

CONTINUUM OF CARE

PLANNING & POLICY COUNCIL

Breaking the cycle of homelessness in Linn County

Individual & Family Needs Survey Results

July 27, 2016

Participating Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Facilities, Permanent Housing Sites, Food/ Feeding Sites, Treatment Facilities and Supportive Services Include:

Emergency Shelters

Foundation 2- Youth Shelter
Waypoint Madge Philips Center
Willis Dady Emergency Shelter

Transitional Housing Facilities

Abbe Transitional Living
ASAC- Halfway House
ASAC- Heart of Iowa
HACAP- Inn Circle
PUSH CR
The Safe Place Foundation

Feeding Sites

Green Square Meals
Neighborhood Meal & Enrichment Program
The Salvation Army

Supportive Services

Eastern Iowa Health Center
Substance Abuse Service Center
Waypoint Daytime Resource Center

Introduction

The Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Council administered the Individual & Family Needs Survey at local emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, feeding sites, permanent housing sites, and homeless supportive services programs on July 27, 2016. The survey consisted of 15 questions that related to demographic and homeless issues. The majority of questions had check boxes for the respondents to select their answers. Additional space was provided in case respondents chose to write in their own answers. The following information reflects the compiled data from the survey.

- A total of 217 surveys were completed and returned. Based on the definitions provided below, 106 survey respondents could be considered “homeless,” 111 as “near-homeless.”

Definitions

Homeless – are respondents who are currently living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, motel/hotel, or on the street.

Near-Homeless – are respondents who reported currently living in their own place or someone else’s place.

N = total sample.

n = sub-sample of total.

Note: Figures do not always equal 100% due to “no responses” or items where respondents could choose more than one answer.

Demographics and Background Information

A series of questions were asked of respondents to capture their demographics and background information.

FIGURE 1: Age

- The average age of all respondents was approximately 39 years.

	Homeless	Near-homeless
Average Age	38	40
Age Range	4-63	20-85

FIGURE 2: Gender

- Of the 214 survey respondents, 115 identified as female and 99 identified as male.
- Of those surveyed, a greater percentage of men were homeless and a greater percentage of women were near-homeless.

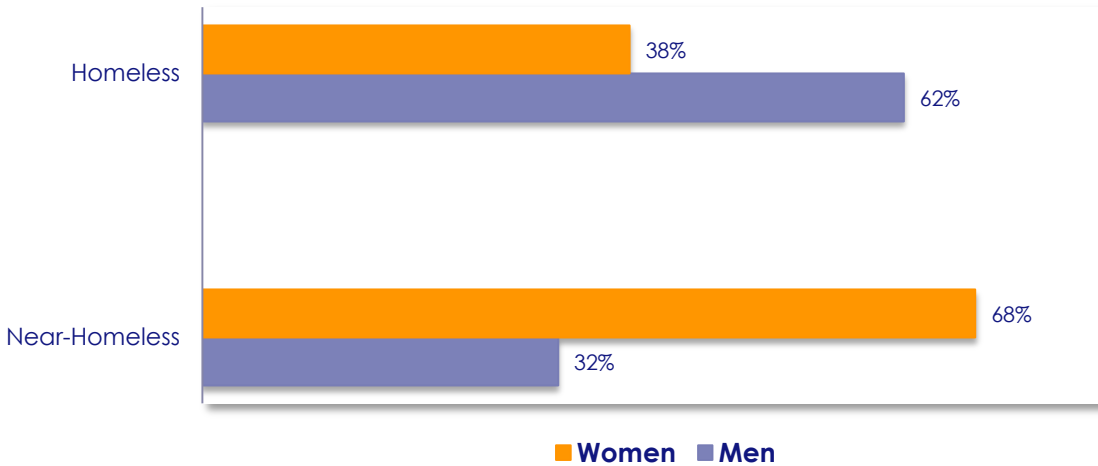
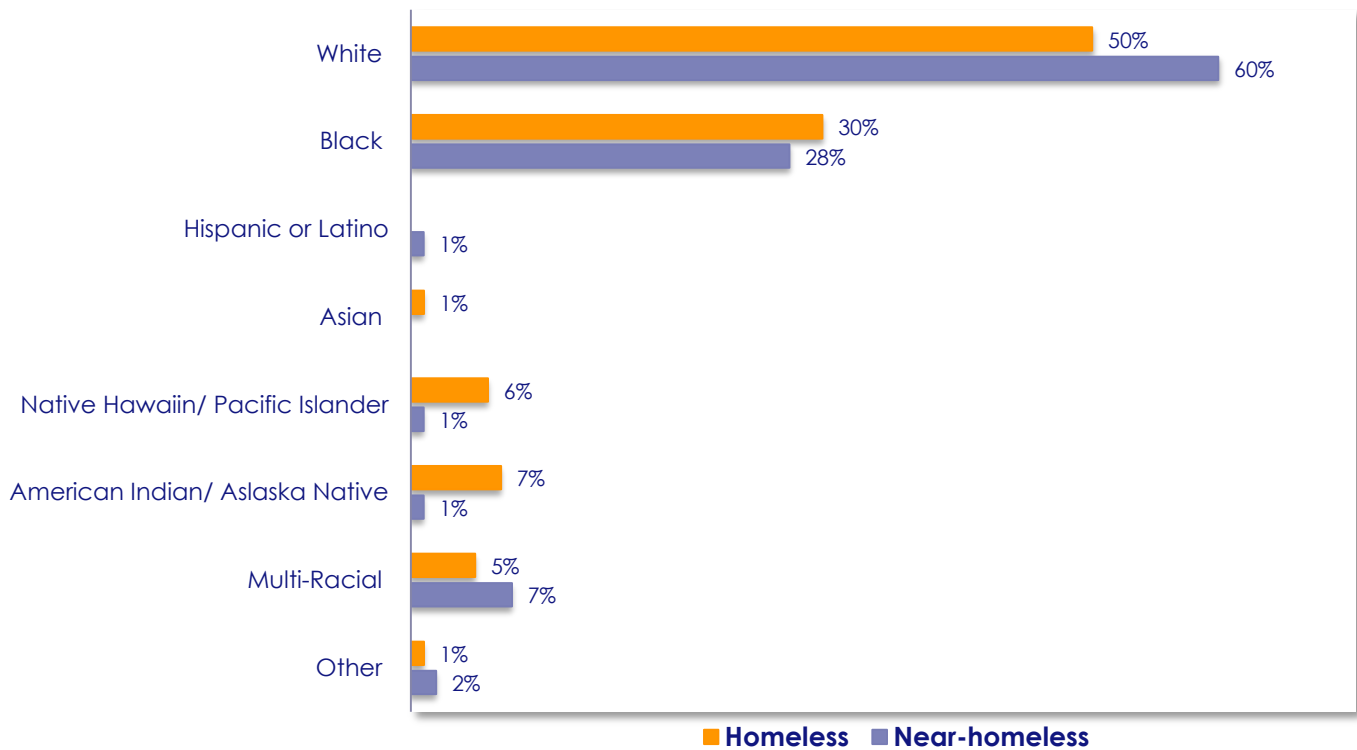


