

Youngstown/Mahoning County Report on Homelessness



Prepared by:

**Youngstown State University
Center for Human Service Development
Michele Schaper, Research Associate/HMIS Administrator**

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

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Executive Summary

This is the first aggregate report issued from data collected by Homeless Management Information System participating agencies in the Youngstown/Mahoning County Continuum of Care (Appendix A). The report examines one year of data starting June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009. This document serves as a longitudinal study of the characteristics and needs of our homeless population locally. Through examination of community-wide information, the CoC is able to more accurately assess long term needs and determine program direction, which will ultimately serve to end homelessness. Since not all programs are required to collect and enter program specific data elements, this report looks solely at those universally required data elements (Appendix B)

Definition of Homelessness and HMIS

In response to a Congressional directive, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required Continuums of Care (CoC's) across the country to implement Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) at the local level by 2004. HUD's HMIS mandate was enacted to assist HUD in meeting major imperatives of the McKinney-Vento Act Programs: (1) assess service needs of homeless persons, (2) ensure services are directed at meeting those needs, (3) assess outcomes of services in assisting homeless persons in becoming more self-sufficient, and (4) reporting to Congress on federal efforts to address homelessness. Implementation of HMIS is a requirement for receipt of HUD McKinney-Vento funding.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homelessness as an individual or family living in temporary housing or a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park bench, abandoned building, etc., as stated in the 2004 Federal Register issued Data and Technical Standards for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).

This Federal Register documents outlines the HMIS data elements required for all Continuum of Care funded programs as well as program specific funding. Each data element is defined in this document in addition to the required response categories for each section of information. All participating HMIS agencies must follow the privacy, security, data collection and reporting requirements within this guidance.

HMIS is a data collection tool designed to capture client level data over time on the characteristics of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. The CoC has developed long-term solutions to meet the needs of homeless persons and those at-risk of becoming homeless. HMIS is the primary tool used by the CoC's to accomplish this goal. It allows the CoC to analyze patterns of use of the homeless assistance system, including how clients enter and exit the system, and to assess the effectiveness of the homeless assistance system. By generating accurate and timely information about the homeless population, the HMIS will enable the CoC to meet its mission and develop and evaluate long-term solutions to address the problems of housing and homelessness in Mahoning County.

Because the HMIS brings together data from homeless providers across the CoC, it is an indispensable tool. Its functionality meets the needs of the CoC and homeless providers and includes client intake and assessment, service tracking, goals/outcomes tracking, daily bed register, annual progress reporting, other reporting, and interagency data sharing. Because of its

vast capacity, the HMIS is an indispensable tool for data collection, reporting, shelter/housing management, evaluation and planning.

The CoC and homeless providers benefit from analyzing and releasing critical aggregate HMIS data about the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. Aggregate data is used to produce basic estimates of the size of the homeless population in Mahoning County. Homeless prevalence and incidence rates are generated. Measures of prevalence show the number of unduplicated persons and families served over a period of time and measures of incidence show the number of new persons and families served over a period of time. HMIS data is shared with all stakeholders including agencies, funders, government, and planners. Finally, this aggregate HMIS data will be used by the CoC to inform policy decisions aimed at addressing and ending homelessness. Locally, the Youngstown Mahoning County Continuum of Care uses a web-based software program called ServicePoint to track client data.

HMIS Participating Agencies

See Appendix A for a list of the participating HMIS agencies whose program data was included in the report.

Continuum of Care Housing Inventory

HUD requires at least an annual review of each community's housing inventory for the homeless. Housing types are broken down into three categories: Emergency Shelters, Transition Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. See Appendix C for the housing inventory by program type and agency.

Analysis of Data

Over 200 program specific entry date reports were run along with daily bed reports in order to find and analyze data related to occupancy rates for housing programs. Total HMIS participation reports were run and data analyzed in order to de-duplicate homeless clients based on the unique identifier generated by ServicePoint. This unique identifier is generated based on the client's first and last name, last four digits of their social security number and their date of birth. Because duplicate unique identifiers may be created for the same person, for example, if a first name was spelled differently by different programs, further de-duplication methods were used. The HMIS Administrator also de-duplicated clients based on their social security number and their date of birth. After running the reports and de-duplicating clients, the HMIS Administrator provided further information to Agency Administrators and End Users to verify any necessary information and improve data quality. See Appendix D for the list of Agency Administrators and HMIS End Users.

It is important to note the HUD states individuals and families living in Permanent Supportive Housing are considered formerly homeless. For this report purpose, Permanent Supportive Housing clients were included in all universal reporting categories. However, they were filtered out in the Point-in-Time count comparison for a more accurate analysis of the change in data.

**Exhibit 1
Emergency Shelters**

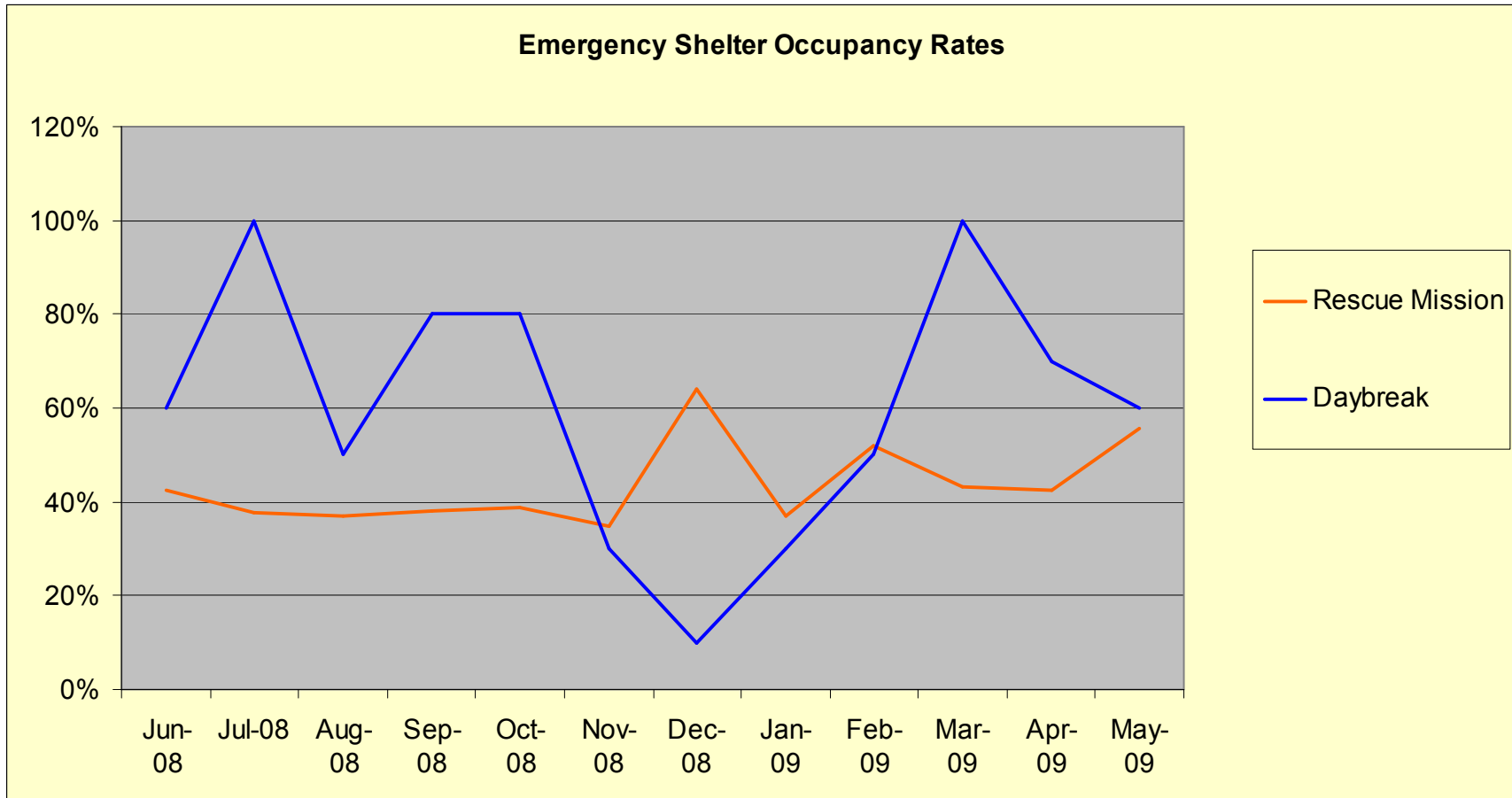
Use of Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing

