

SOHA

State of the Homeless Address 2016

Purpose of SOHA

- To collectively **review data**, information and derive knowledge about the nature and extent of homelessness
- To **inform our decisions** on how to move forward and build an effective homeless response system
- To be honest with one another about the challenges, barriers and obstacles our homeless residents face and as providers **own up** to what role we play in removing or creating them
- To **welcome ideas and insights** from all persons on how to make homelessness **rare, brief and non recurring** in our community

:60 second tutorial

- **MDHA** = Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance
- **SOHA** = State of the Homeless Address
- **PIT** = Point in Time census of the homeless
- **HUD** = US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **HMIS** = Homeless Management Information System (the database of homeless persons and programs)
- **CoC** = Continuum of Care which is *BOTH* a local Board of Directors of stakeholders and professionals charged with our homeless response system *AND* a federal grant from HUD
- **UN** = Unsheltered **ES** = Emergency Shelter **TH** = Transitional

SOHA

The logo for SOHA features the word "SOHA" in a light gray, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is a large circle containing a blue silhouette of a city skyline with a crescent moon and a person sitting on a ledge in the foreground.

2016 POINT IN TIME COUNT

Homeless Count Thank you

- Geographic Coverage Blitz Style = Improved Accuracy
- Sheltered data came from HMIS and agency data
- Unsheltered from Volunteer Interviews and Observations
- Just over 700 volunteers in both counties
- + Police Officers

It was big, but it needs to be bigger

Goal was 750 volunteers

We need 1,000 in Dallas to improve geographic coverage **in 2017**

All Homeless – 2016 PIT

REVISED after PIT HDX verification

	UN	ES	SafeHaven	Transitional Housing	Total	Change
2016	739	1968	23	1,080	3,810	21% +
	19%	48%	< 1%	33%		
2015	363	1,748	23	1,007	3,141	

2014 National AHAR 31% of homeless are unsheltered.

PIT GIS Maps Dallas County

- [Total CoC Area Density Map](#)
- [Dallas Area Density Map](#)

