CONTINUUM OF CARE
PLANNING & POLICY COUNCIL

Breaking the cycle of homelessness in Linn County

Individual & Family Needs Survey Results
July 26, 2017

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- Heart of Iowa
ASAC Recovery Center Halfway House
Catherine McAuley Center
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 26, 2017. The survey consisted of 19 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 243 surveys were completed and returned. Based on the definitions provided below, 83 survey respondents could be considered "homeless," 157 as "near-homeless," and 3 did not respond.

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 44 years.

	Homeless	Near-homeless
Average Age	42	44
Age Range	11-72	18-85

FIGURE 2: Gender
- Of the 243 survey respondents, 139 identified as female and 101 identified as male and 3 did not respond.
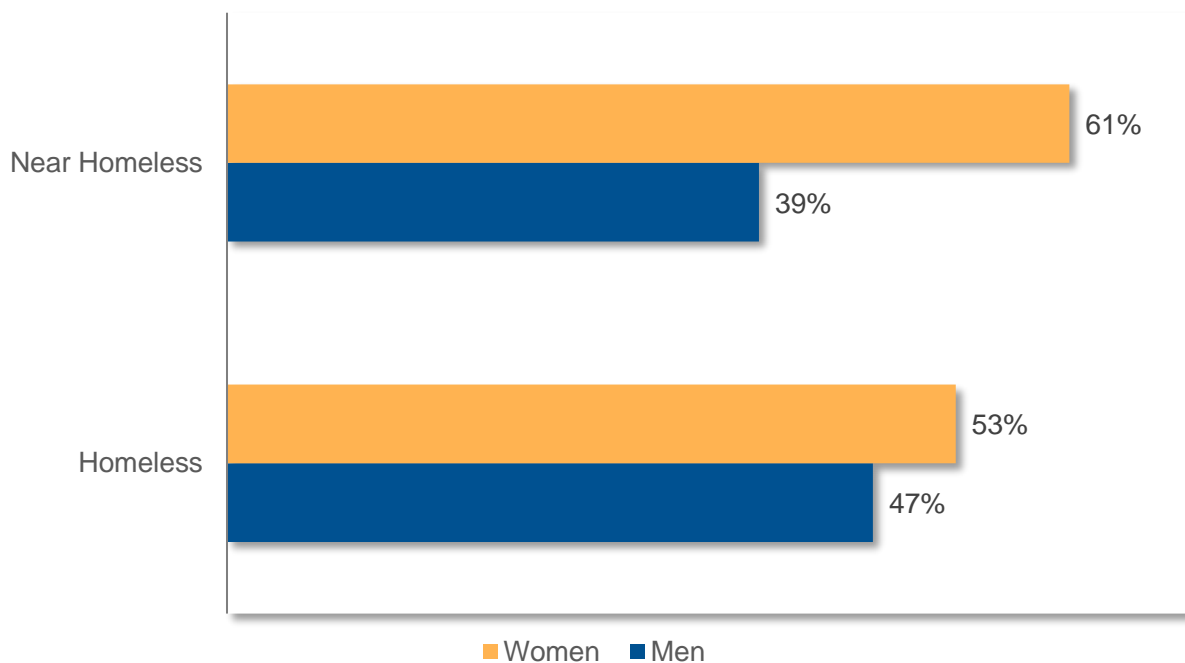- Of those surveyed, a greater percentage of women were both homeless and near-homeless.

FIGURE 3: Race/Ethnicity

- The majority of **homeless** respondents **(60%)** and **near-homeless** respondents **(71%)** are Caucasian.
- The percentage of **homeless** respondents **(30%)** and **near-homeless** respondents **(21%)** that are African American is disproportionately high considering the percentage of the African American population in Linn County **(4%)[1].**
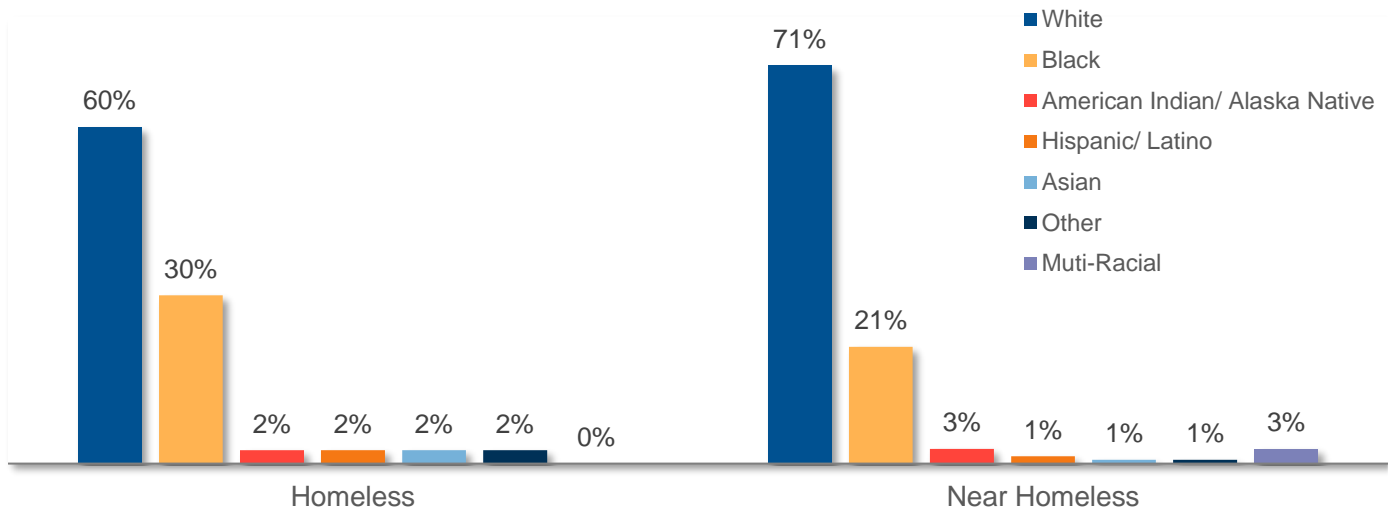
Homeless & Near-Homeless Population by Race & Gender				
	Homeless		**Near-homeless**	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
White	26	24	35	73
Black	10	15	16	16
American Indian/ Alaska Native	2	0	4	0
Hispanic/ Latino	0	2	1	1
Asian	0	2	0	1
Other	1	1	0	1
Multi-Racial	0	0	2	2

FIGURE 4: Households with Children

- On July 26, 2017, 31% (77) of households had children with them totaling 147 children.

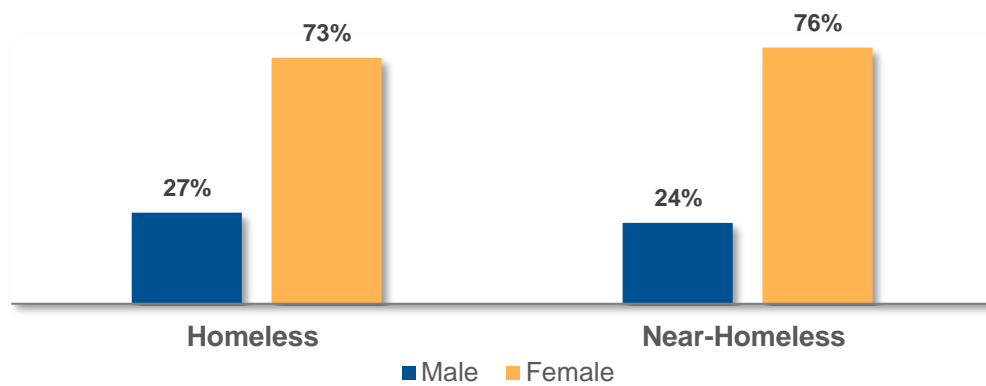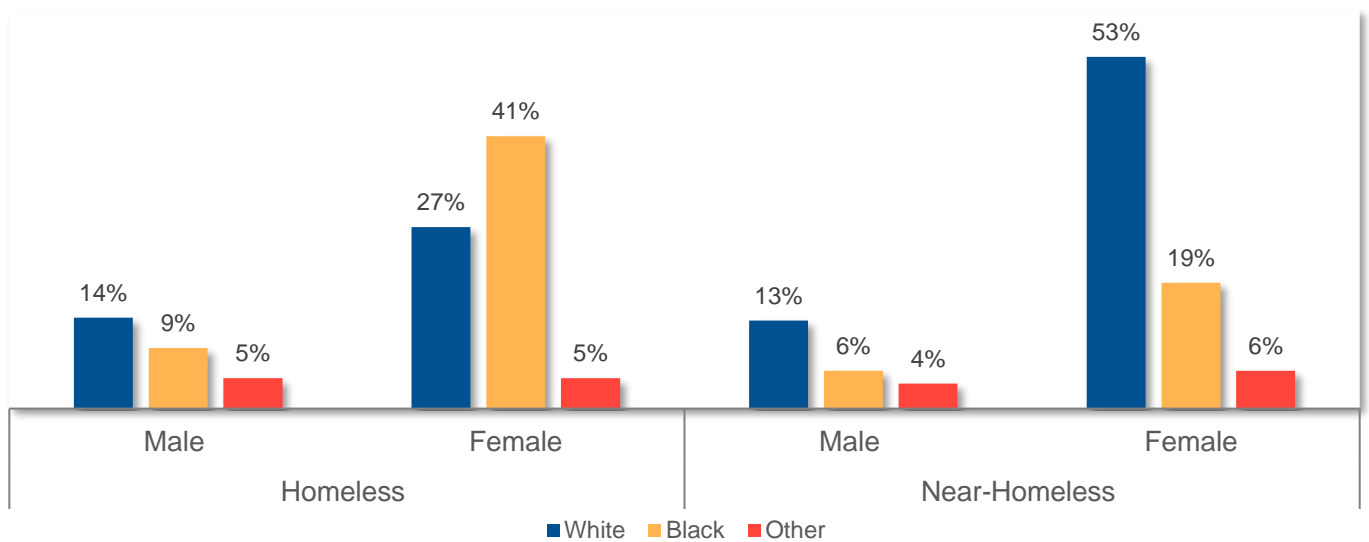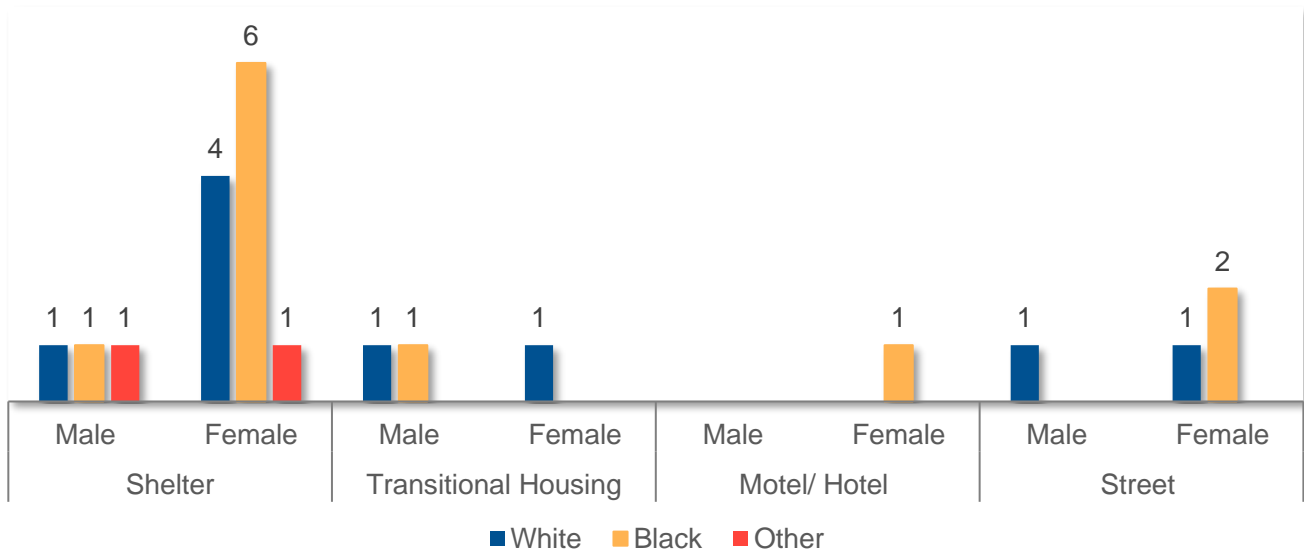|	Homeless	Near-homeless
# Households with Children	22 (27% of H)	55 (35% of NH)
Average # of children per household	1.9	2
Total children	41	106
Median # children	1	2
Minimum # children	1	1
Maximum # children	6	7