Occupancy rates for emergency shelters provide the community with a look at those individuals who do not have permanent residence in our community. Exhibit I looks at occupancy rates for Emergency Shelters in Youngstown and Mahoning County on the last Wednesday of each month starting June 2008 through May 2009.

Over 200 different reports were run in order to find occupancy rates for each type of program. Discrepancies in daily bed stay reports and program entry reports were reported back to each agency. Data clean up was conducted and correct data verified for each program.

**Exhibit 1
Emergency Shelters**

Month/ ES Program 2008-2009	All Rescue Mission Programs 144	Family Service Agency Daybreak 10	Total Occupancy 154
June 6/25/08	61	6	67/154 44%
July 7/30/08	54	10	64/154 42%
August 8/27/08	53	5	58/154 38%
September 9/24/08	55	8	63/154 41%
October 10/29/08	56	8	64/154 42%
November 11/26/08	50	3	53/154 34%
December 12/31/08	92	1	93/154 60%
January 1/28/09	53	3	56/154 36%
February 2/25/09	75	5	80/154 52%
March 3/25/09	62	10	72/154 47%
April 4/29/09	61	7	68/154 44%
May 5/27/09	80	6	86/154 56%
Total	752/1728 44%	72/120 60%	

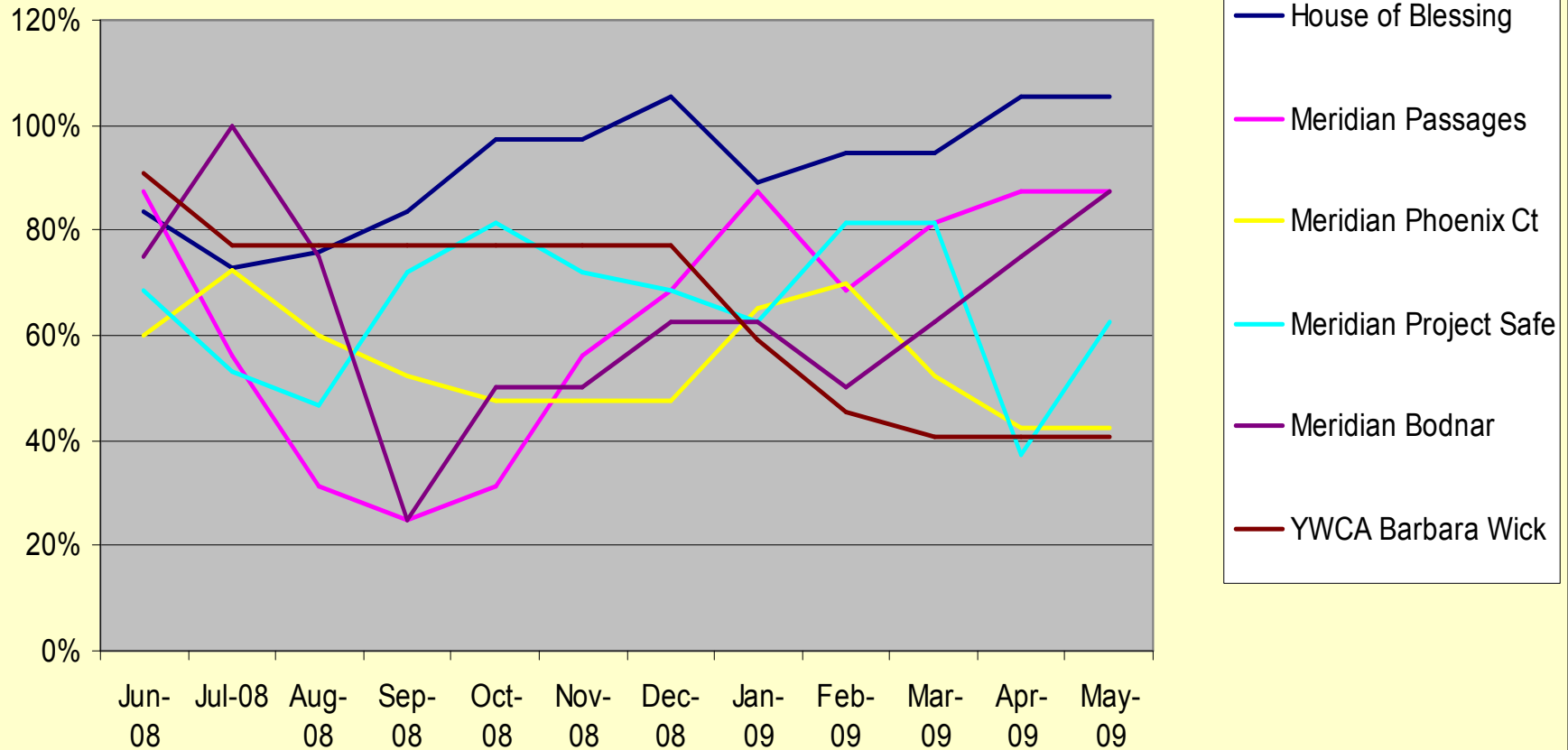


- Program with the highest occupancy rate is Family Service Agency's Daybreak program
- Average Occupancy rate is 52%
- Month with the highest occupancy for the Rescue Mission is December 2008, for Daybreak it is July 2008 and March 2009
- Month with the lowest occupancy for the Rescue Mission is November 2008, for Daybreak it is December 2008

Exhibit- 2
Occupancy Rates for Transitional Housing

Month/ ES Program	HOB Units = 37	Passages Units = 16	Phoenix Ct Units = 40	Project Safe Units = 32	Bodnar Units = 8	Barbara Wick Units= 22	Total
June 6/25/08	31	14	24	22	6	20	117/155 75%
July 7/30/08	27	9	29	17	8	17	107/155 69%
August 8/27/08	28	5	24	15	6	17	98/155 61%
September 9/24/08	31	4	21	23	2	17	98/155 63%
October 10/29/08	36	5	19	26	4	17	107/155 69%
November 11/26/08	36	9	19	23	4	17	108/155 70%
December 12/31/08	39	11	19	22	5	17	113/155 73%
January 1/28/09	33	14	26	20	5	13	111/155 72%
February 2/25/09	35	11	28	26	4	10	114/155 74%
March 3/25/09	35	13	21	26	5	9	109/155 70%
April 4/29/09	39	14	17	12	6	9	97/155 63%
May 5/27/09	39	14	17	20	7	9	106/155 68%
Total Occupancy	409/444 92%	123 / 192 64%	264 / 480 55%	252 / 348 72%	62 / 96 65%	172 / 264 65%	Average Rate 69%