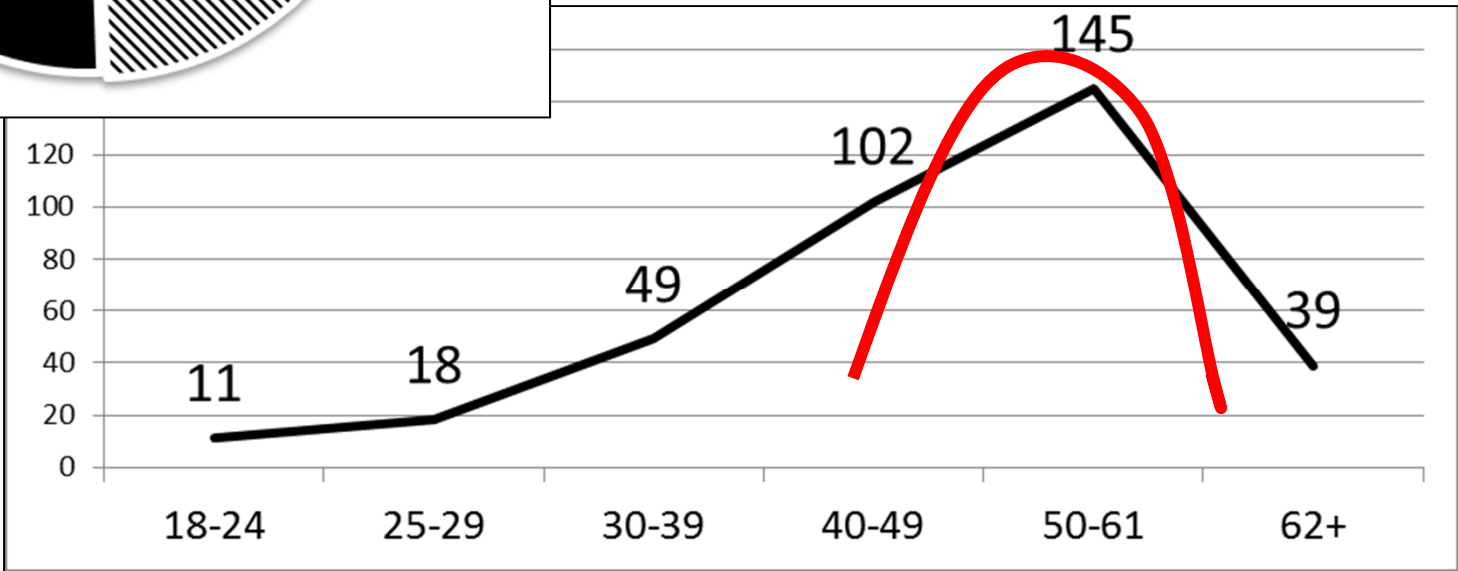
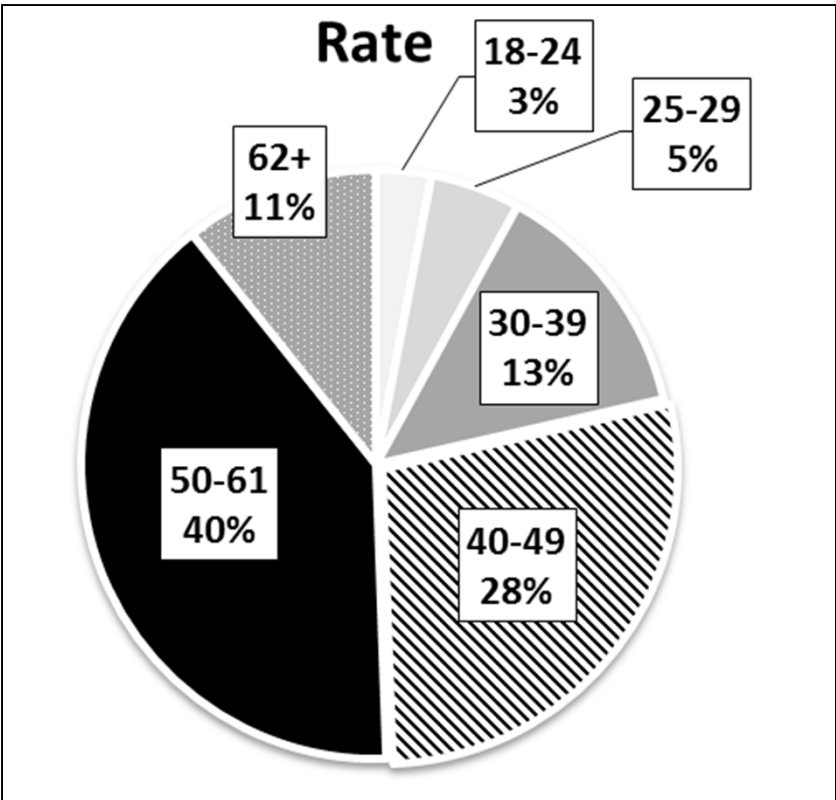
Unsheltered Homeless

TOTAL UNSHELTERED	739	Proportion
Dallas	586	79%
Irving	27	4%
Garland	70	9%
Dallas County	680	92%
Plano	35	5%
Frisco	1	0%
McKinney	15	2%
Wylie	5	1%
Collin County	56	8%