Households with Children by Gender of Respondent

FIGURE 5: Household Composition of Homeless & Near-Homeless Population by Race & Gender of households with children
- Of the **homeless** populations with children, 41% of respondent households were black females.
- Of the **near-homeless** populations with children, 53% of respondent households were white females.

FIGURES 6 & 7: Homeless & Near-homeless Populations by Race & Gender of households with children by housing type

Number of Homeless Households with children, by race, gender of respondent & current housing situation

Number of Near-Homeless Households with children, by race, gender of respondent & current housing situation
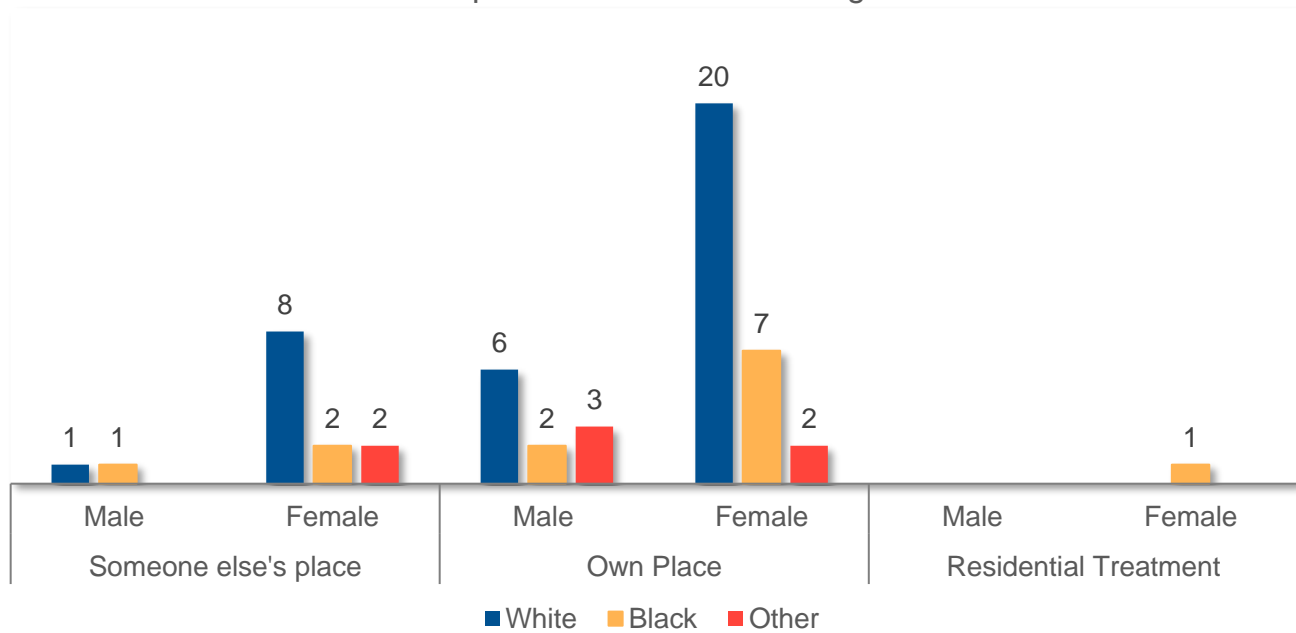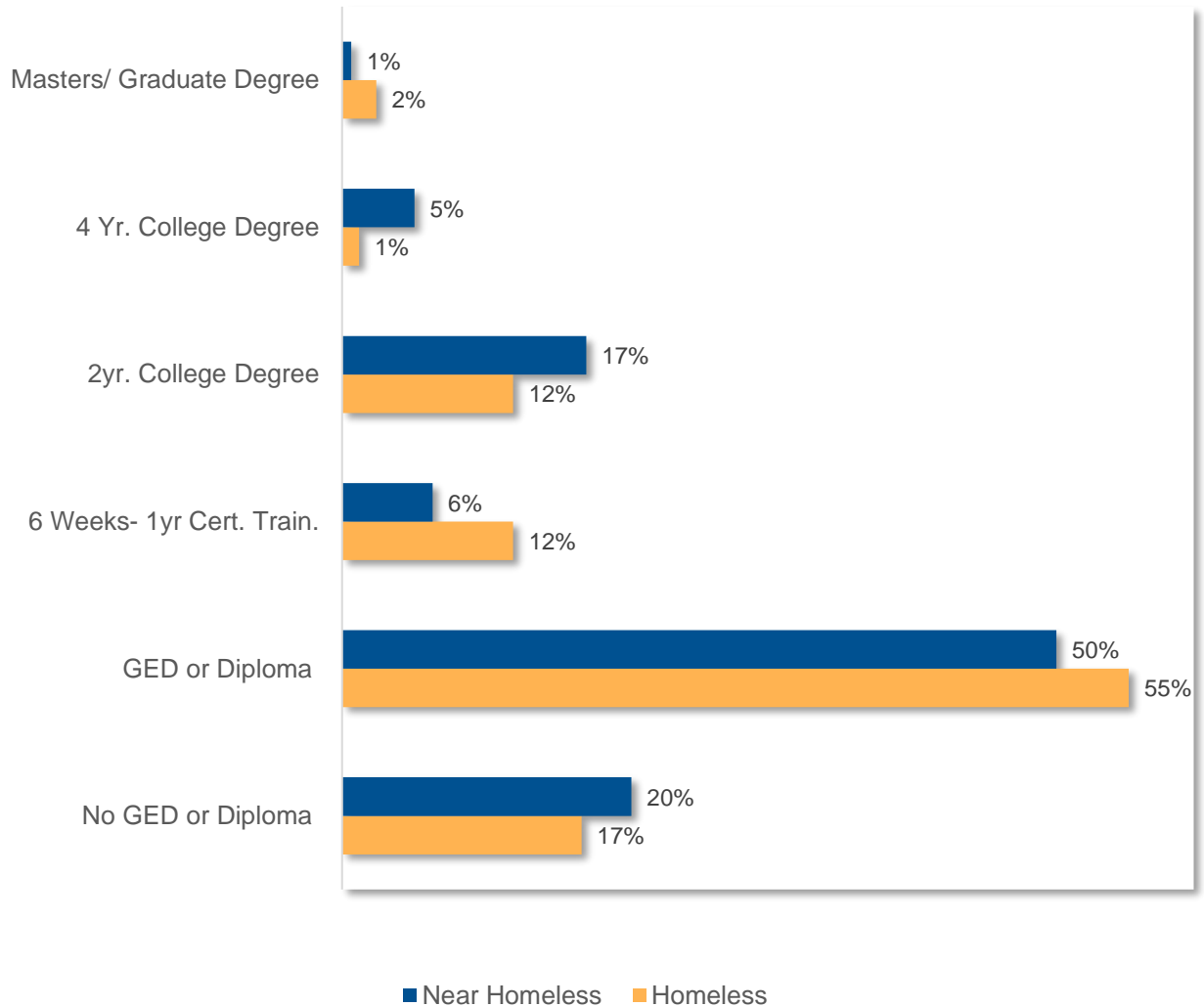
FIGURE 8: Educational Achievement
- **72% of homeless and 70% of Near-homeless individuals** have not obtained an education beyond a high school diploma or GED.

