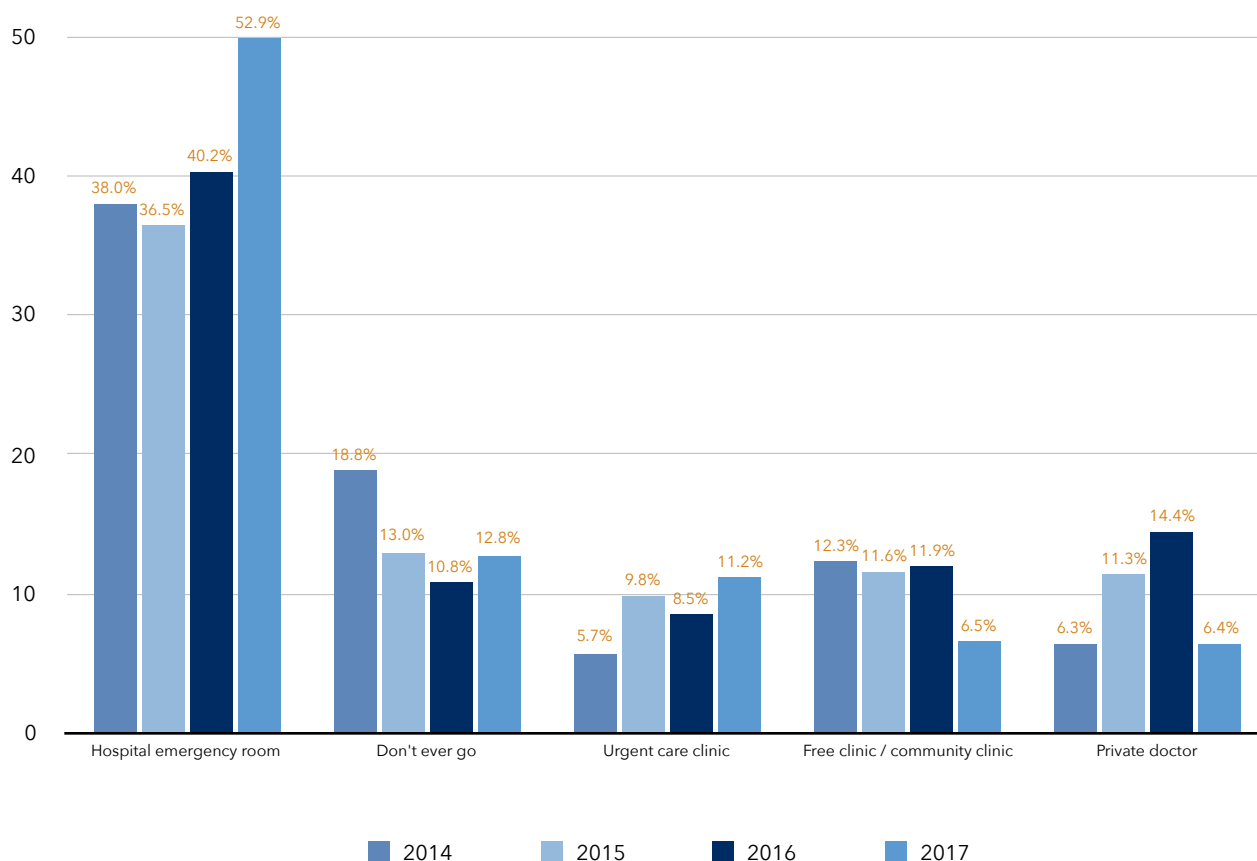
N: 2014 = 922; 2015 = 917; 2016 = 969; 2017 = 724
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 52.9% of survey respondents reported using the *Hospital Emergency Room (ER)* as their usual source of medical care. This percentage is higher than in 2016, when 40.2% of survey respondents indicated they used the *ER* as their usual source of medical care.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of survey respondents who cited the *Free Clinic / Community Clinic* as their usual source of medical care decreased from 11.9% to 6.5%.

- 12.8% of survey respondents indicated that they did not receive any medical services. This increased by 2.0% between 2016 and 2017.

Figure 34: Number of Times Respondents Had Used the Emergency Room for Any Treatment in the Year Prior to the Survey
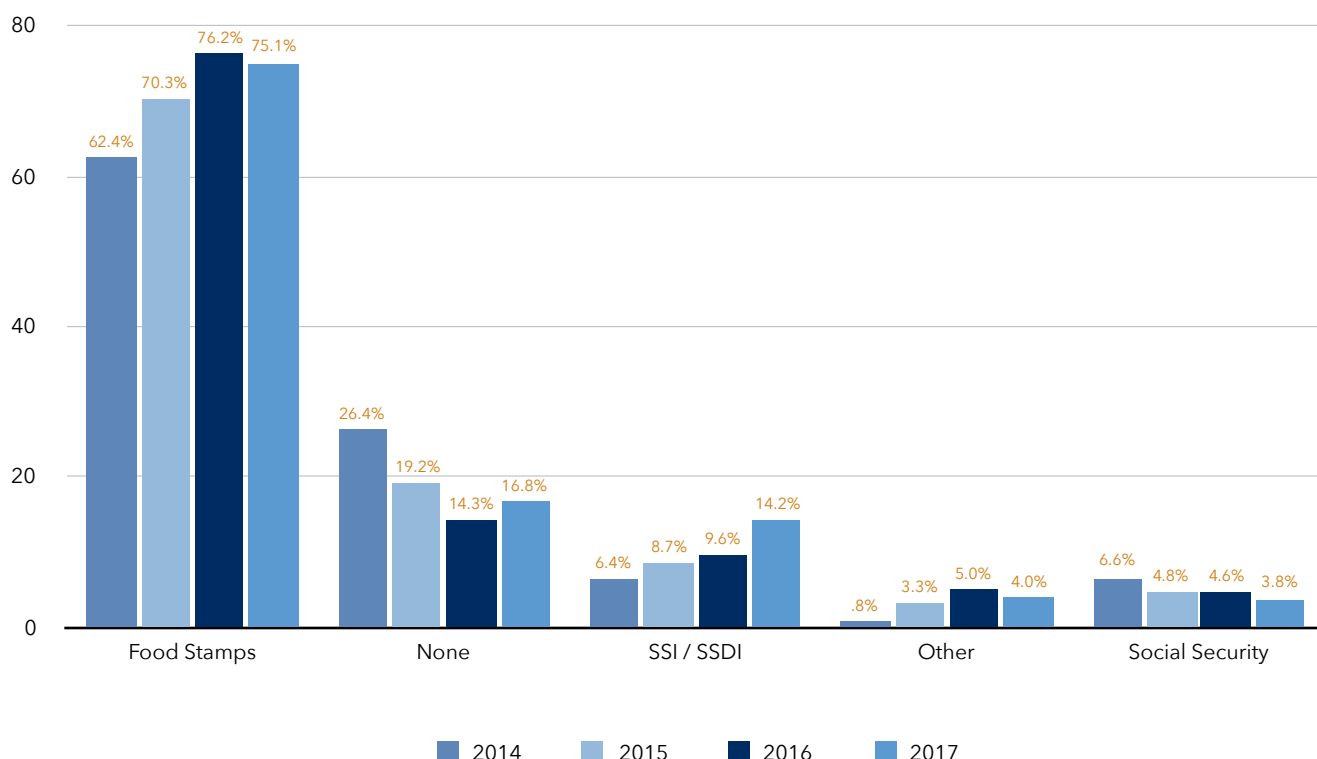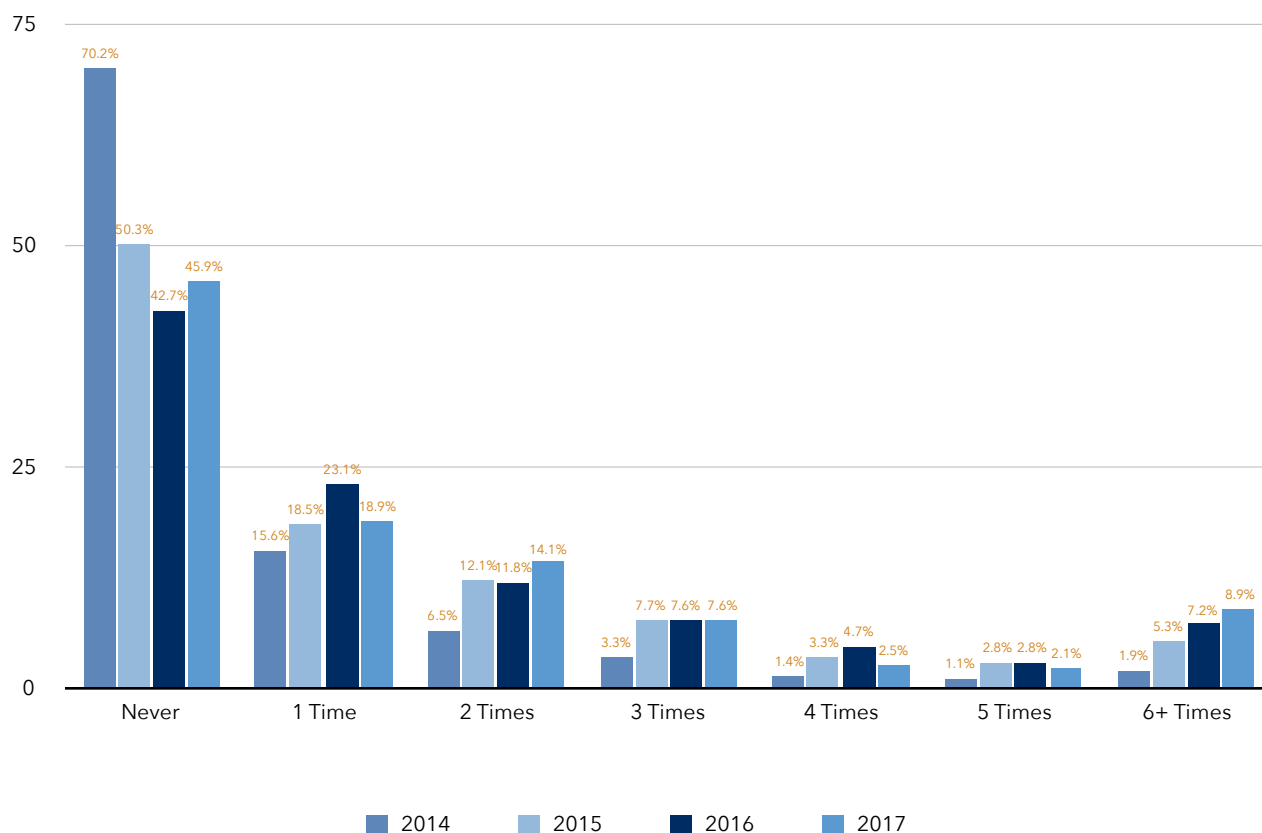

N: 2014 = 899; 2015 = 920; 2016 = 969; 2017 = 723
Source:
Bitfocus Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- In 2017, 54.1% of respondents indicated that they used the *ER* at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey. This represents a 3.2% decrease from 2016 (57.3%).

- The number of respondents who claimed to never use the *ER* during the 12 months prior to the survey increased from 42.7% in 2016 to 45.9% in 2017.

- 8.9% of survey respondents claimed to have used the *ER* six or more times in the 12 months prior to the survey. This percentage is higher than that of 2016 (7.2%).

4.4c Current and/or Past Substance Abuse Experiences

Figure 35: Have You Ever Abused Drugs/Alcohol or Been Told You Do?
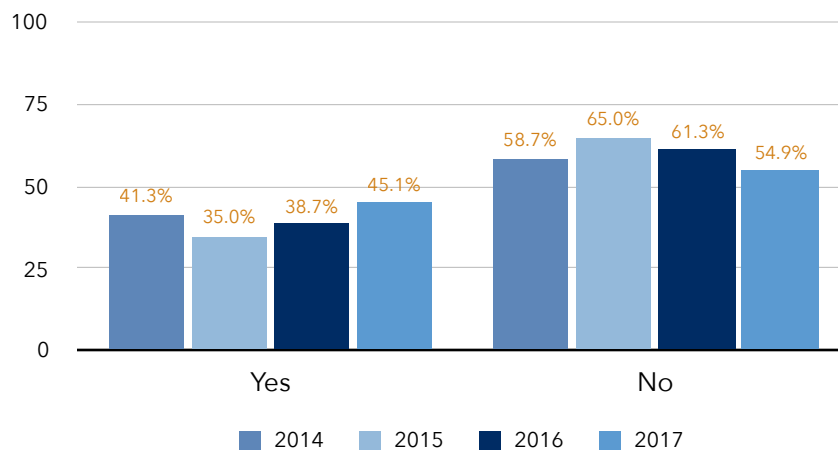
N: 2014 = 925; 2015 = 913; 2016 = 966; 2017 = 719
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- In 2017, 45.1% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Abused Drugs/Alcohol* or had been told they do. This is higher than in 2016 (38.7%).

Figure 36: Have You Ever Consumed Alcohol Every Day for the Past Month?
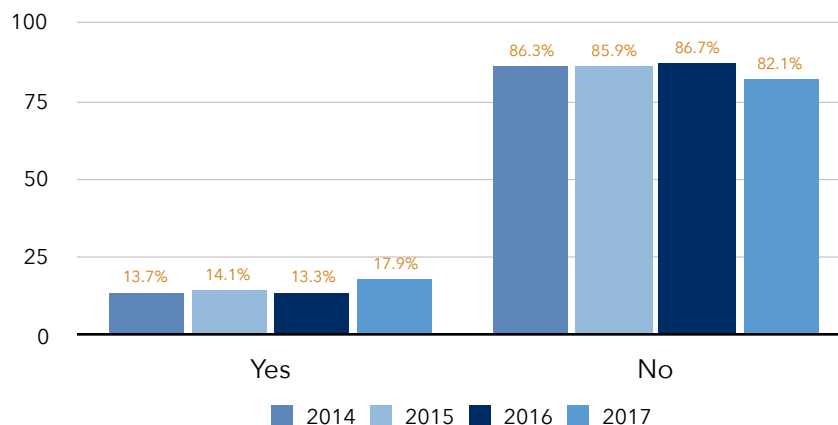
N: 2014 = 915; 2015 = 911; 2016 = 968; 2017 = 720
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 17.9% of survey respondents indicated that they had consumed *Alcohol* every day for the past month. This is higher than in 2016 (13.3%).

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Figure 37: Have You Ever Used Injection Drugs or Shots?
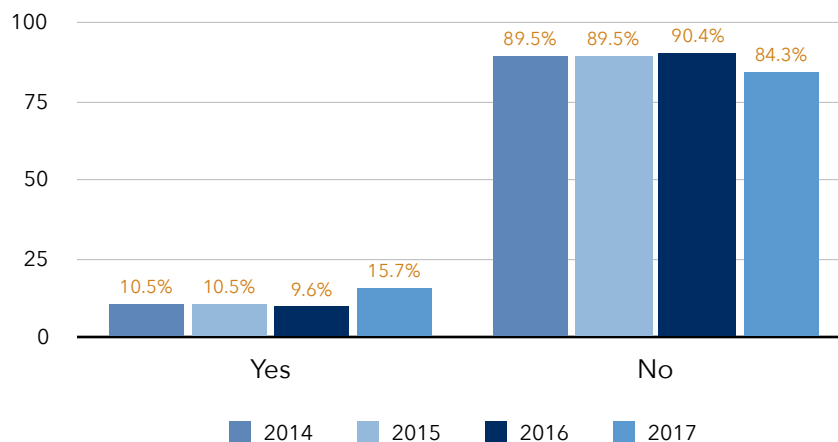
N: 2014 = 912; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 964; 2017 = 719
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 15.7% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever used *Injection Drugs or Shots*. This is higher than in 2016 (9.6%).

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Figure 38: Have You Ever Been Treated for Alcohol or Drug Abuse?
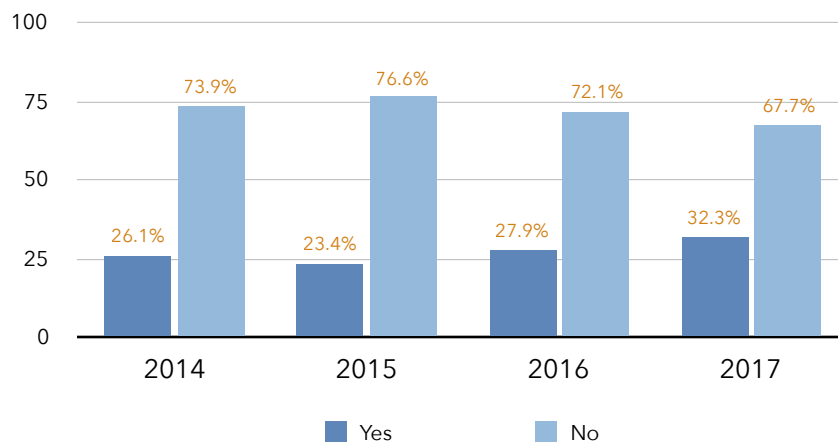
N: 2014 = 909; 2015 = 913; 2016 = 969; 2017 = 721
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 32.3% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Been Treated for Alcohol or Drug Abuse*. This is higher than in 2016 (27.9%).

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4.4d Current and/or Past Mental Health Experiences

Figure 39: Are You Currently, or Have You Ever, Received Treatment for Mental Health Issues?
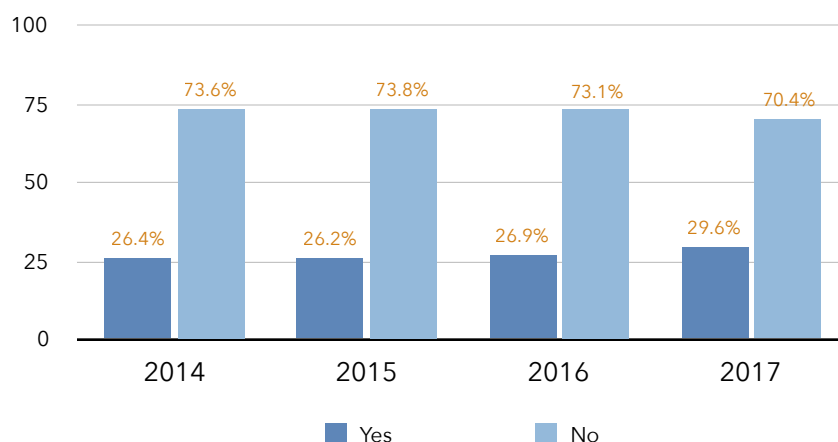
N: 2014 = 914; 2015 = 920; 2016 = 970; 2017 = 719
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 29.6% of survey respondents indicated that they are *Currently Receiving Treatment for Mental Health Issues, Or Have in the Past*. This is higher than in 2016 (26.9%).

Figure 40: Were You Ever Taken to the Hospital Against Your Will for Mental Health Reasons?
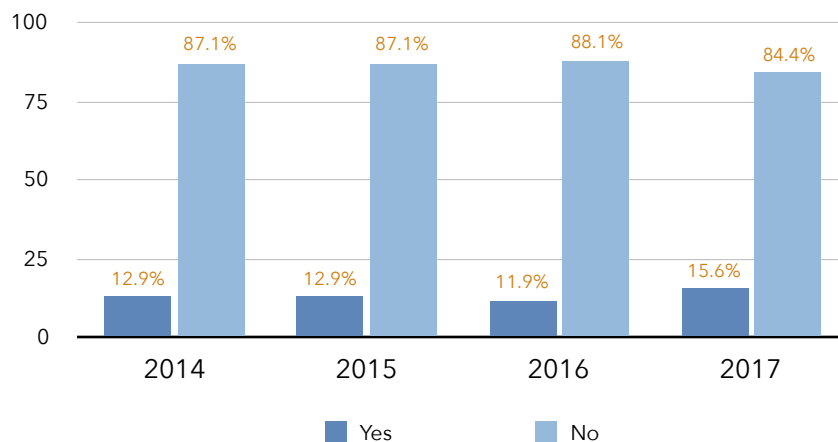
N: 2014 = 904; 2015 = 919; 2016 = 966; 2017 = 717
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 15.6% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever *Been Taken to the Hospital Against Their Will for Mental Health Reasons*. This is higher than in 2016 (11.9%).

4.4e Survey Administrator Observations

Figure 41: Observation – Serious Physical Health Conditions
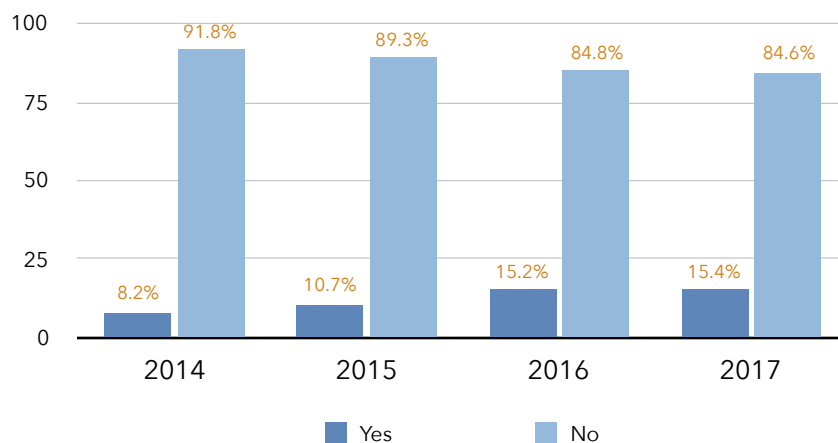
N: 2014 = 719; 2015 = 833; 2016 = 970; 2017 = 716
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 15.4% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Serious Physical Health Conditions*. This is slightly higher than in 2016 (15.2%).

Figure 42: Observation – Alcohol or Drug Abuse
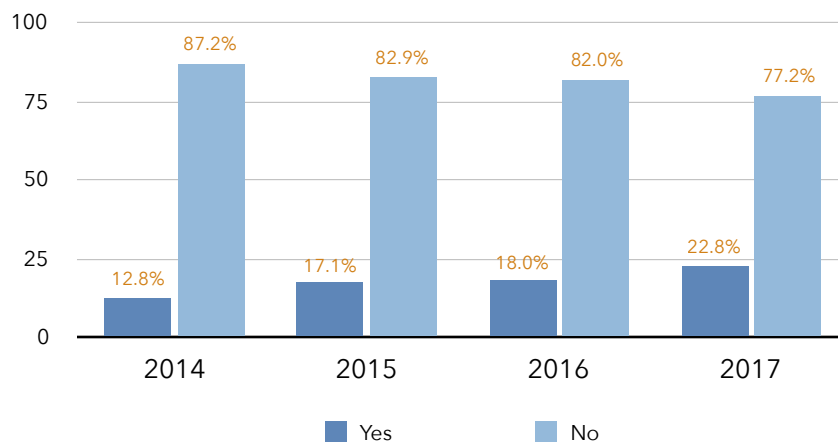
N: 2014 = 713; 2015 = 829; 2016 = 966; 2017 = 718
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.
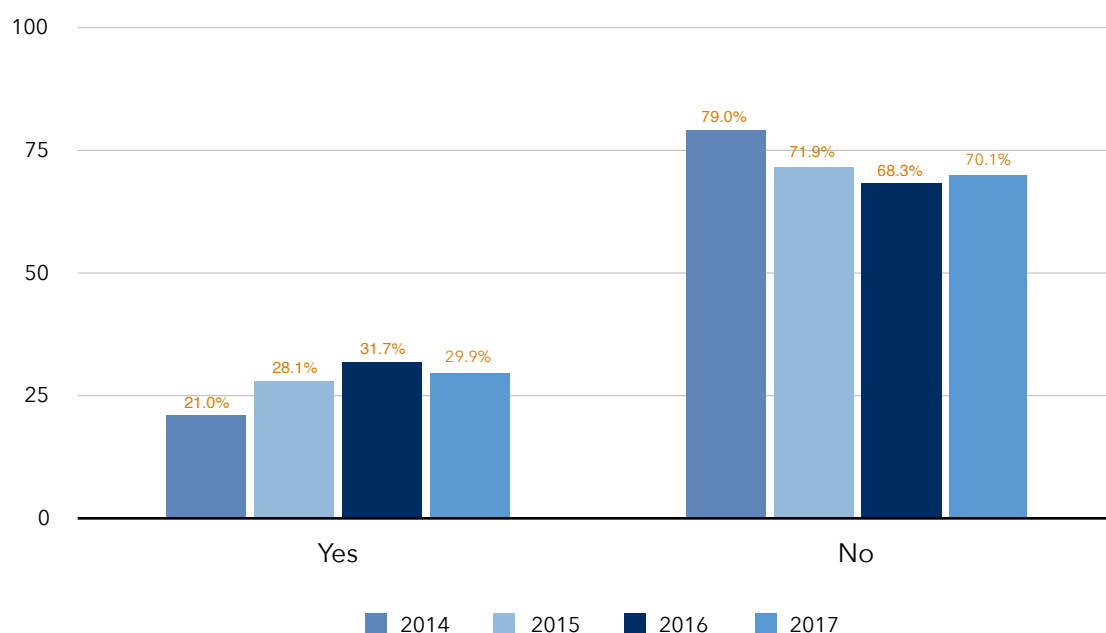
Summary**:**

- 22.8% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Alcohol or Drug Abuse*. This is higher than in 2016 (18.0%).

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Figure 43: Observation – Severe Persistent Mental Illness
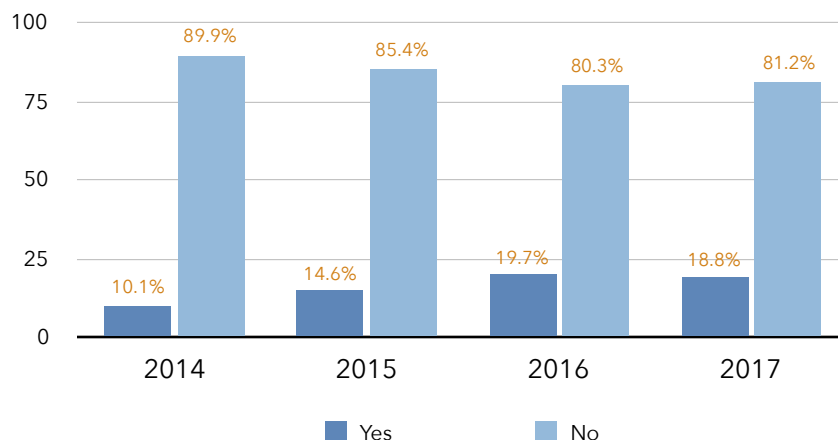
N: 2014 = 712; 2015 = 830; 2016 = 970; 2017 = 717
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 18.8% of respondents had *Observable Signs of Severe Persistent Mental Illness*. This is lower than in 2016 (19.7%).

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

- 2.8% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. This is lower than in 2016, when 5.4% of respondents reported being incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. In 2017, of those respondents who reported being incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless, 75.9% reported that they became homeless immediately after being released from jail or prison.

- 8.7% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. This is lower than in 2016, when this same category was 10.2%.

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

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- A criminal record prevents many homeless individuals from securing permanent housing and employment. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of homeless respondents who indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing decreased from 7.1% to 5.9%.

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of homeless respondents who indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment decreased from 7.7% to 6.9%.

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
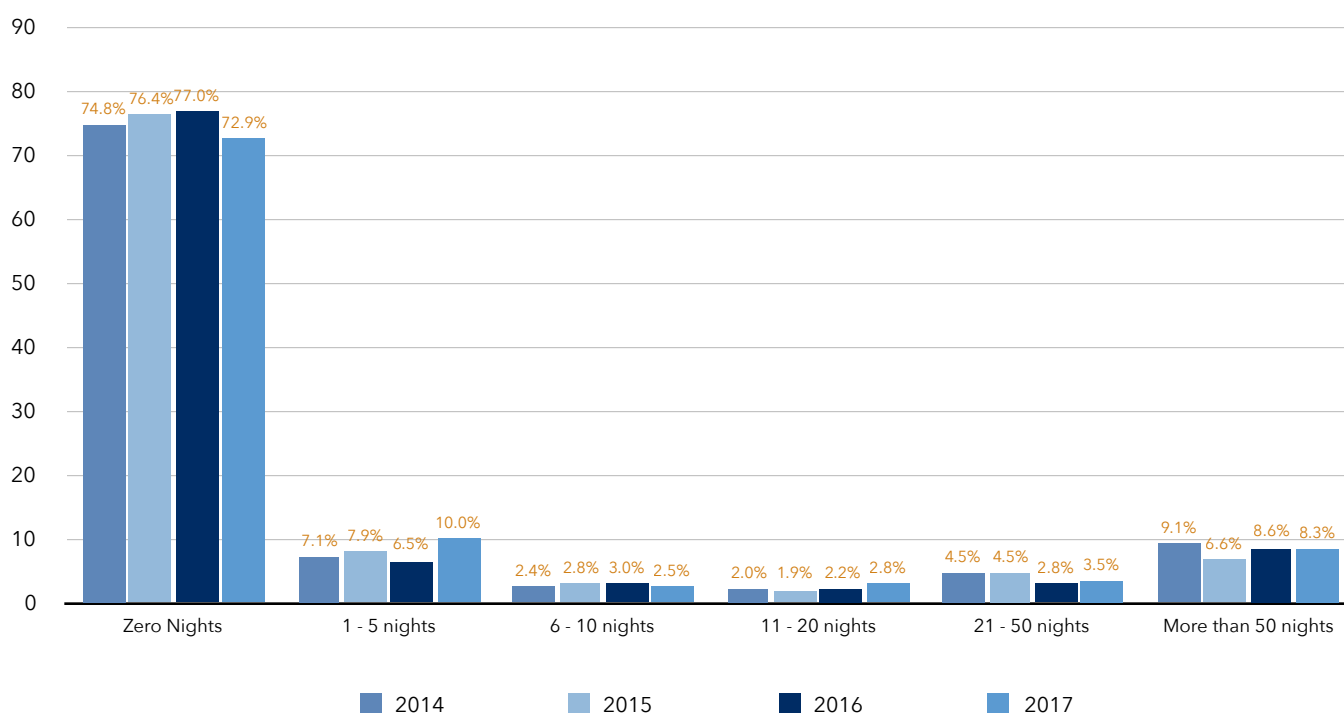
N: 2014 = 898; 2015 = 915; 2016 = 968; 2017 = 719
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV..

Summary:

- The majority (72.9%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is a decrease from in 2016 (77.0%).