Age of Unsheltered

Average Age: 47.5
Youngest: 19
Oldest: 79

48% of Unsheltered 40-61



Gender of Unsheltered

Total Responses: 562

Men: 440

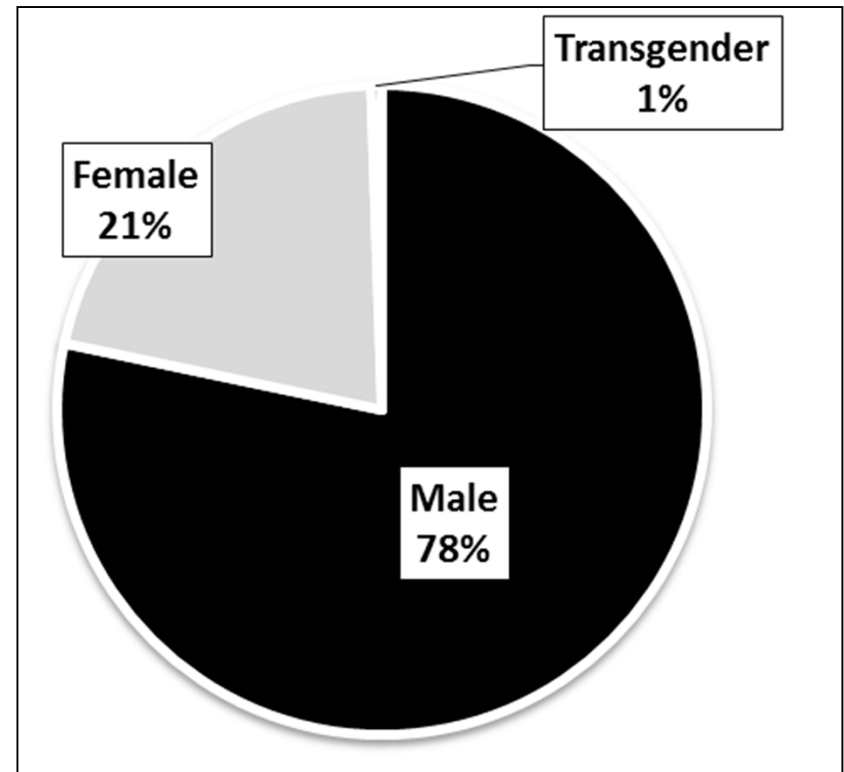
Women: 119

Transgendered: 3

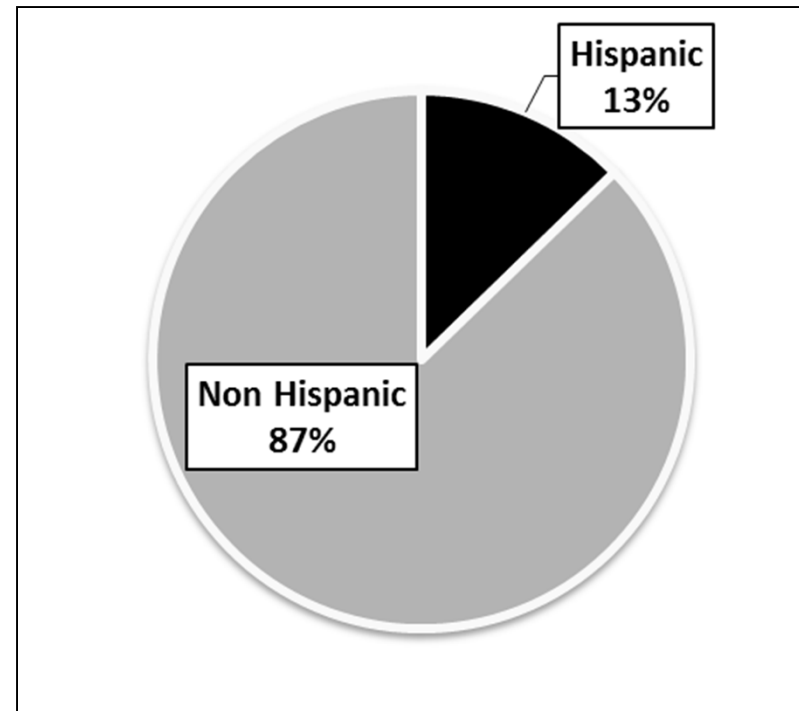
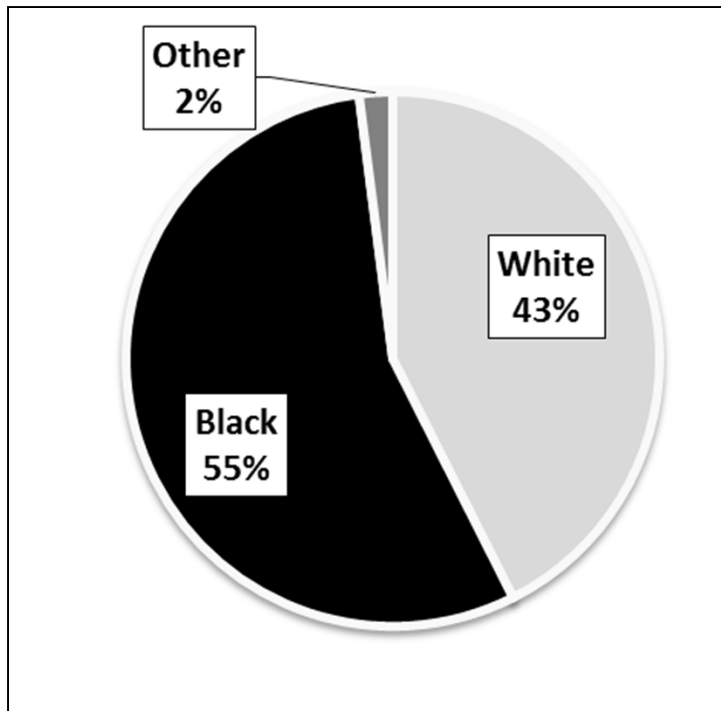
Been Attacked While Homeless?