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Level of Education				
	Homeless		**Near Homeless**	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
No GED or Diploma	21%	14%	25%	18%
GED or Diploma	51%	59%	48%	51%
6 Weeks- 1yr Cert. Train.	18%	7%	2%	9%
2yr. College Degree	10%	14%	20%	16%
4 Yr. College Degree	0%	2%	5%	5%
Masters/ Graduate Degree	0%	5%	0%	1%

FIGURE 9: Disabilities/Health Issues

- **65%** of homeless and **69%** 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 (35%) and physical/ medical disability (22%).
  - o The most prominent issues identified by the near-homeless population were mental health issues (28%) and physical/medical disabilities (22%).
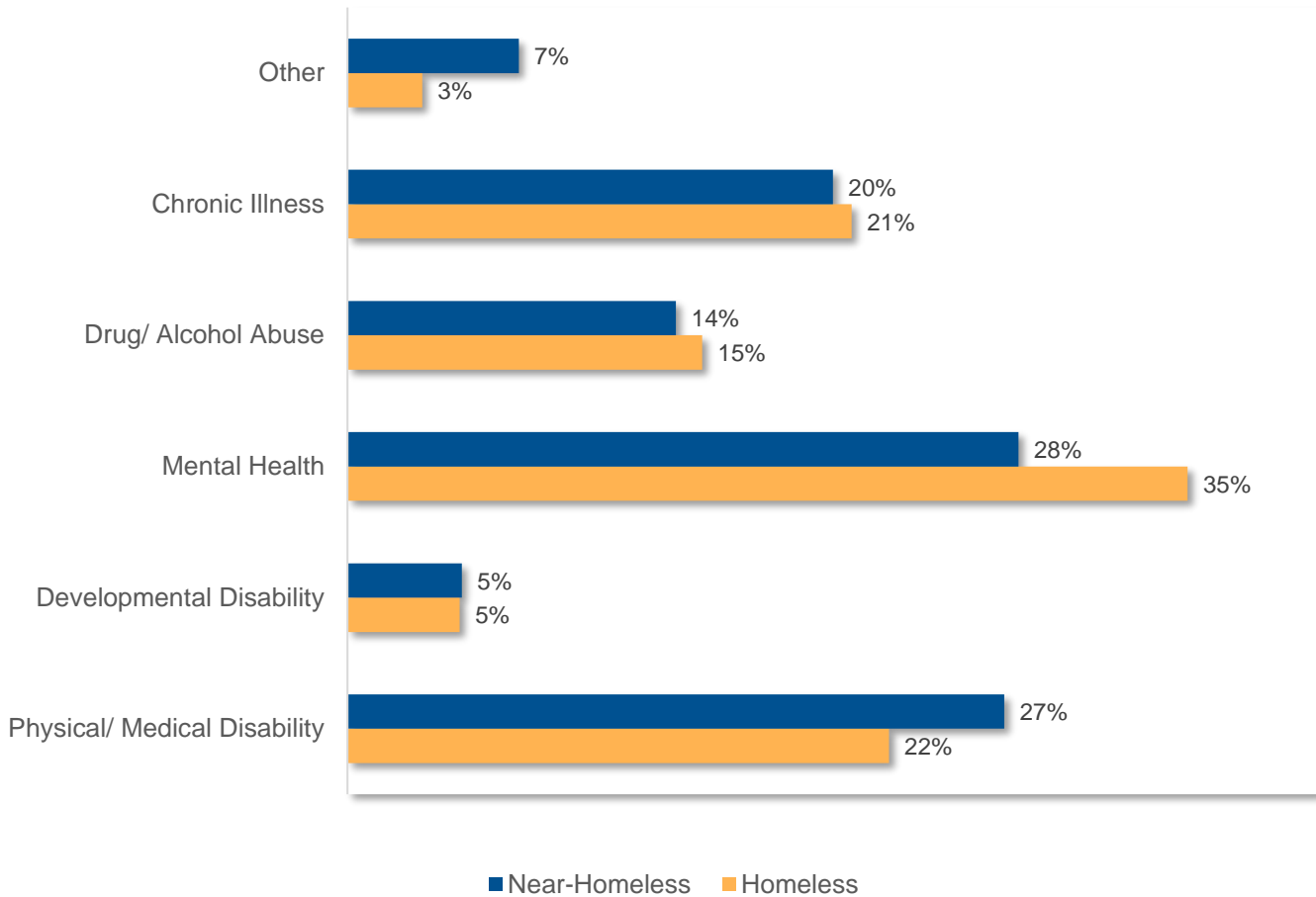

Other Noted Health Concerns included: COPD, ADHD, cancer (3), heart failure, high blood pressure (2), gout, tendonitis, ulcers, disc problems in back, eye concerns, and overactive bladder.

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Health Issues				
	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Mental Health	31%	37%	26%	29%
Drug/ Alcohol Abuse	20%	11%	20%	9%
Physical/ Medical Disability	24%	21%	28%	27%
Chronic Illness	16%	24%	17%	22%
Developmental Disability	5%	4%	4%	5%
Other	4%	3%	4%	9%

FIGURE 10: Military Service
- Those indicating military service represent 12**%** of all responding homeless and near-homeless individuals.
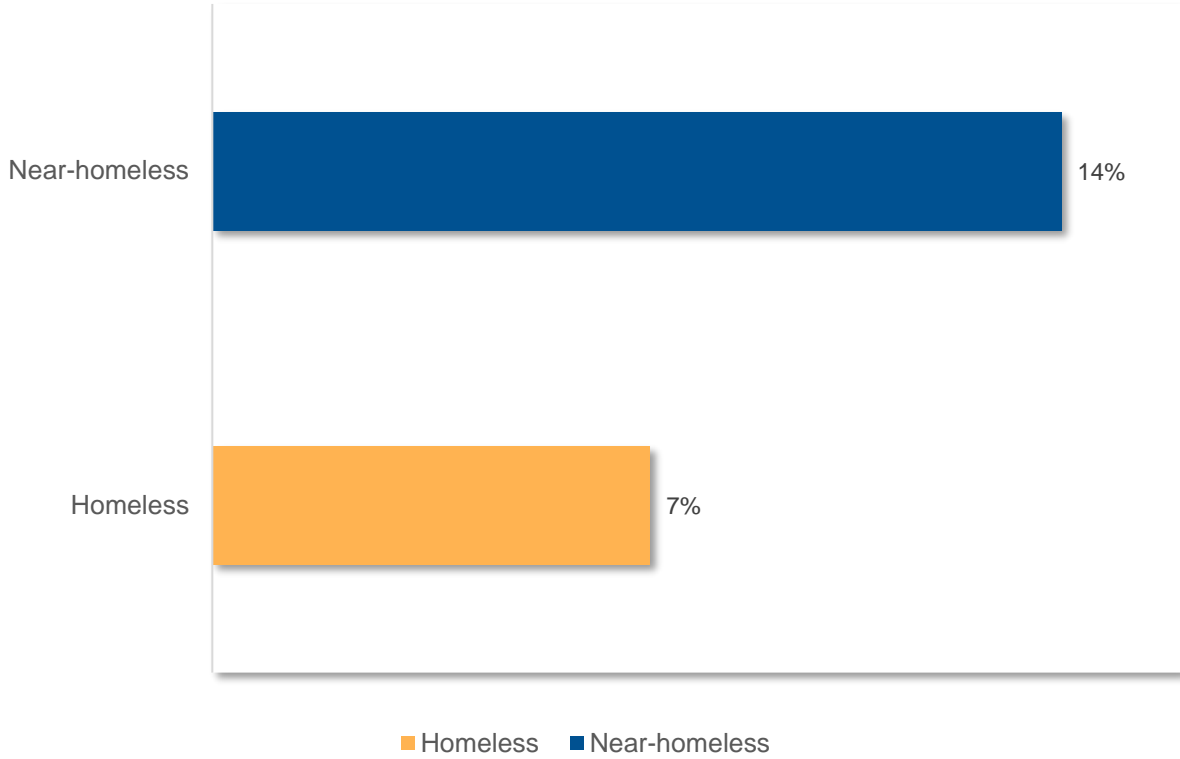
Military Service by Gender		
	Homeless	**Near-homeless**
Men	6	17
Women	0	5

FIGURE 11: Criminal Conviction
<u>**Homeless**</u>:
- **41%** of **homeless** respondents indicated that they had been criminally convicted at some point in their lives.
- **19%** of **homeless** respondents reported being criminally convicted in the last year.
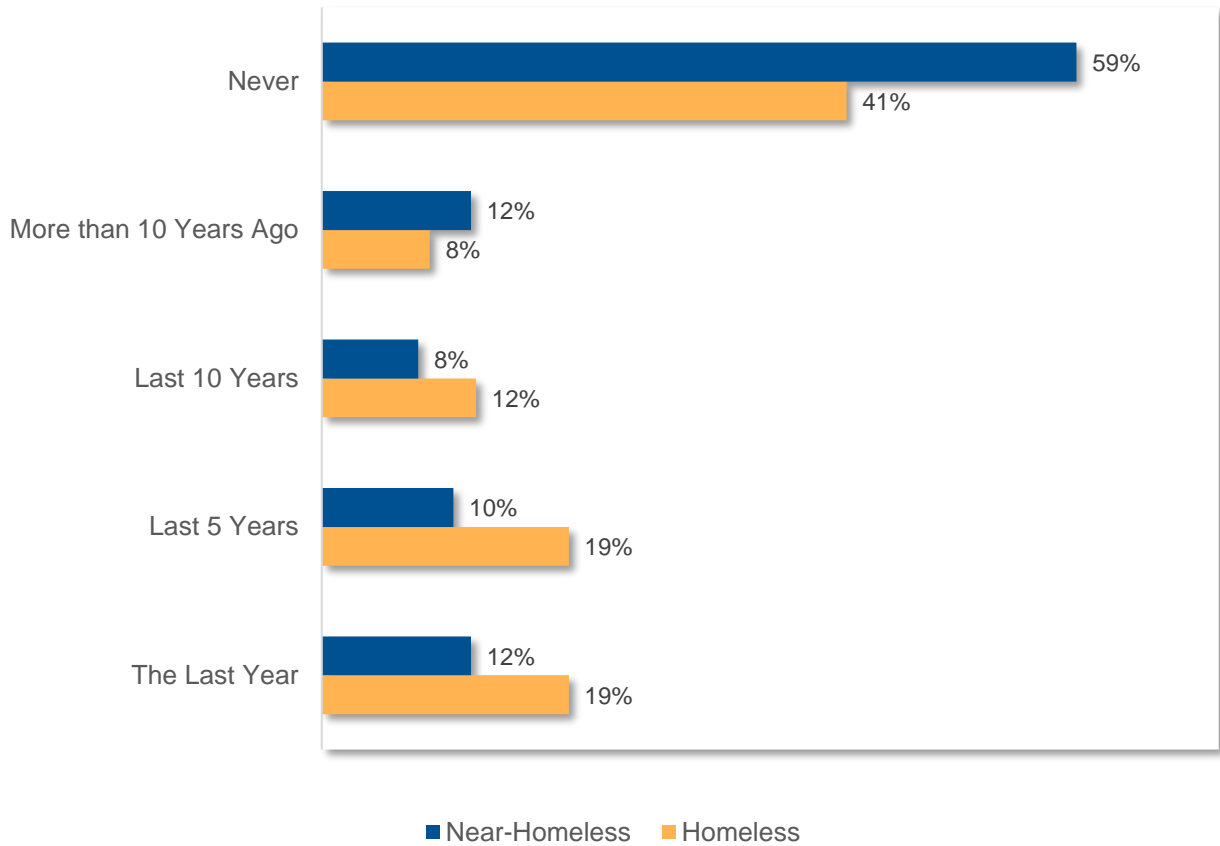
Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Criminal Conviction History				
	Homeless		**Near-homeless**	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Never	23%	57%	42%	70%
The Last Year	26%	14%	16%	9%
Last 5 Years	26%	14%	16%	6%
Last 10 Years	18%	7%	11%	6%
More than 10 Years	8%	9%	15%	10%