FIGURE 3: Race/Ethnicity

- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**50%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**60%**) are Caucasian.
- The percentage of **homeless** respondents (**30%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**28%**) that are African American is disproportionately high considering the percentage of the African American population in Linn County (**4%**)¹.

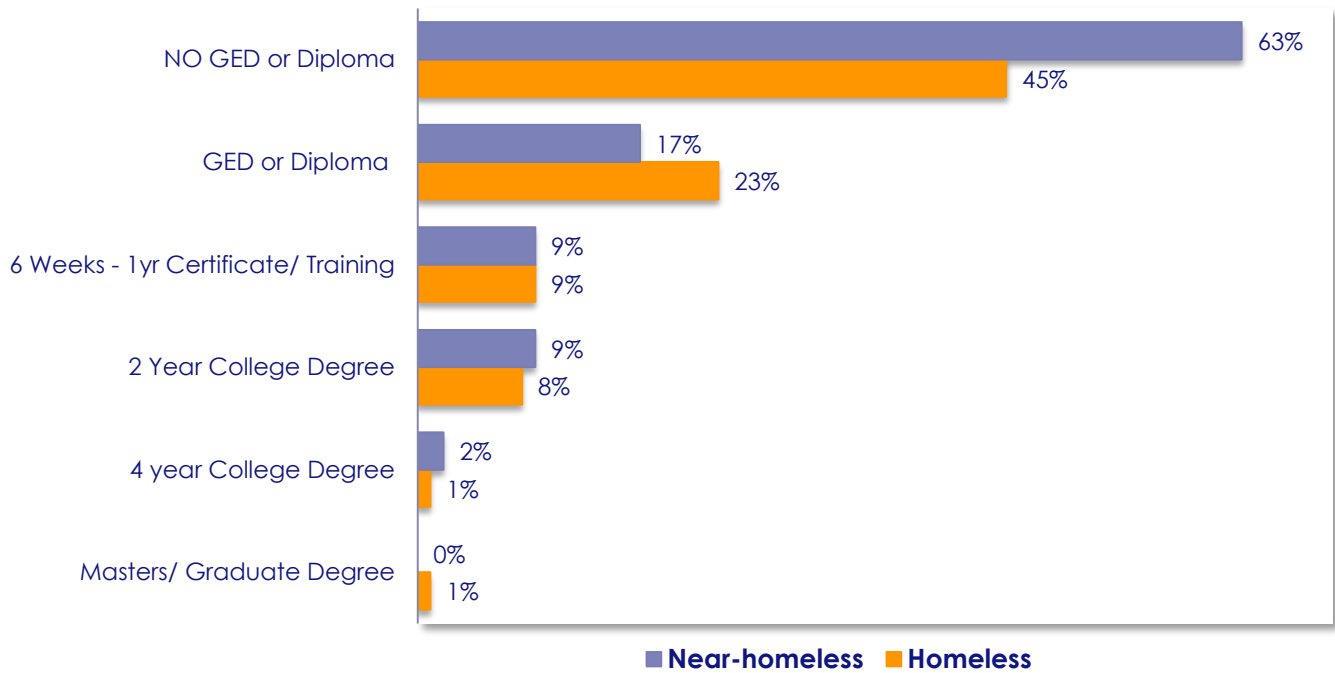
Gender by Race	
White	
Men	44%
Women	55%
Black	
Men	53%
Women	47%
Multi-Racial	
Men	23%
Women	77%



¹ Source: American Community Survey 2014 5-year estimates; Table B02001 Race estimates

FIGURE 4: Educational Achievement

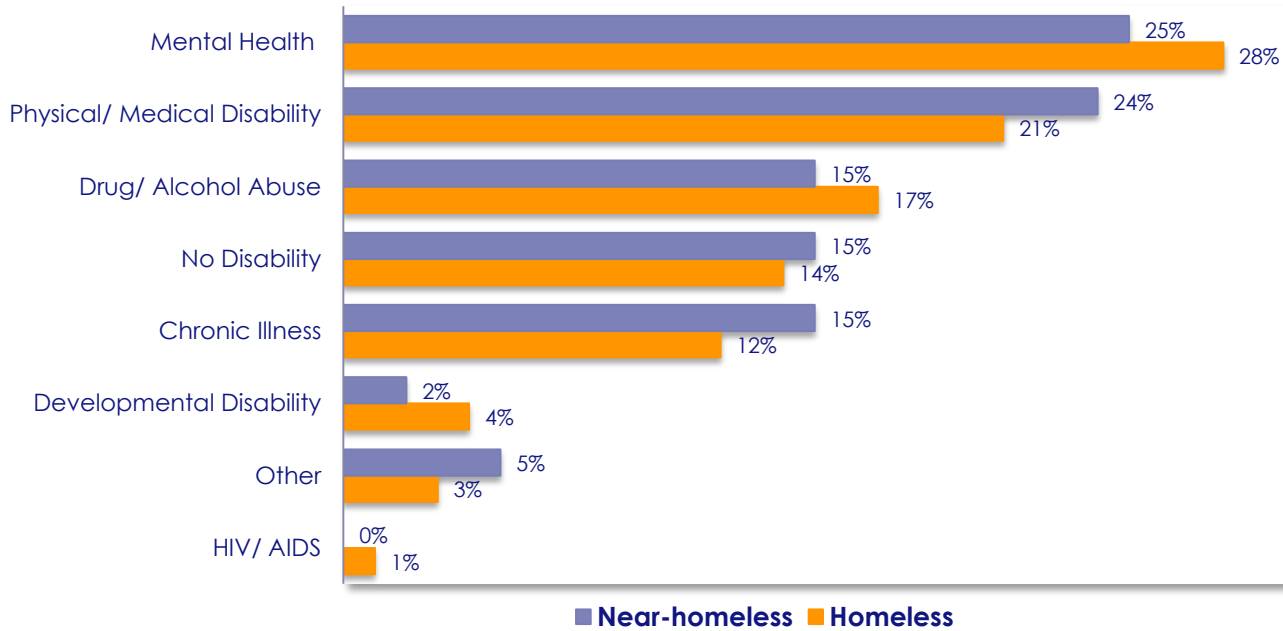
- **68% of homeless and 80% of near homeless individuals** have not obtained an education beyond a high school diploma or GED.



Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Level of Education				
	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
NO GED or Diploma	22%	32%	17%	16%
GED or Diploma	57%	45%	69%	61%
6 Weeks - 1yr Certificate/ Training	7%	13%	9%	9%
2 Year College Degree	9%	11%	3%	12%
4 year College Degree	2%	0%	3%	1%
Masters/ Graduate Degree	2%	0%	0%	0%

FIGURE 5: Disabilities/Health Issues

- **86%** of homeless and **85%** of near-homeless individuals reported having a disability or health issue.
 - o The most prominent issues identified by the homeless population were mental health issues (28%) and physical/ medical disability (21%).
 - o The most prominent issues identified by the near-homeless population were mental health issues (25%) and physical/medical disabilities (24%).

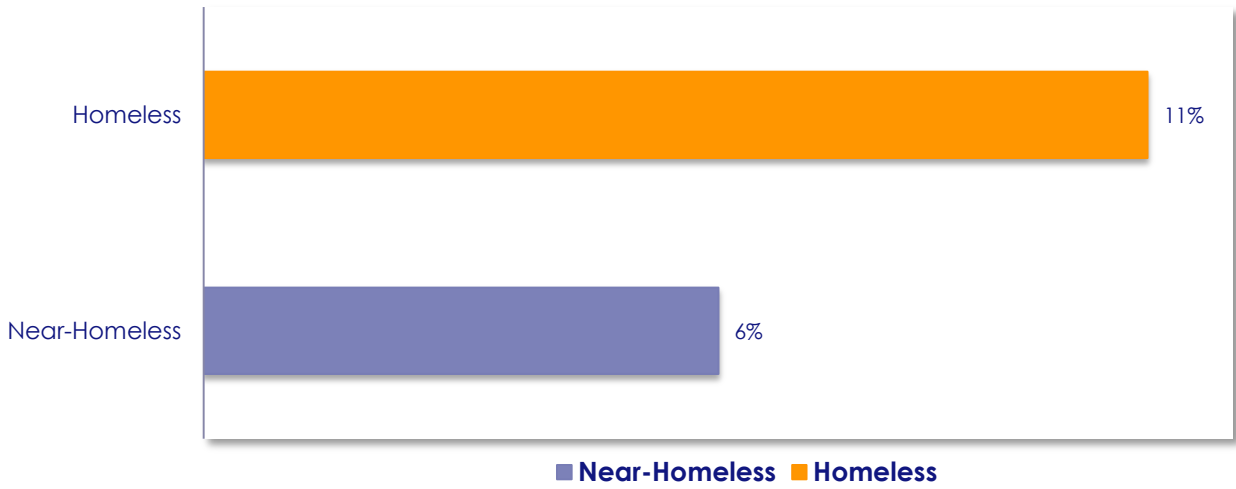


**Other Noted Health Concerns included: PTSD (2), Sickle cell anemia (2), Asperger’s Syndrome, COPD, Dementia, Pregnancy, ADHD, Cancer, Heart failure, and High blood pressure*

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Health Issues				
	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Mental Health	30%	25%	19%	28%
Drug/ Alcohol Abuse	15%	23%	16%	14%
Physical/ Medical Disability	25%	13%	25%	24%
Chronic Illness	11%	13%	21%	12%
No Disability	12%	19%	16%	14%
Developmental Disability	4%	2%	0%	3%
Other	1%	6%	4%	5%
HIV/ AIDS	2%	0%	0%	0%

FIGURE 6: Military Service

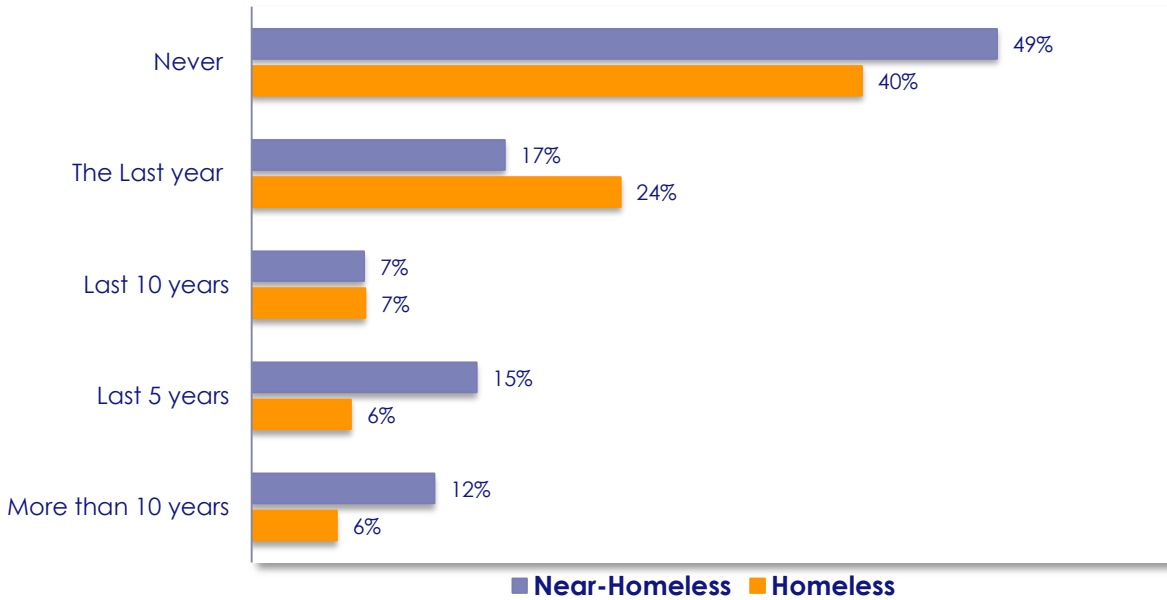
- Those indicating military service represent **9%** of all responding homeless and near-homeless individuals.