Women: 19 16%

Men: 86 20%



Race and Ethnicity of Unsheltered



Unsheltered Veterans

Total Veterans: 54

Men: 54

Women: 0

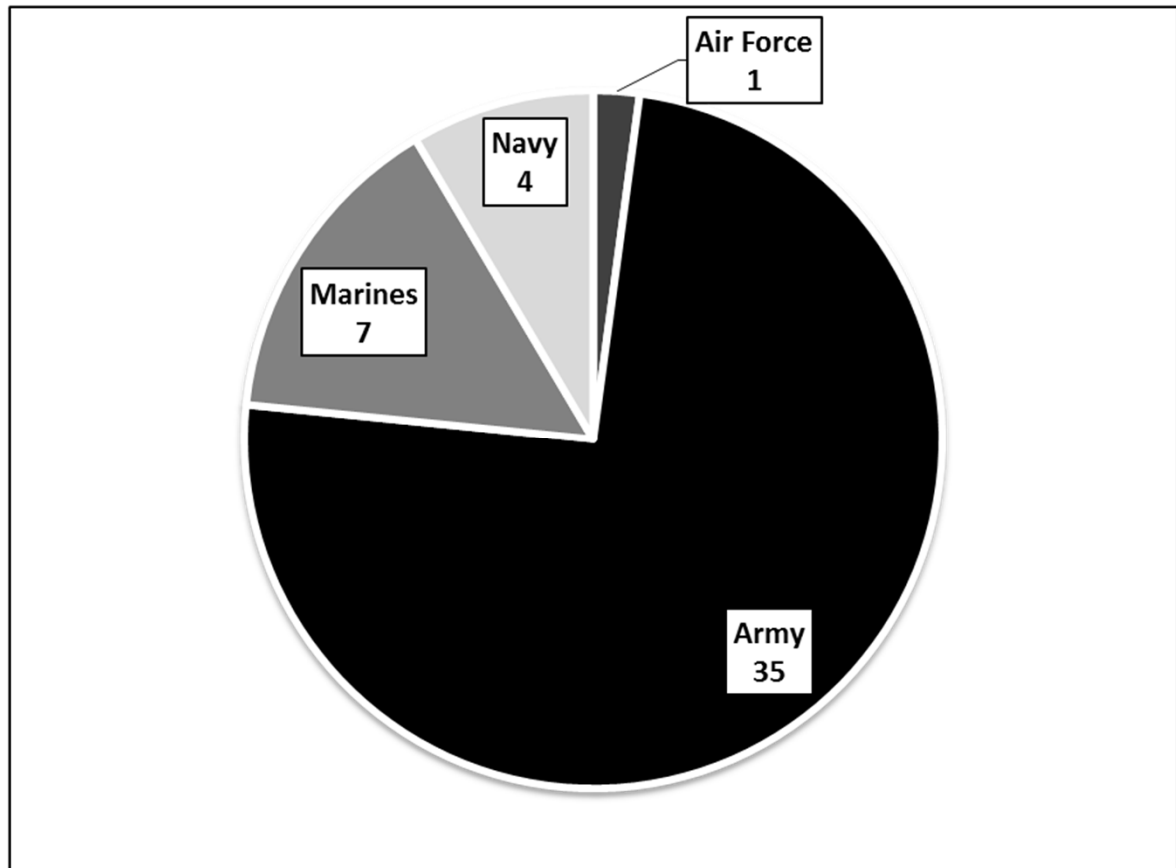
Discharge Status

Honorable: 25

General: 6

Dishonorable: 6

Bad Conduct: 2

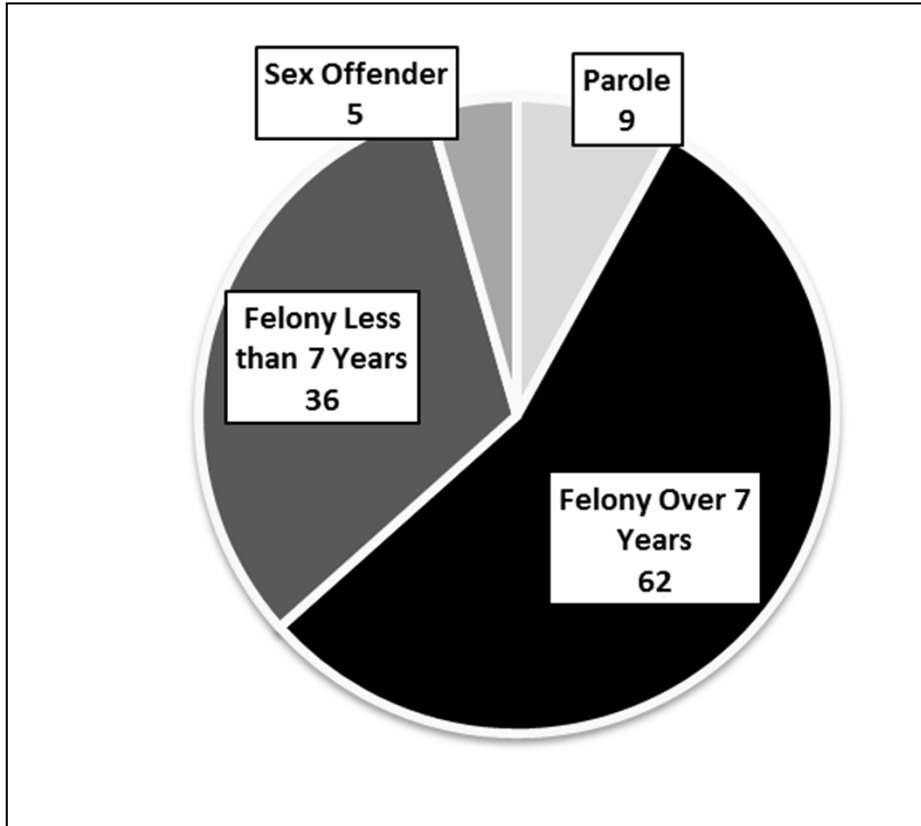


Total Veterans

	UN	ES	SH	TH	Total
Individuals	54	170	0	75	299
Households with Children	0	3/11	0	5/15	8/15
				TOTAL	307 Veterans

- Of the 307 Veterans, 189 directly connected to a Veterans program.
- Significant improvement in VA and emergency response system collaboration
- **7.7%** of all homeless