Current Living Situation

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

FIGURE 12: Current Living Situation
- The current living situation for most **homeless** respondents **(76%)** is an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Most **near-homeless** respondents **(71%)** indicated that they live in their own place.
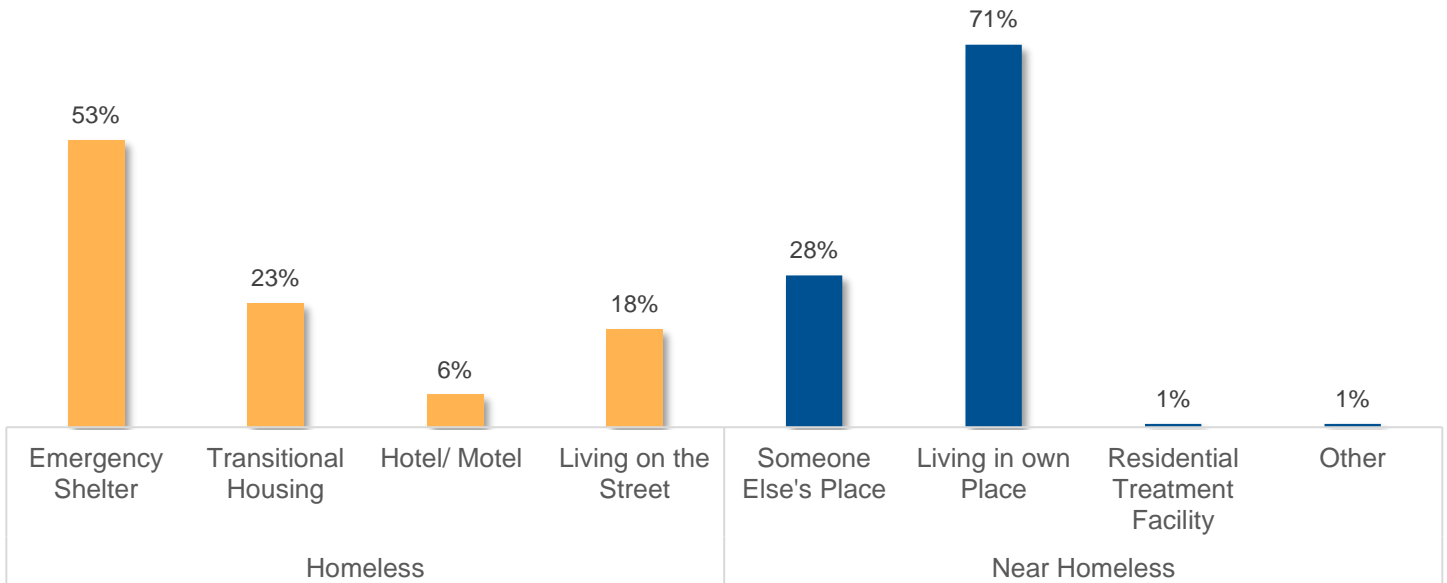
| Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Current Living Situation		
	Men	**Women**
Homeless		
Emergency Shelter	56%	50%
Transitional Housing	15%	30%
Motel/ Hotel	5%	7%
On the Street	23%	14%
Near-homeless		
Someone Else's Place	27%	29%
Own Place	72%	69%
Residential Treatment	0%	1%
Other	2%	0%

FIGURE 13: Estimated Total Monthly Income
– Of the **homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **88%** have a total income of $1,500 or less.
– Of the **near-homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **79%** have a total income of $1,500 or less.
– **One in three homeless** respondents **had no income.**

■ Near-homeless   ■ Homeless
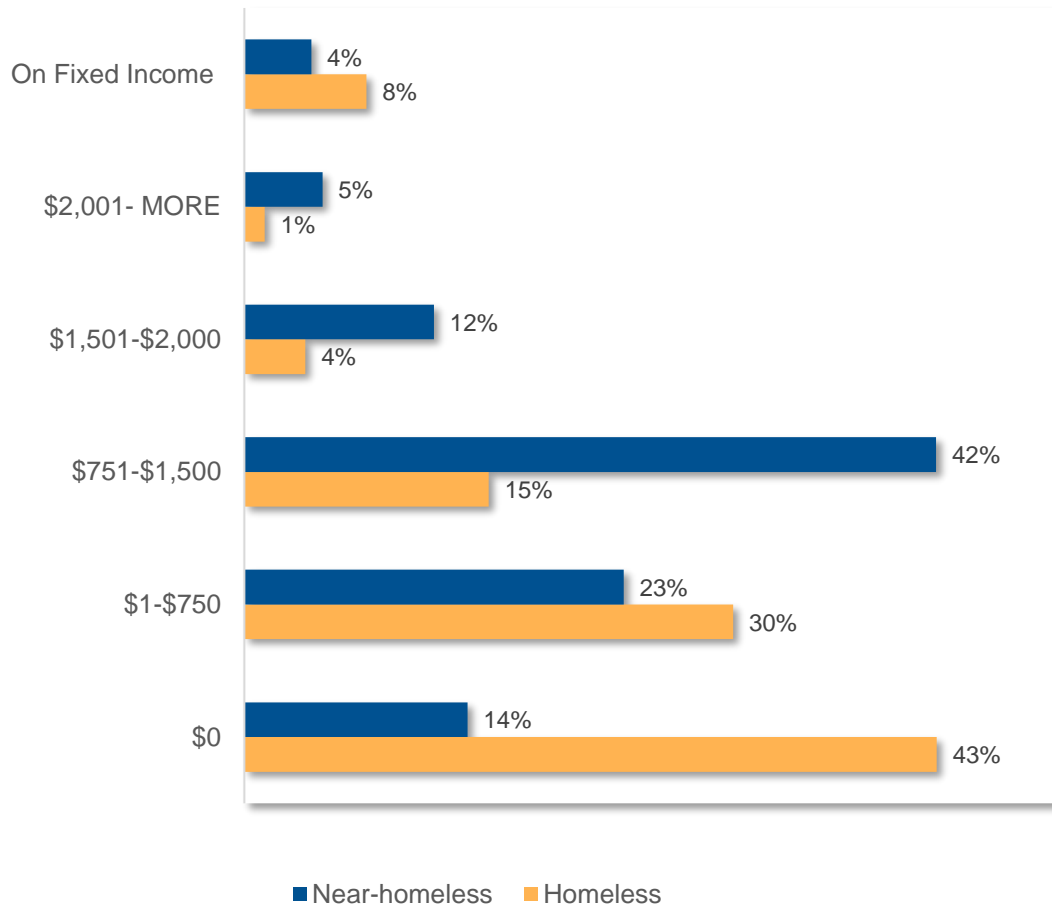
Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Monthly Income				
	Homeless		**Near-Homeless**	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
$0	50%	36%	18%	11%
$1-$750	26%	33%	22%	24%
$751-$1,500	11%	19%	33%	49%
$1,501-$2,000	5%	2%	15%	9%
$2,001- MORE	0%	2%	5%	4%
On Fixed Income	8%	7%	7%	2%