Military Service by Gender		
	Homeless	Near-homeless
Men	11	5
Women	0	1

**FIGURE 7: Criminal Conviction
Homeless:**

- **60%** of **homeless** respondents indicated that they had been criminally convicted at some point in their lives.
- **24%** of **homeless** respondents reported being incarcerated in the last year.



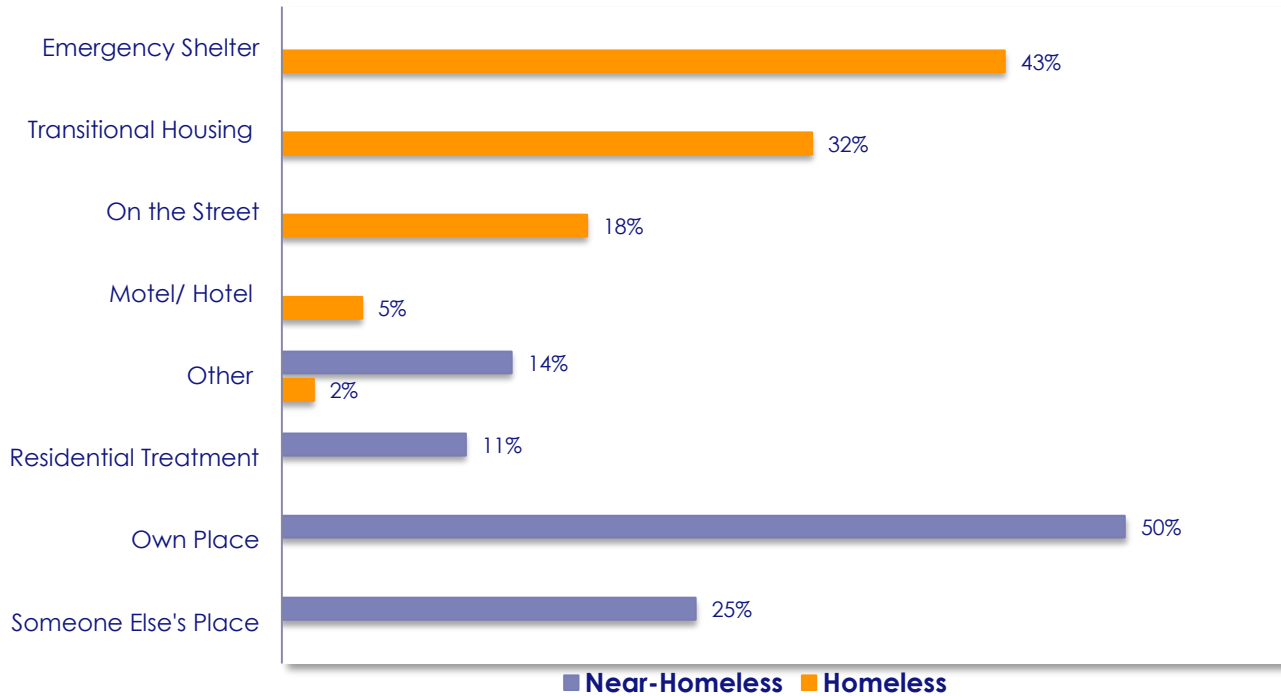
Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Criminal Conviction History				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Never	38%	62%	29%	59%
The Last Year	38%	18%	23%	14%
Last 5 Years	8%	9%	17%	14%
Last 10 Years	8%	9%	14%	4%
More than 10 Years	9%	3%	17%	10%

Current Situation of Survey Respondents

A series of questions were asked of respondents to capture their current living situation, income sources and greatest needs.

FIGURE 8: Current Living Situation

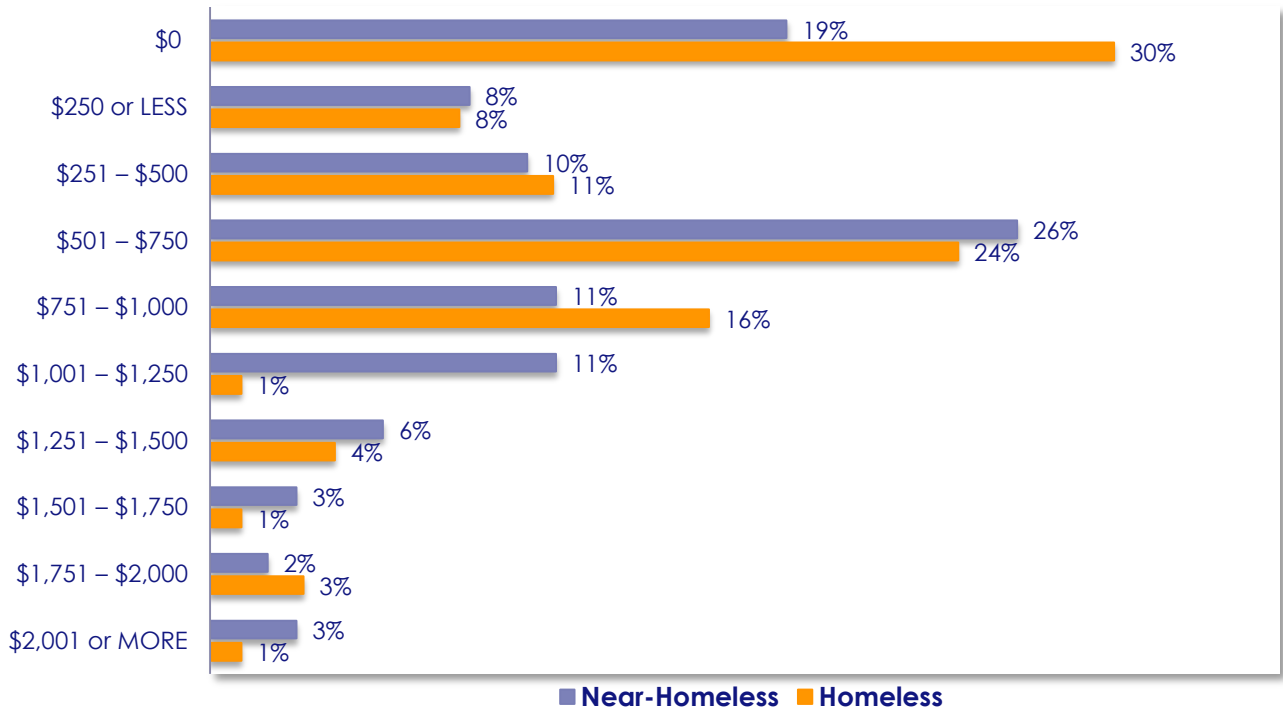
- The current living situation for most **homeless** respondents (**75%**) is an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Most **near-homeless** respondents (**50%**) indicated that they live in their own place.



Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Current Living Situation				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Emergency Shelter	44%	41%	0%	0%
Transitional Housing	26%	41%	0%	0%
Motel/ Hotel	3%	8%	0%	0%
On the Street	26%	8%	0%	0%
Someone Else's Place	0%	0%	26%	24%
Own Place	0%	0%	54%	49%
Residential Treatment	0%	0%	11%	11%
Other	0%	3%	9%	16%

FIGURE 9: Estimated Total Monthly Income

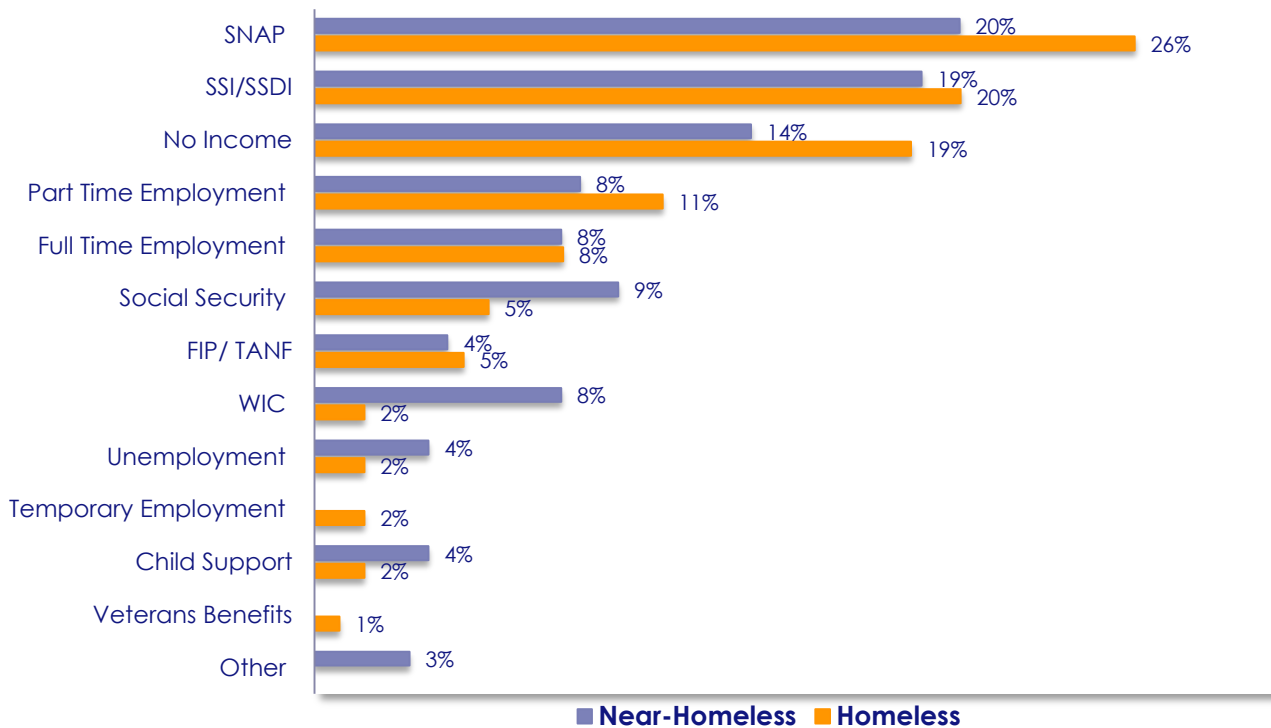
- Of the **homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **95%** have a total income of \$1,500 or less.
- Of the **near-homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **92%** have a total income of \$1,500 or less.
- **One in three homeless** respondents had no income.



Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Monthly Income				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
\$0	34%	26%	26%	15%
\$250 or LESS	9%	8%	9%	8%
\$251 – \$500	5%	15%	3%	14%
\$501 – \$750	21%	28%	32%	24%
\$751 – \$1,000	14%	21%	12%	11%
\$1,001 – \$1,250	0%	3%	6%	14%
\$1,251 – \$1,500	7%	0%	3%	7%
\$1,501 – \$1,750	2%	0%	3%	3%
\$1,751 – \$2,000	5%	0%	3%	1%
\$2,001 or MORE	2%	0%	3%	3%

FIGURE 10: Primary Sources of Income

- Of **homeless** respondents, **21%** worked full-time, part-time, or in a temporary position; **19%** reported no income; and **26%** of homeless respondents reported utilizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Of **near-homeless** respondents, **16%** worked full-time, part-time, or in a temporary position. In addition **19%** of near-homeless respondents reported receiving SSI/SSDI and **20%** reported receiving SNAP.
- **19%** of **near-homeless** respondents receive SSI/SSDI, compared to **20%** of **homeless** respondents.