Occupancy Rates -TH

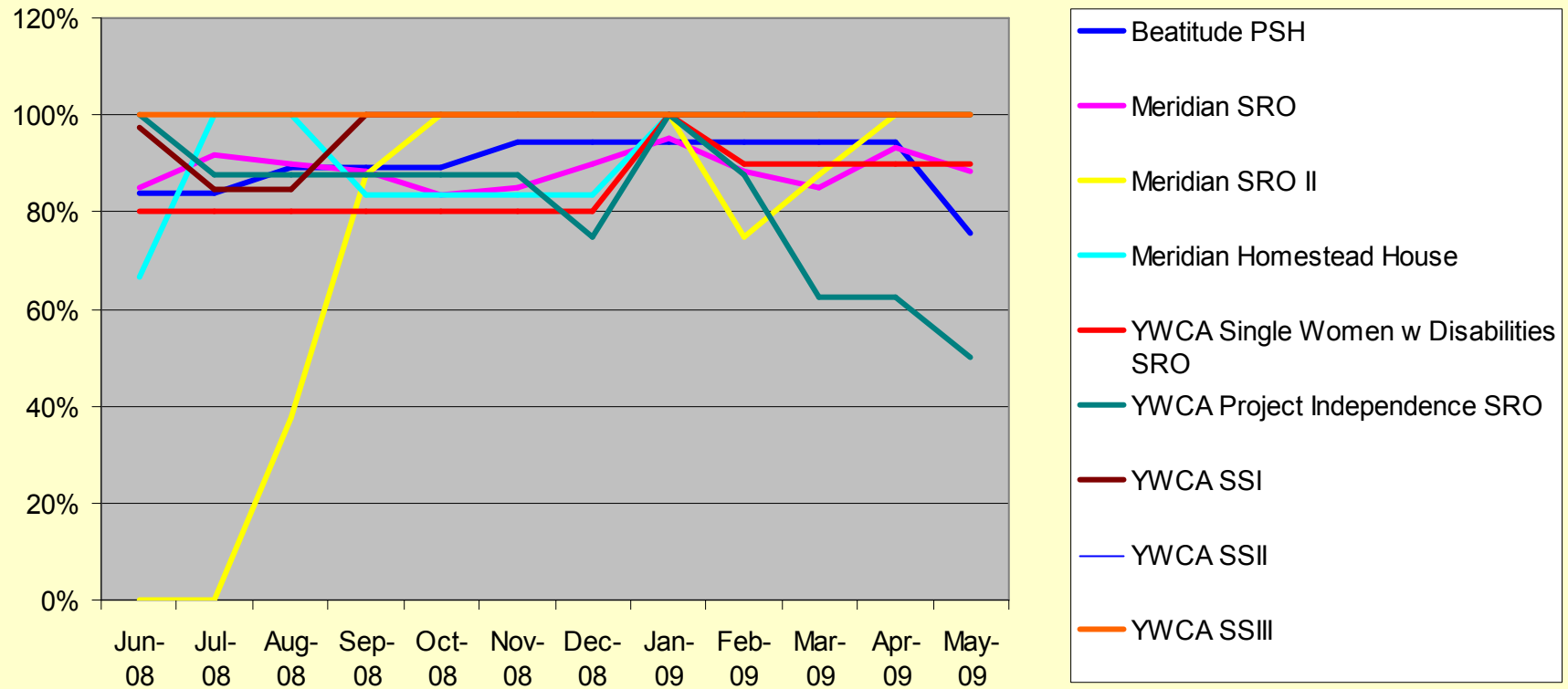


- Program with the highest occupancy rate is Beatitude House of Blessing
- Program with the lowest is Meridian Phoenix Court
- Average Occupancy rate is 69%
- Month with the highest occupancy is June 2008
- Month with the lowest occupancy is August 2008

Exhibit 3
Occupancy Rates Permanent Supportive Housing

Month/ ES Program	Beatitude PSH Units = 37	Meridian SRO Units = 60	Meridian SRO II Units = 8	Meridian Homestead House Units = 6	YWCA Disb SRO Units = 10	YWCA Project Indep SRO Units= 8	YWCA SSI Units = 39	YWCA SSII Units = 19	YWCA SSIII Units = 30	Total Units = 217
June 6/25/08	31	51	0	4	8	8	38	19	30	87%
July 7/30/08	31	55	0	6	8	7	33	19	30	87%
August 8/27/08	33	54	3	6	8	7	33	19	30	89%
September 9/24/08	33	53	7	5	8	7	39	19	30	93%
October 10/29/08	33	50	8	5	8	7	39	19	30	92%
November 11/26/08	35	51	8	5	8	7	39	19	30	93%
December 12/31/08	35	54	8	5	8	6	39	19	30	94%
January 1/28/09	35	57	8	6	10	8	39	19	30	98%
February 2/25/09	35	53	6	6	9	7	39	19	30	94%
March 3/25/09	35	51	7	6	9	5	39	19	30	93%
April 4/29/09	35	56	8	6	9	5	39	19	30	95%
May 5/27/09	28	53	8	6	9	4	39	19	30	90%
Total	89%	89%	74%	92%	85%	81%	97%	100%	100%	Average Rate 90%

Occupancy Rates -PSH

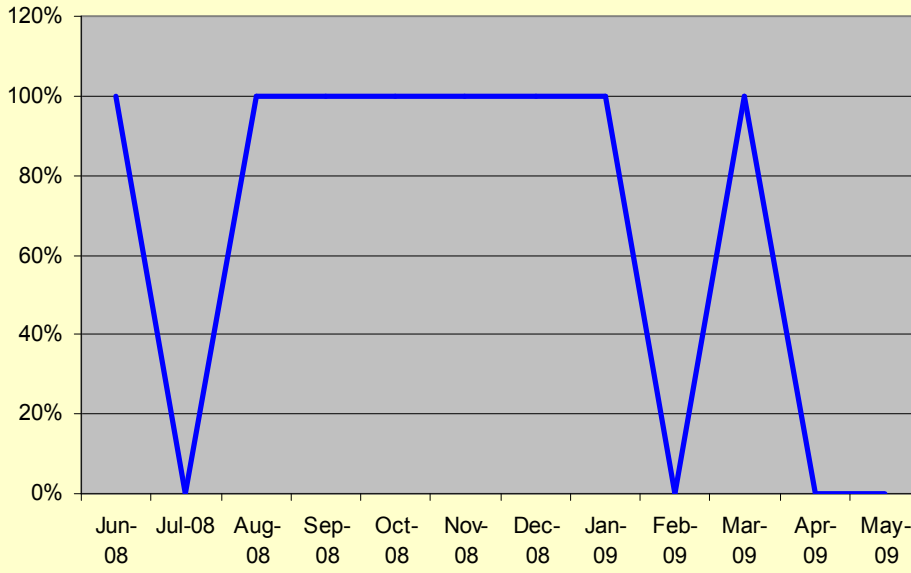


- The programs with the highest occupancy rate are YWCA Scattered Sites II and Scattered Sites III>
- Program with the lowest is Meridian Services SRO II.
- Average Occupancy rate is 90%
- Month with the highest occupancy is January 2009
- The months with the lowest occupancy rates are June and July 2008

Exhibit- 4**Occupancy Rates Save Haven (e= entry records; db = daily bed records)**

Month/ ES Program	Turning Point Units = 1	Total Occupancy Units = 1
June 6/25/08	1	100%
July 7/30/08	0	0%
August 8/27/08	1	100%
September 9/24/08	1	100%
October 10/29/08	1	100%
November 11/26/08	1	100%
December 12/31/08	1	100%
January 1/28/09	1	100%
February 2/25/09	0	0%
March 3/25/09	1	100%
April 4/29/09	0	0%
May 5/27/09	0	0%
Total Occupancy	8/12	67%