- 10.0% spent 1–5 nights in jail or prison, and 8.3% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

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Figure 45: Number of Separate Terms Respondents Reported Serving in Jail/Prison in the Year Prior to the Survey

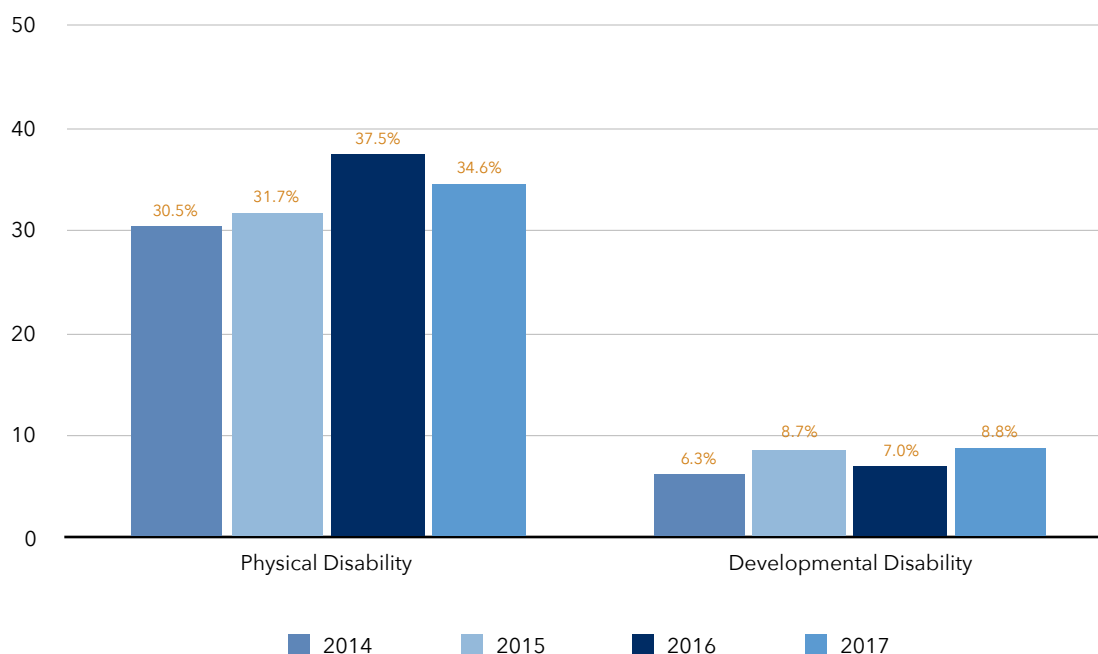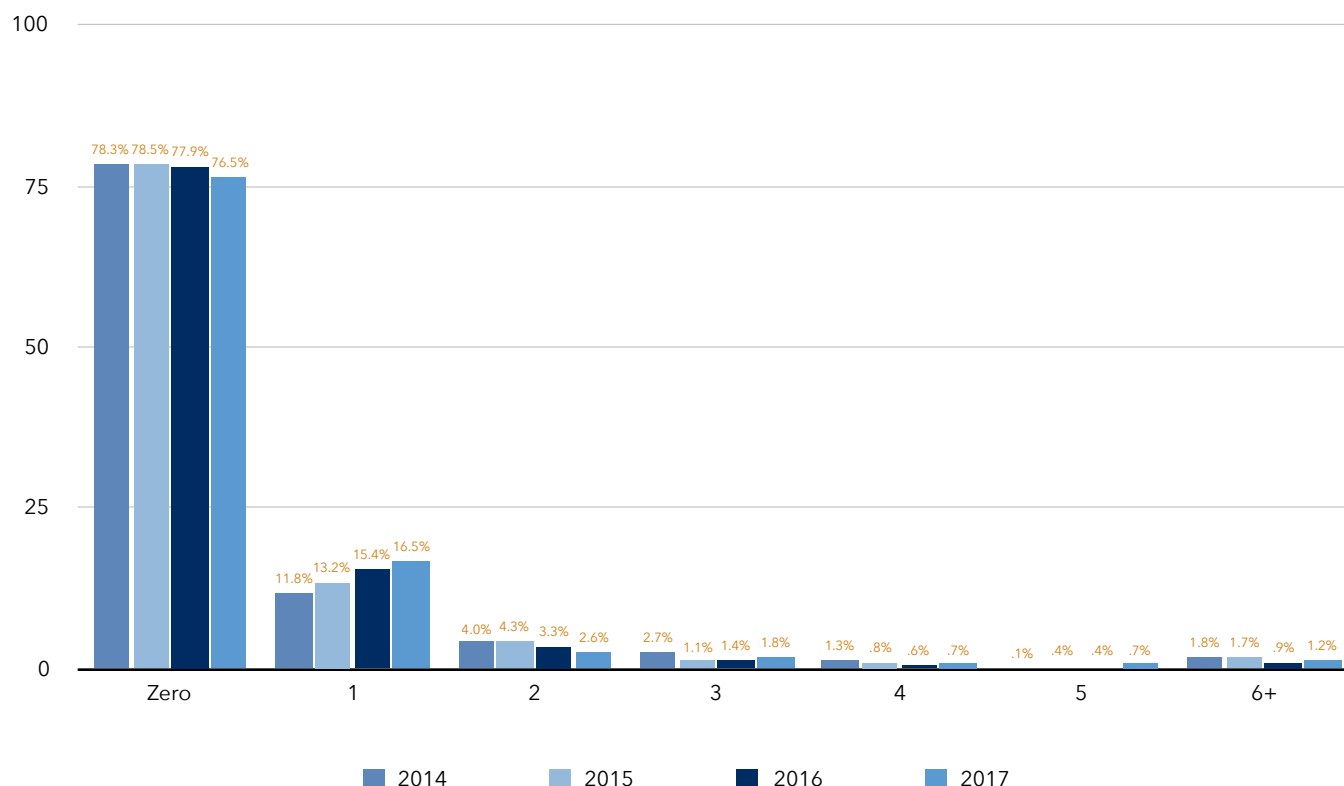*N: 2014 = 899; 2015 = 917; 2016 = 972; 2017 = 722*
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 76.5% of survey respondents reported spending no terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (77.9%).

- 16.5% of survey respondents reported spending one separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (15.4%).

- 1.2% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (0.9%).

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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 and at least one child under the age of 18.*

- 5.2% of survey respondents reported having children.
  - Of these children (ages 5–17), 52.6% were reported to be in school.

Figure 46: Of Respondents with Children, Percentage with Children in the Following Age Groups

Age Group and Number of Children	2016%	2017%	2015 to 2016 Percent Change
0–5 Years Old			
1 Child	67.7%	63.6%	-4.1%
2 Children	22.5%	22.7%	0.2%
3 Children	6.5%	9.1%	2.6%
4+ Children	3.2%	4.6%	1.4%
6-12 Years Old			
1 Child	61.9%	23.1%	-38.8%
2 Children	28.6%	61.5%	32.9%
3 Children	9.5%	7.7%	-1.8%
4+ Children	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%
13–17 Years Old			
1 Child	62.5%	76.9%	14.4%
2 Children	37.5%	23.1%	-14.4%
3 Children	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4+ Children	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
18+ Years Old			
1 Child	25.0%	20.0%	-5.0%
2 Children	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
3 Children	25.0%	10.0%	-15.0%
4+ Children	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%

2016 - 0–5=31; 6–12=21; 13–17=8; 18+=4; 2017 - 0–5=22; 6–12=13; 13–17=13; 18+=10
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV

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* *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.*

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Figure 47: Of Respondents with Children, Percentage with Children in the Following Age Groups
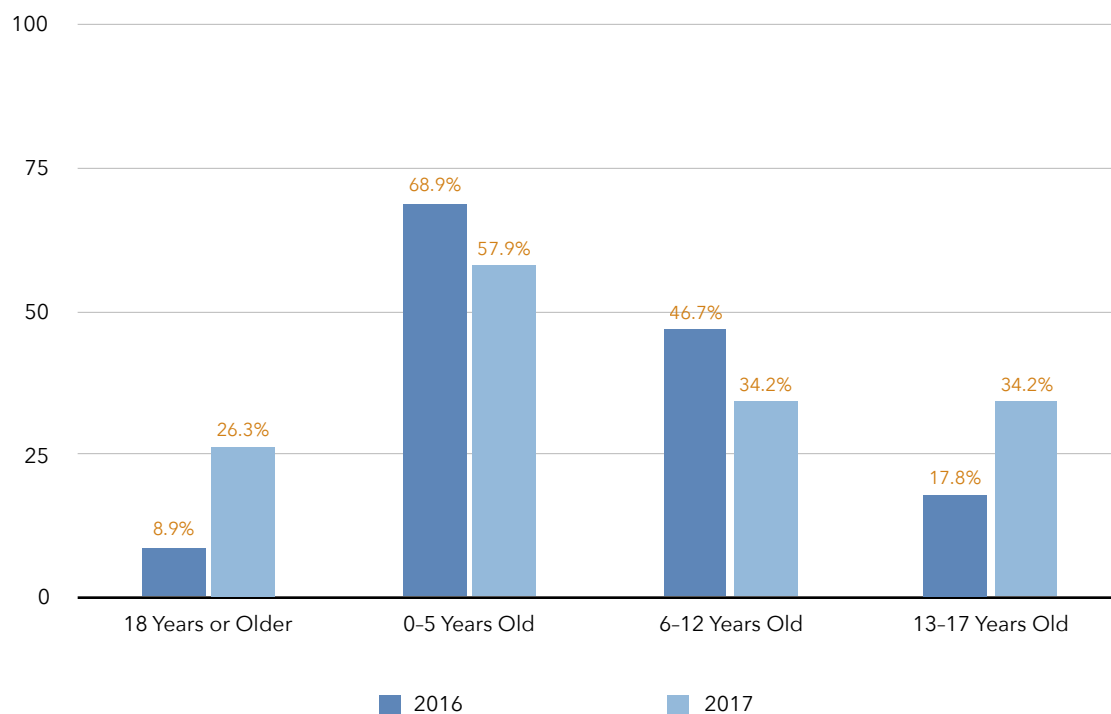
N: 2016 - 0–5=31; 6–12=21; 13–17=8; 18+=4; 2017 - 0–5=22; 6–12=13; 13–17=13; 18+=10
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

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 the same as in 2016.

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

Of the respondents who claimed to have children, 5.3% claimed their children (one or more) were in foster care. This is higher than in 2016 (4.0%).

4.6c Homeless Families with Children: Demographics

4.6c.1 Persons in Families with Children by Gender

Of the survey respondents with children, 7.9% were *male*, 92.1% were *female*. None were *transgender*, and none indicated that they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender.*

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4.6c.2 Persons in Families with Children by Race

Figure 48: Persons in Families with Children by Race
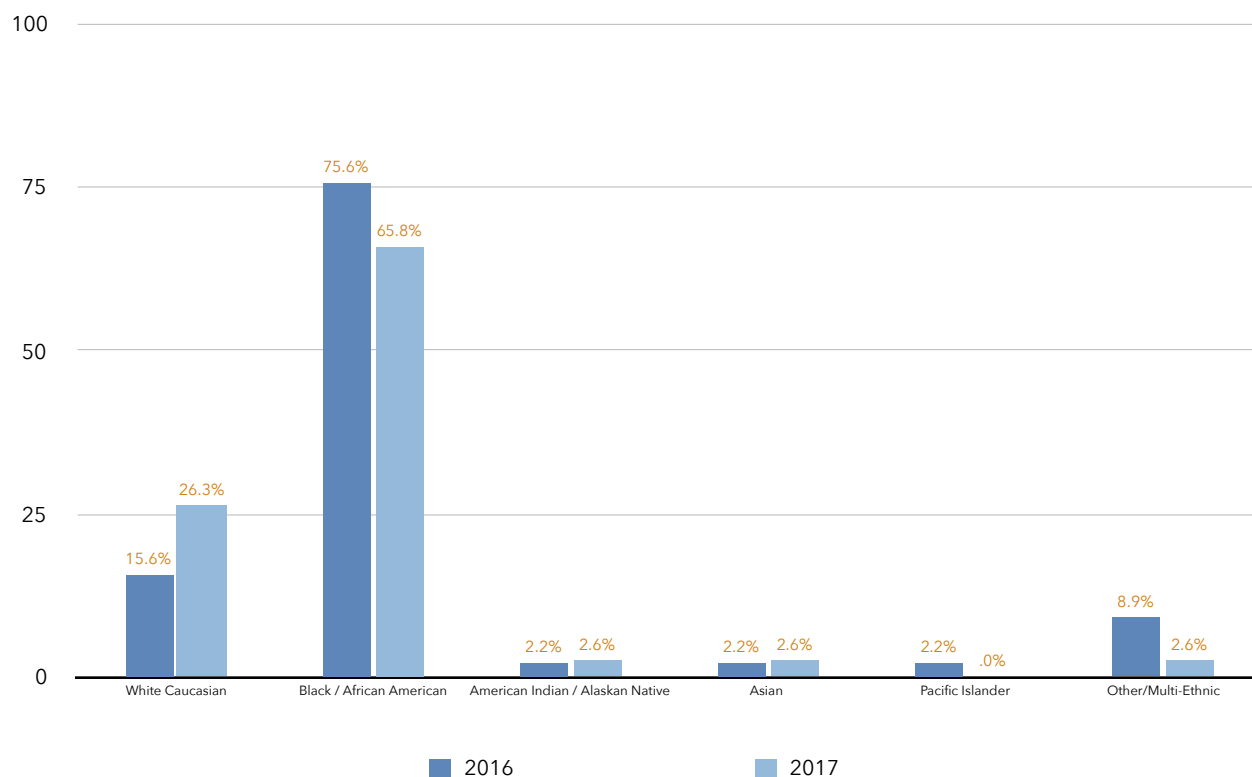
N: 2016 = 45; 2017 = 38
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017) 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- Of the persons in homeless families with children, the highest percentage reported they were *Black / African American* (65.8%), followed by *White/Caucasian* (26.3%).

4.6c.3 Persons in Families with Children by Ethnicity

Figure 49: Persons in Families with Children by Ethnicity, 2017

- Hispanic/Latino
- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
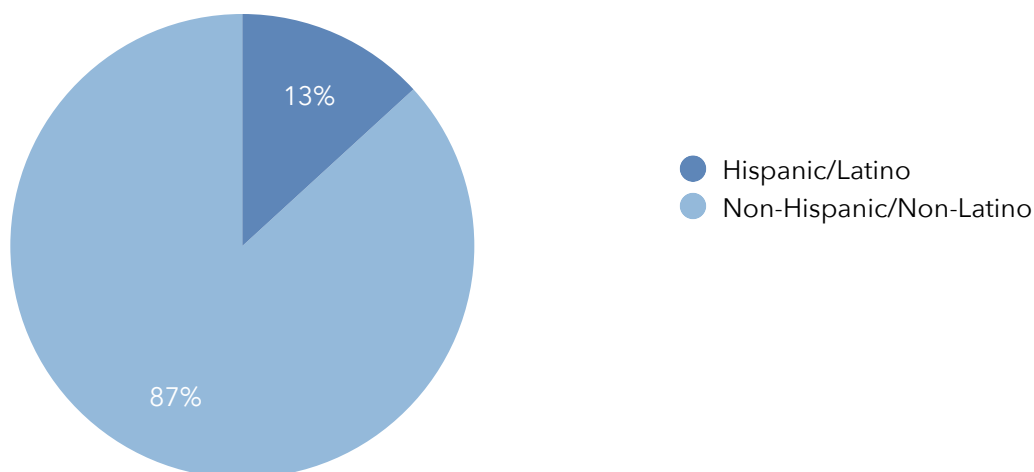
N: 2017 = 38
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2017) 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- Of the persons in homeless families with children, the highest percentage reported they were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino* (87.0%).

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 because this particular homeless subpopulation is difficult to locate and enumerate.

In an attempt to overcome this challenge, Southern Nevada increased its efforts to include as many unaccompanied homeless children and youth in its 2017 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 these homeless subpopulations.

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.

In 2016, HUD began requiring 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

- 0.27% of all survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless children; this percentage is more than in 2016 when 0.01% of all survey respondents were unaccompanied children. In 2017, neither of the unaccompanied children were unsheltered; this is less than in 2016 when 80.0% of the unaccompanied children were unsheltered.

- There was 1 *female* (50.0%) unaccompanied child and 1 *male* (50.0%) unaccompanied child. There were no *transgender* unaccompanied children, and none indicated that they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*. These percentages are almost the same as those in 2016, except no data was collected for the response *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*.

- Both unaccompanied children were *Black / African American*. There were no *White/Caucasian, American Indian / Alaskan Native, Asian*, or *Hawaiian / Pacific Islander* unaccompanied children in 2017. There were also no unaccompanied children who reported *Other* as their race category. This is the same as in 2016, when all unaccompanied children were *Black / African American.*

- Both were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. In 2016, 80.0% were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino* and 20.0% were *Hispanic/Latino*.

4.7a.2 Unaccompanied Children: County of Residency

- Both of the unaccompanied children reported living in *Nevada* when they became homeless this most recent time, and both reported they were living in *Clark County*. This is the same as in 2016.

- Both of the unaccompanied children reported they were *staying with relatives* immediately before becoming homeless. This is different than in 2016 when only 40.0% of the unaccompanied children reported they were *staying with relatives* immediately before becoming homeless.

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

- Both of the unaccompanied children reported that this was the *first time* they experienced homelessness. In 2016, 60.0% of the unaccompanied children reported this was the *first time* they had been homeless.

- 50% of the unaccompanied children reported that it had been *8 to 30 days* since their last permanent housing situation at the time of the survey, and 50% reported it had been *3 months* since their last permanent housing situation. In 2016, 60.0% reported it had been *7 days or less* since their last permanent housing situation, and 40.0% reported it had been *4 months* since their last permanent housing situation.

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

- Neither of the unaccompanied children reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling) or *mental illness* (not disabling). This is the same as in 2016.

4.7a.5 Unaccompanied Children: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- Neither of the unaccompanied children claim they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey. This is less than in 2016 when 20.0% of the unaccompanied children claimed they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol*.

4.7b Unaccompanied Youth (Ages 18-24)

4.7b.1 Demographics

- 5.8% (42) of survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless youth; this is less than in 2016 when 7.0% (68) of survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless youth. In 2017, 35.7% of these youth were *unsheltered,* which is less than in 2016 (54.4%).

- There were 17 *female* (40.5%) unaccompanied youth and 23 *male* (54.8%) unaccompanied youth. 2 (4.8%) youth reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*. There were no *transgender* unaccompanied youth. These percentages are almost the same as those in 2016, except no data was collected for the response *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*.

- The unaccompanied youth were *White/Caucasian* (38.1%) and *Black / African American* (35.7%). 26.2% of unaccompanied youth survey respondents reported the race category *Other*. This is different than in 2016 when 25.0% were *White/Caucasian,* 52.9% were *Black / African American,* 1.5% were *Asian,* 5.9% were *Hawaiian / Pacific Islander,* 5.9% were *American Indian / Alaskan Native,* and 14.7% reported race category *Other*.

- 31 (73.8%) were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*, and 10 (23.8%) were *Hispanic/Latino*. These percentages are almost the same as those in 2016.

4.7b.2 Unaccompanied Youth: County of Residency

- 28 (66.7%) of the unaccompanied youth survey respondents reported they were living in *Clark County* at the time they became homeless, 1 (2.4%) was from an *other area in Nevada* (outside of Clark County) when they became homeless, and 12 (28.6%) were living *outside of the State of Nevada* when they became homeless. These percentages are almost the same as those in 2016. (NOTE: Only 41 respondents answered this question in 2017.)

- Prior to becoming homeless, most unaccompanied youth (45.2%) were *living with relatives*. 21.4% were *staying with friends*, 11.9% were *renting a home or apartment*, and 7.1% were *in a jail or prison* prior to becoming homeless. This breakdown is similar to that of 2016 when, prior to becoming homeless, 32.4% were *living with relatives*, 22.1% were *staying with friends*, 17.6% were *renting a home or apartment*, and 10.3% were *in a jail or prison.*

- 1 (2.4%) unaccompanied youth was *living in subsidized housing* prior to becoming homeless, and 1 (2.4%) reported *foster care* living situation prior to becoming homeless. These percentages are similar to those in 2016. (NOTE: There were only 41 responses to this question in 2017.)

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

- 21 (50.0%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that this was the *first time* they had been homeless. This is less than in 2016 when 61.8% reported it was the *first time* they had been homeless.

- 5 (11.9%) 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. This is more than in 2016 (7.4%).

- 7 (16.7%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that *8–30 days* had passed since their last permanent housing situation. This is less than in 2016 (22.1%).

- 15 (35.7%) of the unaccompanied youth surveyed reported timeframes between *2–8 months* that had passed since their last permanent housing situation. This is less than in 2016 (39.7%).

- 12 (28.6%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *1–2 years* since their last permanent housing situation. This is more than in 2016 (11.8%).

- 1 (2.4%) reported that *2–3 years* had passed since their last permanent housing situation. This is slightly less than in 2016 (2.9%).

- 2.4% of unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *more than 3 years* since their last permanent housing situation. This is more than in 2016 (1.5%).

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

- 12 (28.6%) of the unaccompanied youth reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling), which is more than in 2016 (26.5%).

- 10 (23.8%) of the unaccompanied youth reported to be currently experiencing *mental illness* (not disabling), which is more than in 2016 (14.7%).

4.7b.5 Unaccompanied Youth: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- 16 (38.1%) of the unaccompanied youth reported they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey. This is more than in 2016 (29.4%).

4.7c Parenting Youth

4.7c.1 Demographics

- 0.4% (3 persons) of survey respondents were parenting homeless youth (ages 18–24), and none of these youth were *unsheltered*. This is less than in 2016 when 1.0% (10 persons) of survey respondents were parenting homeless youth (ages 18–24), and 80.0% of these youth were unsheltered. No respondents were under the age of 18, which is the same as in 2016.

- All 3 parenting youth were *female*. This is similar to 2016 when 90.0% were *female*, 10.0% were *male*, and none were *transgender* (no data was collected for the response *don't identify as male, female, or transgender* in 2016).

- All 3 parenting youth were *Black / African American*. No youth reported any other race category. This is similar to 2016 when 90.0% were *Black / African American*, and 10.0% were *Hawaiian / Pacific Islander*.

- All 3 parenting youth reported to be *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. This is similar to 2016 when 90.0% reported to be *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino* (only 90.0% of surveyed parenting youth responded to this particular question).

4.7c.2 Parenting Youth: County of Residency

- 2 (66.7%) of the parenting youth survey respondents reported they were living in *Clark County* at the time they became homeless, and 1 (33.3%) were living *outside of the State of Nevada* when they became homeless. These percentages are similar to 2016 (50.0% and 40.0%, respectively).

- Most parenting youth (2 youth, 66.7%) were *living with relatives* before becoming homeless, and 1 (33.3%) parenting youth reported *other living situation* prior to becoming homeless. This is more than in 2016 (20.0% and 10.0%, respectively).

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

- 2 (66.7%) of the parenting youth survey respondents reported that this was the *first time* they had been homeless. This is a slightly smaller percentage than in 2016 (70.0%).

- 1 (33.3%) 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. This is a greater percentage than in 2016 (10.0%).

- 1 (33.3%) of the parenting youth reported that *2 months* had passed since their last permanent housing situation. This is more than in 2016 when none reported *2 months*.

- 1 (33.3%) of the unaccompanied youth reported that it had been *12 months or more* since their last permanent housing situation. This is more than in 2016 when none reported *12 months or more*.

- No parenting youth reported that it had been any other time length since their last permanent housing situation. In 2016, there were additional responses reported, with 20.0% reporting *8–30 days* and 20.0% reporting *1–2 years*.

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

- 1 (33.3%) of the parenting youth reported to be currently experiencing *depression* (not disabling), and 1 (33.3%) reported *general mental illness* (not disabling). This is a greater percentage than in 2016 (both categories were reported at 10.0%).

4.7c.5 Parenting Youth: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- None of the parenting youth claim they were *abusing drugs and/or alcohol* at the time of the survey. This is less than in 2016 (10.0%).

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4.8 Veteran Homelessness

4.8a Definition of Veteran Homelessness

For the purposes of homeless services, the VA recommends 2 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 2017, collected through the 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.[*]

4.8b Veteran Survey Respondents: Totals

A total of 93 veterans were surveyed. 59 (63.4%) of these respondents were unsheltered.

4.8c Veteran Survey Respondents: Gender

6 (6.5%) were *female* and 86 (92.5%) were *male*. 1 veteran survey respondent identified as *transgender*. No veteran survey respondents reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*.

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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.*

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4.8d Veteran Survey Respondents: Race and Ethnicity

Figure 50: Homeless Veteran Population by Race
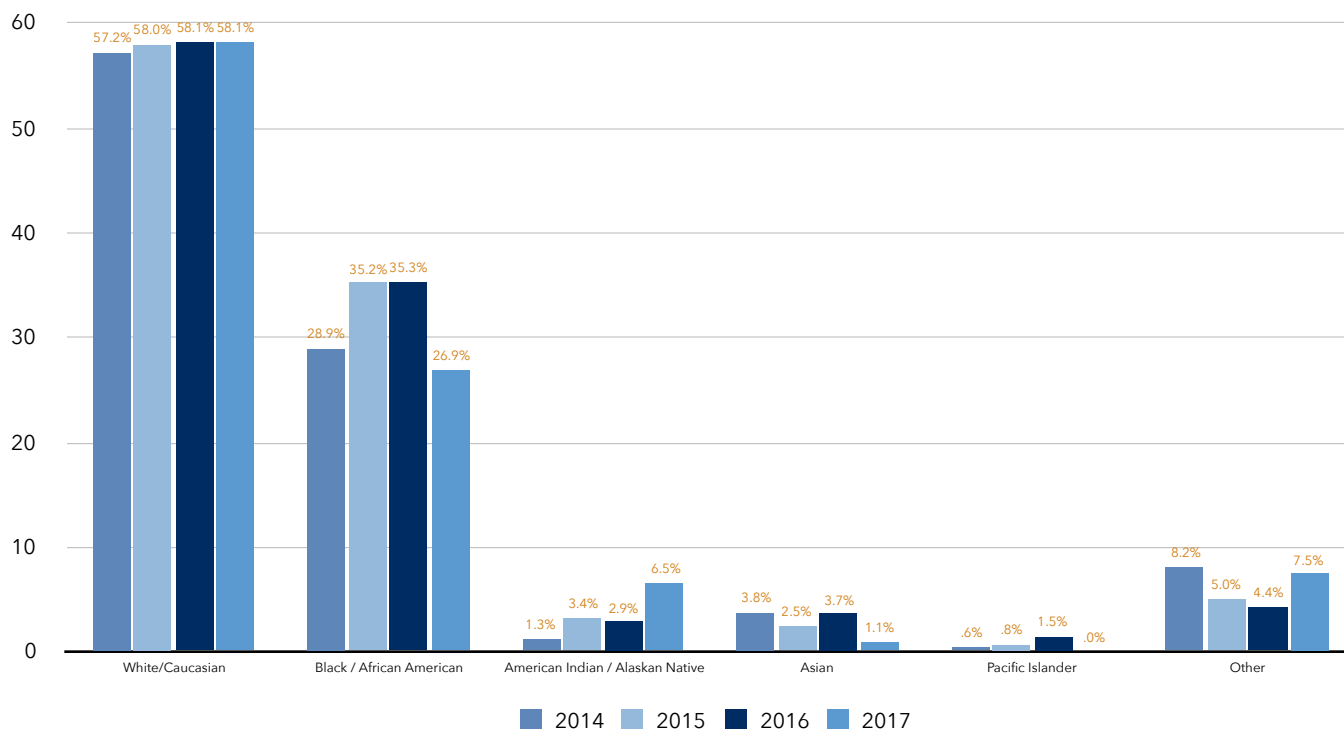
N: 2014 = 159; 2015 = 119; 2016 = 136; 2017 = 93
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The highest percentage of homeless veterans reported they are *White/Caucasian* (58.1%), followed by *Black / African American* (26.9%). In 2017, the percentage of homeless veterans who reported they are *White/Caucasian* remained the same, while the percentage of homeless veterans who reported they are *Black / African American* decreased from 35.3% in 2016.

- No homeless veteran respondents reported they were *Pacific Islander*. This category was the lowest (1.5%) in 2016 as well.

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Figure 51: Homeless Veteran Population by Ethnicity
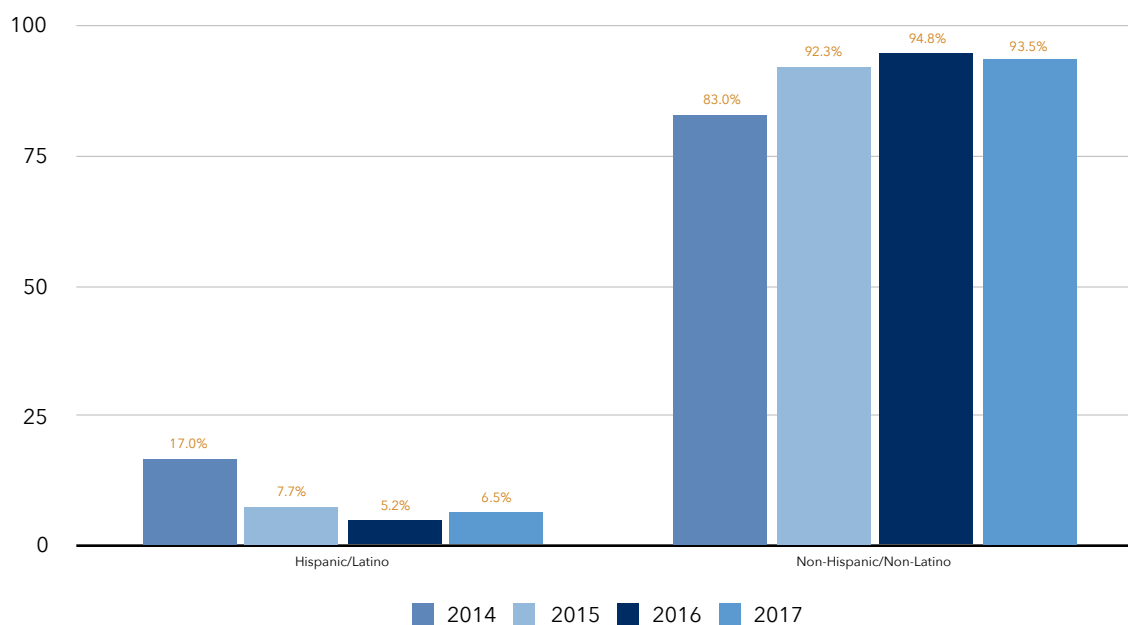
N: 2014 = 57; 2015 = 117, 2016 = 135; 2017 = 93
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The highest percentage (93.5%) of homeless veterans reported they are *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*. This is lower than in 2016 when 94.8% of respondents were *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino*.

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4.8e Veteran Survey Respondents: Discharge Status

Figure 52: Discharge Status of Veteran Respondents
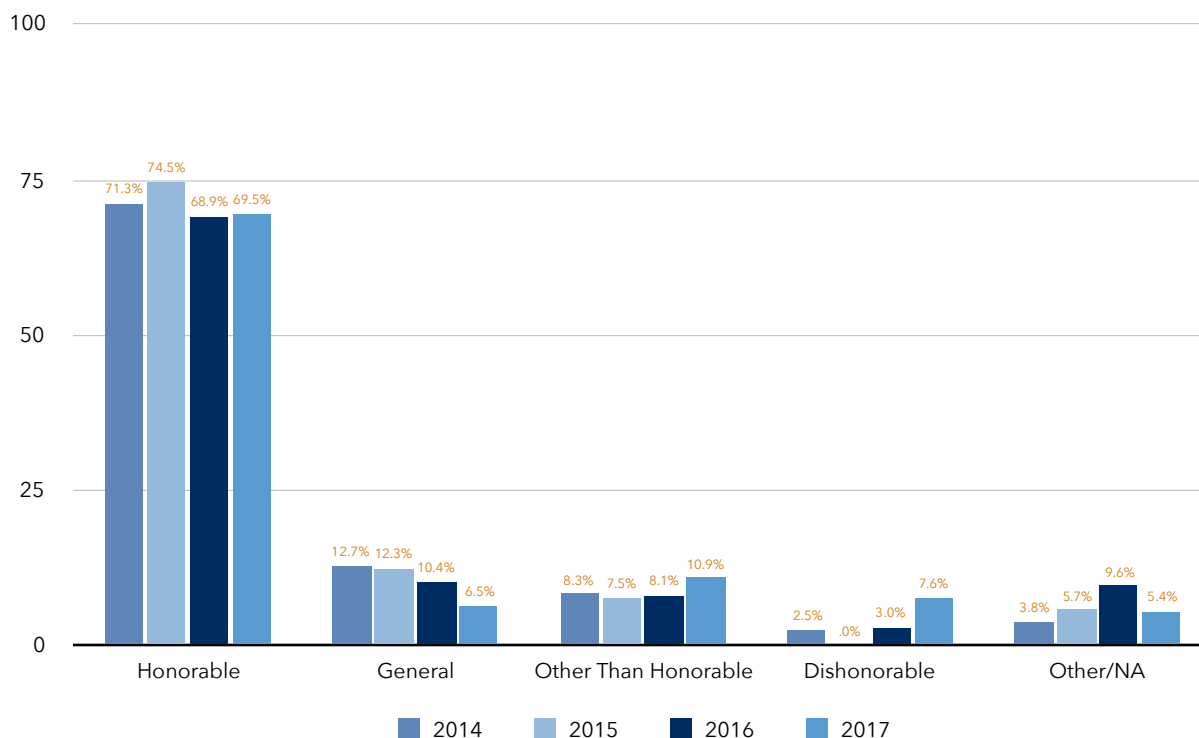
N; 2014 = 157; 2015 = 105; 2016 = 135; 2017 = 92
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- In regards to discharge status of veteran respondents, 69.6% reported *Honorable Discharge*. This is almost the same as in 2016 (68.9%).