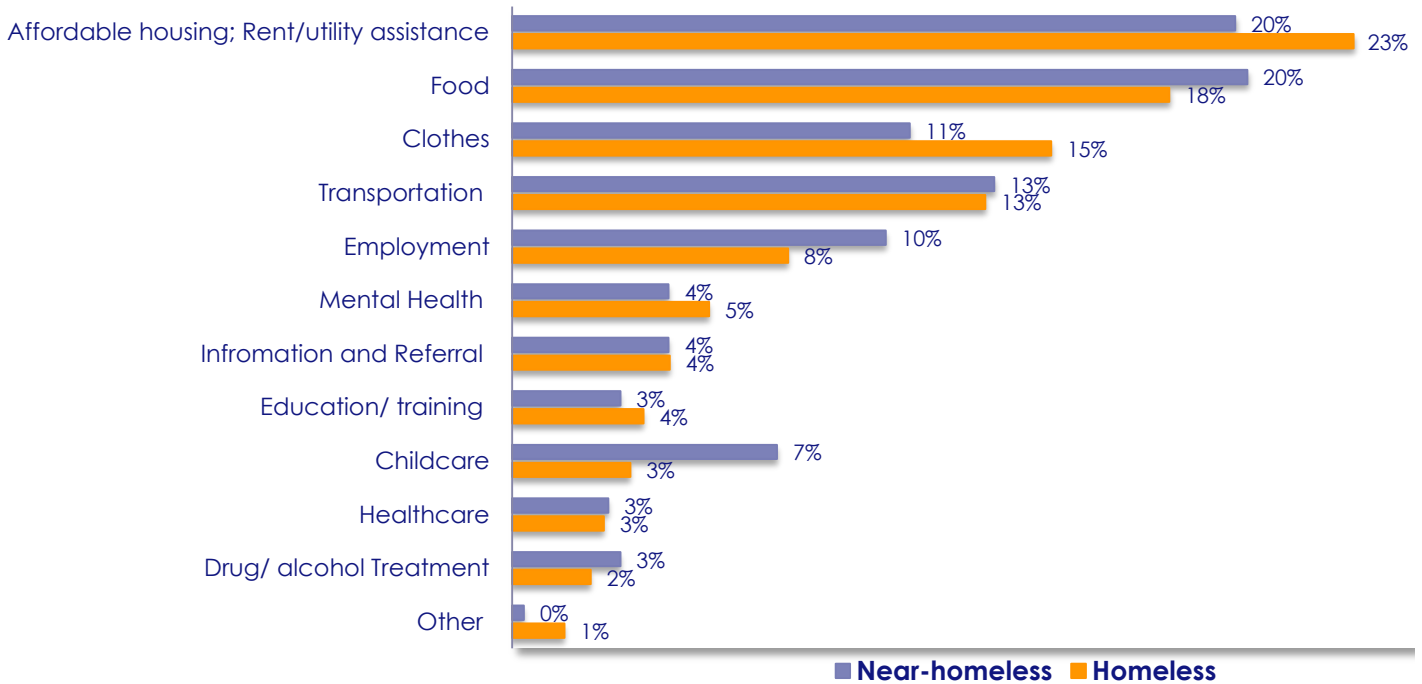
*No other sources of income were noted in survey responses.

Primary Source of Income	Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender			
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Full Time Employment	14%	2%	5%	8%
Part Time Employment	6%	15%	5%	9%
Temporary Employment	2%	2%	0%	0%
SNAP	23%	28%	21%	20%
SSI/SSDI	26%	13%	26%	17%
WIC	0%	3%	0%	10%
Social Security	3%	7%	15%	8%
Veterans Benefits	2%	0%	0%	0%
Child Support	0%	3%	0%	5%
FIP/ TANF	0%	10%	0%	5%
Unemployment	2%	2%	8%	2%
No Income	23%	15%	15%	13%
Other	0%	0%	5%	2%

FIGURE 11: Greatest General Needs

Note: Respondents were asked to indicate their three highest needs at that time.

- The four greatest needs of **homeless** respondents include 1) affordable housing (**23%**), 2) food (**18%**), 3) clothes (**15%**) and 4) transportation (**13%**).
- The four greatest needs of the **near-homeless** respondents include 1) affordable housing (**20%**) and food (**20%**) 2) transportation (**13%**) and 3) clothes (**11%**).
- **Affordable housing, transportation, employment, and food** are consistent primary needs among the homeless and near-homeless population.