FIGURE 14: Employment Status

- **77%** of the **homeless** respondents and **55%** of the **near-homeless** respondents were unemployed.
- Of the **homeless** respondents, **12%** were working full-time; **8%** worked part-time; and **4%** had temporary employment.
- Of the **near-homeless** respondents, **24%** were working full-time; **17%** worked part-time; and **2%** had temporary employment.
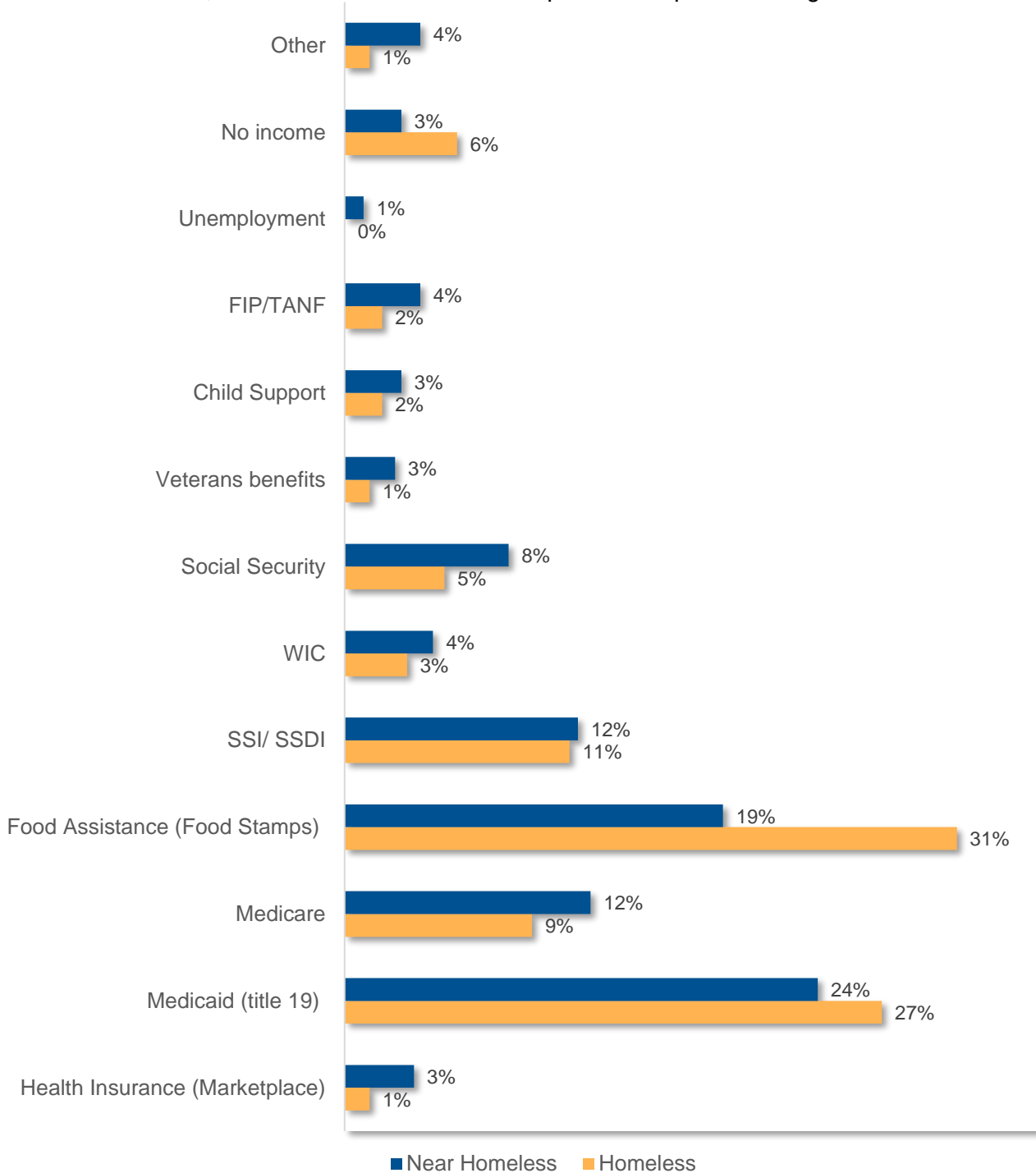

■ Near Homeless   ■ Homeless
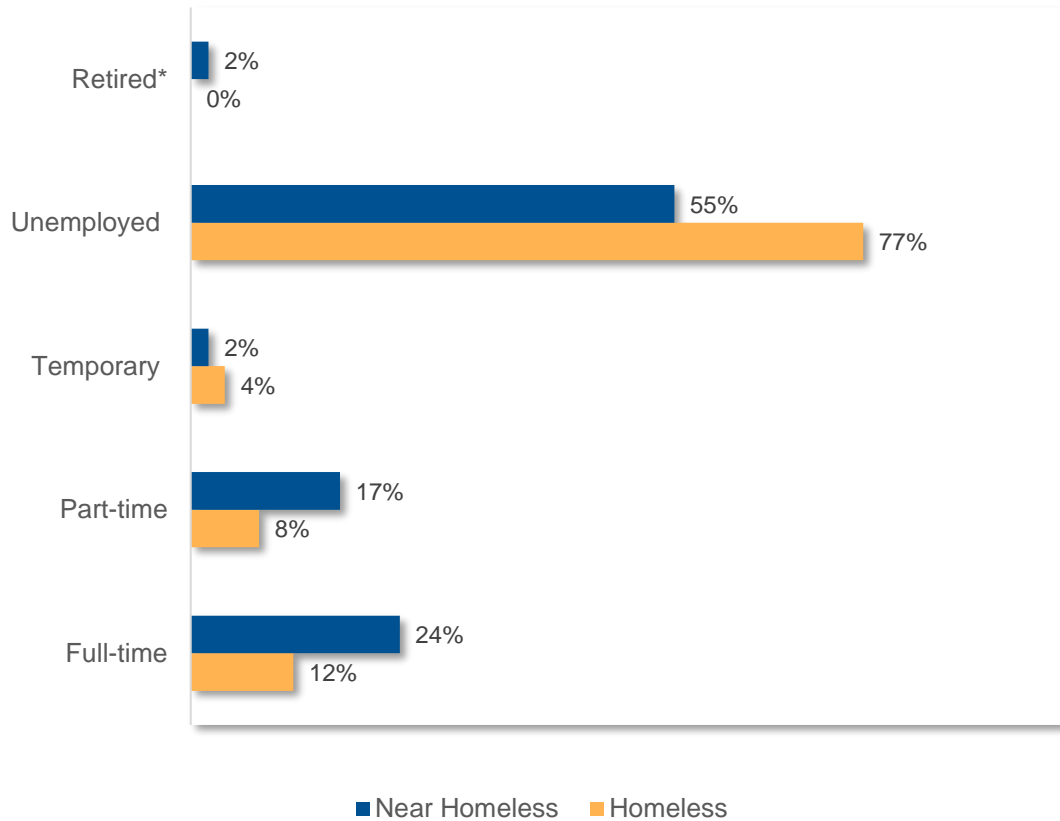
Retired was NOT an option that respondents could check on the survey, however, many respondents wrote retired in on the survey. As a result, retired was included in the chart and will be added as a possible response to the 2018 survey.

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Employment Status				
	Homeless		Near Homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Full-time	8%	15%	24%	23%
Part-time	8%	8%	19%	16%
Temporary	5%	3%	4%	1%
Unemployed	78%	75%	48%	60%
Retired*	0%	0%	6%	0%

FIGURE 15: Primary Sources of Income

- Of **homeless** respondents, **31%** utilized food assistance; **27%** reported having Medicaid; and **11%** of homeless respondents reported having SSI/ SSDI.
- Of the **near-homeless** respondents, **24%** reported having Medicaid; **19%** utilized food assistance; and **12%** of near-homeless respondents reported having SSI/ SSDI and Medicare.
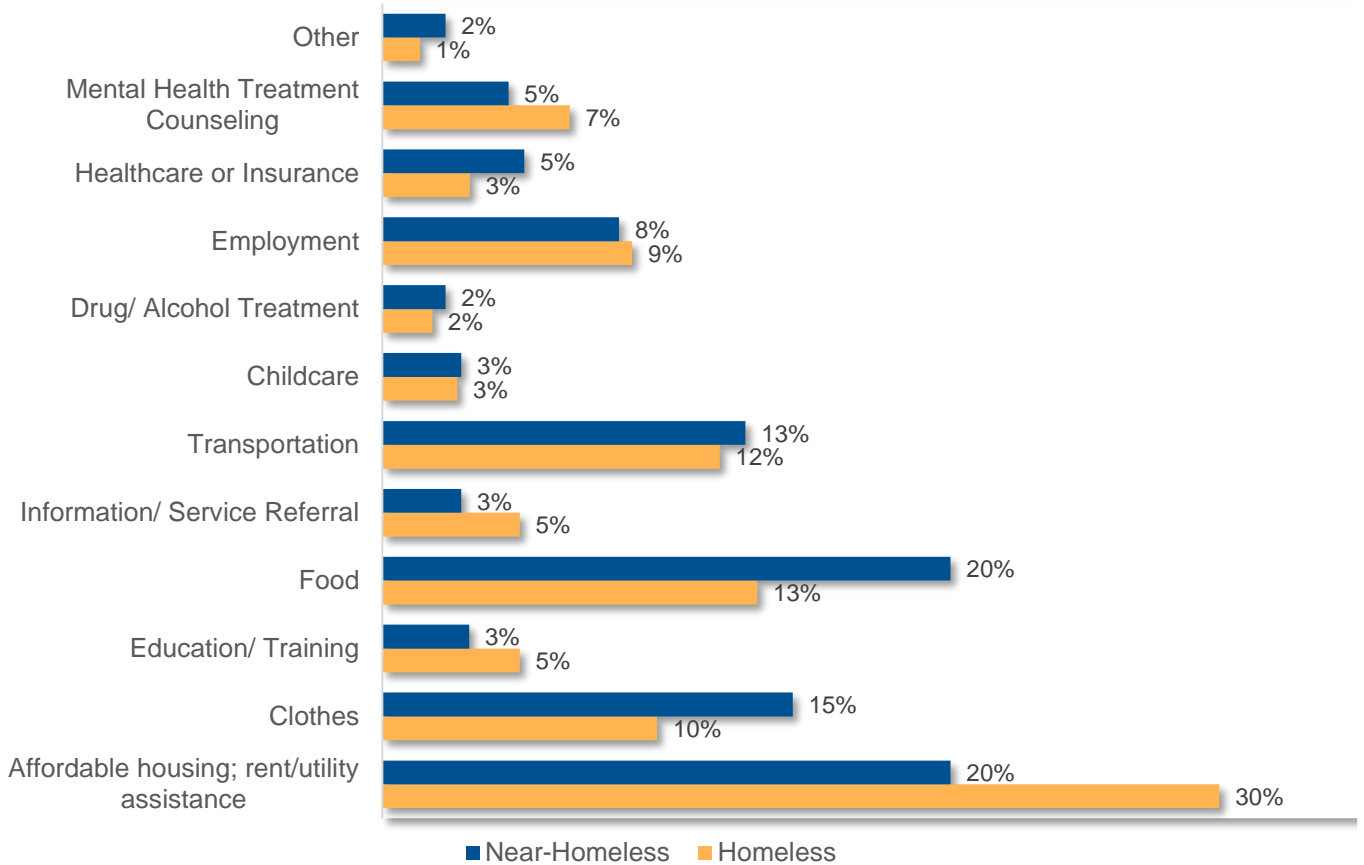
Source	Near Homeless	Homeless
Other	4%	1%
No income	3%	6%
Unemployment	1%	0%
FIP/TANF	4%	2%
Child Support	3%	2%
Veterans benefits	3%	1%
Social Security	8%	5%
WIC	4%	3%
SSI/ SSDI	12%	11%
Food Assistance (Food Stamps)	19%	31%
Medicare	12%	9%
Medicaid (title 19)	24%	27%
Health Insurance (Marketplace)	3%	1%