- 7.6% of veteran respondents reported a discharge status of *Dishonorable* in 2017. This is higher than in 2016 (3.0%).

- 10.9% 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. (NOTE: There were only 92 responses to this question.)

4.8f Veteran Survey Respondents: Disabling Conditions

Figure 53: Number of Disabling Conditions Among Homeless Veteran Respondents

N: 2014 = 91; 2015 = 119; 2016 = 136; 2017 = 93
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (36.6%) of homeless veterans reported that they had no disabling conditions. This is lower than in 2016 (41.9%).

- 7.5% of the homeless veteran population reported having two disabling conditions, which is lower than the 10.3% who reported having two disabling conditions in 2016.

- 38.7% of homeless veteran respondents reported having three or more disabling conditions. This is higher than in 2016 (27.9%).

5. SURVEY FINDINGS: HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

The following sections provide information regarding certain homeless subpopulations that are of particular interest to 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 2017 Southern Nevada PIT Count and data from the 2017 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 V: Glossary)*.

It is worthy to note that, in 2017, HUD introduced several important changes to subpopulation data collection and reporting.

Definition for Chronic Homelessness

In 2016, HUD introduced a new definition for chronic homelessness. For purposes of reporting in the 2017 PIT count, the HUD definition of a chronically homeless person remains:[†]

> 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 the age of 18, which includes both unaccompanied youth and parenting youth under the age of 18 (in addition to reporting on individuals and persons in families over the

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[*] *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. 2010.*

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

age of 18 experiencing chronic homeless). This also includes persons in chronically homeless parenting households.[*]

5.1 Sheltered and 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 2017 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 2017 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. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

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Figure 54a: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation Definitions[*]

Homeless Subpopulation	Definition
CH Individuals	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").
CH Veteran Individuals	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.
CH Unaccompanied Children/Youth	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.
CH Parenting Children/Youth	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.
CH Families	A family in which any household member meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual.
Persons in CH Families	People experiencing homelessness in families in which any household member meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual.
CH Veteran Families	A family in which any household member meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual AND the criteria for Chronically Homeless Veteran Individual.
Persons in CH Veteran Families	People experiencing homelessness in families in which any household member meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual AND the criteria for Chronically Homeless Veteran Individual.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

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 2017 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 (over age 18) and one child (under age 18) will be referred to as a **Family**; and persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as **Only Children**.†

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

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
CH Individuals	36	35	32	84	422	420	253	356
CH Families	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Persons in CH Families	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	4
CH Veteran Individuals	NA	19	6	8	NA	10	14	10
CH Veteran Families	NA	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Persons in CH Veteran Families	NA	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0

Source:
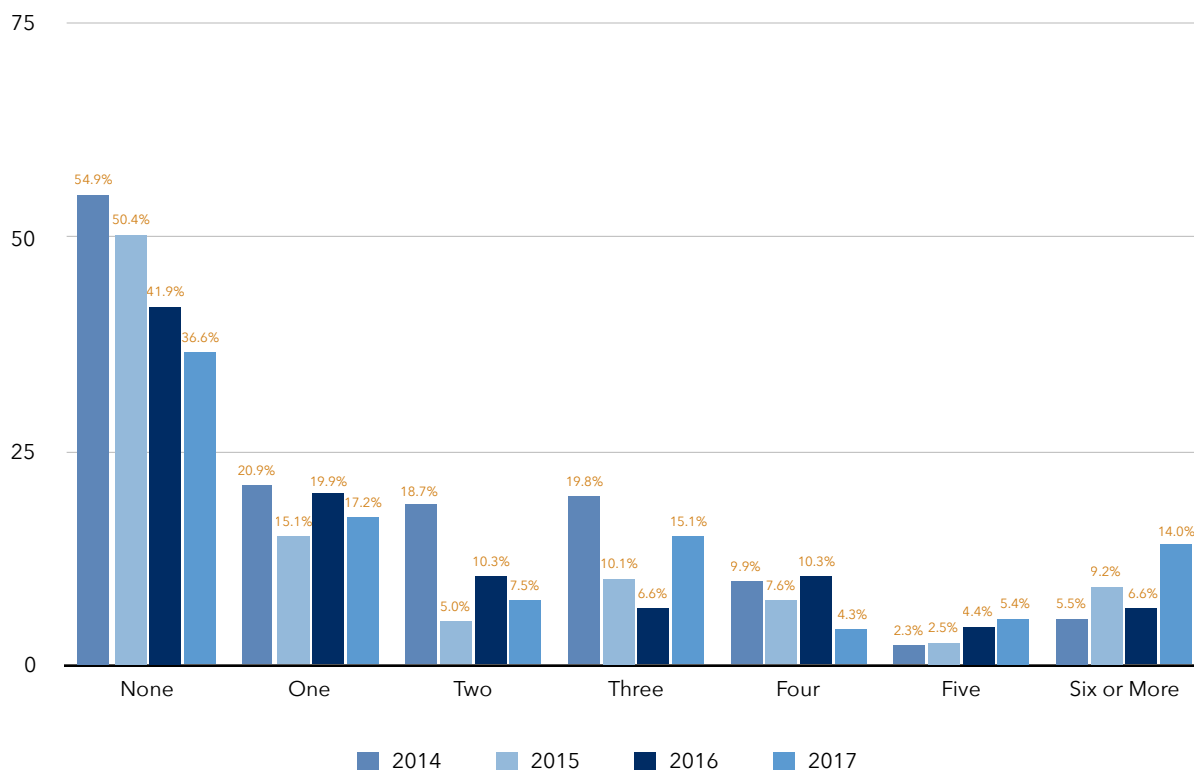*Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*
NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

* "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.

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

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	308	311	215	238	1,004	753	1,171	1,560
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	234	357	377	239	355	441	672	1,290
Adults with HIV/AIDS	5	12	9	11	33	59	72	29
Victims of Domestic Violence	217	251	212	201	348	484	614	674

Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 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.

Figure 57: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates – Totals, Net Change, and Percent Change: Part 1

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered and Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2016-2017	Percent Change 2016-2017
	2014	2015	2016	2017		
CH Individuals	458	455	285	440	155	54.4%
CH Families	1	1	0	2	2	100.0%
Persons in CH Families	2	3	0	6	6	100.0%
CH Veteran Individuals	NA	29	20	18	-2	-10.0%
CH Veteran Families	NA	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Persons in CH Veteran Families	NA	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 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.
** 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, and Percent Change: Part 2

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered and Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2016–2017	Percent Change 2016–2017
	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	1,312	1,064	1,386	1,798	412	29.7%
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	589	798	1,049	1,529	480	45.8%
Adults with HIV/AIDS	38	71	81	40	-41	-50.6%
Victims of Domestic Violence	565	735	826	875	49	5.9%

Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 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

In 2016, HUD introduced a new definition for chronic homelessness. For purposes of reporting in the 2017 PIT count, the HUD definition of a chronically homeless person remains:[*]

> 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

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD 16-060: 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.*

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.[*]

Nationwide, chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 6.8%, or by 5,684 people between 2015 and 2016. The number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness declined by 26.9 percent, or 28,576 people, between 2010 and 2016.[†] 2016 data is the most recent nationwide data to date; therefore, no comparison to 2017 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 2017 survey for veteran and non-veteran populations.

5.2a Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Sheltered and Unsheltered

Data indicates that on any given night in 2017, 6.9% (446 persons) of Southern Nevada's total point-in-time homeless population (6,490 persons) is composed of chronically homeless individuals (440 persons) and people in chronically homeless families (2 families with a total of 6 persons). This is a 2.3% increase since 2016, when 4.6% of Southern Nevada's total point-in-time homeless population (6,208) was composed of chronically homeless individuals (285 persons) and people in chronically homeless families (0 persons).

In contrast, of the total homeless population nationwide in 2016 (which is the most recent nationwide data available at the time of this report), 15.7% (86,132 persons) was composed of

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[*] *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. 2010.*

[†] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

chronically homeless individuals (77,486 persons) and people in chronically homeless families (8,646 persons).[*]

As for the veteran chronically homeless population, on any given night in 2017, it can be estimated that 0.3% (18 persons) of Southern Nevada's total point-in-time homeless population (6,490) is composed of chronically homeless veteran individuals. There were no chronically homeless veteran families, and thus no people in chronically homeless veteran families in 2017.

The information in the tables below is based on both the data from the PIT Count and data from the homeless survey. The numbers were calculated by applying the survey results to the 2017 PIT Count population.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016.*

Figure 59a: Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Non-Veteran

Homeless Subpopulation	2014		2015		2016		2017		2016–2017	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
CH Individuals	458	100%	455	100%	285	100%	440	100%	155	54.4%
Unsheltered	422	92.1%	420	92.3%	253	88.8%	356	80.9%	103	40.7%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	33	7.2%	31	6.8%	23	8.1%	72	16.4%	49	213%
Sheltered Safe Haven	3	0.7%	4	0.9%	9	3.1%	12	2.7%	3	33.3%
CH Families	1	100%	1	100%	0	100%	2	100%	2	100%
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	100%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	1	100%	1	100%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	100%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
People in CH Families	2	100%	3	100%	0	100%	6	100%	6	100%
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	66.7%	4	100%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	2	100%	3	100%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	2	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., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 80.9% (356) were unsheltered.

- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 16.4% (72 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters. This is a 213.0% increase (49 persons) since 2016 when 8.1% (23 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters.

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Figure 59b: Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Veteran

Homeless Subpopulation	2015		2016		2017		2016–2017	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
CH Veteran Individuals	29	100%	20	100%	18	100%	-2	-10.0%
Unsheltered	10	34.5%	14	70.0%	10	55.6%	-4	28.6%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	19	65.5%	6	30.0%	8	44.4%	2	33.3%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CH Veteran Families	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	0.0%
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
People in CH Veteran Families	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	0.0%
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Emergency Shelter	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sheltered Safe Haven	0	0.0%	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, 55.6% (10 persons) were unsheltered. This is a 14.4% decrease since 2016 when 70.0% (14 persons) were unsheltered.
- Of the chronically homeless veteran individuals, 44.4% (8 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters.
- There were no chronically homeless veteran families (sheltered or unsheltered) in 2017.

5.2b Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Race and Ethnicity

Figure 60a: Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Race (Top 4 Races in 2017)
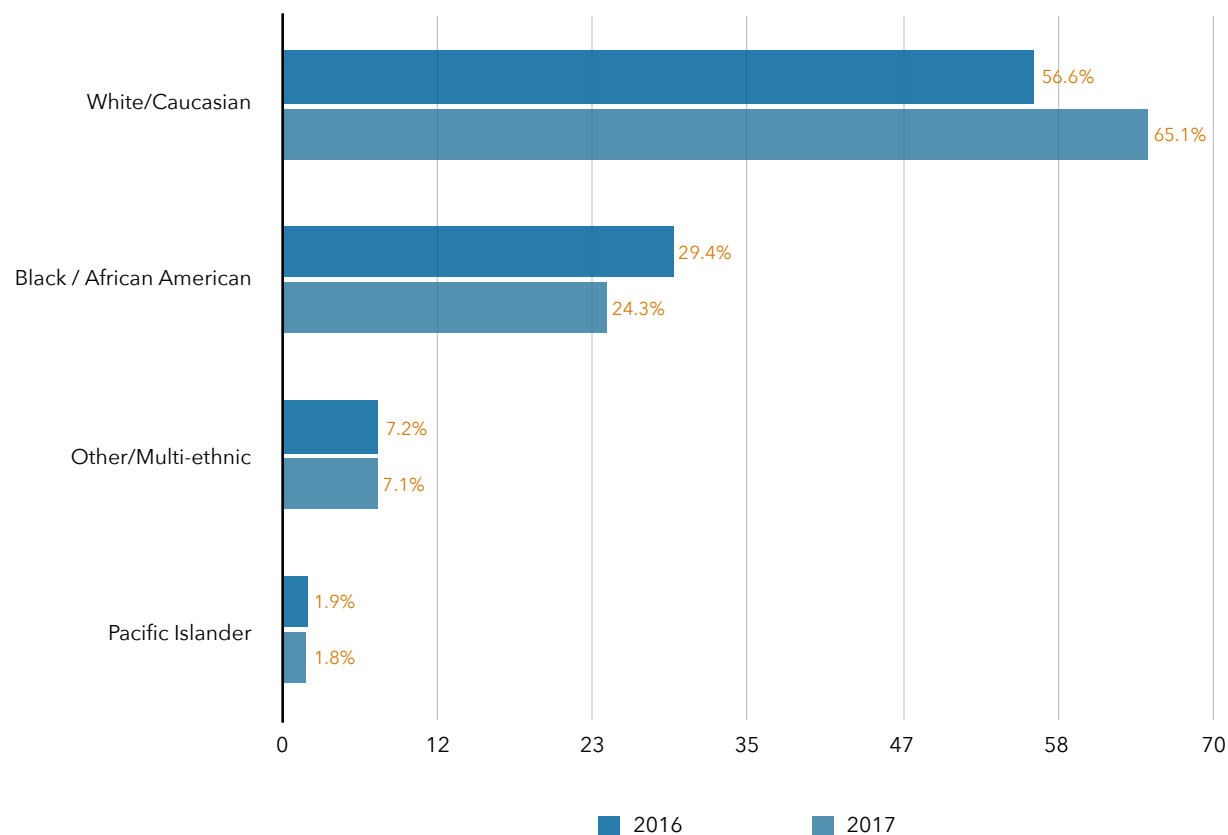
N: 2016 = 265; 2017 = 169
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:*

- 65.1% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *White/Caucasian*. This is 8.5% higher than in 2016.

- 24.3% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as *Black / African American,* which is a 5.1% decrease since 2016.

- 7.1% of chronically homeless individuals identified as *Other/Multi-Ethnic,* and 1.8% identified as *Pacific Islander.* Both percentages are almost the same as in 2016.

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

Figure 60b: Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Race (Top 3 Races in 2017)
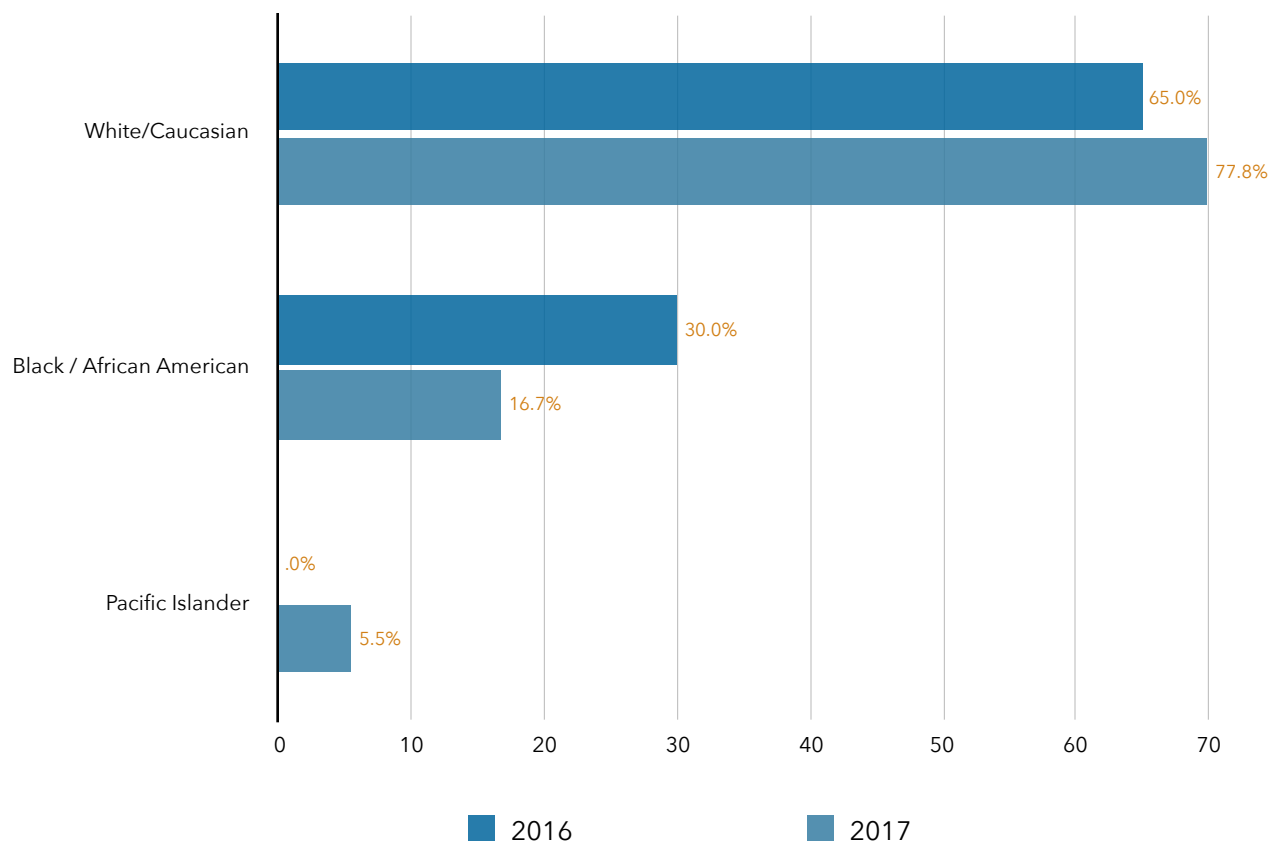
N: 2016 = 20; 2017 = 18
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:*

- 77.8% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless veteran individuals identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian*. This is 12.8% higher than in 2016.

- 16.7% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless veteran individuals identified their racial group as *Black / African American*. This is 13.3% lower than in 2016.

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

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Figure 61: Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Population by Ethnicity
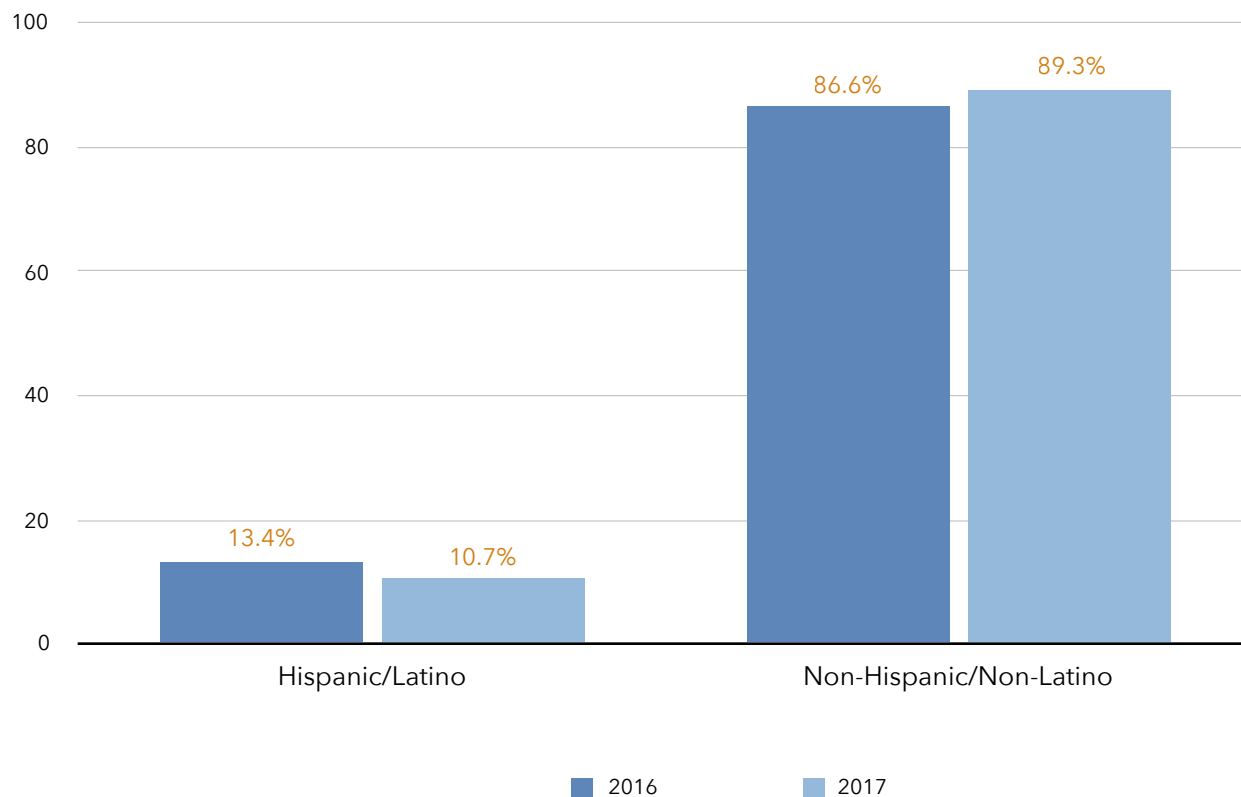
N: 2016 = 264; 2017 = 168
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 10.7% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*. This is a 2.7% decrease since 2016.

- As for veteran chronically homeless survey respondents, 2 (11.1%) identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino* (N=18).

5.2c Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Disabling Conditions

Figure 62: Number of Disabling Conditions Among Non-Veteran Chronically Homeless Respondents
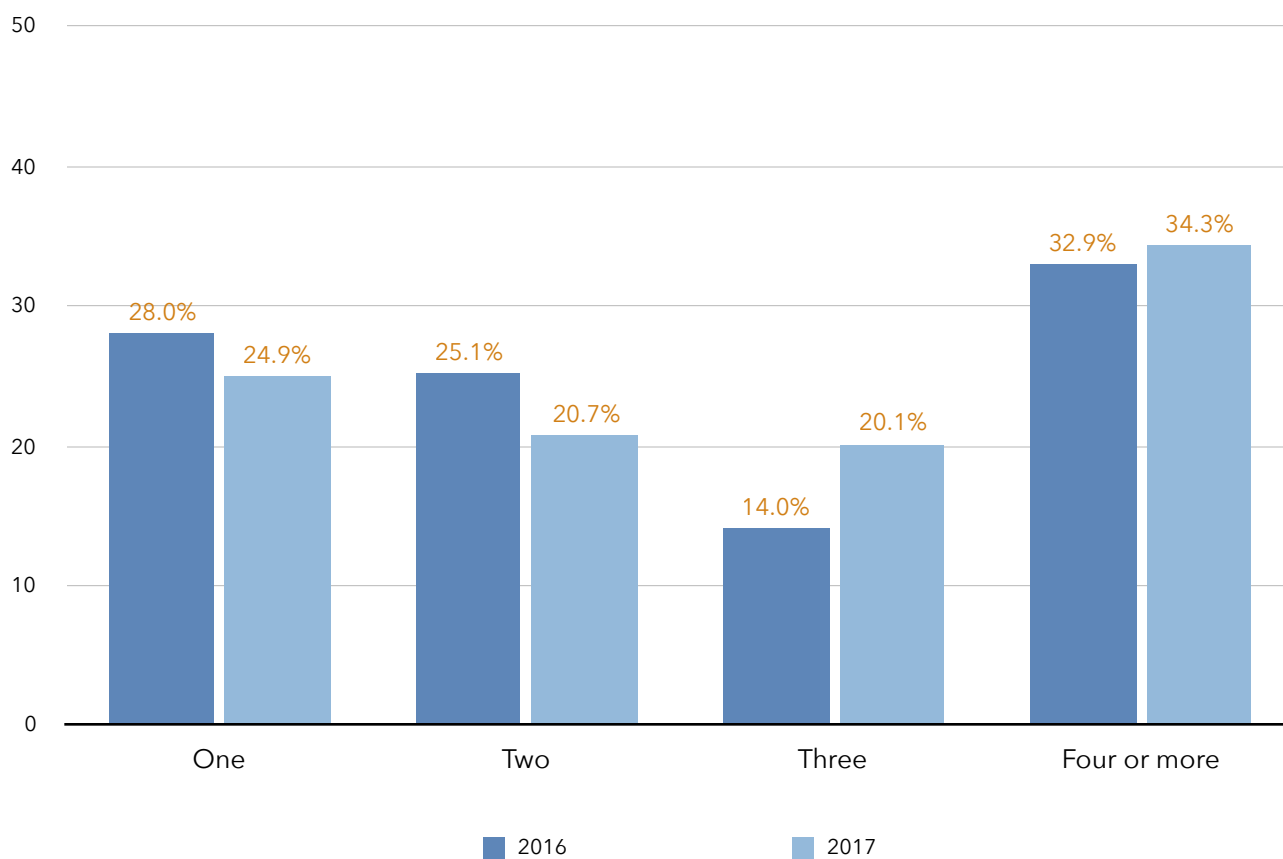
N: 2016 = 265; 2017 = 169
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2016, 2017), 2016 and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 24.9% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition had only one disabling condition. This is 3.1% lower than in 2016.

- 75.1% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition reported two or more co-occurring disabling conditions. This is 3.1% higher than in 2016.

- As for *veteran chronically homeless respondents*, 33.3% of these respondents reported only one disabling condition, and 66.7% reported two or more disabling conditions (N=18).

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:

- In 2017, there was 1 unsheltered chronically homeless family comprising 4 people.
- There was 1 sheltered chronically homeless family comprising 2 people in 2017. This family was sheltered in an emergency shelter at the time of the survey.

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**:**

- 0.6% of the homeless population were experiencing HIV or AIDS related illnesses. This percentage is lower than the percentage reported in 2016 (1.3%).

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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.*

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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)
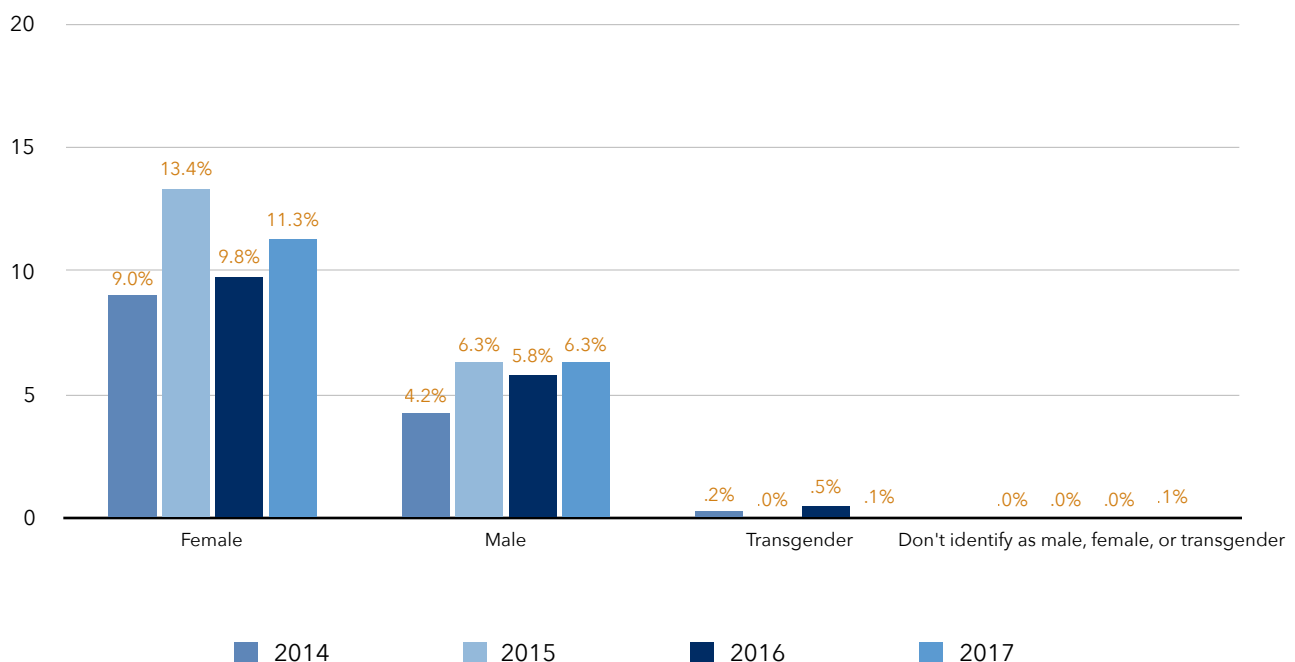
N: 2014 = 127; 2015 = 182; 2016 = 151; 2017 = 130
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014 , 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

[*] *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*

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Summary**:**

- 18.1% (130 persons) of survey respondents reported experiencing domestic violence or abuse.

- Of all survey respondents, 11.3% were female victims of domestic violence, 6.3% were male victims of domestic violence, 0.1% were transgender victims of domestic violence, and 0.1% were victims of domestic violence who reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender*.

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 data pertaining to severe mental illness 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 number of the general homeless population suffers from some form of mental illness.[†]

The 2017 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

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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*

can include military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or physical/sexual assault in childhood or adulthood.[*]

Figure 64: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently or Ever Had Experienced Mental Illness, Depression, and PTSD
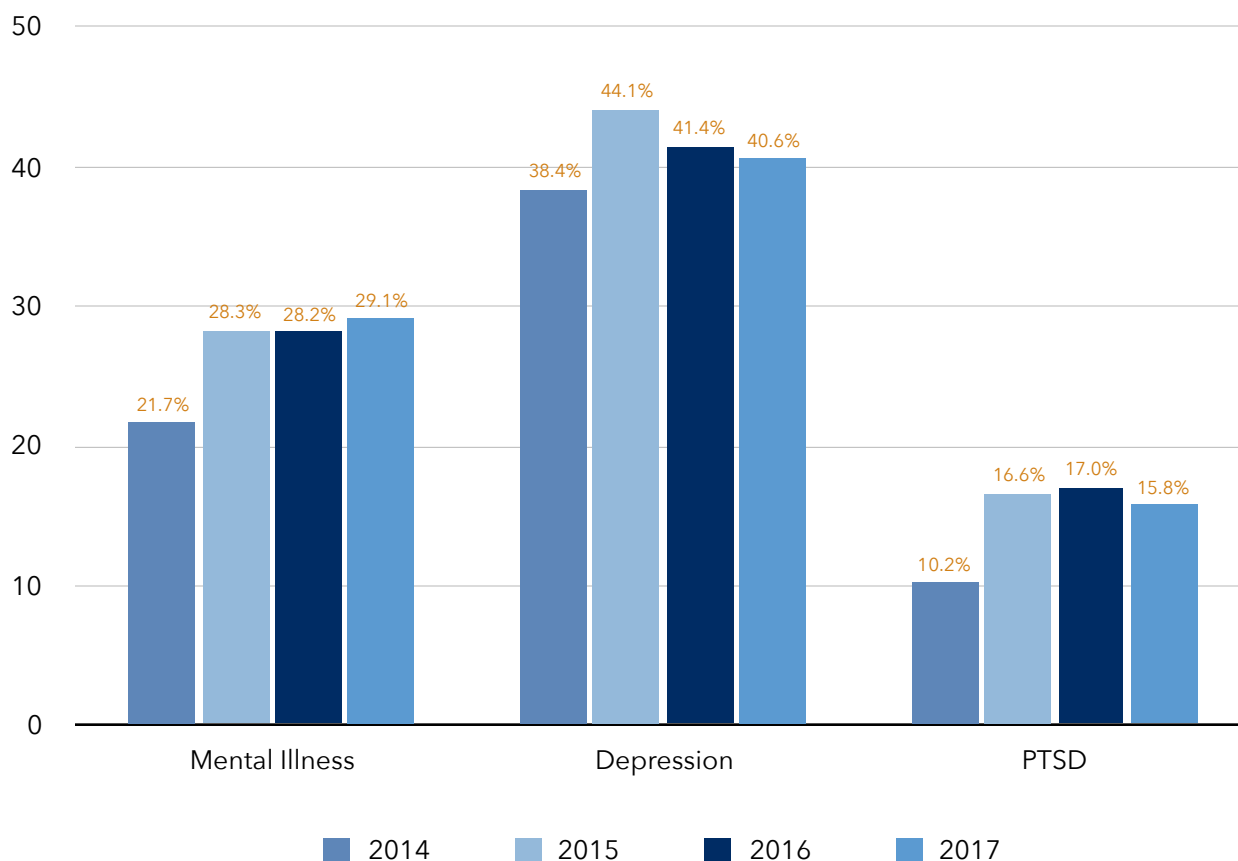
Mental Illness_ N: 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 968; 2017 = 719
Depression N: 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 967; 2017 = 721
PTSD_ N: 2014 = 948; ; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 964; 2017 = 722
Source:
Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- Overall, 47.6% survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. This is lower than that of 2016 (49.4%).