Occupancy Rate -Safe Haven



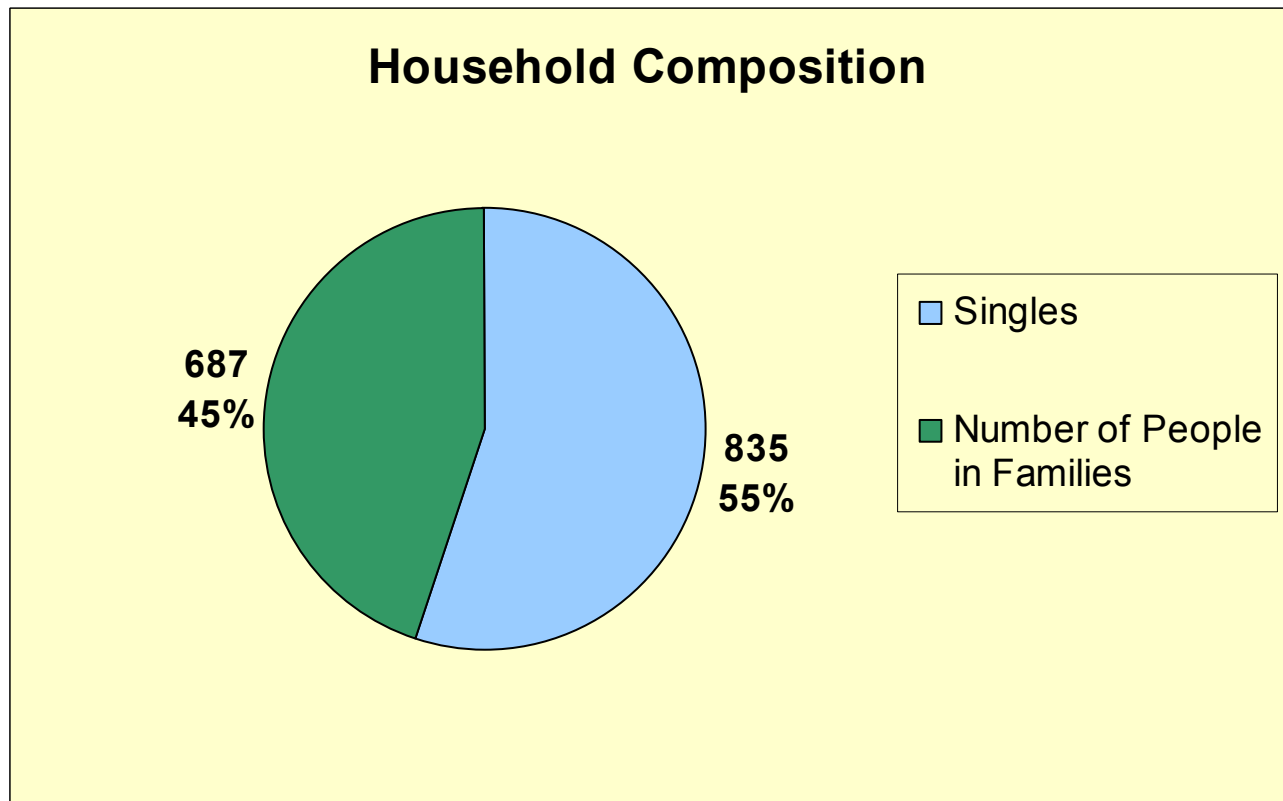
— Turning Point -
Safe Haven

Demographics of Clients for all Programs

Each chart shows the total unduplicated number of clients served in a one year period (June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009). The total unduplicated client served count is 1,522. Data is taken from ServicePoint as of June 9, 2009, which is after the deadline for data entry.

Household Composition

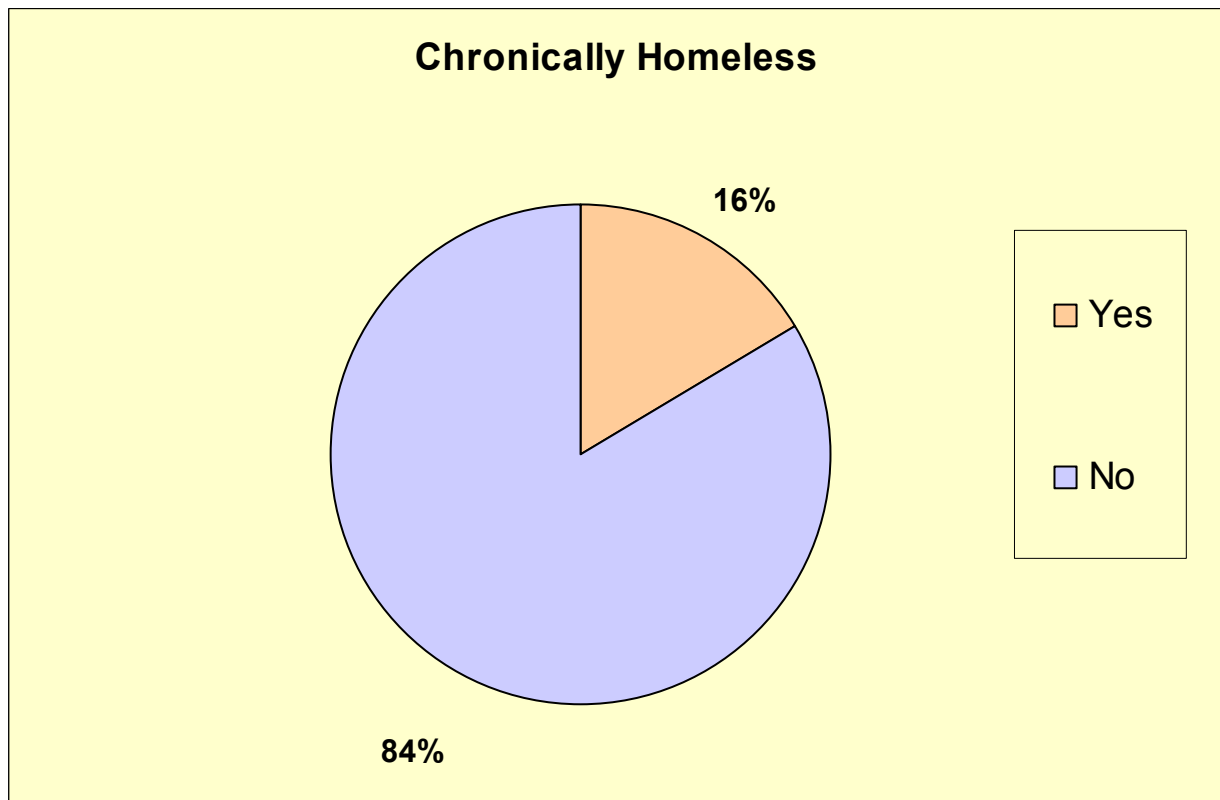
Singles	835	55%
Number of people in Families	687	45%
Total Number of Families	272	N/A



HUD makes an important distinction between homeless and chronically homeless. Those individuals considered chronically homeless according to HUD must be a single adult, have a disability condition and have been homeless for one year continuously or experienced four episodes of homelessness within the last three years.