■Near Homeless ■Homeless

*No other sources of income were noted in survey responses

FIGURE 16: 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 **(30%)**, 2) food **(13%)**, 3) transportation **(12%)** and 4) clothes **(10%)**.
– The four greatest needs of the **near-homeless** respondents include 1) affordable housing **(20%)** and food **(20%)** 2) clothes **(15%)** and 3) transportation **(13%)**
– **Affordable housing, transportation, clothes, and food** are consistent primary needs among the homeless and near-homeless population.
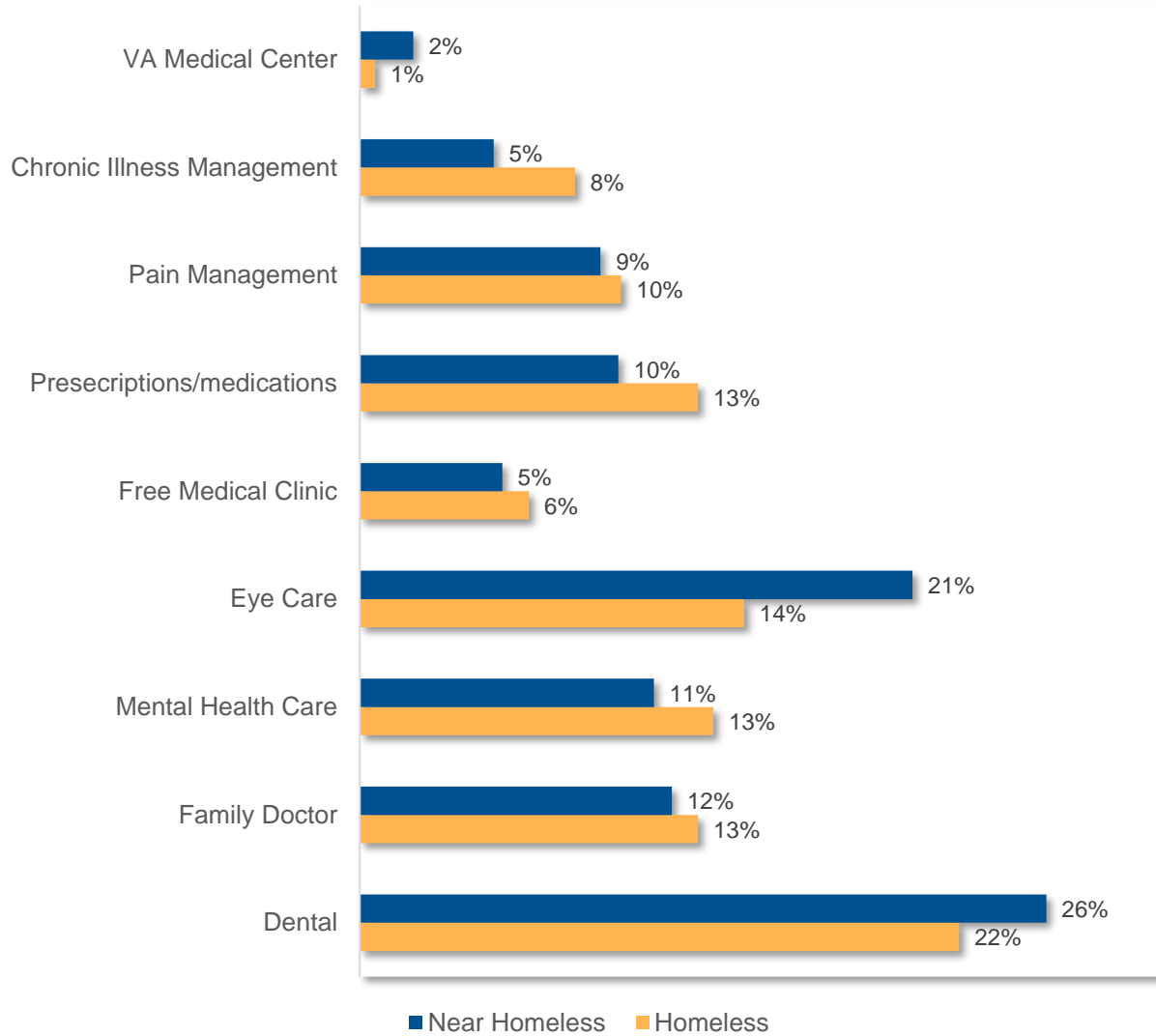

Other Noted Needs: Pet food, financial assistance for bed bug eradication, help with disability paperwork, nurse for bathing assistance, and toiletries.

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Health Concerns				
	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Affordable housing; rent/utility assistance	29%	31%	21%	20%
Clothes	10%	9%	11%	17%
Education/ Training	5%	5%	2%	4%
Food	14%	13%	22%	19%
Information/ Service Referral	4%	6%	3%	3%
Transportation	13%	11%	14%	12%
Childcare	2%	3%	2%	3%
Drug/ Alcohol Treatment	4%	0%	3%	2%
Employment	9%	9%	8%	9%
Healthcare or Insurance	4%	3%	7%	4%
Mental Health Treatment Counseling	7%	7%	6%	3%
Other	0%	3%	1%	3%

FIGURE 17: Greatest Healthcare Needs

− The highest-ranking needs for **both homeless and near-homeless** were 1) dental care, 2) eye care, 3) mental health care, and 4) family doctor.


VA Medical Center	Near Homeless 2% / Homeless 1%
Chronic Illness Management	Near Homeless 5% / Homeless 8%
Pain Management	Near Homeless 9% / Homeless 10%
Presecriptions/medications	Near Homeless 10% / Homeless 13%
Free Medical Clinic	Near Homeless 5% / Homeless 6%
Eye Care	Near Homeless 21% / Homeless 14%
Mental Health Care	Near Homeless 11% / Homeless 13%
Family Doctor	Near Homeless 12% / Homeless 13%
Dental	Near Homeless 26% / Homeless 22%

■ Near Homeless ■ Homeless

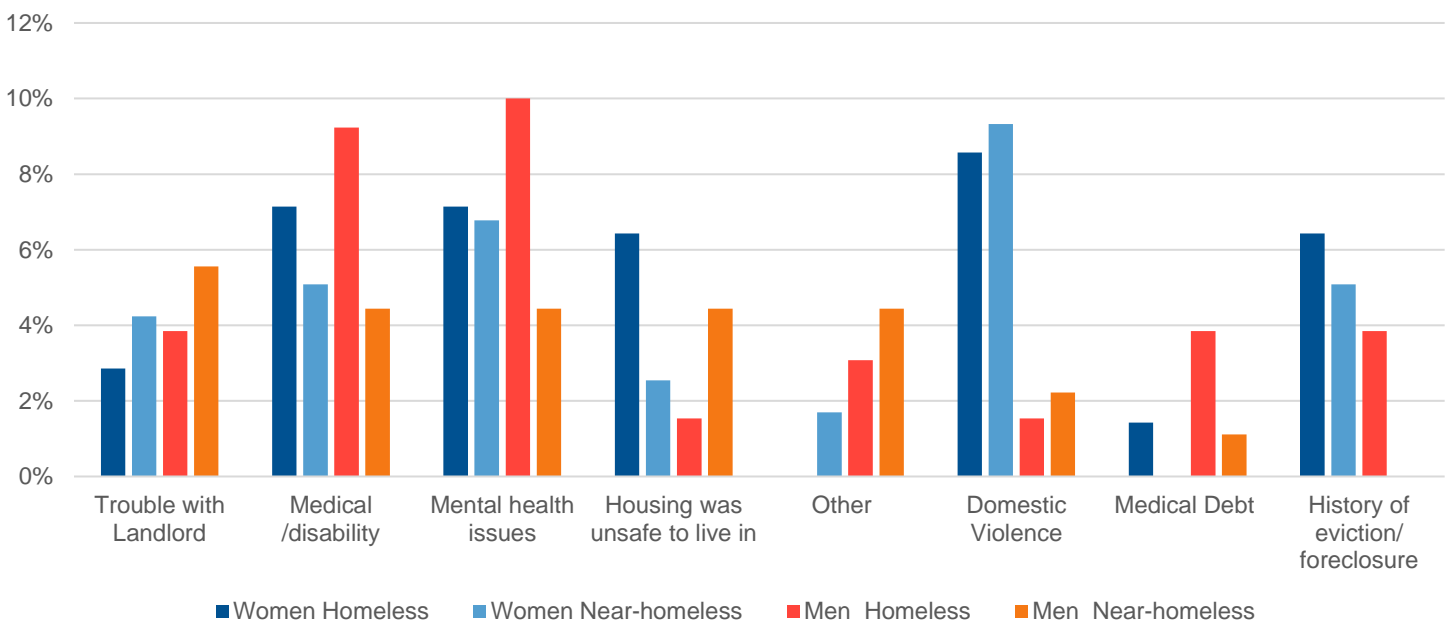| Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Health Concerns				
	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Dental	26%	19%	27%	25%
Family Doctor	10%	15%	11%	12%
Mental Health Care	13%	13%	10%	12%
Eye Care	13%	15%	16%	24%
Free Medical Clinic	9%	4%	7%	4%
Prescriptions/medications	11%	14%	12%	8%
Pain Management	9%	11%	8%	9%
Chronic Illness Management	7%	9%	5%	5%
VA Medical Center	1%	0%	4%	1%

FIGURE 18: Reason for Homelessness
Note: Respondents could select more than one answer

− The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **homeless** respondents was poor credit/ debt **(10%),** low income, lack of deposit, family issues, and mental health issues **(9%** for each**).**

− The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **near-homeless** respondents was poor credit/debt and income too low to obtain housing **(12%)**, followed by lack of deposit and job loss **(11%).**