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[*] 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]

Mental Illness

- In 2017, 29.1% of the survey respondents claimed they were or ever had suffered from mental illness. This is higher than in 2016 (28.2%).

- Of those suffering from mental illness in 2017, 70.1% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

Depression

- In 2017, 40.6% claimed they were or ever had suffered from depression. This is lower than in 2016 (41.4%).

- Of those suffering from depression in 2017, 59.2% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- In 2017, 15.8% claimed they were or ever had suffered from PTSD. This is lower than in 2016 (17.0%).

- Of those suffering from PTSD, 66.4% 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").

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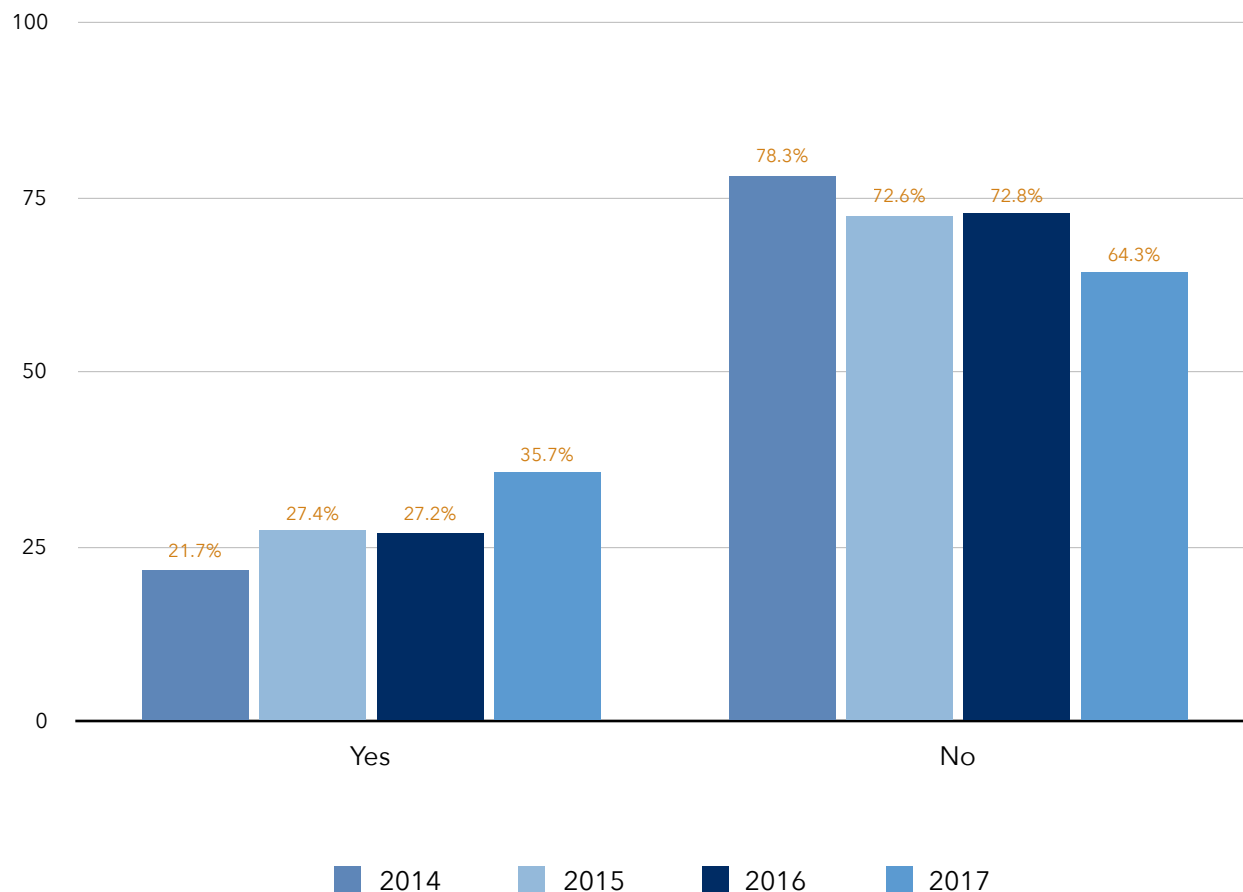
Summary:

- 35.7% of the survey respondents reported to be currently experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the survey. This represents a 8.5% increase compared to 2016, when 27.2% 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 and 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.[†] 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 policymakers and the general public.

Below is 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 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."*

[†]*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
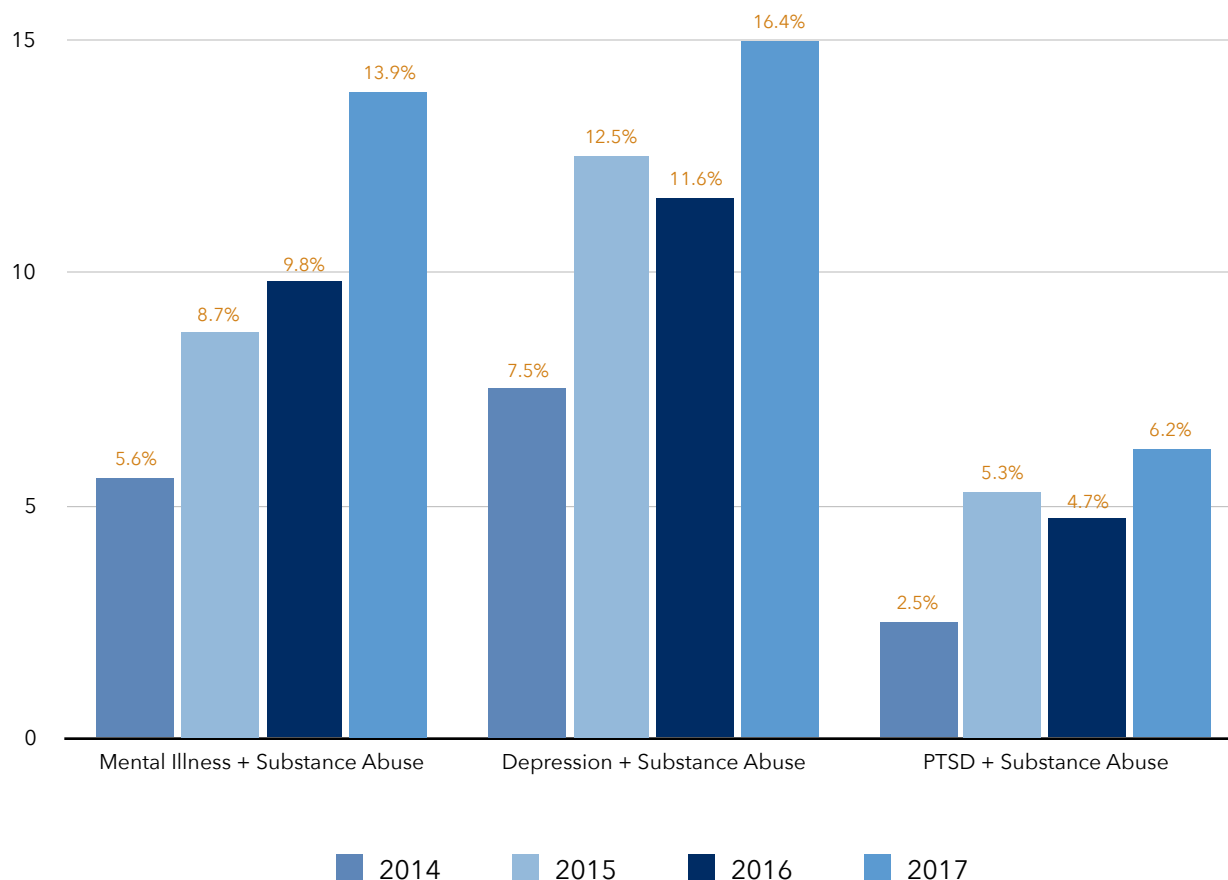
N: 2014 = 948; 2015 = 922; 2016 = 973; 2017 = 727

Source:

Bitfocus, Inc., (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 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**:**

- 13.9% 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.

- 16.4% 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.

- 6.2% 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 2015, 2016, and 2017.

6.1a Age

Figure 67: Survey Respondents by Age
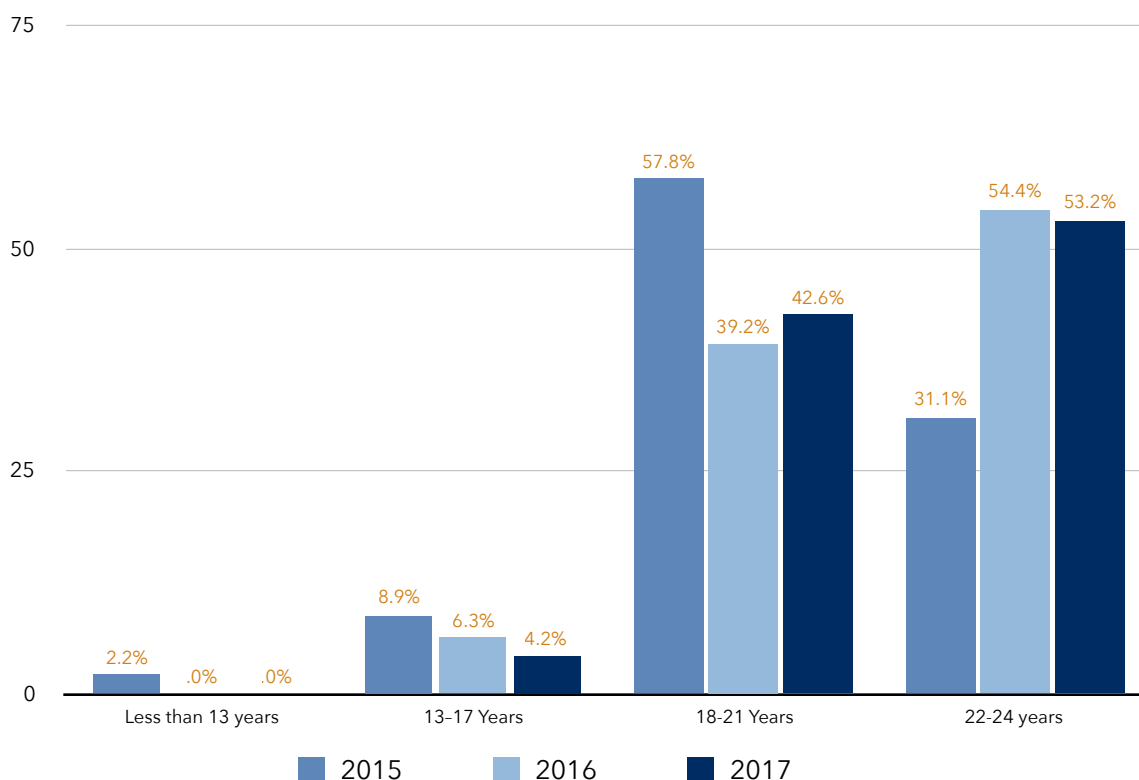
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 79; 2017 = 47
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

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Summary:

- 53.2% of respondents were between the ages of 22 and 24. This is lower than in 2016 (54.4%).
- 42.6% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21. This is higher than in 2016 (39.2%).
- 4.2% of respondents were between the ages of 13 and 17. This is lower than in 2016 (6.3%).
- No 2017 respondents were under the age of 13. This is the same as in 2016.

6.1b Race/Ethnicity

Figure 68: Youth Respondents by Race

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 79 2017 = 47
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 40.4% of survey respondents identified their racial group as *White/Caucasian*. This is higher than in 2016 (21.5%).

- 53.2% of respondents identified their racial group as *Black / African American*. This is lower than in 2016 (58.2%).

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- 6.4% of respondents identified their racial group as *American Indian / Alaskan Native*. This is higher than in 2016 when 5.1% of respondents identified with this race category.

- 2.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Asian*. This is higher than in 2016 (1.3%).

- 2.1% of respondents identified their racial group as *Pacific Islander*. This is lower than in 2016 (5.1%).

- 12.8% of respondents identified their racial group as *Other*. This is lower than in 2016 (13.9%).

Figure 69: Respondents by Ethnicity

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV..

Summary**:**

- 21.7% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Hispanic/Latino*. This is lower than in 2016 (22.1%).

- 78.3% of respondents identified their ethnic group as *Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino.* This is higher than in 2016 (77.9%).

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 2017, the majority (51.0%) of youth surveyed were *Male,* which continues the trend for youth from 2016.

Summary**:**

- 51.0% of respondents identified as *Male*. This is lower than in 2016 (57.0%).
- 44.7% of respondents identified as *Female*. This is higher than in 2016 (43.0%).
- 42.9% of female respondents reported they were pregnant. This is higher than in 2016 (20.6%).
- None of the youth surveyed identified as *transgender*. This is the same as in 2016.
- 4.3% of the youth reported they *don't identify as male, female, or transgender* in 2017. This data was not collected in years prior.

6.1d Sexual Orientation

Figure 70: Sexual Orientation

Straight — 72.9%, 91.1%, 86.7%
Bisexual — 20.8%, 3.8%, 13.3%
Lesbian, Gay — 2.1%, 2.5%, .0%
Questioning/Unsure — .0%, 1.3%, .0%
Prefer not to answer — 4.2%, 1.3%, .0%
Queer — .0%, .0%, .0%

Legend: 2017, 2016, 2015
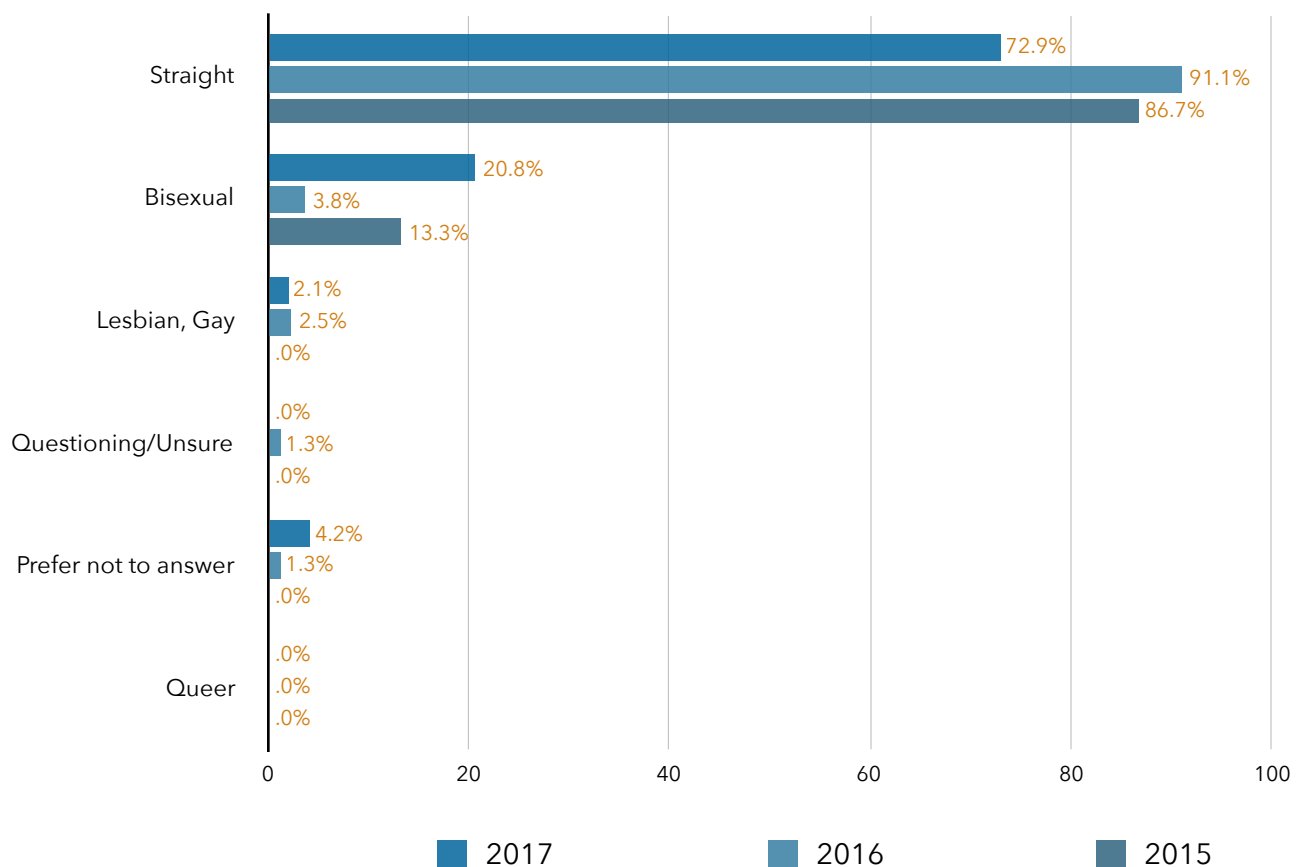
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 81; 2017 = 48
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 72.9% of respondents identified as *Straight*. This is lower than in 2016 (91.1%).

- 2.1% of respondents identified as *Lesbian/Gay*. This is lower than in 2016 (2.5%).

- 20.8% of respondents identified as *Bisexual*. This is higher than in 2016 (3.8%).

- None of the respondents identified as *Queer,* which is the same as in 2016.

- None of the respondents identified as *Questioning/Unsure*. This is lower than in 2016 (1.3%).

- 4.2% of respondents *Preferred Not to Answer*. This is higher than in 2016 (1.3%).

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 6 Responses in 2017)
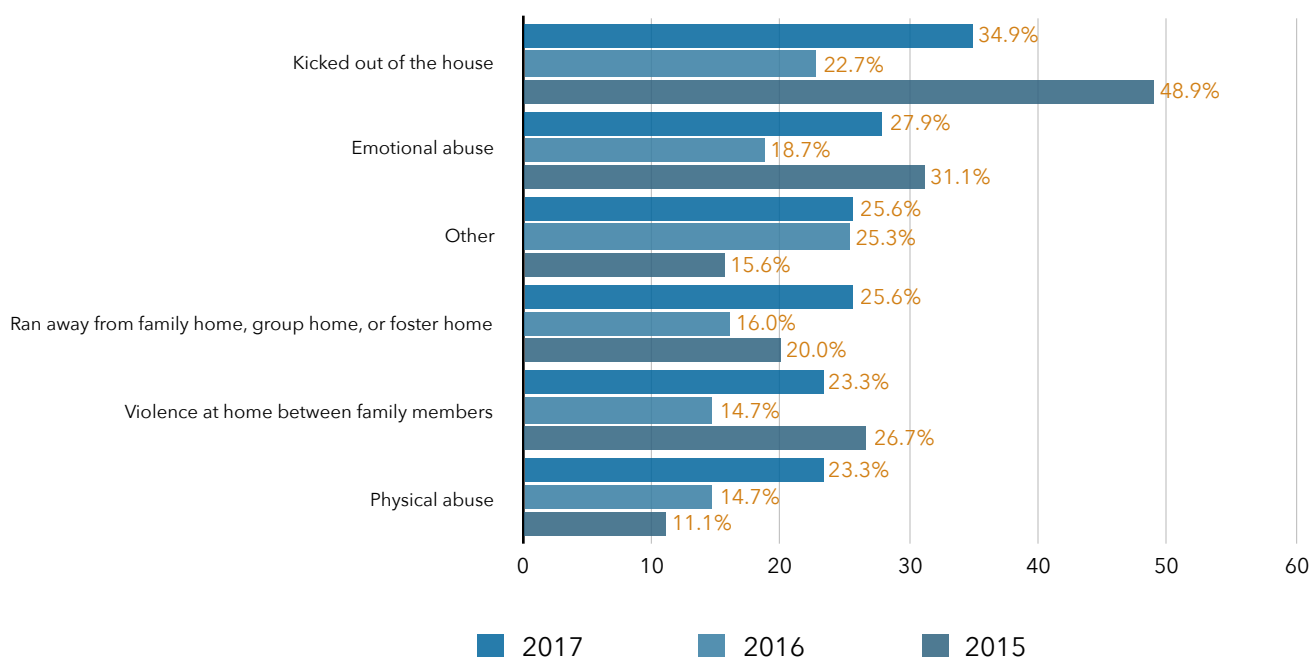
Multiple response question.
N: 2015: 45 respondents provided 133 responses; 2016: 75 respondents provided 159 responses; 2017: 43 respondents provided 121 responses
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- *Kicked out of the house* was the most frequently selected response option in 2017 (34.9%). This is higher than in 2016 (22.7%) when *Kicked out of the house* was the second most selected response option that led to respondents' homelessness.

- *Emotional abuse* was the second most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2017 (27.9%). This is higher than in 2016 (18.7%).

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- *Other* (25.6%) and *Ran away from family home, group home, or foster home* (25.6%) were the third and fourth most commonly cited causes of homelessness in 2017. The frequency of *Other* as a response option is almost the same as in 2016 (25.3%). *Ran away from family home, group home, or foster home* was lower in 2016 (16.0%).

- *Violence at home between family members* (23.3%) and *Physical abuse* (23.3%) were the fifth and sixth most commonly cited causes of homelessness in 2017. In 2016, both categories were reported at 14.7%.

6.2a.2 Occurrence of Homelessness

Figure 72: How Old Were You When You First Experienced Homelessness?
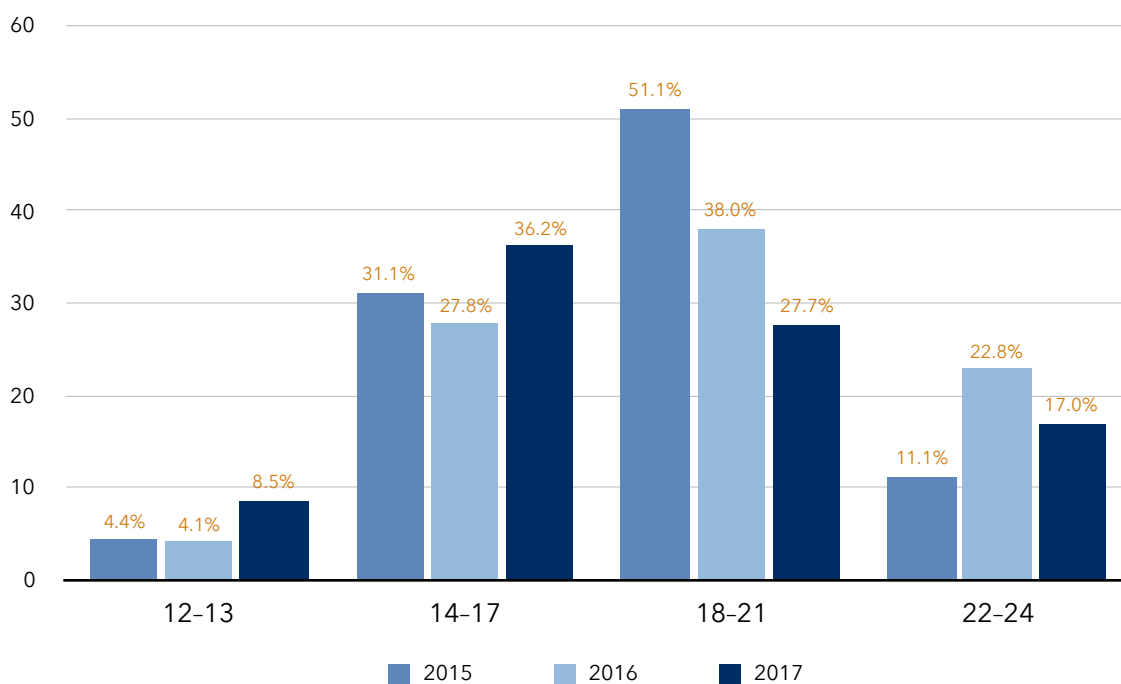
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 79; 2017 = 47
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 27.7% of youth survey respondents were between the ages of 18–21 when they first became homeless. This is higher than in 2016 (10.3%).

- 36.2% of youth survey respondents were between the ages of 14–17 when they first became homeless. This is higher than in 2016 (27.8%).

Bitfocus

Figure 73: Just Before Becoming Homeless, Did You Live With: (Top 5 Responses in 2017)

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75; 2017 = 43

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- In 2017, the most frequently cited family member that respondents were living with prior to becoming homeless was *Single Mother* (32.5%*)*. This is higher than in 2016 (28.0%).

- 30.3% of respondents reported that they were living with *Other / Other Family* prior to becoming homeless. This is lower than in 2016 (46.7%).

- 23.2% of respondents reported that they were living with *Both Parents* prior to becoming homeless. This is higher than in 2016 (9.3%).

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; 46 respondents provided 74 responses in 2017
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- *None of the above* was the most frequently selected response for this question (41.3%), followed closely by *Physical abuse* (39.1%). While the frequency of *None of the above* is lower in 2017 than in 2016 (56.6%), the frequency of *Physical abuse* is higher in 2017 than in 2016 (23.7%).

- 15.2% of survey respondents reported *Neglect*. This is higher than in 2016 (13.2%).

- 19.6% of survey respondents reported *Sexual abuse* prior to becoming homeless. This is higher than in 2016 (9.2%).

6.2a.5 Arrest, Probation, and Incarceration

- 51.1% of survey respondents stated that they had never been involved with the justice system before they were 18 (as a minor).* This is lower than in 2016 (66.2%).

- 82.2% of survey respondents had never been on parole. This is lower than in 2016 (92.2%).

- 53.3% had never been on probation. This is lower than in 2016 (76.6%).

Figure 75: How Many Times Have You Been Arrested?

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 43
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 39.5% of survey respondents had *never been arrested*. This is lower than in 2016 (49.4%).

- 16.3% of survey respondents had been arrested *once*. This is higher than in 2016 (14.3%).

- 30.2% of survey respondents had been arrested *more than five times*. This is almost double the response in 2016 (15.6%).

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* 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; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 43.4% 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 lower than in 2016 (44.7%).

- 17.4% of 2017 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 in 2016 (18.4%).

- 15.2% of survey respondents indicated that they had been without a home, or a regular place to stay/sleep, or had been homeless for more than 3 years in their entire lives. This is higher than in 2016 (7.9%).

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; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- 71.7% 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 higher than in 2016 (59.7%).

- 21.8% 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 lower than in 2016 (35.1%).

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Figure 78: How Long Have You Been Couch Surfing?

N: 2015 = 36; 2016 = 46; 2017 = 33
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (36.3%) of survey respondents had been couch surfing for *2–6 months* at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (45.7%).

- 27.4% had been couch surfing for *30 days or less.* This is lower than in 2016 (36.9%).

- 18.2% had been couch surfing for *more than 3 years* at the time of the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (4.3%).

6.2b.3 Adverse Experiences While Being Homeless

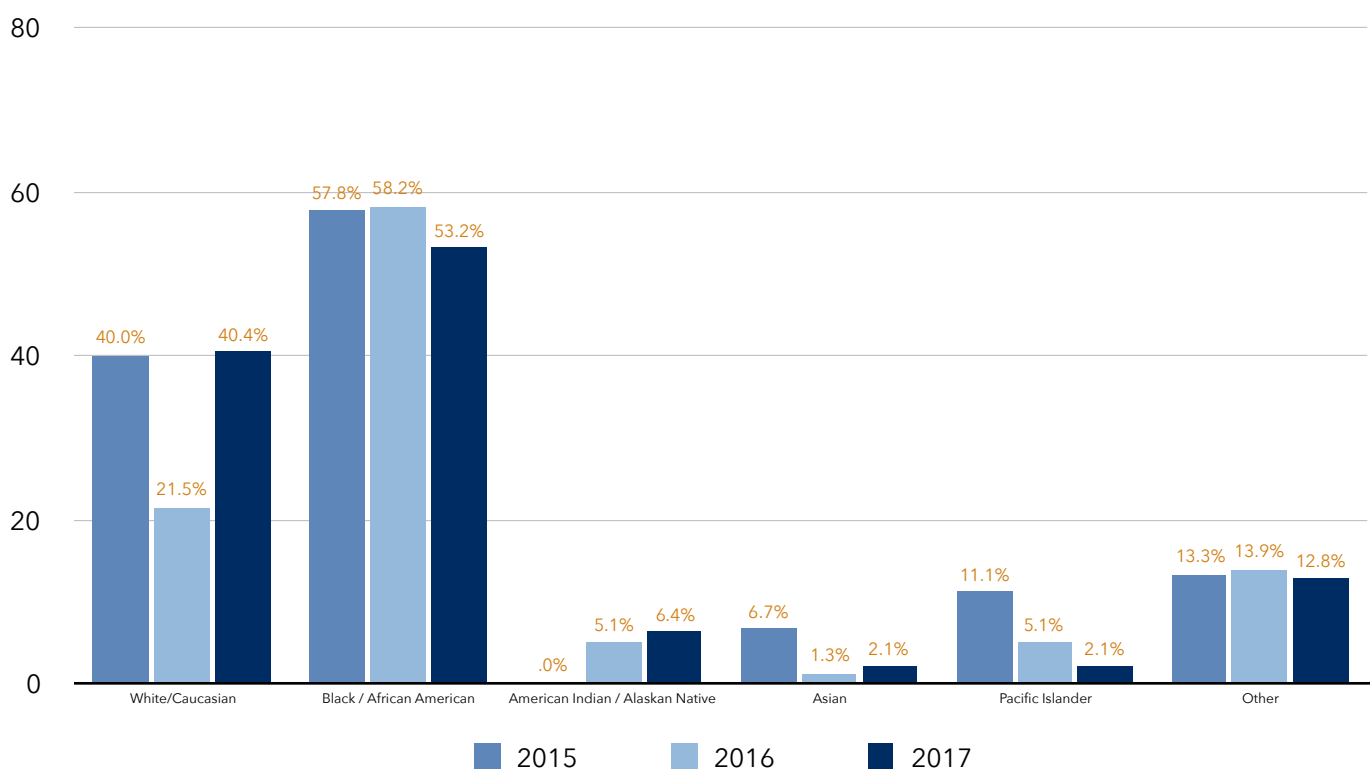Figure 79: Have You Traded Sex or Drugs for a Place to Stay?

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The overwhelming majority (63.1%) of survey respondents reported not exchanging either sex or drugs for a place to stay. This is lower than in 2016 (80.3%).

- 6.5% of survey respondents reported exchanging sex for a place to stay. This is higher than in 2016 (1.3%).

- 6.5% reported exchanging drugs for a place to stay. This is higher than in 2016 (2.6%).

Figure 80: Have You Committed a Crime in Exchange for Food or Shelter While on the Streets?