Chronic Homeless

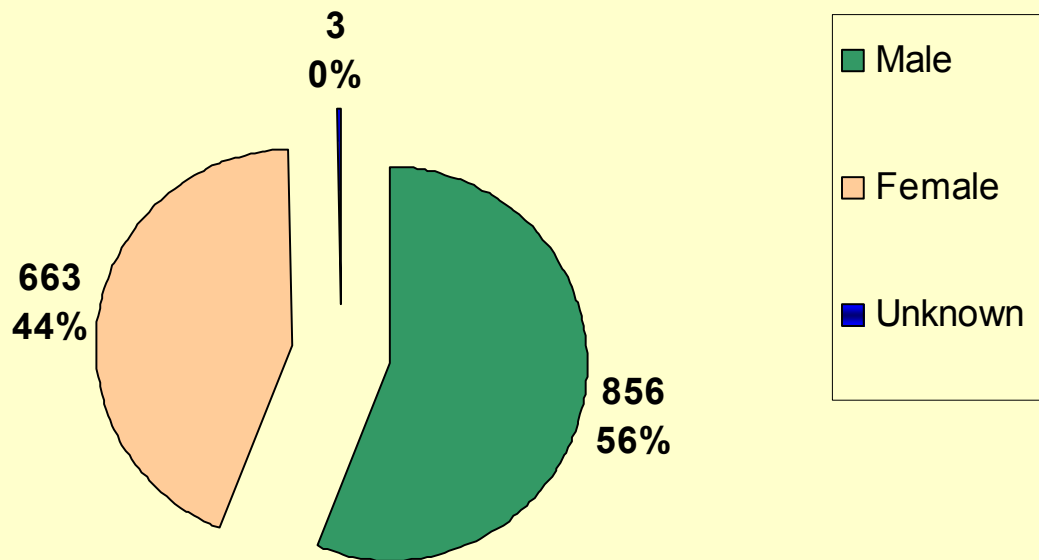
Yes	251	16%
No	1271	84%



Gender

Male	856	56%
Female	663	43.5%
Unknown	3	< 1%

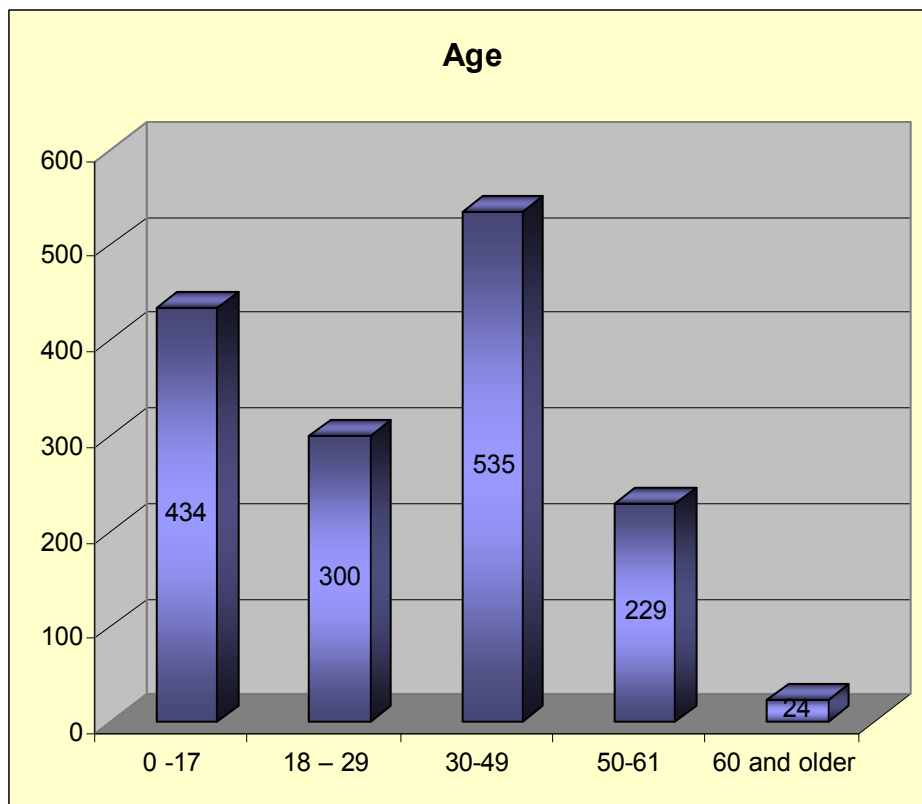
Gender



Age

Children under 18	434 *	29%
18 – 29	300	20%
30-49	535	35%
50-61	229	15%
60 and older	24	1%

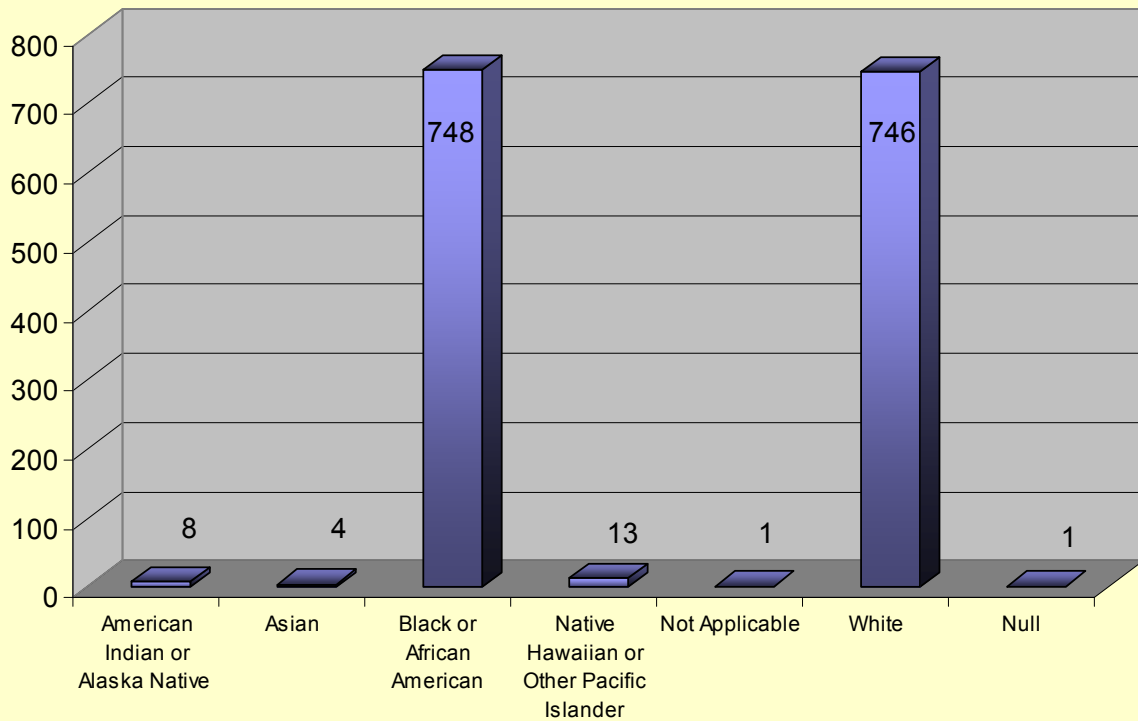
* Of those, 100 are unaccompanied youth (plus we are missing 3 months of data for Daybreak)



Primary Race

American Indian or Alaska Native (HUD)	8	< 1%
Asian (HUD)	4	< 1%
Black or African American (HUD)	748	49%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (HUD)	13	< 1%
Not Applicable	1	< 1%
White (HUD)	746	49%
Null	1	< 1%