Top 8 Reasons for Homelessness by Homeless/ Near-homeless & Gender
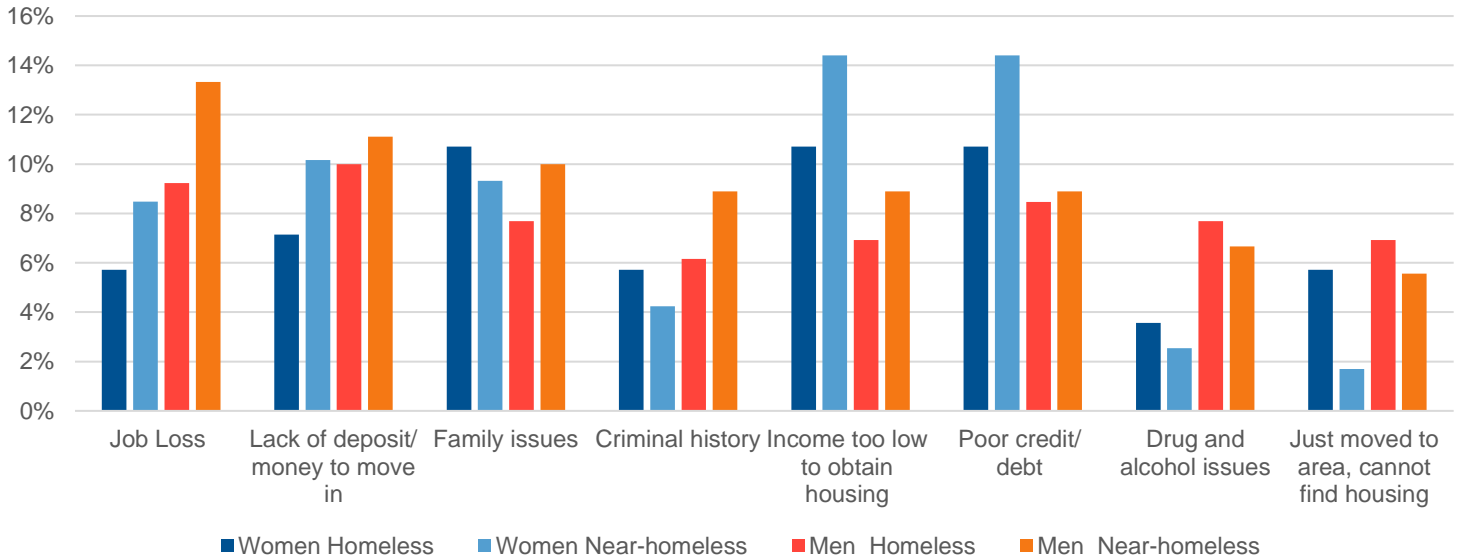
Bottom 8 Reasons for Homelessness by Homeless/ Near-homelss & Gender

Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Reason for Homelessness	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Medical /disability	9%	7%	4%	5%
Drug and alcohol issues	8%	4%	7%	3%
Mental health issues	10%	7%	4%	7%
Criminal history	6%	6%	9%	4%
Family issues	8%	11%	10%	9%
Domestic Violence	2%	9%	2%	9%
Just moved to area, cannot find housing	7%	6%	6%	2%
Job Loss	9%	6%	13%	8%
Trouble with Landlord	4%	3%	6%	4%
Housing was unsafe to live in	2%	6%	4%	3%
Lack of deposit/ money to move in	10%	7%	11%	10%
History of eviction/ foreclosure	4%	6%	0%	5%
Income too low to obtain housing	7%	11%	9%	14%
Medical Debt	4%	1%	1%	0%
Poor credit/ debt	8%	11%	9%	14%
Other	3%	0%	4%	2%

**FIGURE 19: Number of Times Homeless or Displaced in the Past Three Years**

− The majority of **homeless** respondents **(40%)** and **near-homeless** respondents **(71%)** have been homeless or displaced 0-1 time in the past three years. Another 20% reported having been homeless or Near-homeless 2-3 times in the past year.
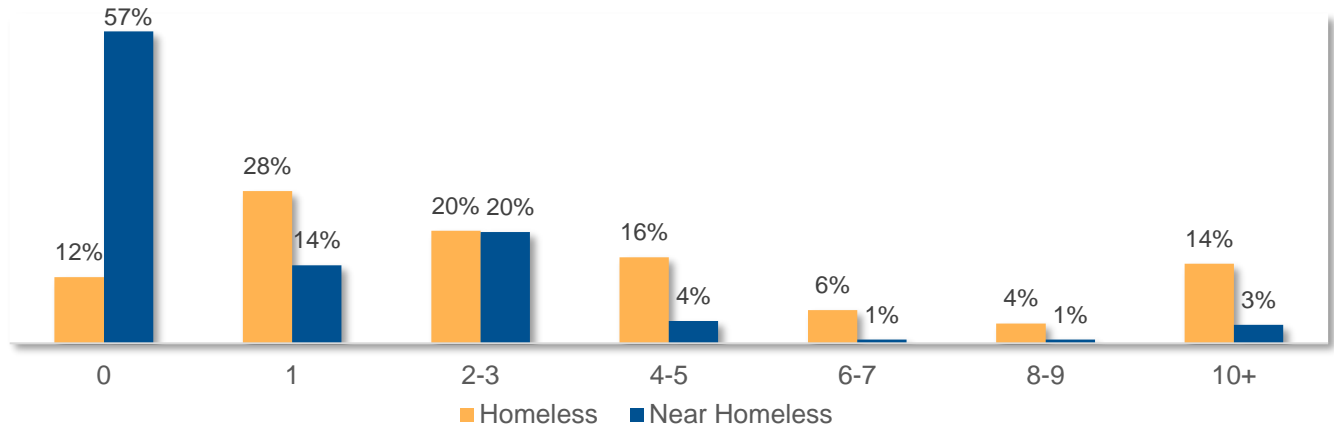
Percent of Homeless/ Near-homeless Population by Gender by Number of Time Homeless	Homeless		Near-homeless	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
0	10%	14%	53%	58%
1	26%	30%	16%	14%
2-3	10%	30%	21%	20%
4-5	26%	7%	7%	2%
6-7	3%	9%	2%	0%
8-9	3%	5%	0%	1%
10+	23%	7%	2%	5%

FIGURES 20 & 21: Have you ever been evicted or has your landlord ever told you to leave?

− **More than one third** of both homeless and near-homeless respondents indicated having been evicted sometime in the past.

	Homeless	Near Homeless
Yes	40%	30%
No	53%	63%
Not Sure	4%	3%

Yes ■No ■Not Sure
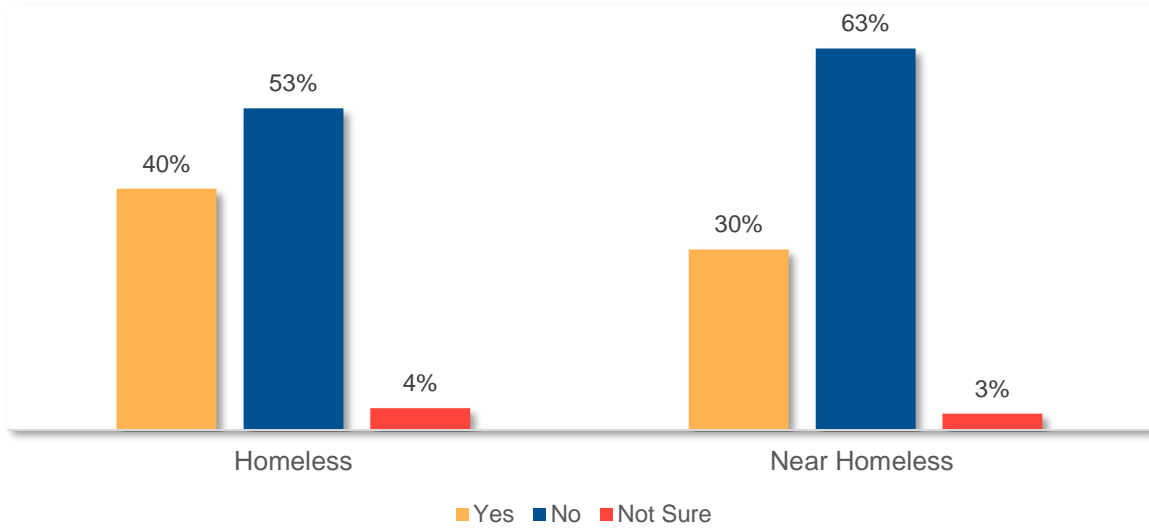
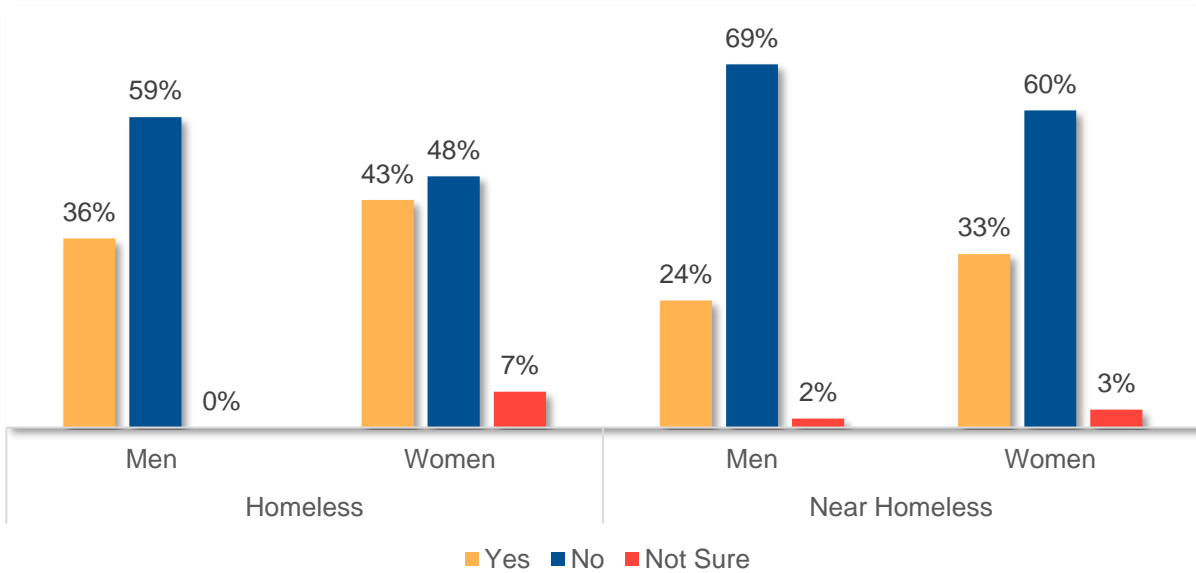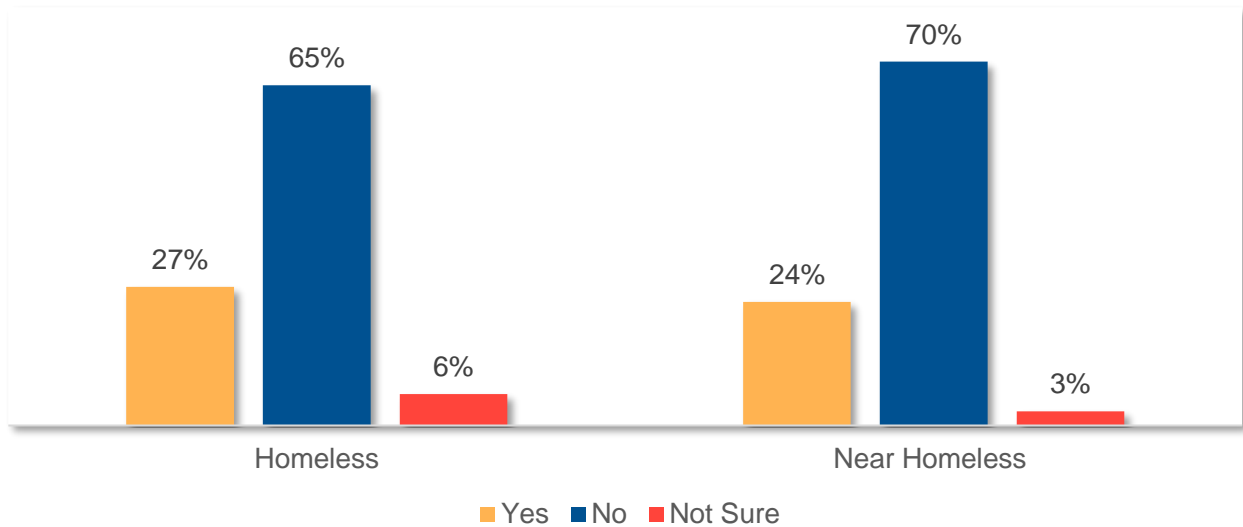- Women were more likely than men, for both homeless and near-homeless respondents, to have been evicted in the past.