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 46
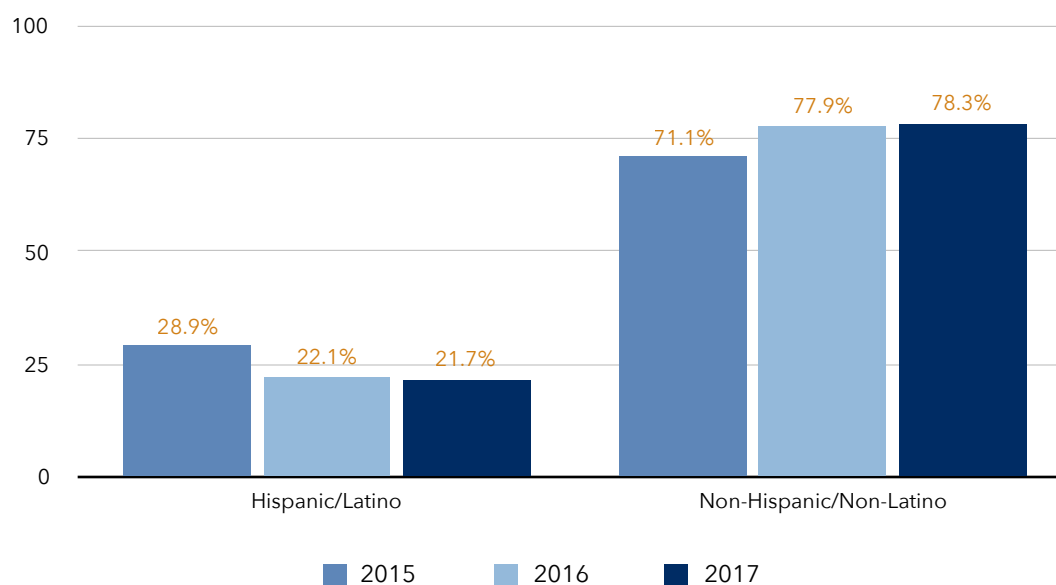Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (67.4%) of survey respondents reported that they had not committed a crime in exchange for food or shelter while experiencing homelessness. This is lower than in 2016 (85.5%).

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Figure 81: Have You Been a Victim of Crime While on the Streets?

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 60.9% of survey respondents reported that they had not been the victim of crime while experiencing homelessness. This is lower than in 2016 (71.1%).

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6.2b.4 Mental and Behavioral Health

Figure 82: Have You Ever Attempted Suicide?

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 45

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 64.4% of survey respondents had never attempted suicide at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (76.6%).

- 28.9% of survey respondents stated they had attempted suicide in the past. This is higher than in 2016 (20.8%).

Bitfocus

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; 69 respondents offering 87 responses in 2016; 44 respondents offering 56 responses in 2017.

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 27.3% of survey respondents reported *not using drugs* at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (36.2%).

- *Marijuana* (36.4%), *Alcohol* (15.9%), and *Methamphetamines* (15.9%) were the most commonly used drugs reported by respondents. Both *Marijuana* and *Methamphetamines* were reported less in 2016 (34.8% and 11.6%, respectively). *Alcohol* was reported more in 2016 (20.3%).

- 2.3% of survey respondents reported using *Cocaine/Crack*. This is lower than in 2016 (4.3%).

Figure 84: How Old Were You When You First Tried Marijuana?
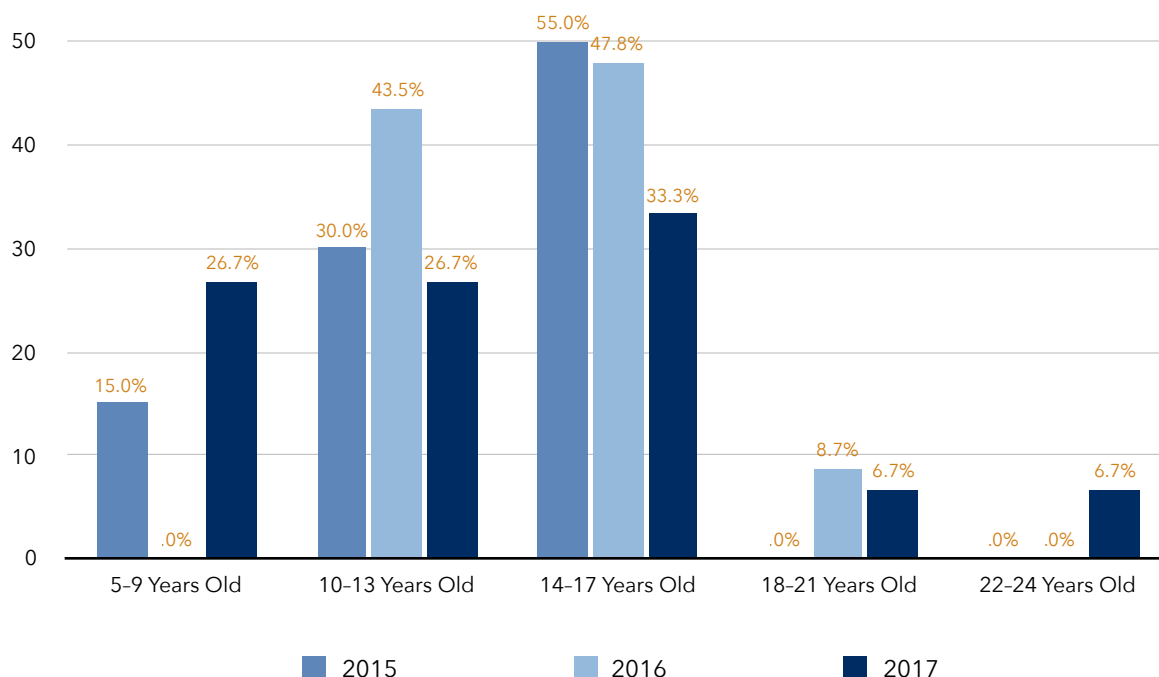
N: 2015 = 20; 2016 = 23; 2017 = 15
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 26.7% of survey respondents were between the ages of 5-9 years of age when they first tried Marijuana. This is higher than in 2016 (0.0%).

- 26.7% of survey respondents were between the ages of 10–13 when they first tried Marijuana. This is lower than in 2016 (43.5%).

- 33.3% of survey respondents were between the ages of 14–17 years old when they first tried Marijuana. This is lower than in 2016 (47.8%).

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)
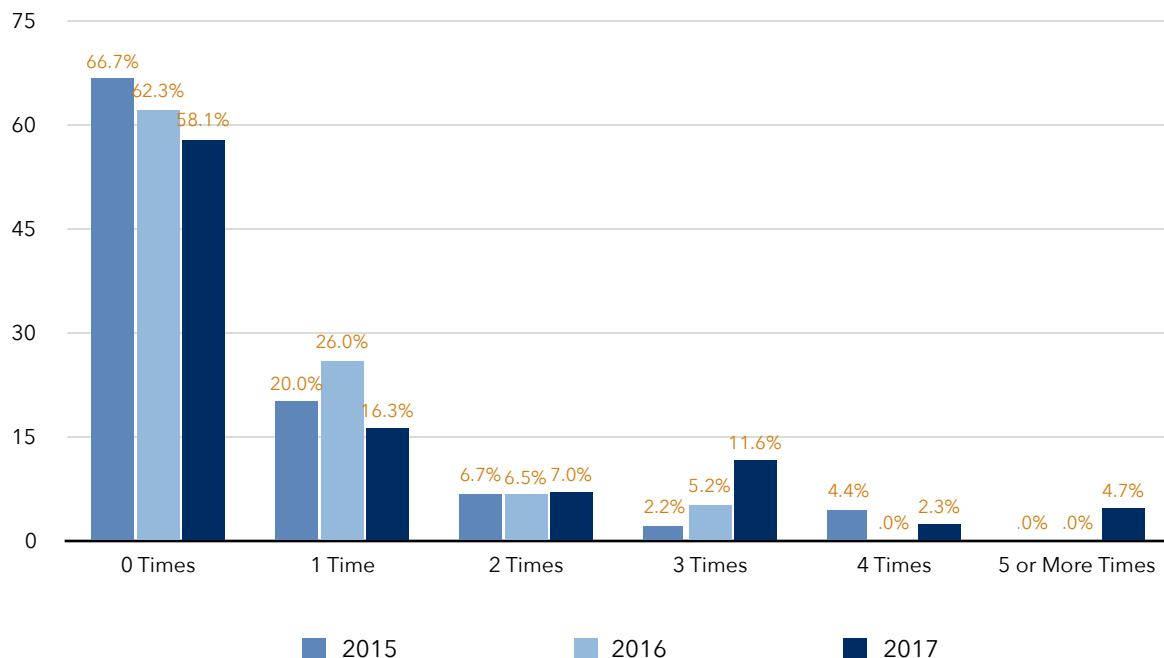
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 43

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (58.1%) had never been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant. This is lower than in 2016 (62.3%).

- 16.3% of respondents had been pregnant 1 time, or had gotten someone pregnant 1 time at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (26.0%).

- 4.7% of respondents had been pregnant, or had gotten someone pregnant, 5 or more times at the time of the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (0.0%).

Figure 86: How Many Biological Children Have You Had?
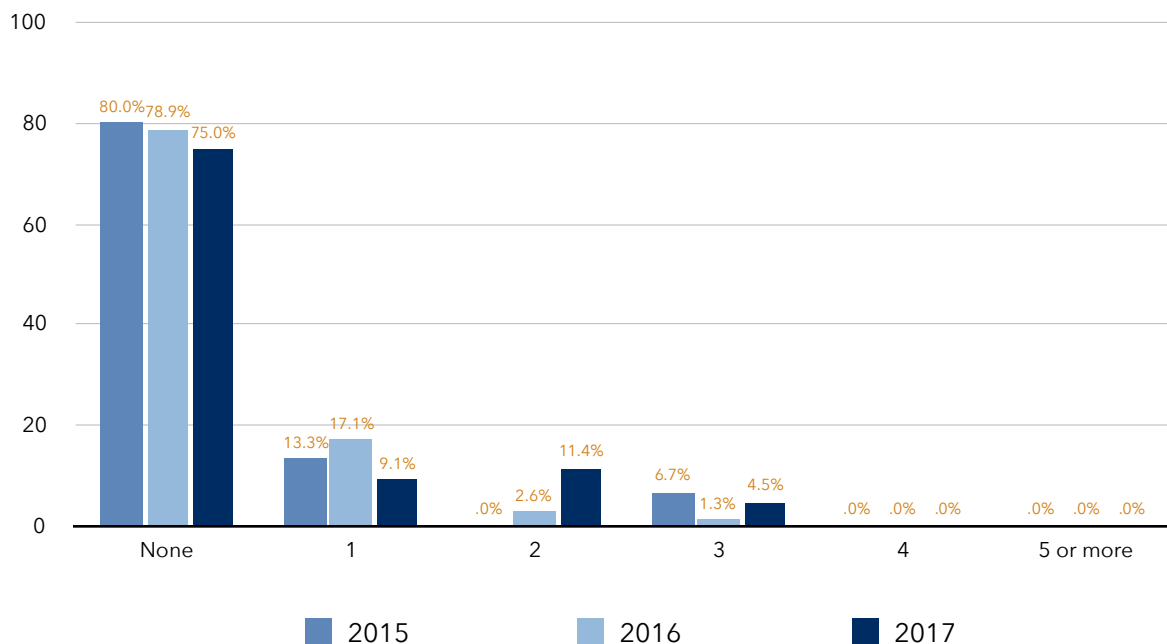
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 44
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (75.0%) of survey respondents have had no biological children. This is lower than in 2016 (78.9%).

- 9.1% of survey respondents have had 1 biological child. This is lower than in 2016 (17.1%).

- 4.5% have had 3 biological children. This is higher than in 2016 (1.3%).

Figure 87: How Many Children Do You Currently Have Custody Of?
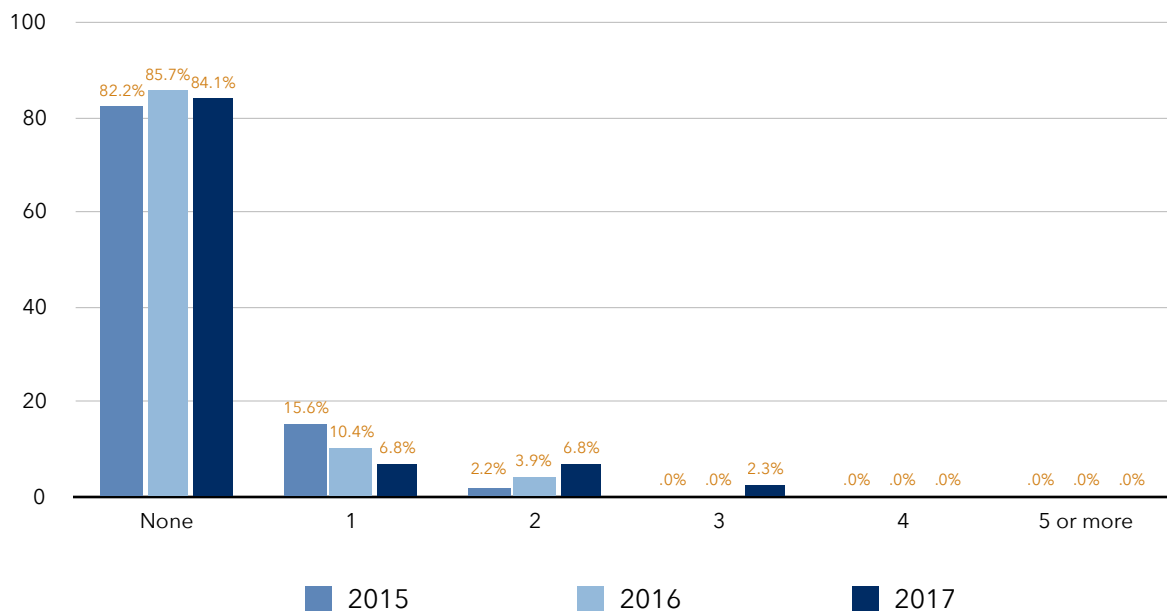
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 44
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 84.1% of survey respondents do not currently have custody of any children. This is lower than in 2016 (85.7%).

- 6.8% of survey respondents had custody of 1 child. This is lower than in 2016 (10.4%).

- 6.8% of survey respondents had custody of 2 children at the time of the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (3.9%).

- 2.3% of survey respondents had custody of 3 children at the time of the survey. This is higher than in 2016 (0.0%).

Figure 88: Have You Ever Had a Child Removed from Your Care or Taken Away (by Child Protective Services, Division of Child and Family Services)?
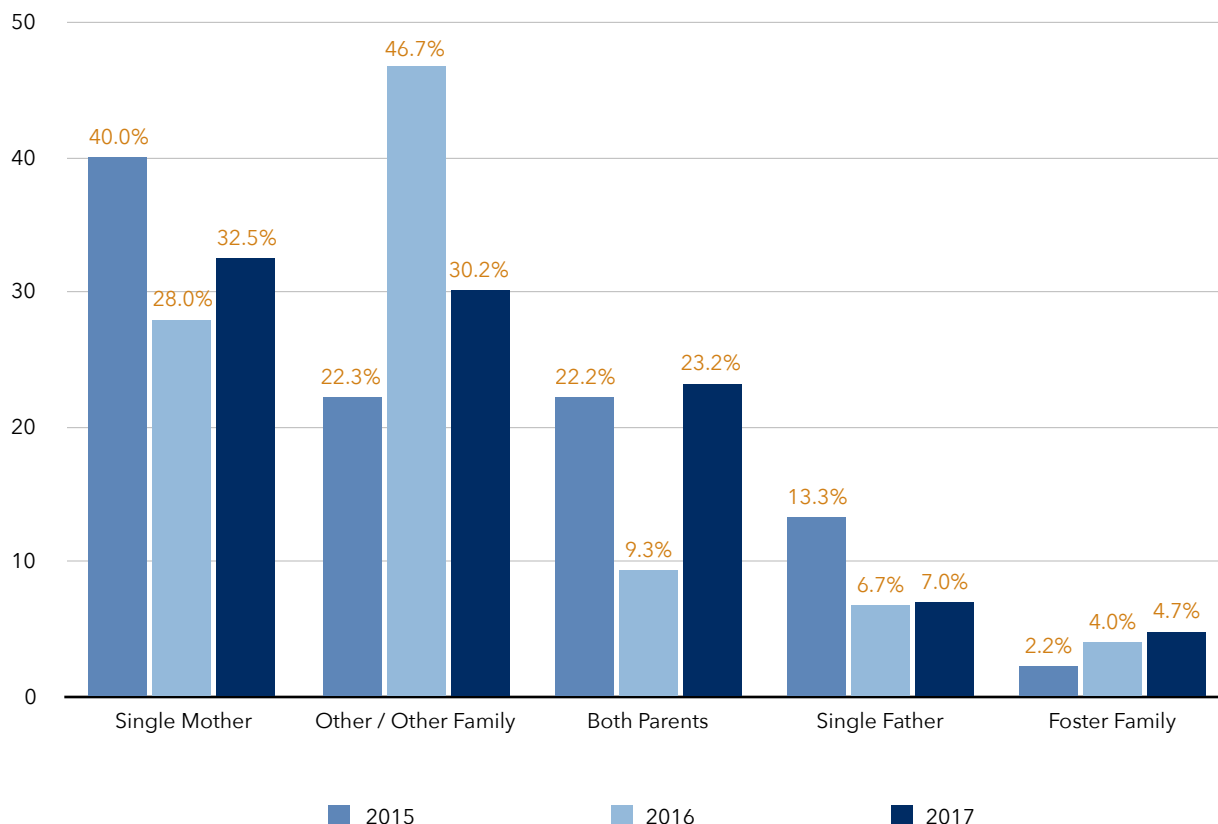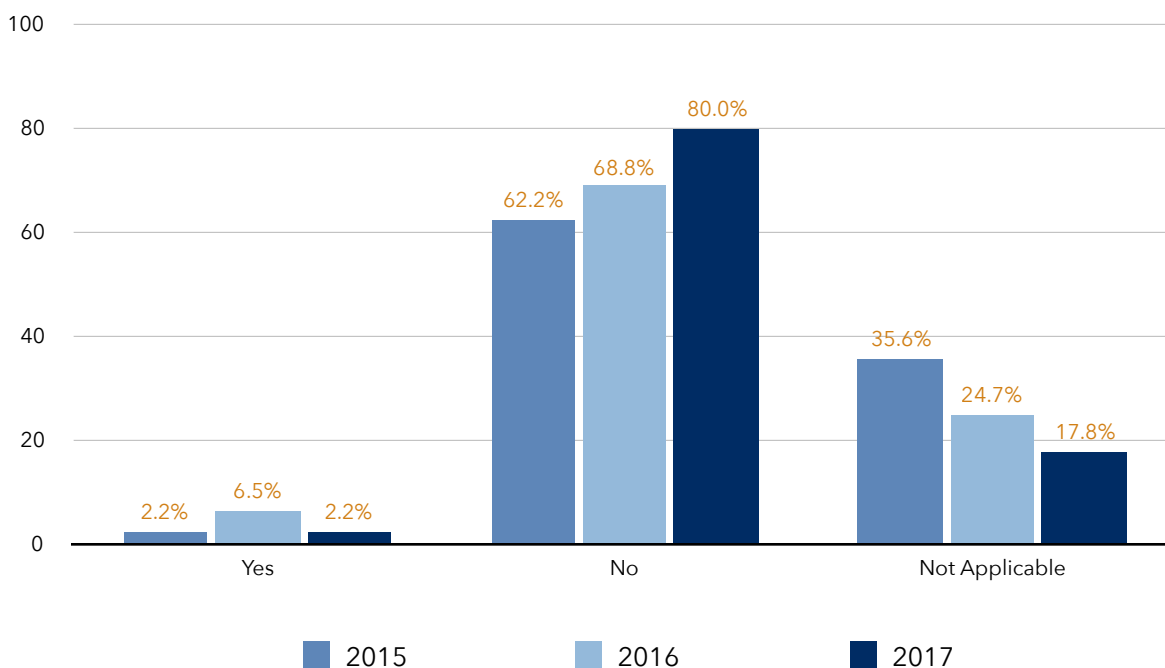

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 45
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 80.0% of survey respondents stated that CPS/DCFS had never removed a child from their care. This is higher than in 2016 (68.8%).

6.3 Current Needs and Support

6.3a Current Service Needs

Figure 89: Current Needs (Top 6 Responses in 2017)
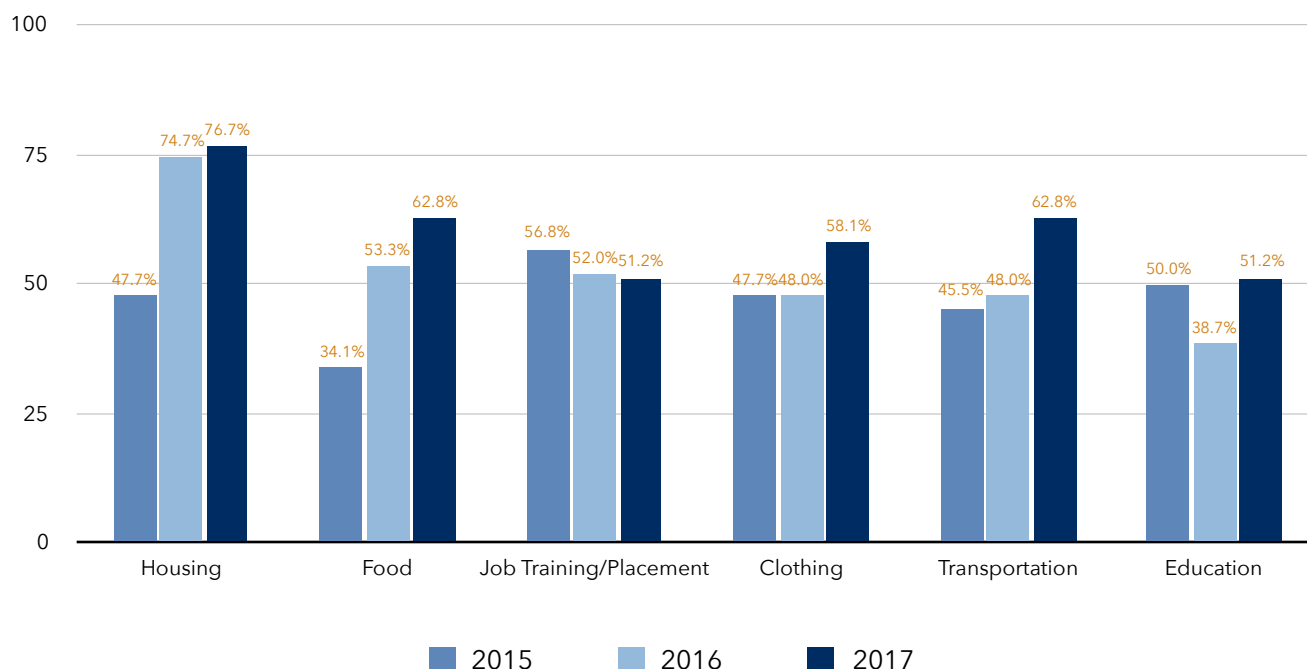
Multiple response question.
44 respondents provided 188 responses in 2015; 75 respondents provided 326 responses in 2016; 43 respondents provided 239 responses in 2017.
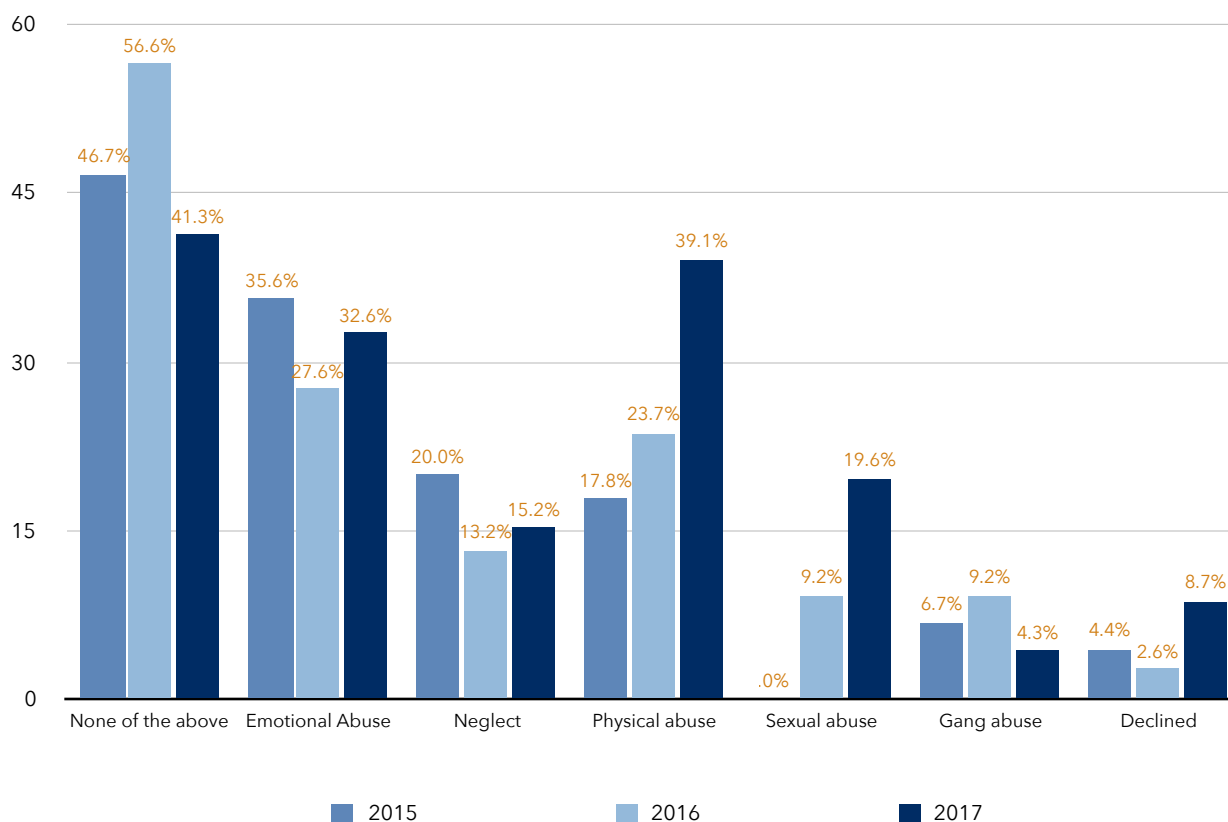*Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

Summary**:**

- The most commonly cited service need was *Housing* (76.7%). This is higher than in 2016 (74.7%).

- 62.8% of all respondents cited *Food* needs. This is higher than in 2016 (53.3%). The same number of respondents (62.8%) cited *Transportation* needs. This is also higher than in 2016 (48.0%).

- 58.1% of all respondents cited *Clothing* needs. This is higher than in 2016 (48.0%).

- 51.2% of all respondents cited *Job Training/Placement* needs. This is lower than in 2016 (52.0%). The same number of respondents (51.2%) cited *Education* needs, which is higher than in 2016 (38.7%)

Figure 90: Assistance Identified as Helpful to Prevent Homelessness (Top 5 Responses in 2017)

The following service types were identified by respondents as services that could help them "get off the streets":
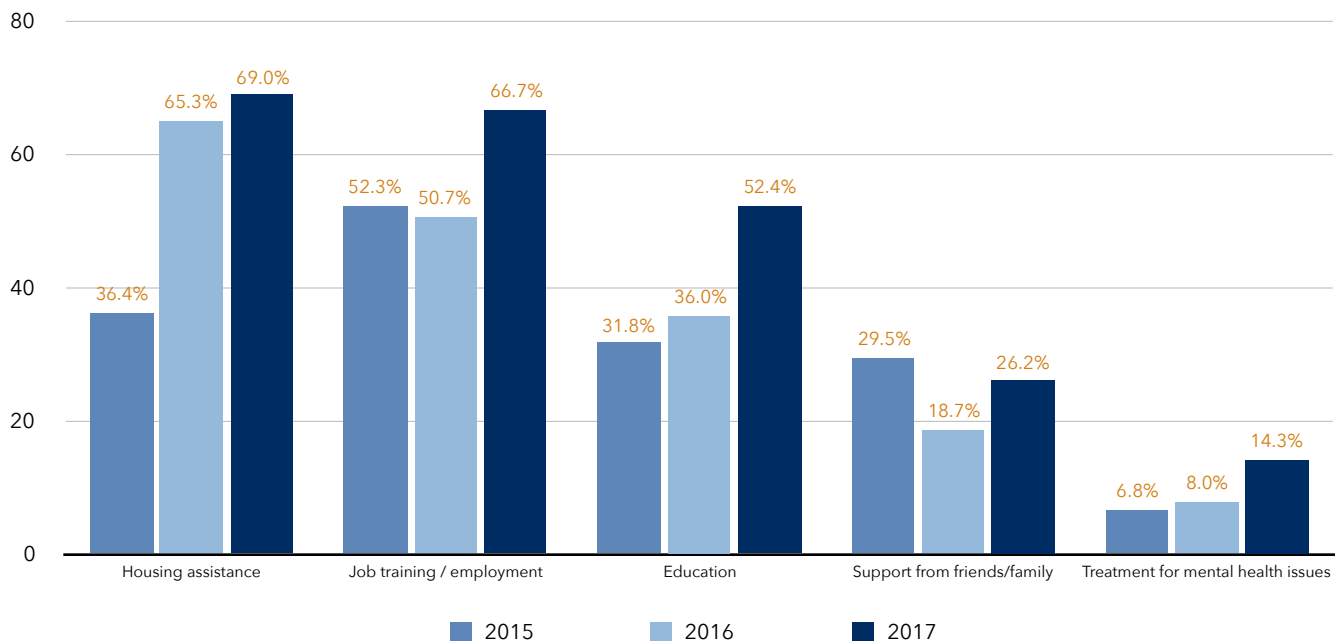
Multiple response question.
44 respondents provided 84 responses in 2015; 75 respondents provided 160 responses in 2016; 42 respondents provided 111 responses in 2017
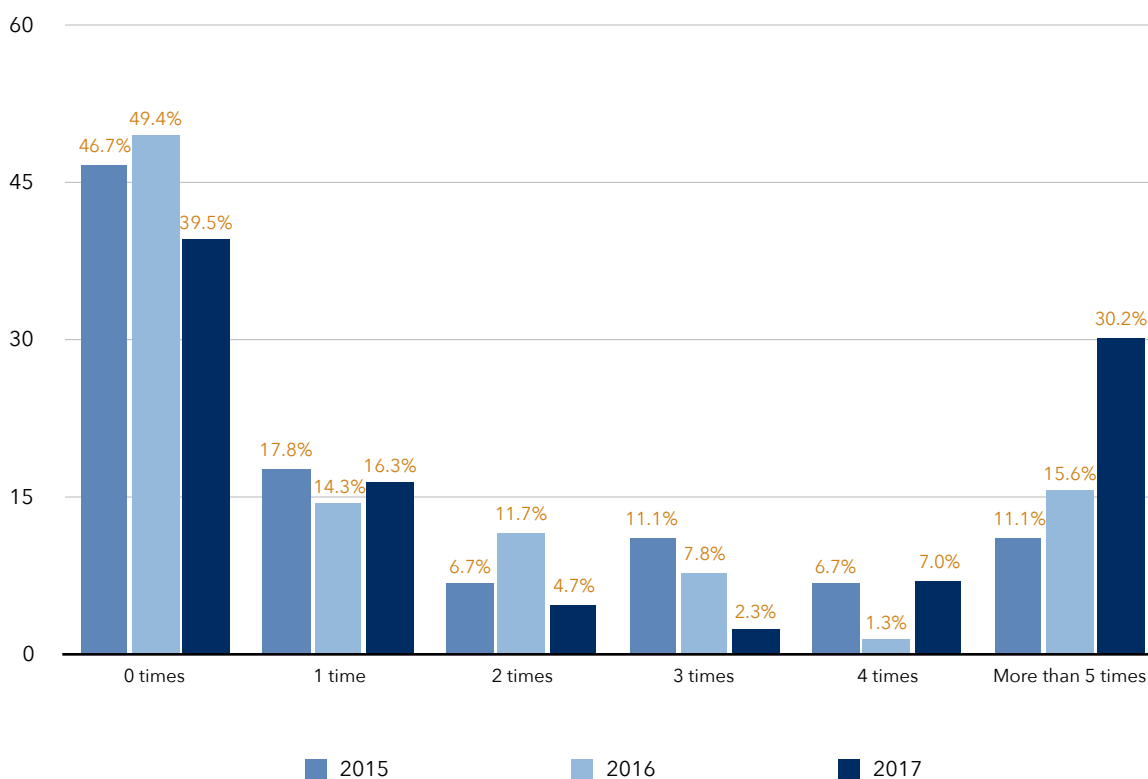*Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

Summary:

- *Housing Assistance* was the most commonly cited service that would help respondents get off the streets (69.0%). This is higher than in 2016 (65.3%).