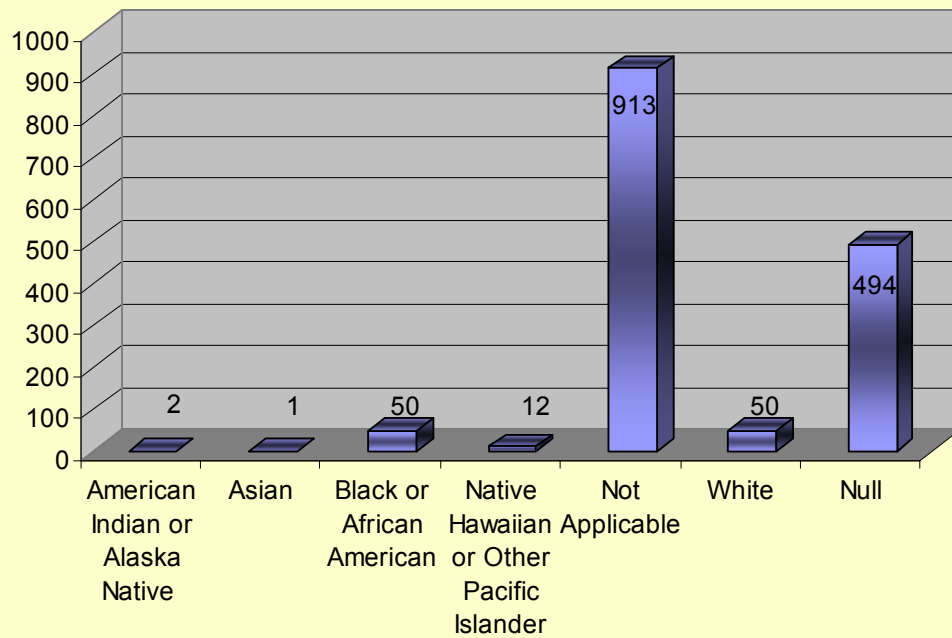
Primary Race



Secondary Race

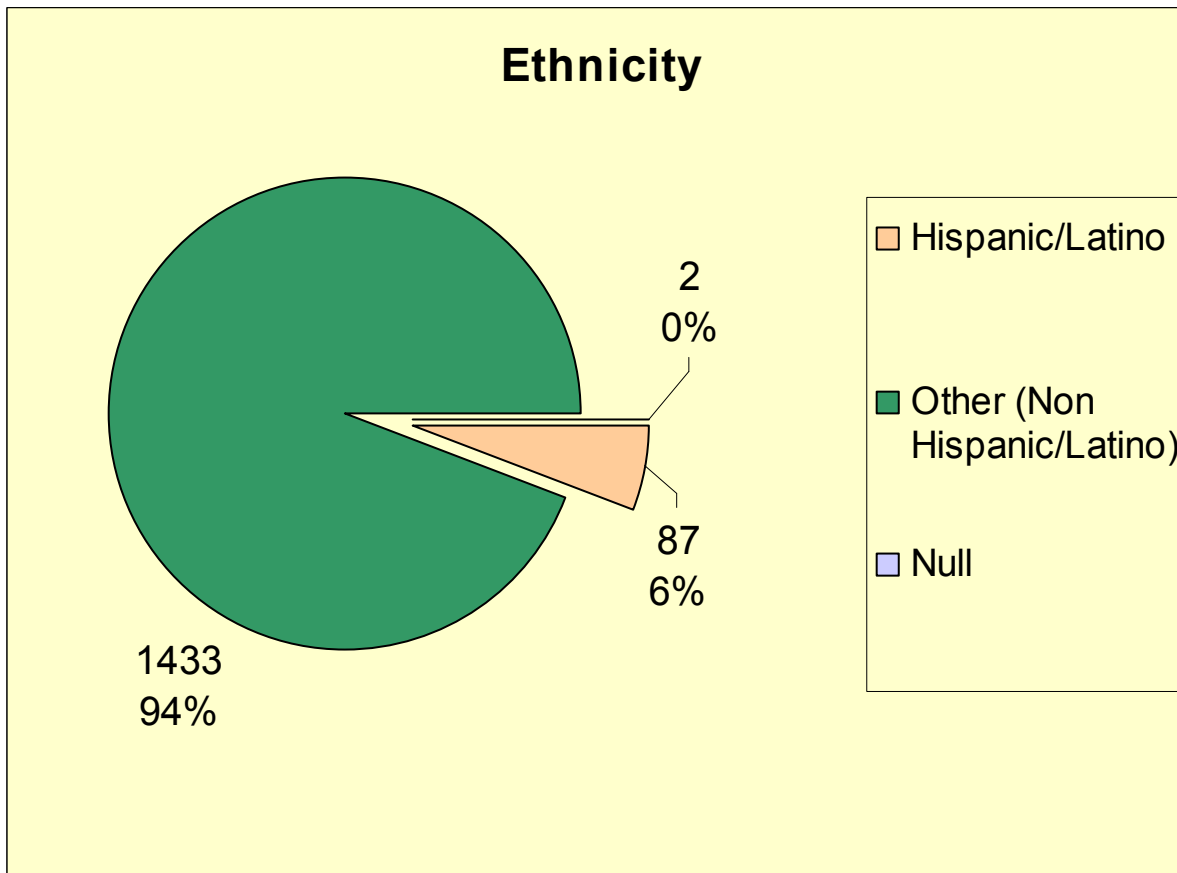
American Indian or Alaska Native (HUD)	2	< 1%
Asian (HUD)	1	< 1%
Black or African American (HUD)	50	3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (HUD)	12	< 1%
Not Applicable	913	60%
White (HUD)	50	3%
Null	494	33%

Secondary Race



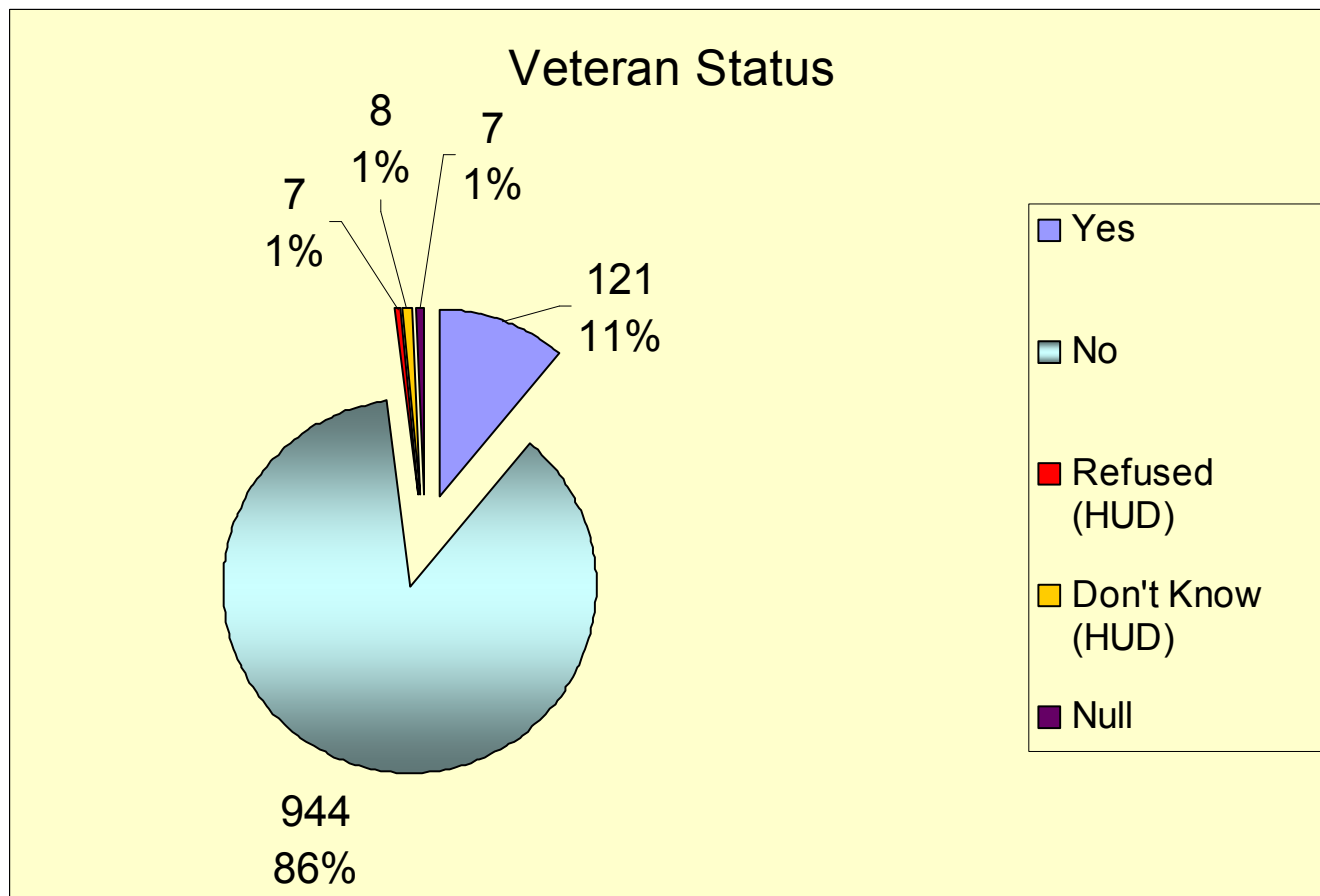
Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	87	5.7%
Other (Non Hispanic/Latino)	1433	94%
Null	2	< 1%