	Homeless Men	Homeless Women	Near Homeless Men	Near Homeless Women
Yes	36%	43%	24%	33%
No	59%	48%	69%	60%
Not Sure	0%	7%	2%	3%

■Yes ■No ■Not Sure

FIGURE 22 & 23: Have you ever had to leave your home because your landlord wouldn't fix things and your place was getting run down?

- **27% of homeless and 24% of near-homeless respondents** indicated having to leave their home because of poor housing quality conditions.

- Women identifying as homeless were more likely than men to have experienced issues with housing quality that forced them to leave their housing. There was no significant difference in the percent of men versus women experiencing this issue.
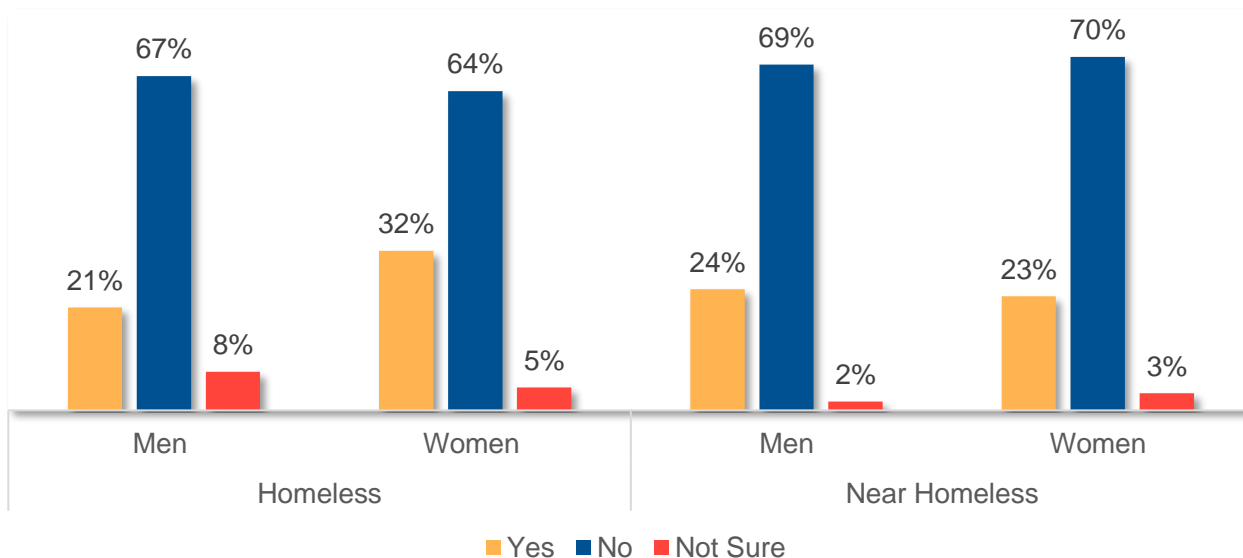
SITE: _____

Linn County Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Council
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness in Linn County
Individual & Family Needs Survey
7-26-17

To serve you better, the Continuum of Care Planning & Policy Council of Linn County, Iowa and its service providers invite you to answer some questions about your situation. The survey should only take about 5 minutes of your time and your participation is greatly appreciated. Please complete only one of these surveys today.

Section 1: Demographics and Background Information

1. The last time you had a mailing address, what was your zip code? _____

2. What is your age? _____

3. Are you: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender ☐ Other

4. Do you have children with you? ☐ Yes ☐ No **If yes, how many?** _____

5. Which racial or ethnic group do you consider yourself a member of?
   ☐ African American/Black   ☐ Caucasian (White)   ☐ Multi-racial
   ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐ Hispanic or Latino   ☐ Other (Please identify below
   ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ☐ Asian   _____

6. What is the highest grade you completed in school? **(Please check one box.)**
   ☐ 1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10—11—12 **(Please circle the highest grade you completed.)**
   ☐ GED
   ☐ 6 weeks – 1 year Certificate/Training
   ☐ 2 year college degree
   ☐ 4 year college degree
   ☐ Masters/Graduate degree

6. Have you ever served in the military? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Do you have any of the following? (Check **all** that apply.)
   ☐ Physical/medical disability   ☐ Drug/Alcohol abuse issues
   ☐ Developmental disability   ☐ Chronic Illness, i.e. diabetes, hypertension, asthma, etc
   ☐ Mental health issues   ☐ Other (Please identify.): _____

8. Have you been in a correctional facility (jail, prison, or work release) in:
   ☐ The last year   ☐ More than 10 years ago
   ☐ Last 5 years   ☐ Never
   ☐ Last 10 years

Section 2: Current Circumstances

9. What is your current living situation? (**Check only one.**)
   ☐ Staying at an Emergency or Homeless Shelter
   ☐ Living in a Transitional Housing Program
   ☐ Staying in a Motel/Hotel
   ☐ Living in someone else's place
   ☐ Living on the street (e.g. in a car, vacant building, park, campground, under a bridge, etc.)
   ☐ Living in my own place (rental property, condo, house)
   ☐ Residential Treatment Facility
   ☐ Other (Please identify.):_____

10. Are you currently employed?
   ☐ Full-time employment   ☐ Temporary employment
   ☐ Part-time employment   ☐ Unemployed

11. What benefits is your household's currently getting? **(Please check all that apply.)**
- ☐ Health insurance through the Marketplace
- ☐ Medicaid (Title 19)
- ☐ Medicare
- ☐ Food Assistance (formerly Food Stamps)
- ☐ SSI/SSDI
- ☐ WIC
- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ Veterans Benefits
- ☐ Child Support
- ☐ FIP/ TANF
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ No Income
- ☐ Other (Please identify.):_____

12. What is your average *monthly* income from all sources noted above? **(Please check the amount that applies.)**
- ☐ $0
- ☐ $1-$750
- ☐ $751 - $1,500
- ☐ $1,501 - $2000
- ☐ $2,001 or MORE
- ☐ On a Fixed Income

13. Of the following, which are your *three* greatest needs at this time? **(Please check only 3!)**
- ☐ Affordable housing and/or Rent/utility assistance
- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Education/ training
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Information/ service referrals (Put me in touch with the services I need, when I need them.)
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Childcare
- ☐ Drug/ alcohol treatment
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Healthcare or insurance
- ☐ Mental Health Treatment Counseling
- ☐ Other (Please identify.):_____

14. Of the following, which are your *three* greatest healthcare needs at this time? **(Please check only 3!)**
- ☐ Dental Care
- ☐ Family Doctor
- ☐ Mental Health Care
- ☐ Eye Care
- ☐ Free Medical Clinic
- ☐ Prescriptions/ Medications
- ☐ Pain Management
- ☐ Chronic Illness Management
- ☐ VA Medical Center

Section 3: Current or Past Episodes of Homelessness

15. Are you currently or have you ever been homeless (lived in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, motel/hotel, or on the street)?   ☐ YES   ☐ NO

16. How many times have you been homeless or displaced *in the past 3 years*? **(Circle a number.)**
0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10+

17. What is the total amount of time you have been homeless in the last three years? _____

18. What are the reasons for your homelessness? **(Check all that apply)**
- ☐ Medical/disability issues
- ☐ Drug and alcohol issues
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Criminal history
- ☐ Family issues
- ☐ Domestic Violence
- ☐ Just moved to area, cannot find housing
- ☐ Job Loss
- ☐ Other (please explain): _____
- ☐ Trouble with landlord
- ☐ Housing was unsafe to live in
- ☐ Lack of deposit/ money to move in
- ☐ History of eviction/ foreclosure
- ☐ Income too low to obtain housing
- ☐ Medical Debt
- ☐ Poor credit/ debt

18. Have you ever been evicted or has your landlord ever told you to leave?   ☐Yes   ☐No   ☐Not Sure

19. Have you ever had to leave your home because the landlord wouldn't fix things and your place was getting run down?   ☐Yes   ☐No   ☐Not Sure

Thank you!