- 66.7% of respondents cited *Job training/employment* as a service category that would help them get off the streets. This is higher than in 2016 (50.7%).

- 52.4% of respondents cited *Education* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is higher than in 2016 (36.0%).

- 26.2% of respondents cited *Support from friends or family* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is higher than in 2016 (18.7%).

- 14.3% of respondents cited *Treatment for mental health issues* as helpful to getting them off the streets. This is higher than in 2016 (8.0%).

6.3b Educational Situation and Needs

Figure 91: Are You Currently in Any Kind of Educational Program?
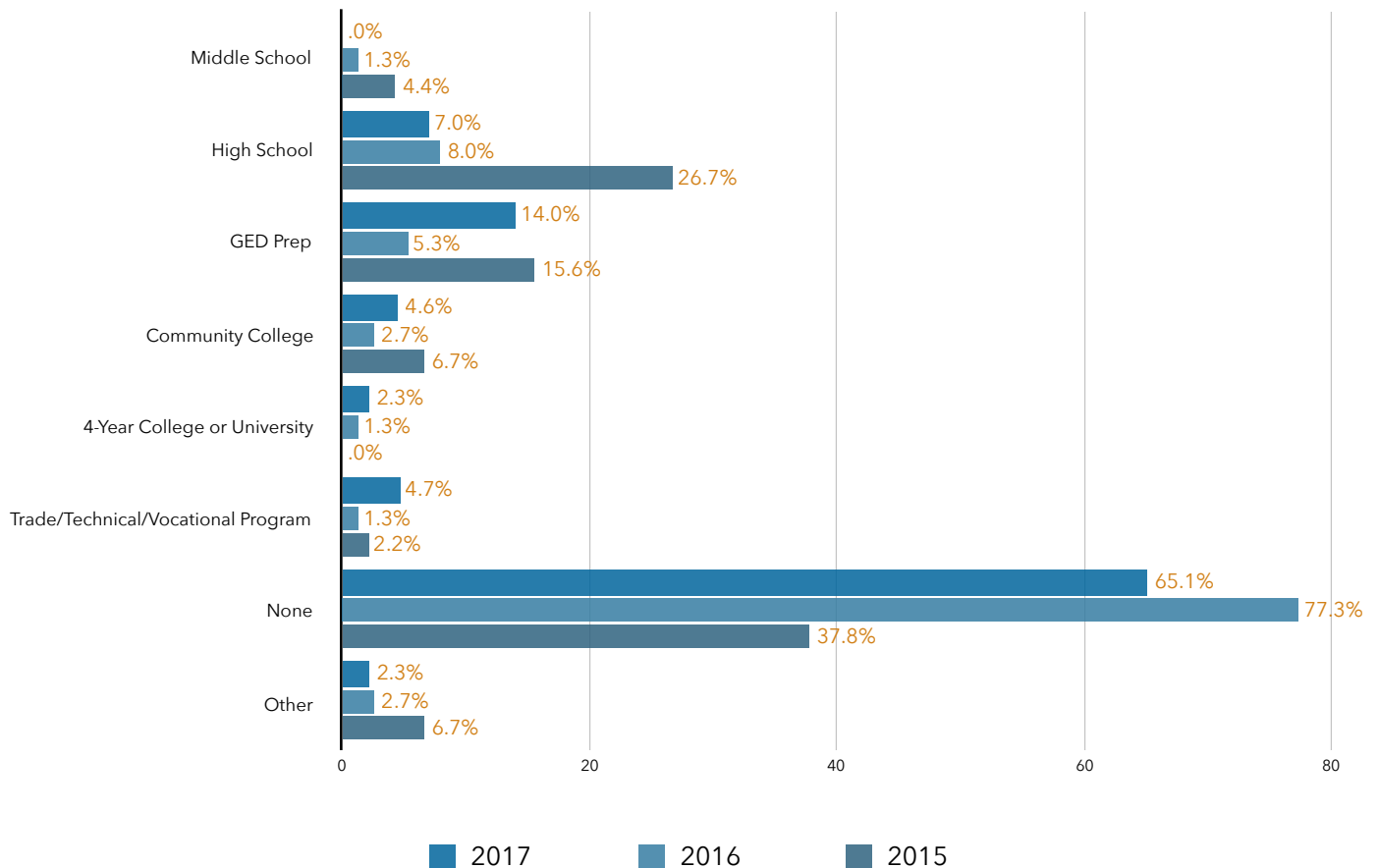
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75; 2017 = 43

Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV..
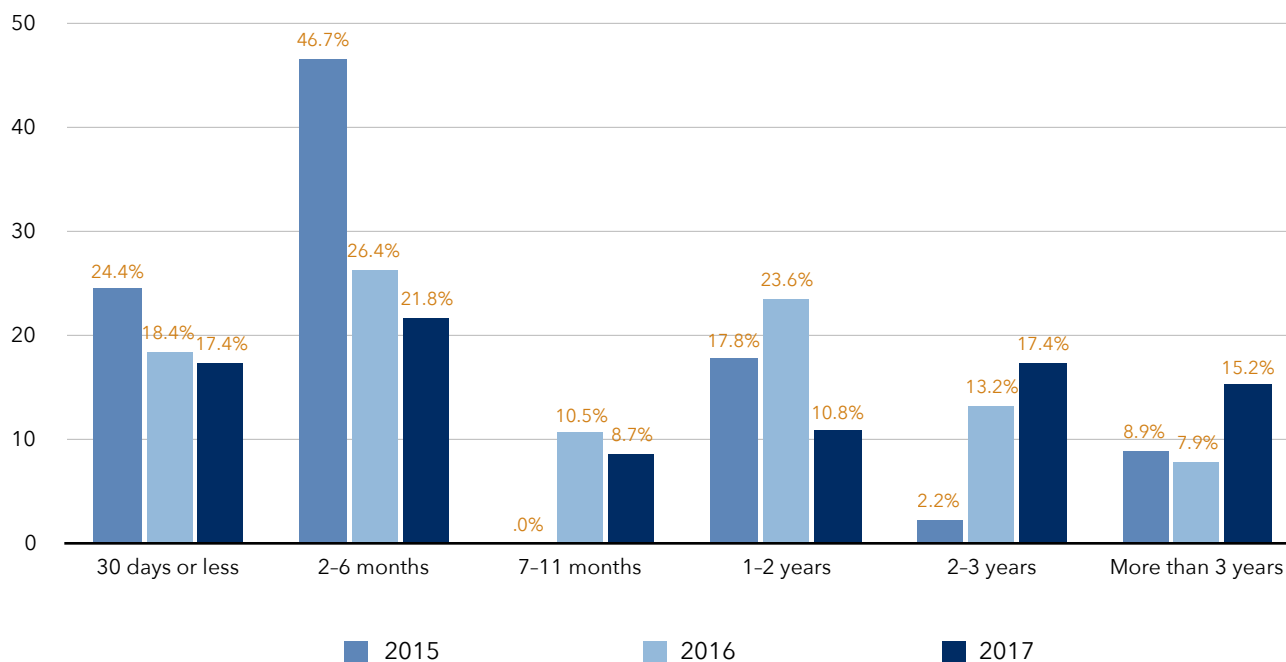
Summary:

- Most (65.1%) of survey respondents reported that they were not currently in any educational program at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (77.3%).

- 7.0% of survey respondents were in *high school* at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (8.0%).

- 14.0% were in a *GED Prep program*. This is higher than in 2016 (5.3%).

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Figure 92: What Is the Highest Grade You Have Completed?
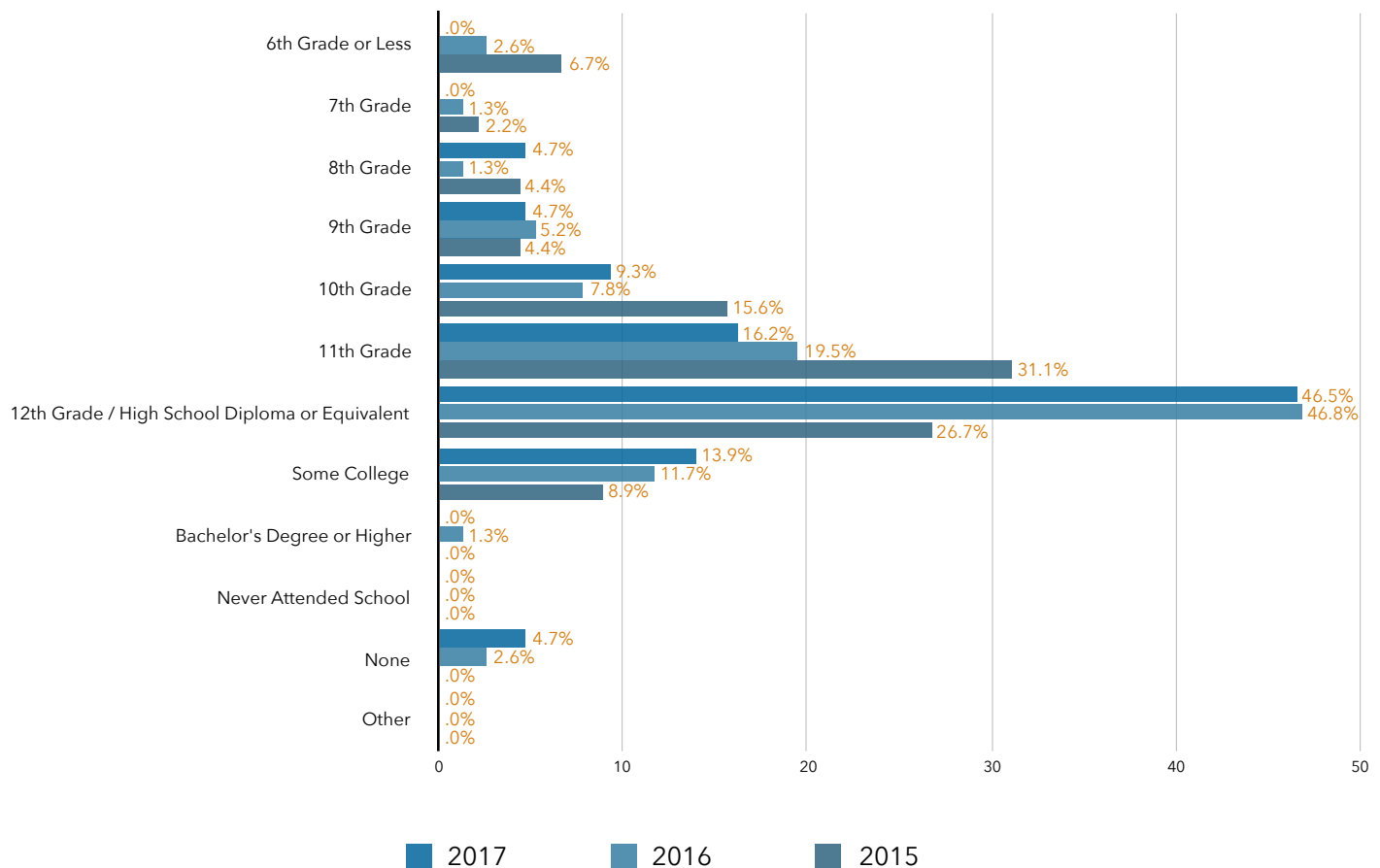
6th Grade or Less
.0%
2.6%
6.7%

7th Grade
.0%
1.3%
2.2%

8th Grade
4.7%
1.3%
4.4%

9th Grade
4.7%
5.2%
4.4%

10th Grade
9.3%
7.8%
15.6%

11th Grade
16.2%
19.5%
31.1%

12th Grade / High School Diploma or Equivalent
46.5%
46.8%
26.7%

Some College
13.9%
11.7%
8.9%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher
.0%
1.3%
.0%

Never Attended School
.0%
.0%
.0%

None
4.7%
2.6%
.0%

Other
.0%
.0%
.0%

2017   2016   2015

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 77; 2017 = 43
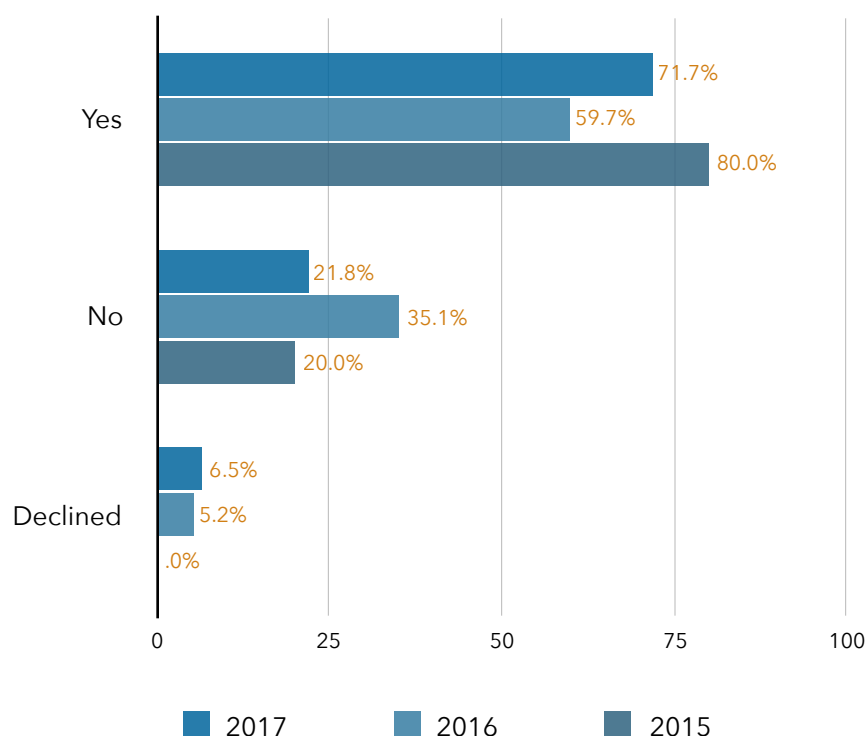*Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

Summary:

- 46.5% of respondents had finished 12th grade or earned their diploma/equivalent. This is almost the same as in 2016 (46.8%).

- 16.2% of survey respondents had reached 11th grade. This is lower than in 2016 (19.5%).

- No survey respondents reported the highest level of education they had completed was 6th grade. This is lower than in 2016 (2.6%).

- 13.9% of survey respondents had some college education. This is higher than in 2016 (11.7%).

- No survey respondents reported they had at a bachelor's degree or higher. This is lower than in 2016 (1.3%).

Figure 93: Would You Be Interested in Receiving Educational Services If They Were Available to You?
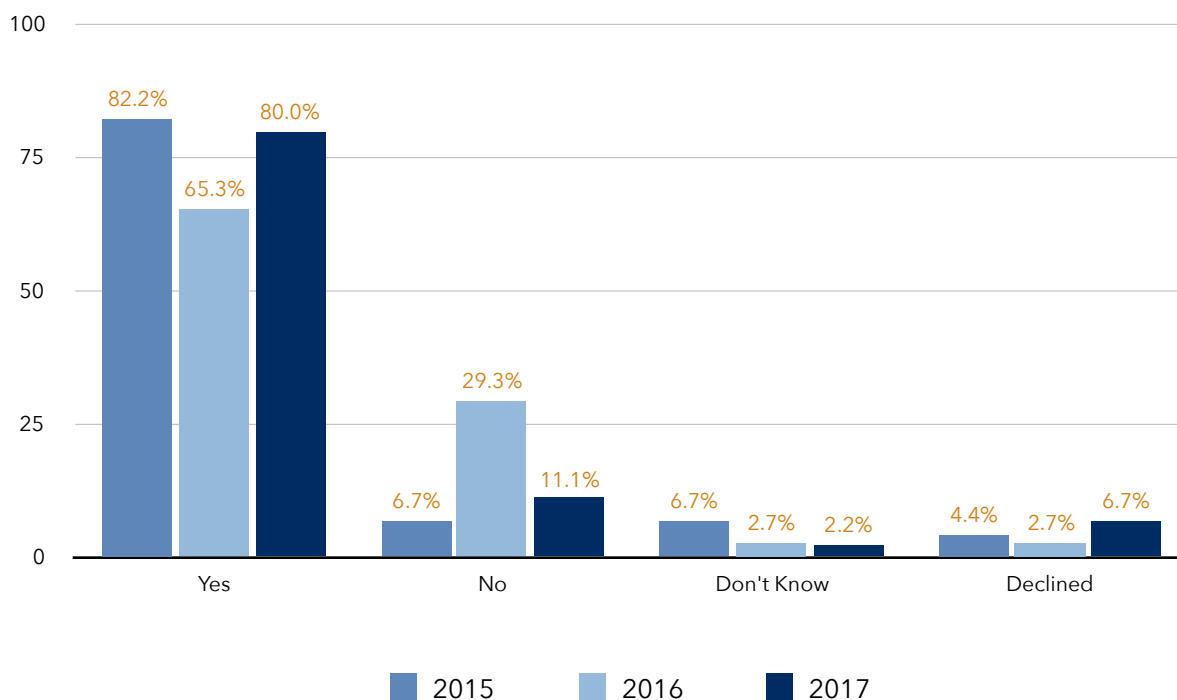
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75; 2017 = 45
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 80.0% of survey respondents would be interested in receiving educational services if they were available. This is higher than in 2016 (65.3%).

6.3c Structure and Components of Social Support System

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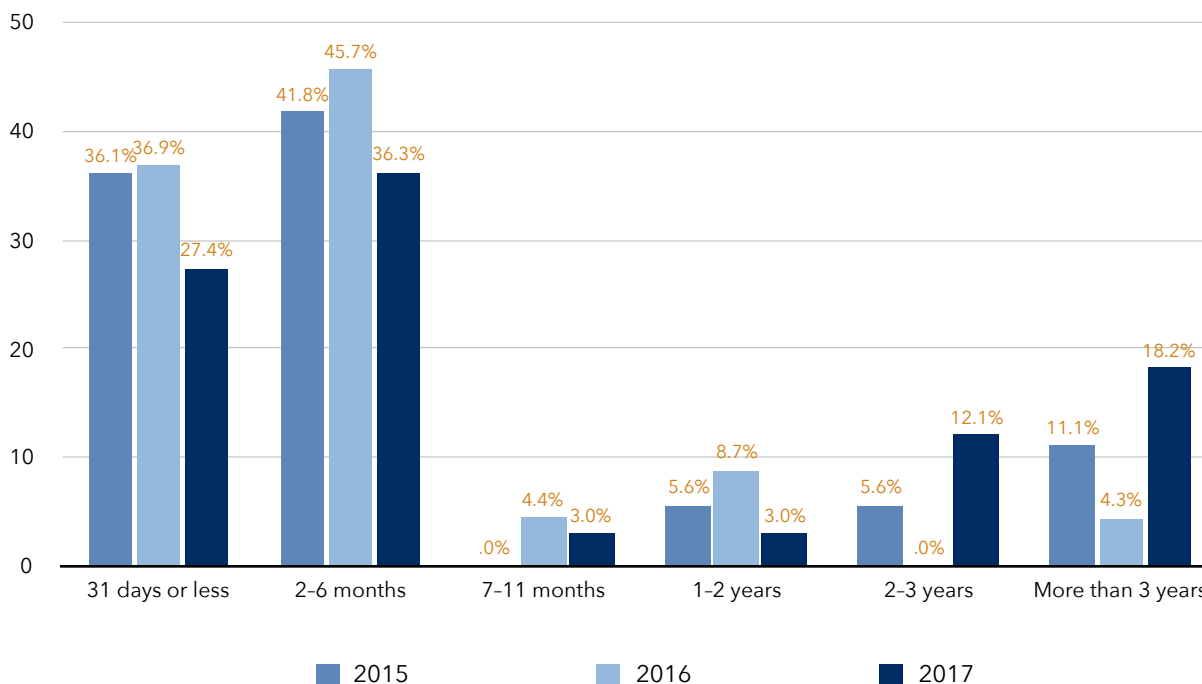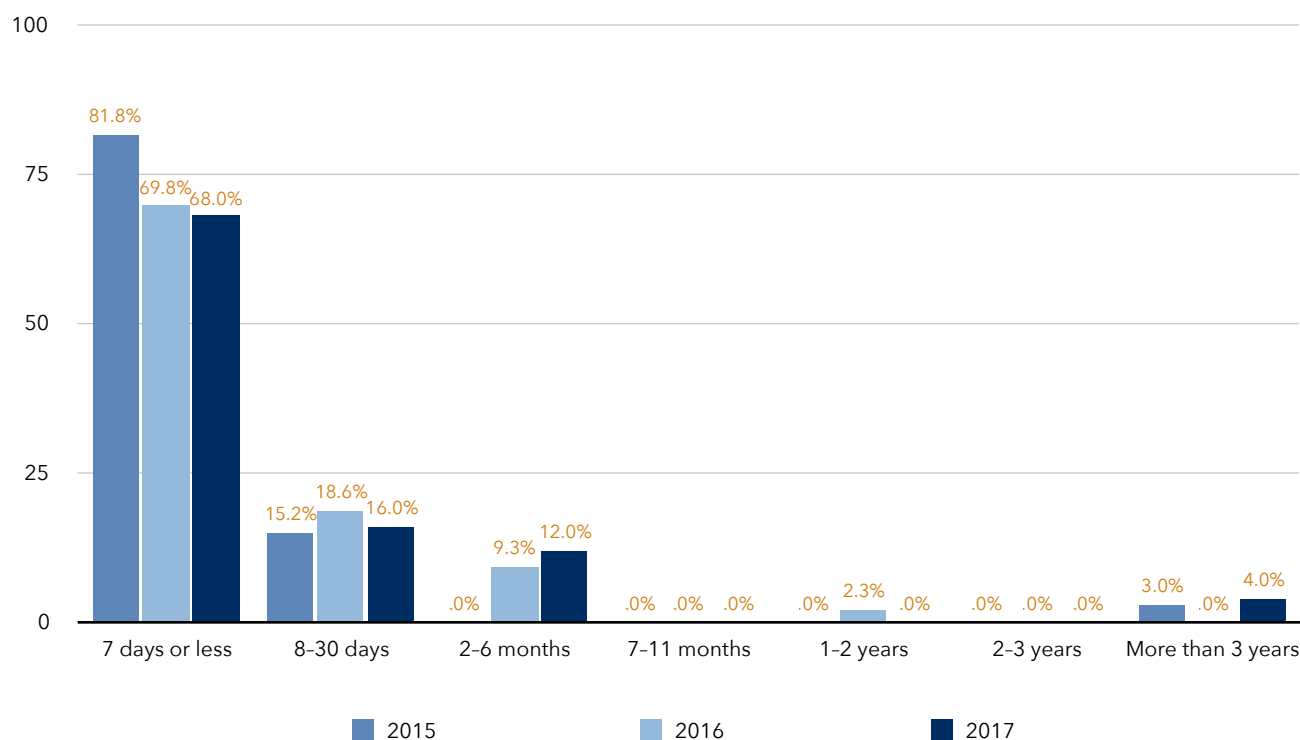

N: 2015 = 33; 2016 = 43; 2017 = 25
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary**:**

- The majority of survey respondents (68.0%) last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *7 days or less* before they were surveyed. This percentage is slightly lower than in 2016 (69.8%).

- 16.0% of respondents last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *8–30 days* before they were surveyed. This percentage is lower than in 2016 (18.6%).

- 4.0% of respondents last had contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) *more than 3 years* before they were surveyed. In 2016, none of the survey respondents cited this length of time.

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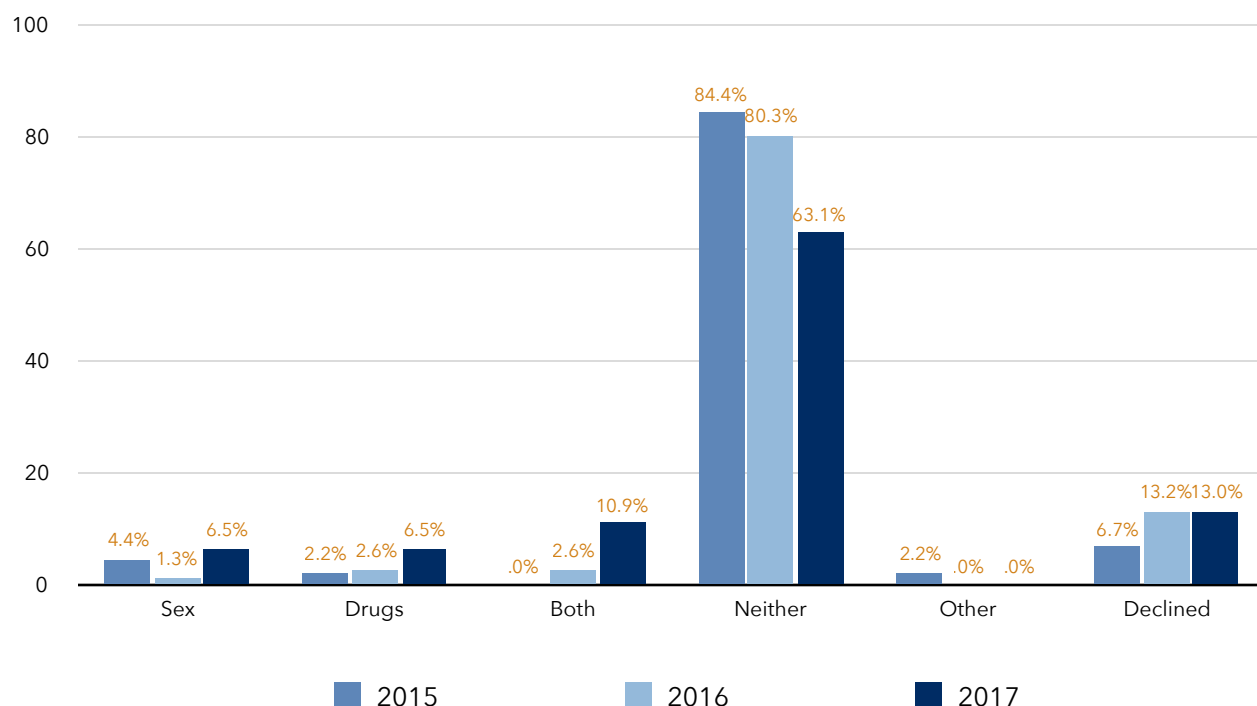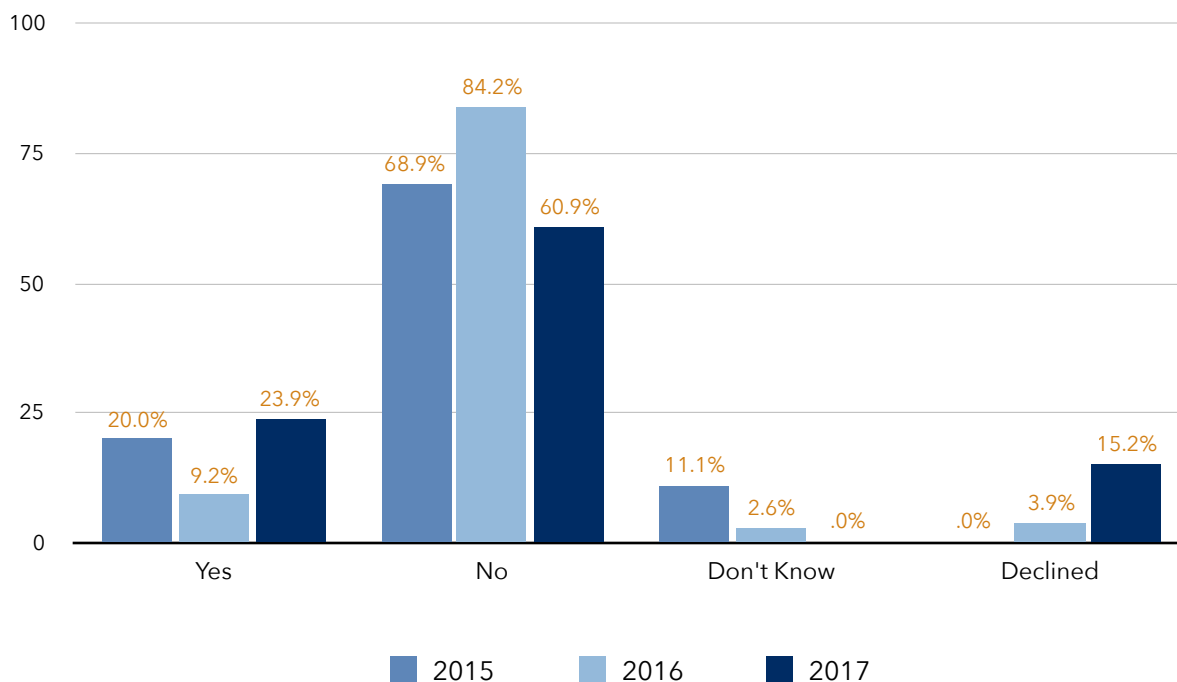

N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority (60.9%) of survey respondents reported that their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s) were never homeless, or were not homeless at the time of the survey. This is lower than in 2016 (84.2%).

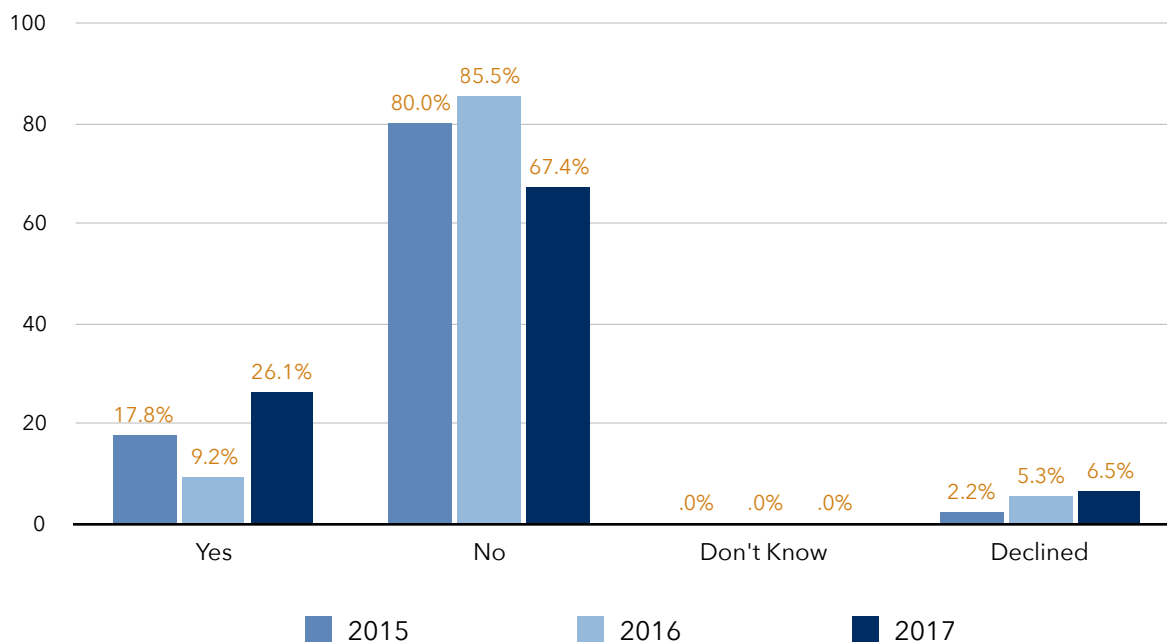Figure 96: Do You Have Contact with Your Parent(s) or Primary Caregiver(s)?
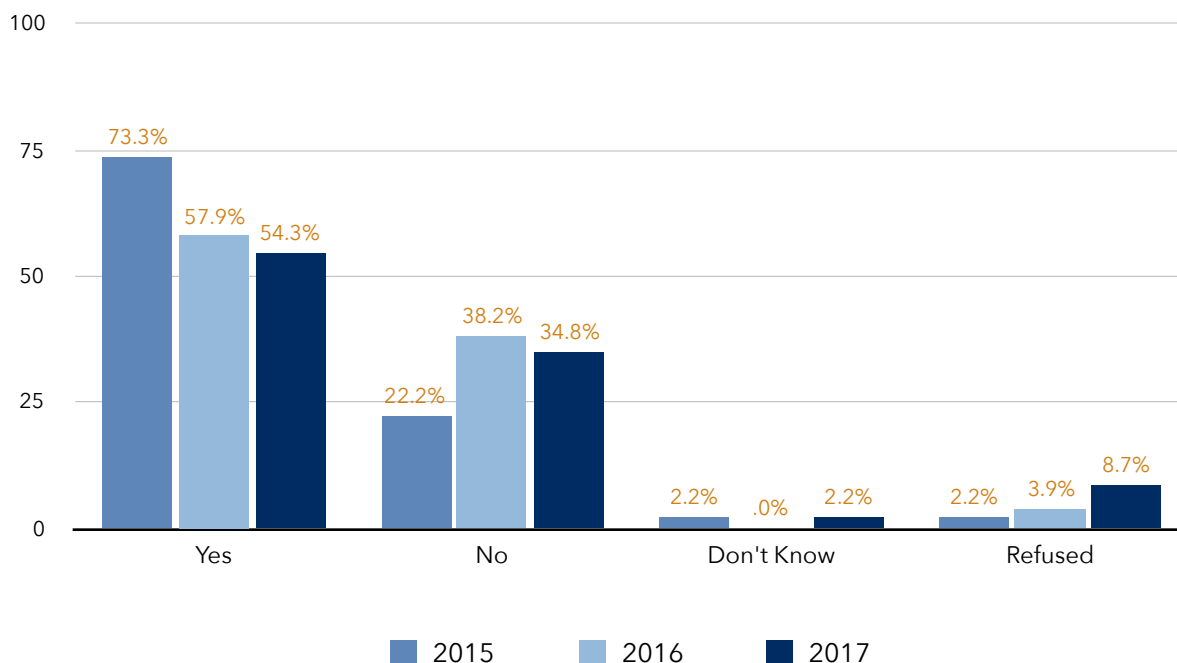
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 76; 2017 = 46
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority of respondents (54.3%) were still in contact with their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s). This is lower than in 2016 (57.9%).