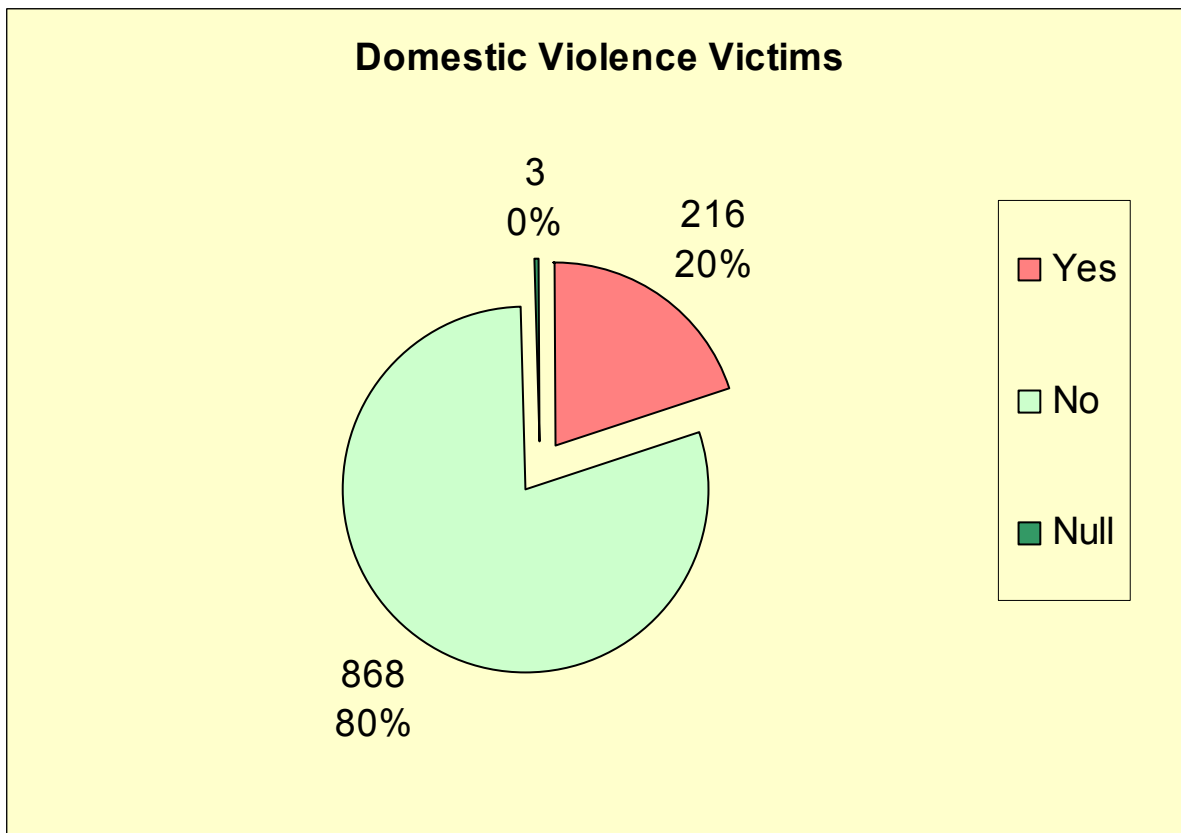
Veteran Status (out of 1087 Adults) – needed to filter out the kids since some have the question answered

Yes	121	11%
No	944	87%
Refused (HUD)	7	< 1%
Don't Know (HUD)	8	< 1%
Null	7	< 1%



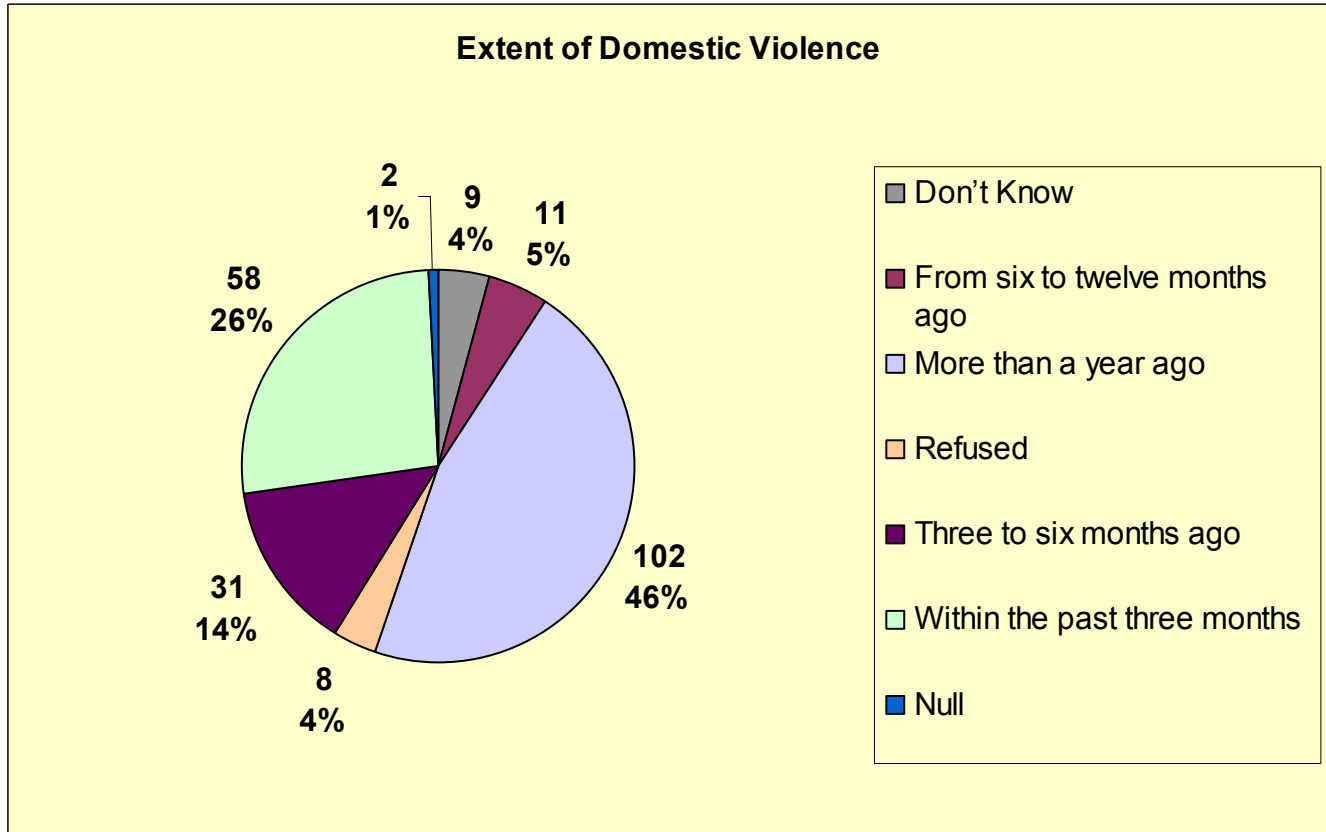
Domestic Violence Victims (out of 1087 Adults)