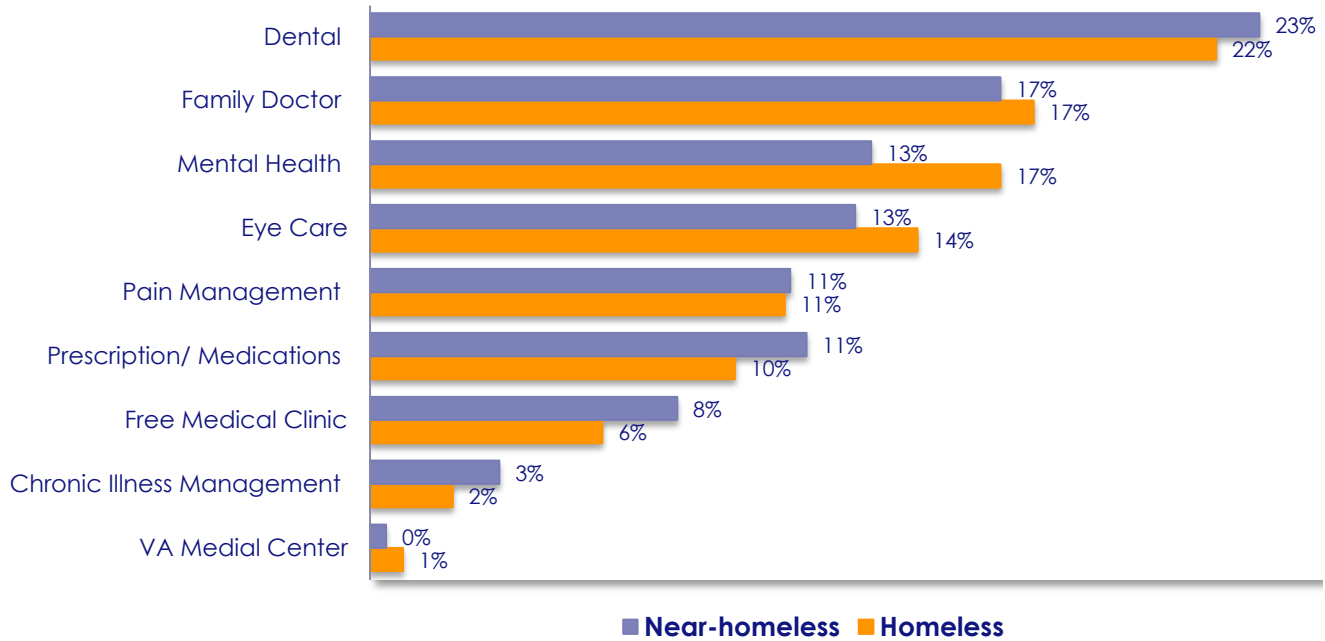


Other Noted Needs: Identification, Appointment availability, Home, and a YMCA Pass

Health Concern	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Affordable housing and/or Rent/utility assistance	22%	25%	20%	20%
Clothes	12%	19%	8%	12%
Education/ training	4%	3%	2%	3%
Food	19%	17%	21%	20%
Information and Referral	4%	4%	5%	4%
Transportation	13%	13%	13%	13%
Childcare	1%	6%	1%	10%
Drug/ alcohol Treatment	3%	1%	5%	2%
Employment	9%	6%	14%	9%
Healthcare	4%	1%	4%	2%
Mental Health	7%	3%	5%	4%
Other	1%	2%	0%	0%

FIGURE 12: Greatest Healthcare Needs

- The highest ranking needs for **both homeless and near-homeless** were 1) dental care, 2) family doctor, and 3) mental health.

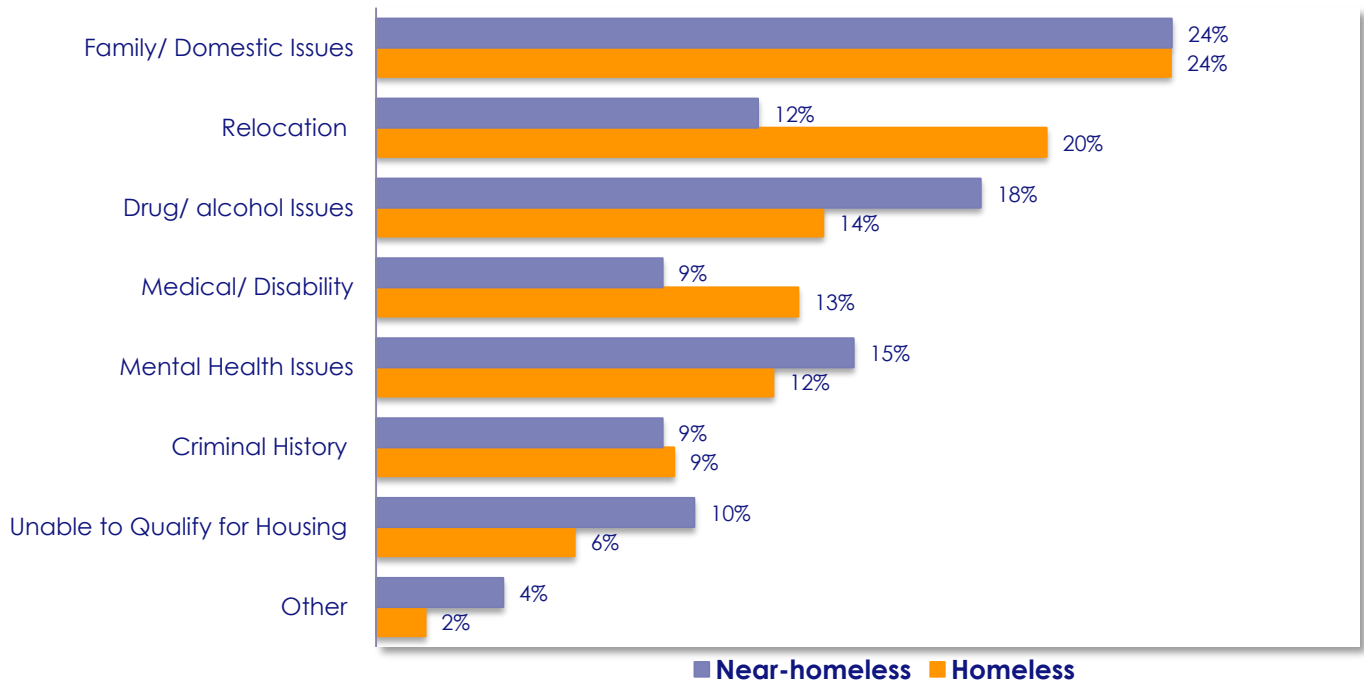


Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Greatest Health Needs				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Dental	22%	24%	27%	22%
Family Doctor	14%	22%	13%	18%
Mental Health	20%	12%	9%	15%
Eye Care	13%	15%	14%	12%
Free Medical Clinic	5%	8%	11%	6%
Prescription/ Medications	12%	6%	10%	12%
Pain Management	11%	9%	11%	11%
Chronic Illness Management	1%	4%	4%	3%
VA Medial Center	1%	0%	1%	0%

FIGURE 13: Reason for Homelessness

Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer

- The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **homeless** respondents was family domestic issues (**24%**), followed by relocation (**20%**).
- The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **near-homeless** respondents was family domestic issues (**24%**), followed by drug and alcohol issues (**18%**) and mental health issues (**27%**).