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Figure 97, Part 1: Currently Is There At Least One Adult in Your Life to Whom You Can Go for Advice or Emotional Support?
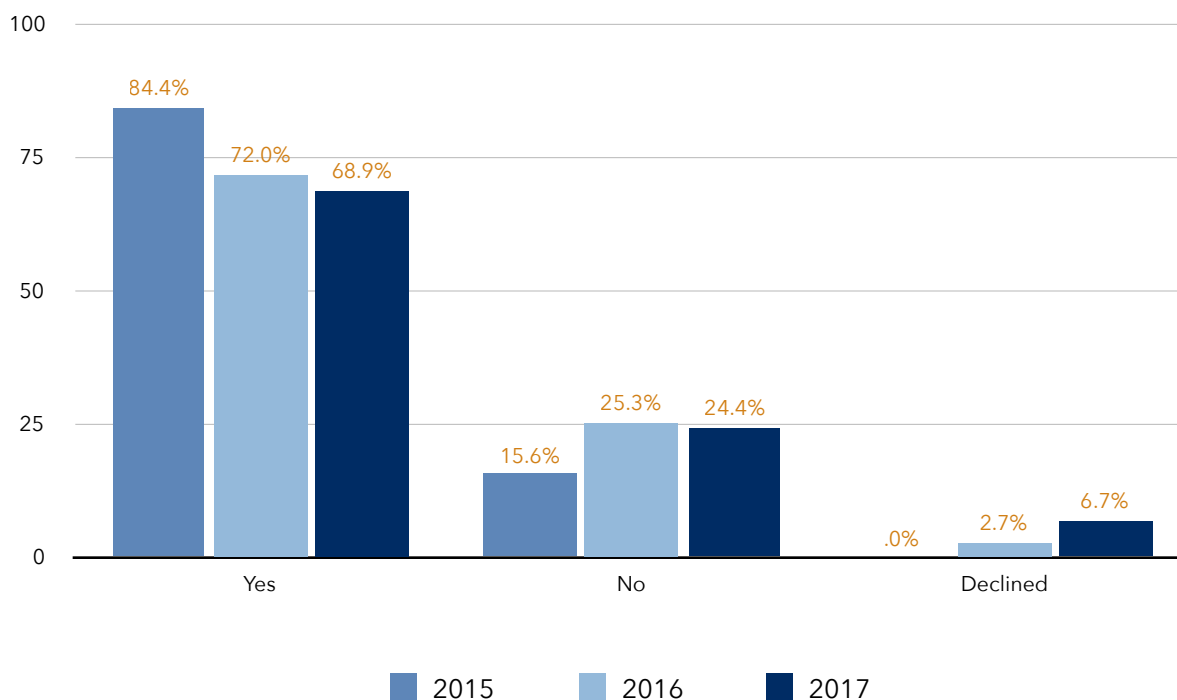
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75; 2017 = 45
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (68.9%) reported that they had an adult to whom they could go for advice and emotional support. This is less than in 2016 (72.0%).

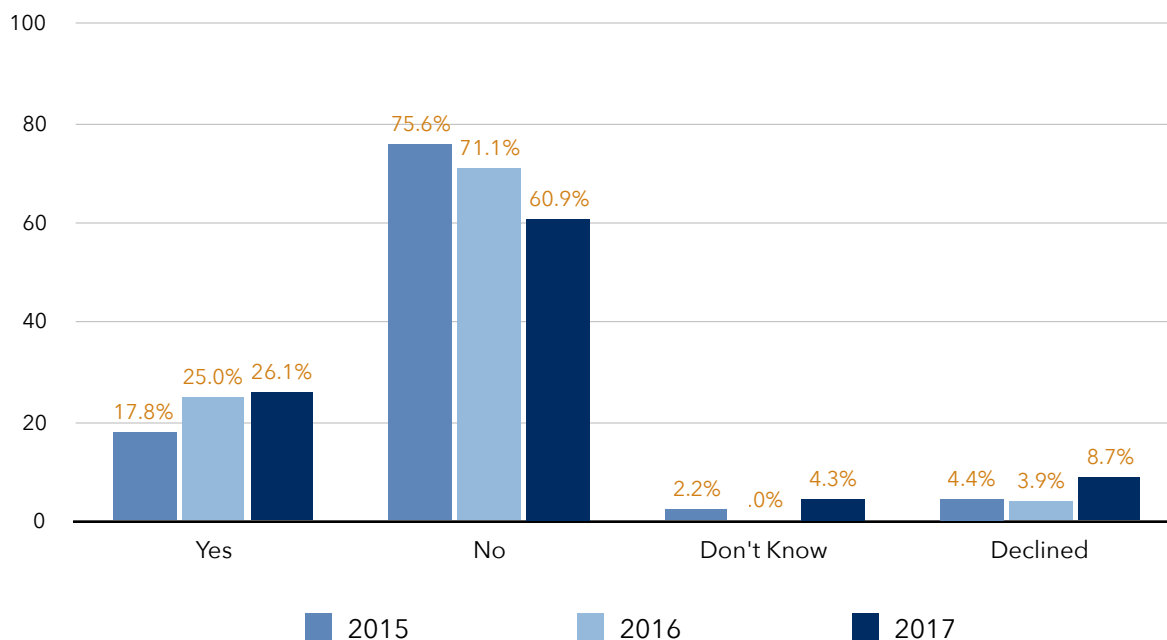Figure 97, Part 2: How Do You Know This Person?
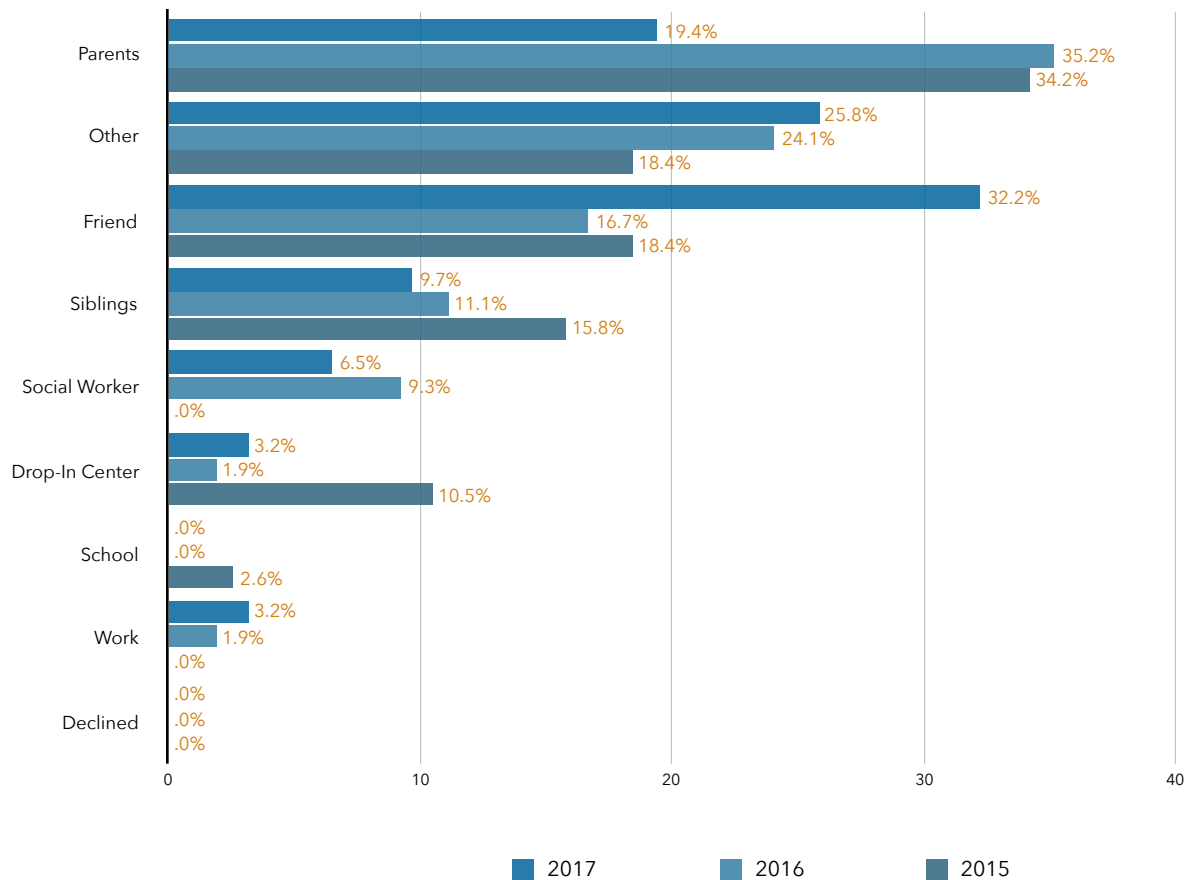
N: 2015 = 38; 2016 = 54; 2017 = 31
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- Most survey respondents (32.2%) reported that their friend was the individual to whom they could go to for advice and emotional support. This is more than in 2016 (16.7%).

- 19.4% of survey respondents reported that their parent was the individual to whom they could go to for advice and emotional support. This is less than in 2016 (35.2%).

- 3.2% of survey respondents found their supportive adult at a drop-in center. This is more than in 2016 (1.9%).

- 6.5% reported their supportive adult was a social worker. This is lower than in 2016 (9.3%).

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?

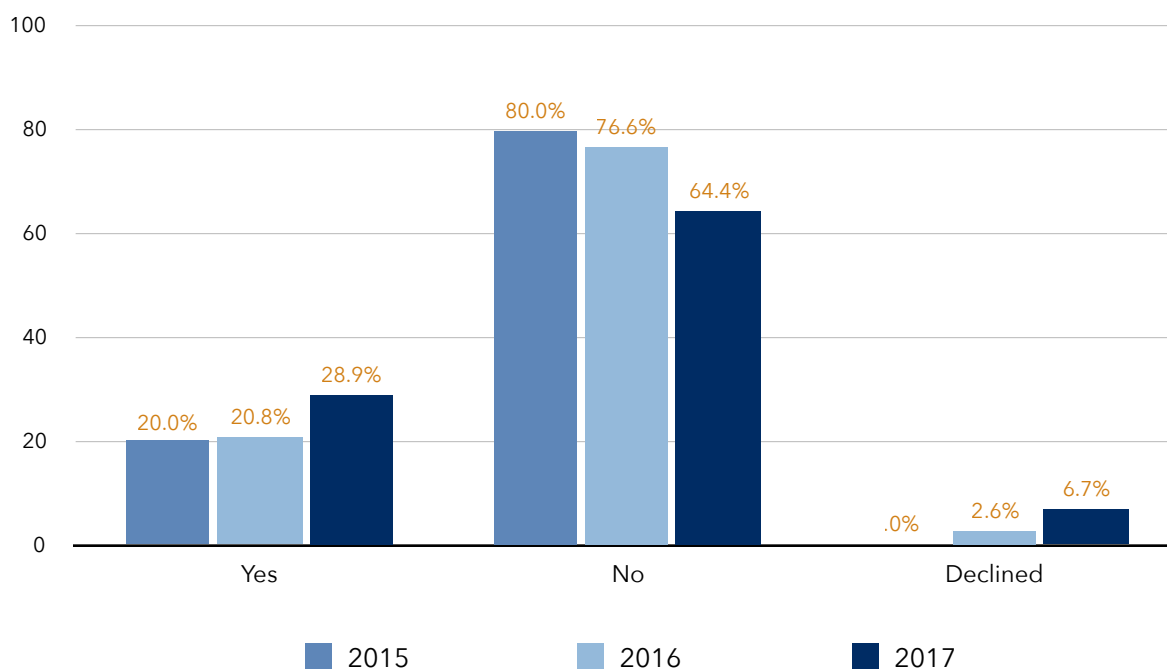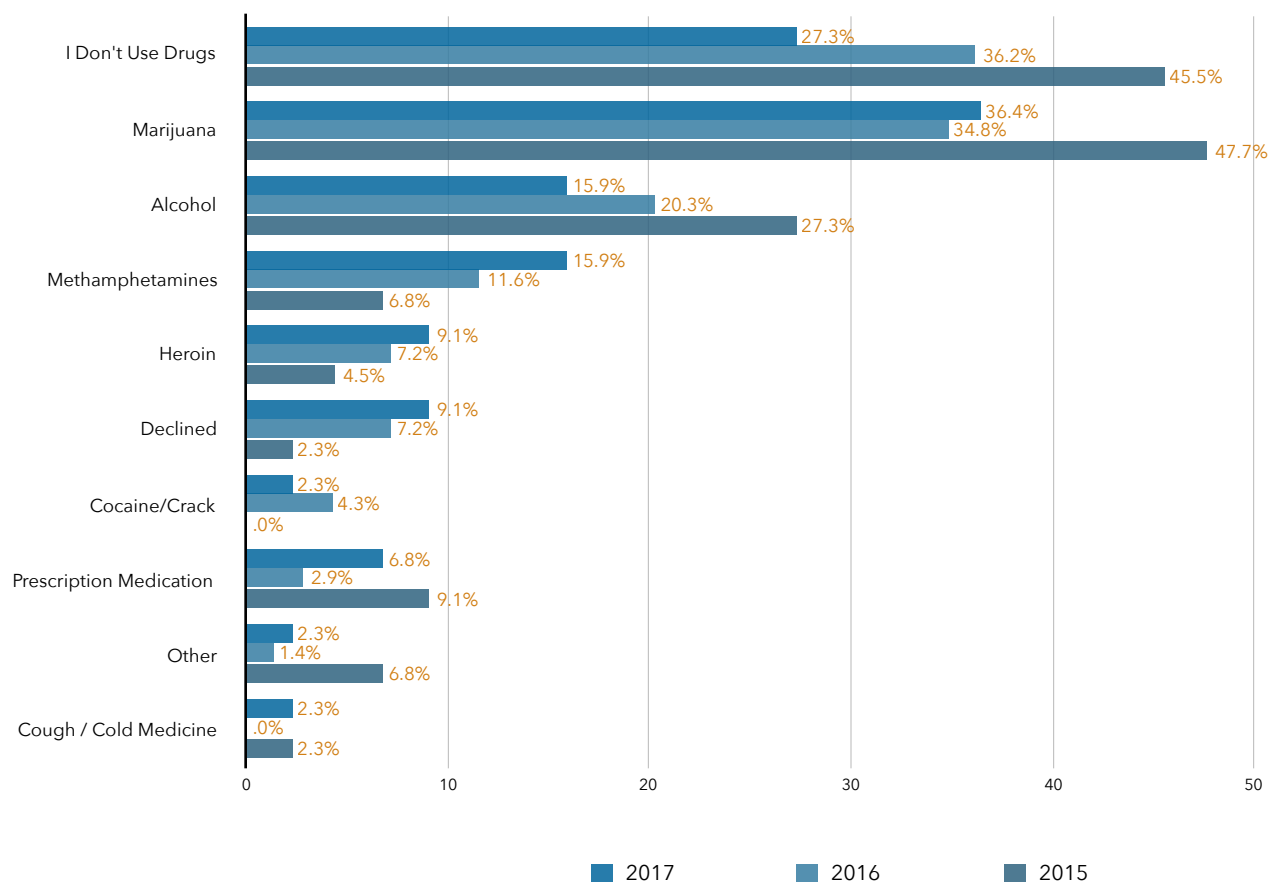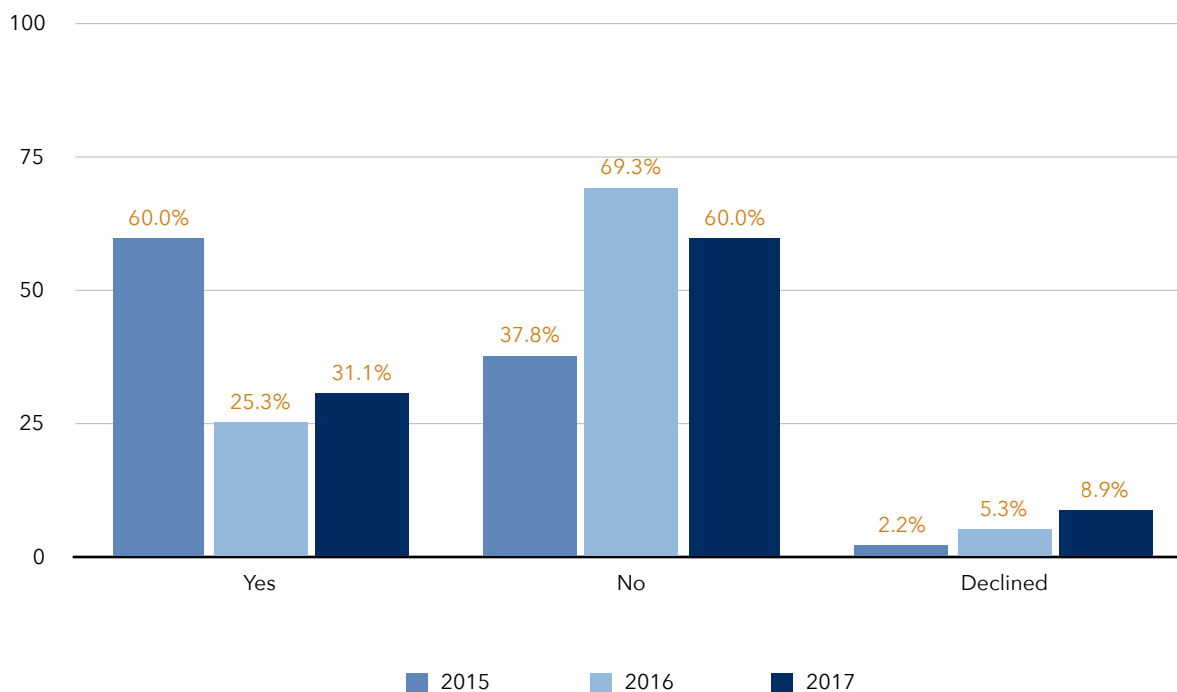
N: 2015 = 45; 2016 = 75; 2017 = 45
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 31.1% of survey respondents had voluntarily sought formal counseling services through a government, church, or youth program at some point in their past. This is more than in 2016 (25.3%).

6.4b Barriers to Assistance

6.4b.1 Factors Preventing Respondents from Seeking Services

- In 2017, the majority of respondents (50.0%) cited *Don't have transportation* as a primary factor preventing them from seeking services, 41.2% reported *Other,* and 17.6% cited *Don't trust anyone* as a reason. 2.9% cited *Afraid that their parents will be contacted* as a primary reason, and none 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?
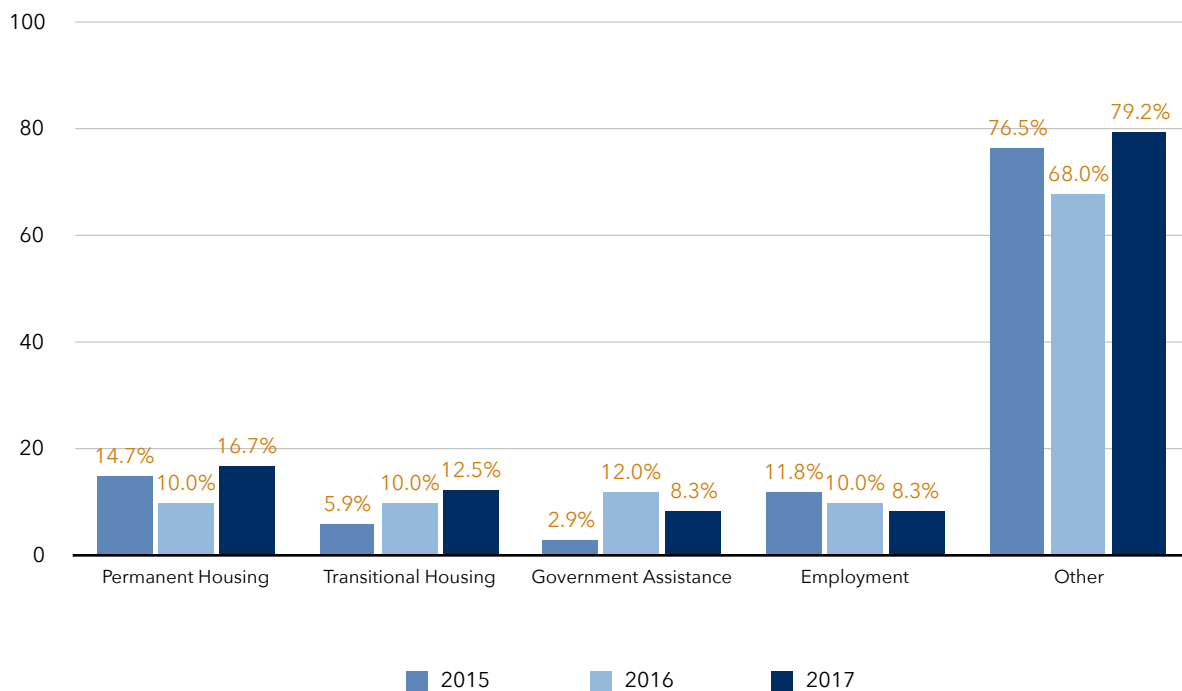
Multiple response question.
34 respondents provided 38 responses in 2015; 50 respondents provided 55 responses in 2016; 24 respondents provided 30 responses in 2017
Source: Bitfocus, Inc., (2015, 2016, 2017), 2015, 2016, and 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Summary:

- 16.7% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *permanent housing*. This is higher than in 2016 (10.0%).

- 12.5% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *transitional housing*. This is higher than in 2016 (10.0%).

- 8.3% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from receiving *government assistance*. This is lower than in 2016 (12.0%).

- 8.3% of survey respondents reported that their age prevented them from obtaining *employment.* This is lower than in 2016 (10.0%).

- 79.2% stated their age prevented them from receiving *other* services or goals. This is higher than in 2016 (68.0%).

7. CONCLUSION

The information collected in the 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report is of both local and nationwide importance. On a local level, this report offers 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 policymakers 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 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report, and other reports like it.

Nationwide, the number of people experiencing homelessness declined by 2.6% (or 14,780 people) between 2016 and 2017. Declines were composed entirely of people staying in sheltered locations (which declined by 4.6%). Homelessness increased among people staying in unsheltered locations (by 1.8%). Homelessness declined by 15% (97,330 people) overall between 2007 and 2016. In 2016 a majority (68%) was staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, and 32% were in unsheltered locations. There were 355,212 people experiencing homelessness as individuals, accounting for 65% of the homeless population. There were 194,716 people in families with children experiencing homelessness, representing 35% of the homeless population. At the time of this report, the national homeless data for 2017 has not been published.[*]

The Southern Nevada Point-In-Time (PIT) Count took place on January 24, 2017. 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 2017 PIT Count was able to identify 6,490 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. 32.9% of those enumerated were sheltered, while 67.1% were unsheltered.

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2016*

The number of homeless persons enumerated in the 2017 Southern Nevada PIT Count represents a 4.5% (282 persons) increase from the 2016 Southern Nevada PIT Count.

In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2017 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2014, 2015, and 2016 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 2017 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 86%.

Because 2017 used the same full canvassing methodology as in 2016 and previous years, any comparisons made between the data collected in 2014, 2015, 2016, and now 2017 can be viewed as valid and reliable.

APPENDIX I: HOMELESS SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

1. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13–17 years	2	0.3%
18–21 years	20	2.7%
22–30 years	93	12.8%
31–40 years	144	19.8%
41–50 years	179	24.6%
51–60 years	220	30.3%
More than 60 years	69	9.5%
Total	**727**	**100%**

2. Which racial group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasion	402	55.3%
Black / African American	253	34.8%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	24	3.3%
Asian	18	2.5%
Pacific Islander	11	1.5%
Other	44	6.1%
Total: Multiple response question with 727 respondents offering 752 responses.		

2b. Which ethnic group do you identify with?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	87	12.0%
Non Hispanic/Non Latino	637	88.0%
Total	**724**	**100%**

3. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Female	224	30.8%
Male	495	68.1%
Transgender	3	0.4%
Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	5	0.7%
Total	**727**	**100%**

3a. Are you pregnant?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	8.9%
No	205	91.1%
Total	**225**	**100%**

4. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	92	12.7%
No	632	87.0%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Refused	2	0.3%
Total	**726**	**100%**

4b. Were you activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	2.8%
No	703	97.0%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Refused	2	0.2%
Total	**725**	**100%**

4c. What is your discharge status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Honorable	64	69.5%
General	6	6.5%
Other than honorable	10	10.9%
Dishonorable	7	7.6%
Other	3	3.3%
N/A	2	2.2%
Total	**92**	**100%**

4d. In which war theater did you serve?

Response	Frequency	Percent
World War II	0	0.0%
Korea	0	0.0%
Vietnam	12	13.0%
Gulf War I	8	8.7%
Gulf War II	4	4.3%
Afghanistan	6	6.5%
Iraq	6	6.5%
Other	10	10.9%
None	50	54.3%
Total: Multiple response question with 92 respondents offering 96 responses.		

5. Are you alone tonight?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	560	77.6%
No	162	22.4%
Total	**722**	**100%**

5a. Tonight are you staying with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Spouse or significant other	97	58.8%
Child / children	30	18.2%
Parent or legal guardian	0	0.0%
Street family	17	10.3%
Other family member(s)	5	3.0%
Friend(s)	12	7.3%
Other	12	7.3%
Total: Multiple response question with 165 respondents offering 173 responses.		

6. Do you have any children?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	291	40.1%
No	435	59.9%
Total	**726**	**100%**

6a. Are any of your children currently living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	41	13.9%
No	253	86.1%
Total	**294**	**100%**

6b. Are your children:

Response	Frequency	Percent
18 years or older	10	26.3%
0–5 years old	22	57.9%
6–12 years old	13	34.2%
13–17 years old	13	34.2%
Total: Multiple response question with 38 respondents offering 58 responses		

6ba. How many children do you have that are 18 years or older?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	2	5.4%
2	5	13.5%
3	1	2.7%
4+	2	5.4%
None	27	73.0%
Total	**37**	**100%**

6bb. How many children do you have that are 0–5 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	14	37.8%
2	5	13.5%
3	2	5.4%
4+	1	2.7%
None	15	40.6%
Total	**37**	**100%**

6bc. How many children do you have that are 6–12 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	3	7.9%
2	8	21.1%
3	1	2.6%
4+	1	2.6%
None	25	65.8%
Total	**38**	**100%**

6bd. How many children do you have that are 13–17 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	10	26.3%
2	3	7.9%
3	0	0.0%
4+	0	0.0%
None	25	65.8%
Total	**38**	**100%**

6c. Are your children ages 5–17 in school?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	90.9%
No	2	9.1%
Total	**22**	**100%**

6d. Do you have any children in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	5.3%
No	36	94.7%
Total	**38**	**100%**

6ea. [Families] How many children do you have under 18?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	15	36.6%
2	10	24.4%
3	11	26.8%
4+	1	2.4%
None	4	9.8%
Total	**41**	**100%**

6eb. [Families] How many adults aged 18–24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	3	7.3%
2	6	14.6%
3	0	0.0%
4+	2	4.9%
None	30	73.2%
Total	**41**	**100%**

6ec. [Families] How many adults over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	7	17.5%
2	2	5.0%
3	2	5.0%
4+	0	0.0%
None	29	72.5%
Total	**40**	**100%**

6fa. [Adults Only Households] How many persons are currently living with you ages 18–24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	13	8.0%
2	2	1.3%
3	3	1.9%
4+	2	1.3%
None	140	87.5%
Total	**160**	**100%**

6fb. [Adults Only Households] How many persons are currently living with you over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	52	32.1%
2	6	3.7%
3	6	3.7%
4+	3	1.9%
None	95	58.6%
Total	**162**	**100%**

7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	365	50.6%
No	357	49.4%
Total	**722**	**100%**

7a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 time	182	50.6%
2 times	88	24.4%
3 times	29	8.1%
4 times	15	4.2%
5 times	9	2.5%
6 times	7	1.9%
More than 6 times	30	8.3%
Total	**360**	**100%**

7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 time	109	30.5%
2 times	100	28.0%
3 times	48	13.4%
4 times	28	7.8%
5 times	12	3.4%
6 times	13	3.7%
More than 6 times	47	13.2%
Total	**357**	**100%**

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	129	36.2%
12 months or more	227	63.8%
Total	**356**	**100%**

8a. How long have you been homeless this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	54	7.4%
8–31 days	79	10.9%
2 months	75	10.3%
3 months	64	8.8%
4 months	44	6.1%
5 months	28	3.9%
6 months	40	5.5%
7 months	16	2.2%
8 months	17	2.3%
9 months	22	3.0%
10 months	10	1.4%
11 months	4	0.6%
12 months or more	50	6.9%
1–2 years	77	10.6%
2–3 years	34	4.7%
More than 3 years	112	15.4%
Total	**726**	**100%**

9. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors / streets / parks	364	50.2%
Uncovered garage / attic / basement	1	0.1%
Backyard or storage structure	2	0.3%
Motel / hotel	15	2.0%
Automobile	8	1.1%
Van	4	0.6%
Camper / RV	0	0.0%
Abandoned building	6	0.8%
A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)	4	0.6%
Emergency shelter	191	26.3%
Public facilities	2	0.3%
Transitional housing	79	10.9%
Other shelter	17	2.3%
Other	28	3.9%
Encampment	4	0.6%
Total	**725**	**100%**

10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Living in a home owned by you or your partner	32	4.4%
Renting a home or apartment	381	52.6%
Staying with friends	128	17.7%
Living with relatives	116	16.0%
Living in subsidized housing	9	1.3%
In a jail or prison	20	2.8%
In a hospital	3	0.4%
In a mental health facility	1	0.1%
In a substance abuse treatment program	3	0.4%
In foster care	1	0.1%
Other	30	4.2%
Total	**724**	**100%**

11. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Clark County	556	76.9%
Other area in Nevada, outside of Clark County	16	2.2%
Out of state	151	20.9%
Total	**723**	**100%**

12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Can't afford rent	408	56.4%
No job / no income	513	71.0%
No money for moving costs	255	35.3%
No housing available	133	18.4%
No transportation	203	28.1%
Bad credit	59	8.2%
Eviction record	56	7.7%
Criminal record	43	5.9%
In jail or prison	19	2.6%
Other	145	20.1%
Total: Multiple response question with 723 respondents offering 1,834 responses.		