Yes	216	20%
No	868	80%
Null	3	< 1%



If Yes, Extent of Time

Don't Know	9	4%
From six to twelve months ago	11	4%
More than a year ago	102	47%
Refused	8	4%
Three to six months ago	31	14%
Within the past three months	58	27%
Null	2	< 1%
Total = 221 - (5 Clients had "no" reported for DV Victim, but had some length of time associated with the length of time) – highlighted in green		



2009 Mahoning County Continuum of Care Point in Time Statistics

On January 27, 2009 the Mahoning County Continuum of Care conducted the annual Point-in-Time count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered locations. Service providers used case management records and submitted surveys to the CoC Coordinator. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Administrator ran shelter stay, entry/exit and program specific reports to verify survey information provided by case managers against data entered into the HMIS system. The resulting information is statically reliable and unduplicated data concerning homelessness in Mahoning County on this day.

Homeless Populations	Number	Percentage	Year Comparison	Percentage
Sheltered	178	97%	897	98%
Unsheltered	6	3%	24	2%
Total	184	100%	921	100%

Population Types	Number	Percentage	Year Comparison	Percentage
Individuals	85	46%	343	55%
Persons in Families with Children	99	54%	578	45%
Total Families with Children	33	N/A	225	N/A

Subpopulation	Number	Percentage	Year Comparison	Percentage
Chronically Homeless	7	6%	195	21%
Severely Mentally Ill	28	22%	177	19%
Chronic Substance Abuse	51	41%	399	43%
Veterans	11	9%	88	1%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	0	0%	11	1%
Victims of Domestic Violence	23	18%	134	15%
Unoccupied Youth (Under 18)	5	4%	100	11%
Total Homeless	125	N/A	921	N/A

APPENDIX A

Youngstown/Mahoning County CoC HMIS Partner Agencies

HMIS Partner Agency	Homeless Program
Beatitude House	A House of Blessing
Beatitude House	Permanent Supportive Housing Program
Catholic Charities Regional Agency	Case Management and Advocacy for the Community's Homeless (COACH)
Community Legal Aid	Homeless Advocacy: Law and Outreach (HALO)
Family Service Agency	Daybreak
Goodwill Industries of Youngstown	Vocational Service for Homeless Individuals
Greater Youngstown Point	Homeless Drop-in Center
Help Hotline Crisis Center	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
Help Hotline Crisis Center	Mahoning Valley Dispute Resolution Services (MVDRS)
Mahoning Valley Dispute Resolutions Services	Homeless Prevention Program
Meridian Services	Homeless Solutions SRO
Meridian Services	Homeless Solutions SRO II
Meridian Services	Homestead House
Meridian Services	Passages
Meridian Services	Phoenix Court
Meridian Services	Project Safe
Meridian Services	William G. Bodnar Transitional Home
Potential Development Program	Developmentally Appropriate Childcare
Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley	Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Program
Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley	Family Services
Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley	Resident Men's Division
Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley	Transient Men's Division
Turning Point Counseling Services	Safe Haven for the Mentally Ill
Youngstown City Health District	Homeless Outreach and Care Nurse
YWCA of Youngstown	Barbara M. Wick Transitional Home

YWCA of Youngstown	Permanent Housing for Single Women with Disabilities SRO
YWCA of Youngstown	Project Independence SRO
YWCA of Youngstown	Scattered-sites Housing for Families with Disabilities, I
YWCA of Youngstown	Scattered-sites Housing for Families with Disabilities, II
YWCA of Youngstown	Scattered-sites Housing for Families with Disabilities, III
Homeless Program Type Total	Code Color/Homeless Program Type
9	Permanent Supportive Housing
7	Transitional Housing
5	Emergency Shelter
5	Support Services Only
4	Support Services Only-Outreach
30	Total

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF UNIVERSAL DATA ELEMENTS

Data Elements	Subjects
2.1 Name	All Clients
2.2 Social Security Number	All Clients
2.3 Date of Birth	All Clients
2.4 Ethnicity and Race	All Clients
2.5 Gender	All Clients
2.6 Veteran Status	Adults
2.7 Disabling Condition	Adults
2.8 Residence Prior to Program Entry	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth
2.9 Zip Code of Last Permanent Address	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth
2.10 Program Entry Date	All Clients
2.11 Program Exit Date	All Clients
2.12 Unique Personal Identification Number	All Clients
2.13 Program Identification Number	All Clients
2.14 Household Identifier Number	All Clients

APPENDIX C

2008 Housing Inventory Chart is a Separate Excel Document

A P P E N D I X D

Special Thanks to all participating ServicePoint users during the report period

Name	Provider	Access Level
Carmella Gessler	Beatitude House	Case Manager II
Kathy Zimmerman	Beatitude House	Case Manager II
Kelly Elko	Beatitude House	Agency Administrator
Joanna Parker	Catholic Charities Regional Agency	Case Manager II
Maria Carson	Catholic Charities Regional Agency	Agency Administrator
Linda Duffy	Community Legal Aid	Agency Administrator
Centia Thigpen	Meridian Services for Daybreak	Case Manager II
Jan Baharis	Daybreak	Agency Administrator
Kimberly C. Wess	Family Service Agency	Agency Administrator
Bob Altman	Help Hotline Crisis Center	Agency Administrator
Peggy Callen	Homeless Advocacy: Law and Outreach	Case Manager II
Chris Chadwick	Mahoning Valley Dispute Resolution Services	Case Manager II
Ellie Platt	Meridian Services, Inc.	Agency Administrator
Kimberly Wess	Meridian Services, Inc.	Agency Administrator
Melissa Jupp	Potential Development Program	Agency Administrator
Pam Smith	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	Case Manager II
Bethanie Chambers	Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley	Case Manager II
Elizabeth Ray	Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley	Case Manager II
Kay McHale	Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley	Case Manager II
Ron Starcher	Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley	Agency Administrator
Jonnette Welch	Safe Haven for Homeless Mentally Ill	Case Manager II
Lola Simmons	The Greater Youngstown Point	Agency Administrator
Joni Grover	Vocational Program for Individuals who are Homeless	Case Manager II
Michelle Evans	Youngstown City Health District	Agency Administrator
Anna Marie Barksdale	YWCA of Youngstown	Agency Administrator
Barbara Palermo	YWCA of Youngstown	Case Manager II
Jessica Lynn Phillips	YWCA of Youngstown	Case Manager II