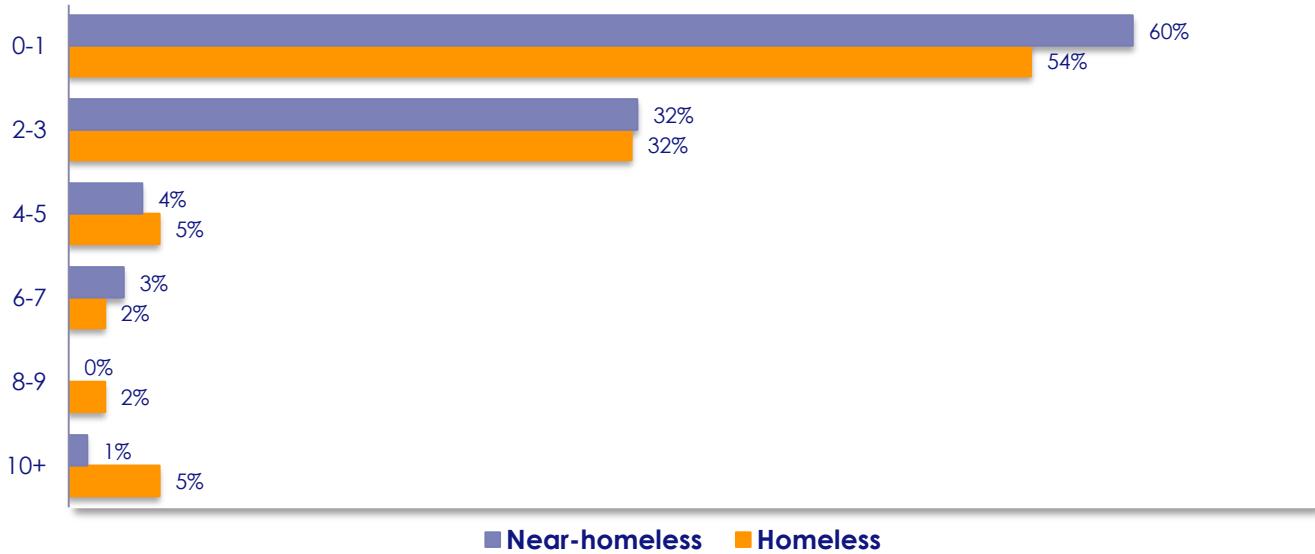
*Relocation: moving to a new location either within the area or from a different area

**Other reasons for homelessness noted were loss of employment and food.

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Reason for Homelessness				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Family/ Domestic Issues	16%	34%	22%	25%
Relocation	20%	21%	13%	11%
Medical/ Disability	14%	12%	16%	6%
Drug/ alcohol Issues	16%	10%	16%	20%
Mental Health Issues	15%	9%	16%	14%
Criminal History	11%	7%	9%	8%
Unable to Qualify for Housing	5%	7%	9%	10%
Other	3%	0%	0%	6%

FIGURE 14: Number of Times Homeless or Displaced in the Past Three Years

- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**54%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**60%**) have been homeless or displaced 0-1 time in the past three years. Another 32% reported having been homeless or near homeless 2-3 times in the past year.



Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Number of Time Homeless				
	Homeless		Near-Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
0-1	37%	48%	45%	67%
2-3	14%	45%	48%	24%
4-5	2%	8%	3%	5%
6-7	2%	0%	0%	5%
8-9	2%	0%	0%	0%
10+	6%	0%	3%	0%

FIGURE 15: Do you Qualify for Section 8

- **More than half** of both homeless and near-homeless respondents **do not know** if they qualify for Section 8.

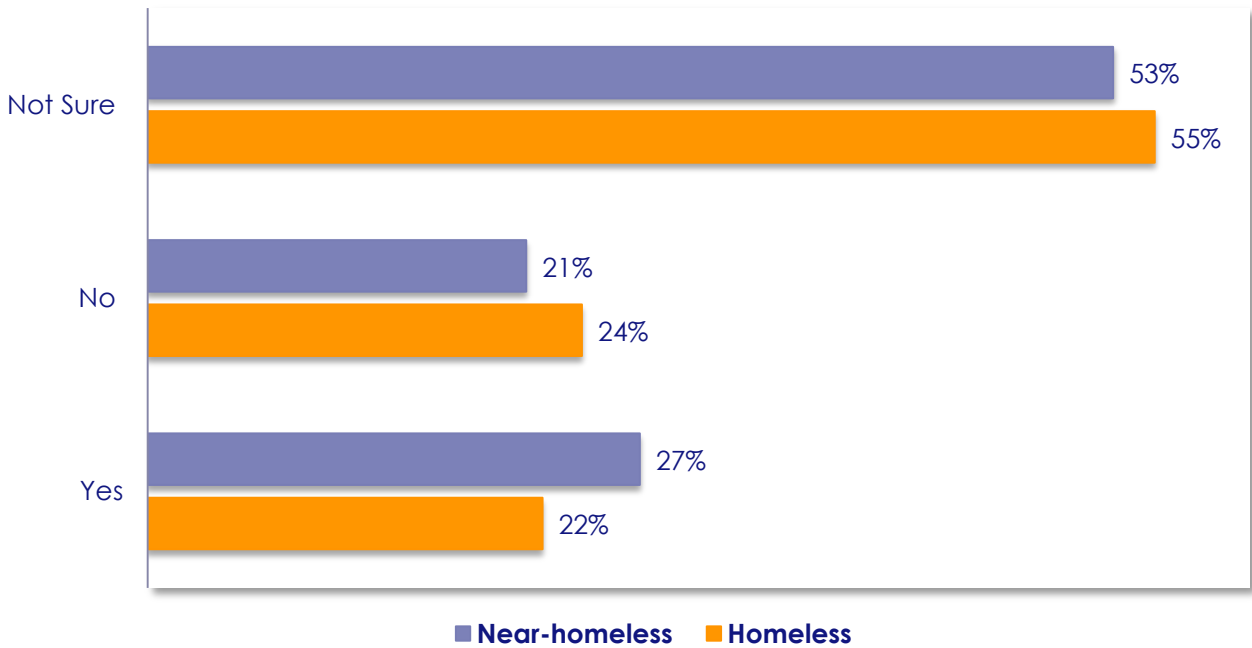


FIGURE 16: Do you Qualify for Section 8

- **More than four out of five** of both homeless and near-homeless respondents **do not have** Section 8.