13. What do you think are the top three events or conditions that led to your homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lost job	392	54.1%
Landlord sold / stopped renting	42	5.8%
Landlord raised rent	26	3.6%
Alcohol or drug use	183	25.3%
Incarceration	63	8.7%
Illness or medical problem	69	9.5%
Mental health issues	106	14.6%
Argument / family or friend asked you to leave	106	14.6%
Hospitalization / treatment program	26	3.6%
Lost home I owned through foreclosure	5	0.7%
Lost home I rented due to landlord's foreclosure	12	1.7%
Did not receive housing assistance when I left jail/prison	16	2.2%
Family / domestic violence	78	10.8%
Gambling problem	20	2.8%
Got too old for foster care	4	0.6%
Divorced or separated	38	5.2%
Natural disaster / fire / flood	5	0.7%
For being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	0	0.0%
Other	246	34.0%
Don't know / Decline to state	35	4.8%

Total: Multiple response question with 724 respondents offering 1,472 responses.

14. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Emergency shelter	295	41.5%
Transitional housing	116	16.3%
Free meals	499	70.2%
Food pantry	223	31.4%
Bus passes	293	41.2%
Jobs training	43	6.0%
Alcohol/drug counseling	52	7.3%
Shelter day services	91	12.8%
Legal assistance	18	2.5%
Health services	72	10.1%
Mental health services	45	6.3%
Other	35	4.9%
Not using any services	76	10.7%
Total: Multiple response question with 711 respondents offering 1,858 responses.		

15. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of Government assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
General Assistance or General Relief	3	0.4%
Food Stamps	520	75.1%
Services-connected VA Disability Compensation	12	1.7%
Non services-connected VA Disability Pension	2	0.3%
Other Veteran's Benefits	15	2.2%
Social Security	26	3.8%
SSI / SSDI	98	14.2%
TANF	11	1.6%
WIC	9	1.3%
Clark County Social Service housing assistance	3	0.4%
Other governmental assistance	28	4.0%
I am not currently receiving any of these	116	16.8%
Total: Multiple response question with 692 respondents offering 843 responses.		

16. What is your total monthly income from all Government benefits?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	265	36.6%
$1–$100	17	2.4%
$101–$200	281	38.8%
$201–$300	6	0.8%
$301–$400	8	1.1%
$401–$500	7	1.0%
$501–$600	8	1.1%
$601–$700	21	2.9%
$701–$800	54	7.5%
$801–$900	14	1.9%
$901–$1000	17	2.3%
Over $1000	26	3.6%
Total	**724**	**100%**

17. What is your current employment status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	611	84.5%
Retired	36	5.0%
Student	6	0.8%
Homemaker	2	0.2%
Employed full-time	15	2.1%
Employed part-time	41	5.7%
Self-employed	7	1.0%
Seasonal Worker	5	0.7%
Total	**723**	**100%**

17a. What is keeping you from getting employment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Need education	183	25.8%
Need training	210	29.6%
Need clothing	230	32.4%
No shower facilities	155	21.9%
No phone	168	23.7%
Health problems	89	12.6%
Disabled	121	17.1%
Criminal record	49	6.9%
Alcohol/drug issue	92	13.0%
No child care	11	1.6%
No permanent address	171	24.1%
No transportation	209	29.5%
No tools for trade	79	11.1%
No work permit (No SS#)	60	8.5%
No photo identification	140	19.7%
Don't want to work	15	2.1%
No jobs	54	7.6%
Retired	19	2.7%
Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work	2	0.3%
Other	107	15.1%
Total: Multiple response question with 709 respondents offering 2,164 responses.		

18. What are your other sources of income?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Family/friends	76	16.2%
Pension	4	0.9%
Child support	4	0.9%
Recycling	42	9.0%
Sex work	4	0.9%
Selling other found items	12	2.6%
Selling blood/plasma	21	4.5%
Gambling	7	1.5%
Other	334	71.4%
Total: Multiple response question with 468 respondents offering 504 responses.		

19. What is your total monthly income from all non-Government sources (job, panhandling, recycling, etc)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	541	74.8%
$1–$100	76	10.5%
$101–$200	32	4.4%
$201–$300	9	1.2%
$301–$400	5	0.7%
$401–$500	2	0.3%
$501–$600	8	1.1%
$601–$700	8	1.1%
$701–$800	13	1.8%
$801–$900	7	1.0%
$901–$1000	7	1.0%
Over $1000	15	2.1%
Total	**723**	**100%**

20. Where do you usually get medical care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hospital emergency room	383	52.9%
Urgent care clinic	81	11.2%
Public health clinic	21	2.9%
Veterans Affairs clinic	40	5.5%
Free clinic / community clinic	47	6.5%
Private Doctor	46	6.4%
Friend/family	2	0.3%
Don't ever go	93	12.8%
Other	11	1.5%
Total	**724**	**100%**

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	118	16.4%
No	603	83.6%
Total	**721**	**100%**

22. How many times in the last 3 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	457	63.1%
1 time	135	18.6%
2 times	70	9.7%
3 times	20	2.8%
4 times	11	1.5%
5 times	4	0.6%
More than 5 times	27	3.7%
Total	**724**	**100%**

23. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	332	45.9%
1 time	137	18.9%
2 times	102	14.1%
3 times	55	7.6%
4 times	18	2.5%
5 times	15	2.1%
More than 5 times	64	8.9%
Total	**723**	**100%**

24. How many times in the last 12 months have you been hospitalized as an inpatient?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	520	72.3%
1 time	109	15.2%
2 times	42	5.9%
3 times	19	2.6%
4 times	5	0.7%
5 times	5	0.7%
More than 5 times	19	2.6%
Total	**719**	**100%**

25. How many nights in the last 12 months have you spent in jail or prison, if any?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 nights	524	72.9%
1–5 nights	72	10.0%
6–10 nights	18	2.5%
11–20 nights	20	2.8%
21–50 nights	25	3.5%
More than 50 nights	60	8.3%
Total	**719**	**100%**

26. How many separate terms have you served in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	552	76.5%
1	119	16.5%
2	19	2.6%
3	13	1.8%
4	5	0.7%
5	5	0.7%
6+	9	1.2%
Total	**722**	**100%**

26a. How long were you in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 month or less	101	59.4%
2 months	18	10.6%
3 months	11	6.4%
4 months	10	5.9%
5 months	2	1.1%
6 months	7	4.1%
7 months	3	1.8%
8 months	3	1.8%
9 months	1	0.6%
10 months	3	1.8%
11 months	1	0.6%
12 months	0	0.0%
1–2 years	3	1.8%
2–3 years	2	1.2%
More than 3 years	5	2.9%
Total	**170**	**100%**

26b. Did you become homeless immediately after you were released from jail/prison?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	129	75.9%
No	41	24.1%
Total	**170**	**100%**

27. Are you experiencing now or in the past any of the following:

Response	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	34.6% 250	65.4% 473	100% 723
27b. Mental Illness	29.1% 209	70.9% 510	100% 719
27c. Depression	40.6% 293	59.4% 428	100% 721
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	35.7% 256	64.3% 462	100% 718
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	18.1% 130	81.9% 590	100% 720
27f. Chronic health problem	29.9% 216	70.1% 507	100% 723
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	0.8% 6	99.2% 716	100% 722
27h. Tuberculosis	1.8% 13	98.2% 708	100% 721
27i. Hepatitis C	5.3% 38	94.7% 683	100% 721
27j. PTSD	15.8% 114	84.2% 608	100% 722
27k. Developmental Disability	8.8% 63	91.2% 657	100% 720
27l. Emphysema	3.3% 24	96.7% 695	100% 719
27m. Diabetes	8.5% 61	91.5% 658	100% 719
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	13.1% 94	86.9% 626	100% 720
27o. Cancer	4.9% 35	95.1% 681	100% 716
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	3.2% 23	96.8% 697	100% 720
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	4.8% 35	95.2% 687	100% 722
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	3.1% 22	96.9% 699	100% 721
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	11.7% 84	88.3% 633	100% 717

27. Does it prevent you from getting work or housing?

Response	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	79.2% 198	20.8% 52	100% 250
27b. Mental Illness	70.1% 148	29.9% 63	100% 211
27c. Depression	59.2% 174	40.8% 120	100% 294
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	64.6% 166	35.4% 91	100% 257
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	42.7% 56	57.3% 75	100% 131
27f. Chronic health problem	80.2% 174	19.8% 43	100% 217
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	50.0% 3	50.0% 3	100% 6
27h. Tuberculosis	46.2% 6	53.8% 7	100% 13
27i. Hepatitis C	55.3% 21	44.7% 17	100% 38
27j. PTSD	66.4% 75	33.6% 38	100% 113
27k. Developmental Disability	63.5% 40	36.5% 23	100% 63
27l. Emphysema	70.8% 17	29.2% 7	100% 24
27m. Diabetes	47.5% 29	52.5% 32	100% 61
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	54.3% 51	45.7% 43	100% 94
27o. Cancer	51.4% 18	48.6% 17	100% 35
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	66.7% 16	33.3% 8	100% 24
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	28.6% 10	71.4% 25	100% 35
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	81.8% 18	18.2% 4	100% 22
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	61.2% 52	38.8% 33	100% 85

28. Have you ever abused drugs / alcohol, or been told you do?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	324	45.1%
No	395	54.9%
Total	**719**	**100%**

29. Have you ever consumed alcohol every day for the past month?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	129	17.9%
No	591	82.1%
Total	**720**	**100%**

30. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	15.7%
No	606	84.3%
Total	**719**	**100%**

31. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	233	32.3%
No	488	67.7%
Total	**721**	**100%**

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	213	29.6%
No	506	70.4%
Total	**719**	**100%**

33. Were you ever taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	112	15.6%
No	605	84.4%
Total	**717**	**100%**

34. OBSERVED: Serious physical health conditions?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	110	15.4%
No	606	84.6%
Total	**716**	**100%**

35. OBSERVED: Alcohol or drug abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	164	22.8%
No	554	77.2%
Total	**718**	**100%**

36. OBSERVED: Severe persistent mental illness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	135	18.8%
No	582	81.2%
Total	**717**	**100%**

37. Do you have pets? If yes, how many?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No	664	91.6%
1	46	6.4%
2	10	1.4%
3	3	0.4%
4	1	0.1%
5	0	0.0%
6+	1	0.1%
Total	**725**	**100%**

38. What kind of pet?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Dog	51	83.6%
Cat	13	21.3%
Reptile	2	3.3%
Other	1	1.6%
Total: Multiple response question with 61 respondents offering 67 responses.		

39. Were you ever in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	14.0%
No	623	86.0%
Total	**724**	**100%**

APPENDIX II: HOMELESS YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

1. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13–17 years	2	4.2%
18–21 years	20	42.6%
22–24 years	25	53.2%
Total	**47**	**100%**

2. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Female	21	44.7%
Male	24	51.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	2	4.3%
Total	**47**	**100%**

3. Are you pregnant?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	9	42.9%
No	12	57.1%
Total	**21**	**100%**

4. Which Racial group do you identify with most? (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasion	19	40.4%
Black / African American	25	53.2%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	3	6.4%
Asian	1	2.1%
Pacific Islander	1	2.1%
Other	6	12.8%
Total: Multiple response question with **47** respondents offering **55** responses.		

5. Which Ethnic group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	10	21.7%
Non Hispanic/Non Latino	36	78.3%
Total	**46**	**100%**

6. Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Straight	35	72.9%
Lesbian, Gay	1	2.1%
Bisexual	10	20.8%
Queer	0	0.0%
Questioning/Unsure	0	0.0%
Prefer not to answer	2	4.2%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	**48**	**100%**

7. How old were you when you first experienced homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
6	1	2.1%
7	1	2.1%
8	2	4.3%
9	1	2.1%
10	0	0.0%
11	0	0.0%
12	4	8.5%
13	0	0.0%
14	5	10.7%
15	4	8.5%
16	3	6.4%
17	5	10.6%
18	5	10.6%
19	1	2.1%
20	4	8.5%
21	3	6.4%
22	5	10.7%
23	1	2.1%
24	2	4.3%
Total	**47**	**100%**

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	5	10.9%
8–30 days	3	6.5%
2 months	4	8.7%
3 months	4	8.7%
4 months	1	2.2%
5 months	1	2.2%
6 months	0	0.0%
7 months	0	0.0%
8 months	3	6.5%
9 months	0	0.0%
10 months	1	2.2%
11 months	0	0.0%
12 months	4	8.7%
1–2 years	5	10.8%
2–3 years	8	17.4%
More than 3 years	7	15.2%
Total	**46**	**100%**

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	33	71.7%
No	10	21.8%
Declined	3	6.5%
Total	**46**	**100%**

10. How long have you been couch surfing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	3	9.2%
8–30 days	6	18.2%
2 months	4	12.1%
3 months	2	6.1%
4 months	1	3.0%
5 months	4	12.1%
6 months	1	3.0%
7 months	0	0.0%
8 months	1	3.0%
9 months	0	0.0%
10 months	0	0.0%
11 months	0	0.0%
12 months	1	3.0%
1–2 years	0	0.0%
2–3 years	4	12.1%
More than 3 years	6	18.2%
Total	**33**	**100%**

11. Have you traded sex or drugs for a place to stay?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Sex	3	6.5%
Drugs	3	6.5%
Both	5	10.9%
Neither	29	63.1%
Other	0	0.0%
Declined	6	13.0%
Total	**46**	**100%**

12. Have you been the victim of a crime while on the streets?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	26.1%
No	28	60.9%
Don't Know	2	4.3%
Declined	4	8.7%
Total	**46**	**100%**

13. Have you committed a crime in exchange for food or shelter while on the streets?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	26.1%
No	31	67.4%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Declined	3	6.5%
Total	**46**	**100%**

14. Before becoming homeless, did you experience:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Physical abuse	18	39.1%
Sexual abuse	9	19.6%
Emotional abuse	15	32.6%
Gang abuse	2	4.3%
Neglect	7	15.2%
None of the above	19	41.3%
Declined	4	8.7%
Total: Multiple response question with 46 respondents offering 74 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	11	25.6%
Became pregnant or got someone pregnant	0	0.0%
Violence at home between family members	10	23.3%
Because of differences with parents about religious beliefs	1	2.3%
Kicked out of the house	15	34.9%
Aging out of foster care system	4	9.3%
Death of parents	2	4.7%
Emotional abuse	12	27.9%
Physical abuse	10	23.3%
Addiction or substance use	7	16.3%
Sexual abuse	3	7.0%
Neglect	7	16.3%
Mental health issues	6	14.0%
School issues	2	4.7%
Sexual identity	0	0.0%
Legal issues	3	7.0%
Financial issues	9	20.9%
Fight or conflict with parents/guardian	7	16.3%
Parent/guardian moved or relocated	1	2.3%
Gang violence activity	0	0.0%
Other	11	25.6%
Total: Multiple response question with 43 respondents offering 121 responses.		

16. Were/are your parents or primary caregivers homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	23.9%
No	28	60.9%
Don't Know	0	0.0%
Declined	7	15.2%
Total	**46**	**100%**

17. Just before becoming homeless, did you live with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Both Parents	10	23.2%
Single Mother	14	32.5%
Single Father	3	7.0%
A Step Parent	1	2.3%
Other Family Members	6	14.0%
Foster Family	2	4.7%
Juvenile Hall or Detention	0	0.0%
Group Home or Other Group Settings	0	0.0%
Other	7	16.3%
Total	**43**	**100%**

18. Do you have contact with your parent(s) or primary caregiver?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	54.3%
No	16	34.8%
Don't Know	1	2.2%
Refused	4	8.7%
Total	**46**	**100%**

19. When was the last time you were in contact with your parent(s) or primary caregiver?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	17	68.0%
8–30 days	4	16.0%
2 months	1	4.0%
3 months	1	4.0%
4 months	0	0.0%
5 months	0	0.0%
6 months	1	4.0%
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	0	0.0%
2–3 years	0	0.0%
More than 3 years	1	4.0%
Total	**25**	**100%**

20. Does your age prevent you from receiving any of the following (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Permanent housing	4	16.7%
Transitional housing	3	12.5%
Government assistance	2	8.3%
Employment	2	8.3%
Other	19	79.2%
Total: Multiple response question with 24 respondents offering 30 responses.		

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	2.9%
Afraid you will be put in Child Protective Services	0	0.0%
Don't trust anyone	6	17.6%
You don't have transportation	17	50.0%
Other	14	41.2%
Total: Multiple response question with 34 respondents offering 38 responses.		

22. What are your current needs (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Housing	33	76.7%
Food	27	62.8%
Clothing	25	58.1%
Shower	18	41.9%
Education	22	51.2%
Health care	20	46.5%
Dental care	19	44.2%
Transportation	27	62.8%
Job training/placement	22	51.2%
Substance abuse treatment	8	18.6%
Counseling / mental health care	13	30.2%
Other	5	11.6%
Total: Multiple response question with 43 respondents offering 239 responses.		

23. What would help you get off the streets (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Housing assistance	29	69.0%
Support from friends or family	11	26.2%
Treatment for drugs or alcohol	8	19.0%
Treatment for mental health issues	6	14.3%
Job training / employment	28	66.7%
Education	22	52.4%
Not applicable	2	4.8%
Other	5	11.9%
Total: Multiple response question with 42 respondents offering 111 responses.		

24. Have you ever voluntarily sought formal counseling services through a government, church, or youth program?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	31.1%
No	27	60.0%
Declined	4	8.9%
Total	**45**	**100%**

25. Have you ever attempted suicide?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	28.9%
No	29	64.4%
Declined	3	6.7%
Total	**45**	**100%**

26. If you use drugs, what are your primary drugs of choice (Check all that apply):

Response	Frequency	Percent
Alcohol	7	15.9%
Marijuana	16	36.4%
Methamphetamines	7	15.9%
Cocaine/crack	1	2.3%
Cough/cold medicine	1	2.3%
Heroin	4	9.1%
Prescription medicine	3	6.8%
I don't use drugs	12	27.3%
Other	1	2.3%
Declined	4	9.1%
Total: Multiple response question with 44 respondents offering 56 responses.		

27. How old were you when you first tried Marijuana?

Response	Frequency	Percent
5	1	6.7%
8	1	6.7%
9	2	13.3%
11	3	19.9%
12	1	6.7%
14	1	6.7%
15	2	13.3%
16	2	13.3%
20	1	6.7%
23	1	6.7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

28. Are you *currently* in any kind of educational program now?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Middle school	0	0.0%
High school	3	7.0%
GED Prep	6	14.0%
Community College	2	4.6%
Four-year college or university	1	2.3%
Trade/technical/vocational program	2	4.7%
None	28	65.1%
Other	1	2.3%
Total	**43**	**100%**

29. What is the highest grade you have completed?

Response	Frequency	Percent
6th grade or less	0	0.0%
7th grade	0	0.0%
8th grade	2	4.7%
9th grade	2	4.7%
10th grade	4	9.3%
11th grade	7	16.2%
12th grade / high school diploma or equivalent	20	46.5%
Some college	6	13.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	0	0.0%
Never attended school	0	0.0%
None	2	4.7%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	**43**	**100%**

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30. Would you be interested in receiving educational services if they were available to you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	36	80.0%
No	5	11.1%
Don't Know	1	2.2%
Declined	3	6.7%
Total	**45**	**100%**

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	31	68.9%
No	11	24.4%
Declined	3	6.7%
Total	**45**	**100%**

32. How do you know this person?

Response	Frequency	Percent
School	0	0.0%
Work	1	3.2%
Friend	10	32.2%
Drop-in center	1	3.2%
Social worker	2	6.5%
Parents	6	19.4%
Siblings	3	9.7%
Declined	0	0.0%
Other	8	25.8%
Total	**31**	**100%**

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	18	40.0%
No	23	51.1%
Declined	4	8.9%
Total	**45**	**100%**

34. How many times have you been arrested?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 times	17	39.5%
1 time	7	16.3%
2 times	2	4.7%
3 times	1	2.3%
4 times	3	7.0%
More than 5 times	13	30.2%
Total	**43**	**100%**

35. Have you ever been on parole?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	8.9%
No	37	82.2%
Declined	4	8.9%
Total	**45**	**100%**

36. Have you ever been on probation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	37.8%
No	24	53.3%
Declined	4	8.9%
Total	**45**	**100%**

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	25	58.1%
1 time	7	16.3%
2 times	3	7.0%
3 times	5	11.6%
4 times	1	2.3%
5 or more times	2	4.7%
Total	**43**	**100%**

38. How many biological children have you had?

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	33	75.0%
1	4	9.1%
2	5	11.4%
3	2	4.5%
4	0	0.0%
5 or more times	0	0.0%
Total	**44**	**100%**

39. How many children do you currently have custody of?

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	37	84.1%
1	3	6.8%
2	3	6.8%
3	1	2.3%
4	0	0.0%
5 or more	0	0.0%
Total	**44**	**100%**

40. Have you ever had a child removed from your care or taken away (by CPS, DCFS)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	2.2%
No	36	80.0%
Not applicable	8	17.8%
Total	**45**	**100%**

APPENDIX III: 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 2017 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 | | | | |
General Homeless Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
1.) Households With At Least One Adult and One Child					
1a.) Number of Households	81	27		3	111
1b.) Total Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	221	71		8	300
1c.) Number of Persons (Under Age 18)	140	39		3	182
1d.) Number of Persons (Age 18-24)	9	8		4	21
1e.) Number of Persons (Over Age 24)	72	24		1	97
2.) Households With Only Children (under age 18)					
2a.) Total Number of Households	17	2		238	257
2b.) Total Number of Persons	17	3		238	258
3.) Households Without Children					
3a.) Number of Households	1,376	406	20	4,073	5,875
3b.) Number of Persons (Adults)	1,397	408	20	4,107	5,932
3c.) Number of Persons (Age 18-24)	51	83	0	1,662	1,796
3d.) Number of Persons (Over Age 24)	1,346	325	20	2,445	4,136
Total Households and Persons					
Total Households (Lines: 1a + 2a + 3a)	1,474	435	20	4,314	6,243
Total Persons (Lines: 1b + 2b + 3b)	1,635	482	20	4,353	6,490

Number of households without dependent children is an estimate based on survey results.

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Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
General Homeless Population - Demographics	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
6.) Gender					
6a.) Female	465	139	7	1238	1,849
6b.) Male	1,170	340	13	3,096	4,619
6c.) Transgender	0	3	0	19	22
6d.) Doesn't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
7.) Ethnicity					
7a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,447	431	19	3,749	5,646
7b.) Hispanic/Latino	188	51	1	604	844
8.) Race					
8a.) White	822	219	14	2,500	3,555
8b.) Black or African American	690	220	3	1,262	2,175
8c.) Asian	40	11	0	123	174
8d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	23	2	0	151	176
8e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	9	0	38	59
8f.) Multiple Races	48	21	3	279	351

Homeless Veteran Population

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
Homeless Veteran Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
9.) Households With At Least One Adult and One Child					
9a.) Number of Households	1	3		0	4
9b.) Total Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	2	8		0	10
9c.) Total Number of Veterans	1	3		0	4
10.) Households Without Children					
10a.) Number of Households	115	247	0	324	686
10b.) Number of Persons (Adults)	116	249	0	327	692
10c.) Total Number of Veterans	115	248	0	324	687
Veteran Total Households and Persons					
Total Households (Lines: 9a + 10a)	116	250	0	324	690
Total Persons (Lines: 9b + 10b)	118	257	0	327	702

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
Homeless Veteran Population - Demographics	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
11.) Gender					
11a.) Female	5	17	0	87	109
11b.) Male	111	234	0	235	580
11d.) Transgender	0	0	0	2	2
11e.) Doesn't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
12.) Ethnicity					
12a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	109	234	0	280	623
12b.) Hispanic/Latino	7	17	0	44	68
13.) Race					
13a.) White	74	141	0	194	409
13b.) Black or African American	36	91	0	86	213
13c.) Asian	3	6	0	10	19
13d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	1	0	12	13
13e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	3	0	3	8
13f.) Multiple Races	1	9	0	19	29

Homeless Youth Population

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
Unaccompanied Youth Population - Household Data	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
15.) Total Number of Households					
15a.) Number of Parenting Youth Households	9	9	0	2	20
15b.) Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth Households	68	84	2	1,900	2,054
16.) Total Number of Persons					
16a.) Total Number of Persons in Parenting Youth Households	19	19	0	6	44
16a.1) Number of Parenting Youth (Youth Parents Only)	9	9	0	4	22
16a.1a.) Number of Parenting Youth (Under Age 18)	0	1	0	0	1
16a.1b.) Number of Parenting Youth (Age 18–24)	9	8	0	4	21
16b.1.) Number of Children With Parenting Youth	10	10	0	2	22
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth					
Number of Unaccompanied Children (Under Age 18)	17	1	0	238	256
Number of Unaccompanied Youth (Age 18–24)	51	83	0	1,662	1,796

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
Unaccompanied Youth Population - Demographics	**ES**	**TH**	**SH**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
17.) Gender					
17a.) Female	33	23	0	578	634
17b.) Male	35	61	0	1,315	1,411
17c.) Transgender	0	0	0	7	7
17d.) Doesn't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
18.) Ethnicity					
18a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	60	69	0	1478	1,607
18b.) Hispanic/Latino	8	15	0	422	445
19.) Race					
19a.) White	25	31	0	1028	1084
19b.) Black or African American	35	45	0	607	687
19c.) Asian	2	2	0	61	65
19d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0	0	50	50
19e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	2	0	15	17
19f.) Multiple Races	6	4	0	139	149

Part 1: Household Data	Sheltered				
Parenting Youth Population - Demographics (Youth Parents Only)	**ES**	**TH**	**SH**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
17.) Gender					
17a.) Female	9	9	0	2	20
17b.) Male	0	0	0	2	2
17c.) Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
17d.) Doesn't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
18.) Ethnicity					
18a.) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	6	8	0	3	17
18b.) Hispanic/Latino	3	1	0	1	5
19.) Race					
19a.) White	3	0	0	1	4
19b.) Black or African American	6	7	0	2	15
19c.) Asian	0	0	0	0	0
19d.) American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0
19e.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
19f.) Multiple Races	0	2	0	1	3

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 2017 Homeless Survey results to the 2017 Point-In-Time homeless count population.

Chronically Homeless Subpopulations

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered				
	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless Subpopulations					
1a. Chronically Homeless Individuals	72	0	12	356	440
1b. Chronically Homeless Families	1	0	0	1	2
1c. Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	2	0	0	4	6
1d. Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	8	0	0	10	18
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				
	ES	TH	SH	Unsheltered	Total
2. Other Homeless Subpopulations					
2a.) Adults with Serious Mental Illness	115	106	17	1,560	1,798
2b.) Adults with Substance Use Disorder	125	95	19	1290	1,529
2c.) Adults with HIV/AIDS	4	7	0	29	40
2d.) Victims of Domestic Violence	127	72	2	674	875

APPENDIX IV: METHODOLOGY

1.Overview

The purpose of the 2017 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 policymakers to improve homeless services and programs on both a local and national level.

The following summary of methodology is divided into 2 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 2 components: Street Count and Shelter Count.[*]

The Street Count is the enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals. For the purposes of this study, the 2017 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 2017 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*

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[*] *United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (August 2016) Notice CPD-16-060: 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)*

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.

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 2017 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 programs.

- 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 individuals who have or are experiencing homelessness to work as enumerators. These Navigators are an invaluable component of the street count methodology.

In order to participate in the Street Count as a 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.

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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.*

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Homeless Navigators, staff from homeless service agencies and government entities, volunteers from the community, and various staff from Southern Nevada attended the enumeration trainings. Members of the Clark County Social Service trained these teams of navigators, staff, and volunteers prior to the PIT count. Deployment captains were chosen to provide observation, guidance, and in-the-field training.

During each training session, the trainer presented techniques and methods that would be utilized to enumerate the homeless population during the street count.

Teams of at least two persons were created prior to deployment. In areas that utilized Navigators, each Homeless Navigator was grouped with at least one 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 jurisdiction were notified of the pending PIT Count that was to take place in their jurisdictions.

Preparation

Using a full canvassing technique, this enumeration began in the late night hours of January 24, 2017. The enumeration teams achieved 86% 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 24, 2017, and was divided into 2 sections: urban and rural. Both count deployments occurred in the late night / early morning hours. More specifically, the deployment assigned to the urban sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 10pm on the night

of January 24, 2017. In order to minimize duplications, both teams collected enumeration data within a 31-hour period.

The deployment team assigned to the tunnels and rural sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 5am on the morning of January 25, 2017. 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 8am on the morning of January 25, 2017, 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:

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.
Individuals	Persons in a household without children.
Family	Persons in households with at least one adult (over age 18) and one child (under age 18).
Only Children	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:

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.
Unaccompanied Youth	Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian, including: • single youth • youth couples • groups of youth presenting as a household

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 2017 enumeration effort. Reviews were conducted to check for duplicate counting, and to ensure that all accessible portions of each census tract had been enumerated. Deployment station captains then entered all data from the census tally forms into the electronic PIT Module (Surveus).

Gender, race, and ethnicity data was also collected for each type of household. Veterans and veteran families were first included in this household data in 2014, and Youth Households were first included in the PIT as a separate category in 2015.

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 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 and 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 8am to 2pm while homeless unaccompanied youth are more likely to be visible on the streets during school hours. Volunteers and 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 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) were used to generate data for provider programs with 100% 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 2016 CoC competition
- All transitional housing provider programs funded by HUD SHP still operating, but not renewing in 2016 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 and Data Collection

All persons who matched the following criteria where 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 24, 2017, 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

Since 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 2014, 2015, and 2016 such teams were formed, however, due to rain and risk of flooding, this enumeration was limited; 64 homeless persons were added to the enumeration total for these years. Weather not being an issue in 2017, 265 persons were enumerated.

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 for previous years have been adjusted to accommodate this change in order to allow for accurate comparison between 2017 data and the data from 2014, 2015, and 2016.

2.4 PIT Count Census Challenges and 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 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 and 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 suburbs and outlying rural counties, which are difficult for enumerators to access. In general, homeless populations are composed of groups that are difficult to enumerate.

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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 2 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 number 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.

Policymakers must take into account that most homeless experiences are fairly short-term (e.g. less than a year). However, Bitfocus is confident that the combination of the size of the survey sample (727), 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

727 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 and 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 administers 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.

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, veterans, etc.

In 2017, there was a point-in-time estimate of 6,490 homeless individuals. Using a random sampling technique, 727 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 3.43 Confidence Interval.

3.2c Survey Administration and 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 to 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 and Transitional Housing

15 emergency shelters, 11 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 under-representation 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 homelessness in order to identify any duplicate surveys. After evaluation, it was determined that there were zero duplicate surveys, thus leaving 727 valid surveys to be analyzed.

3.3 Survey Challenges and Limitations

With a point-in-time estimate of 6,490 homeless persons, 727 valid surveys, and a randomized sample, the surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3.43% 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 is 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 V: GLOSSARY

Annual Estimate

An estimated number 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: 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 a community based on the number of unsheltered persons that have been observed and/or interviewed from a statistically reliable sample.

Family

Persons in households 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.

Homeless (HUD Definition)

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual or family 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 persons 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

Individual are persons who are not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be 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

Households 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.

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 (18 or older) and one child (under 18).

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 persons' 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)

Unaccompanied children are people who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness and who are under the age of 18.

Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied youth are people who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness, and who are between the ages of 18 and 24.

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 number 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.

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.