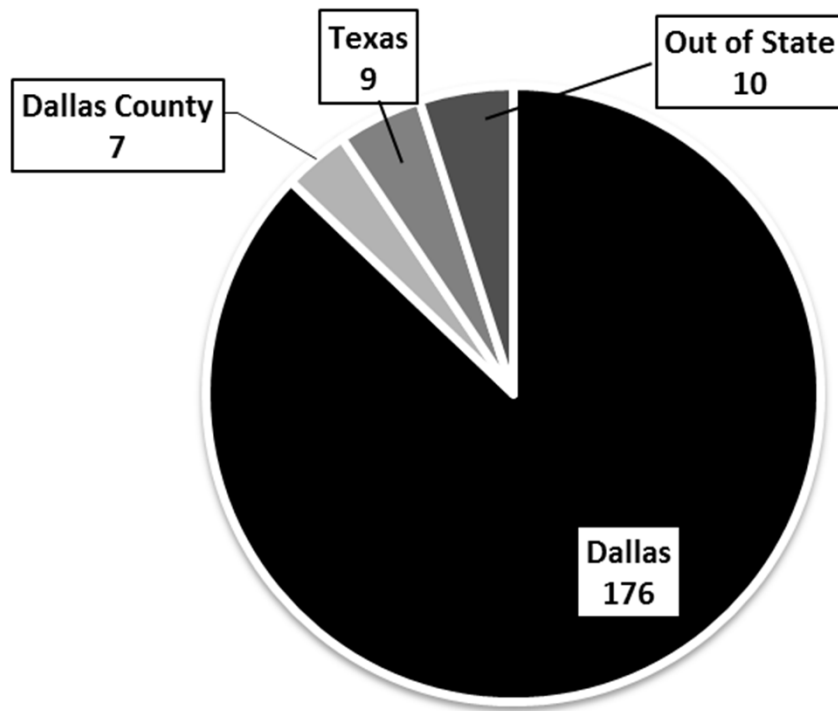
Experience in Criminal Justice System



Total Responses: 358
Served in Jail or Prison: 267

75% have exited in some capacity from the criminal justice system

Where Homeless in Dallas are from



Total Responses: 202

From Dallas: 87%

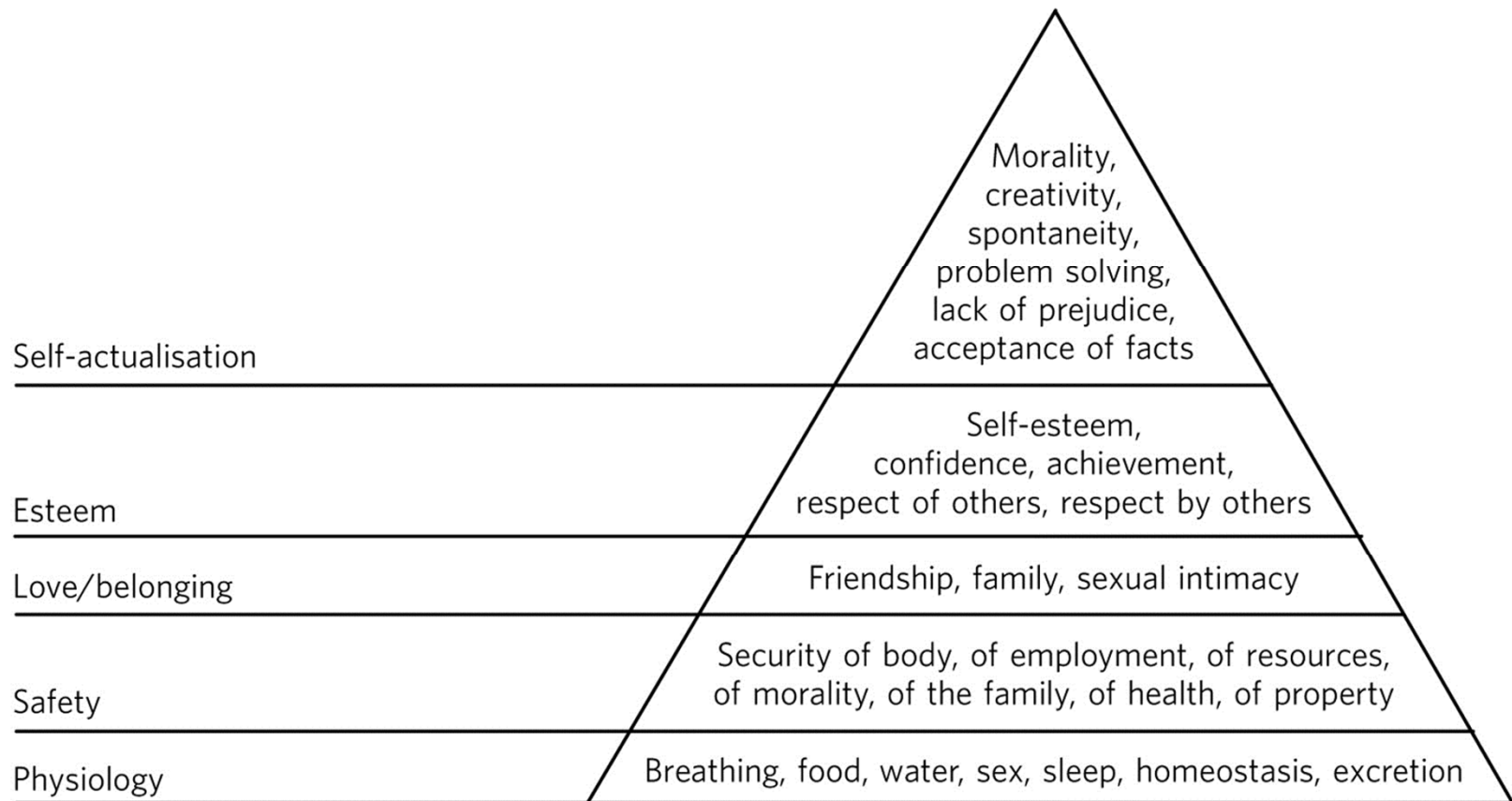
From Dallas County: 3%

From Texas: 4%

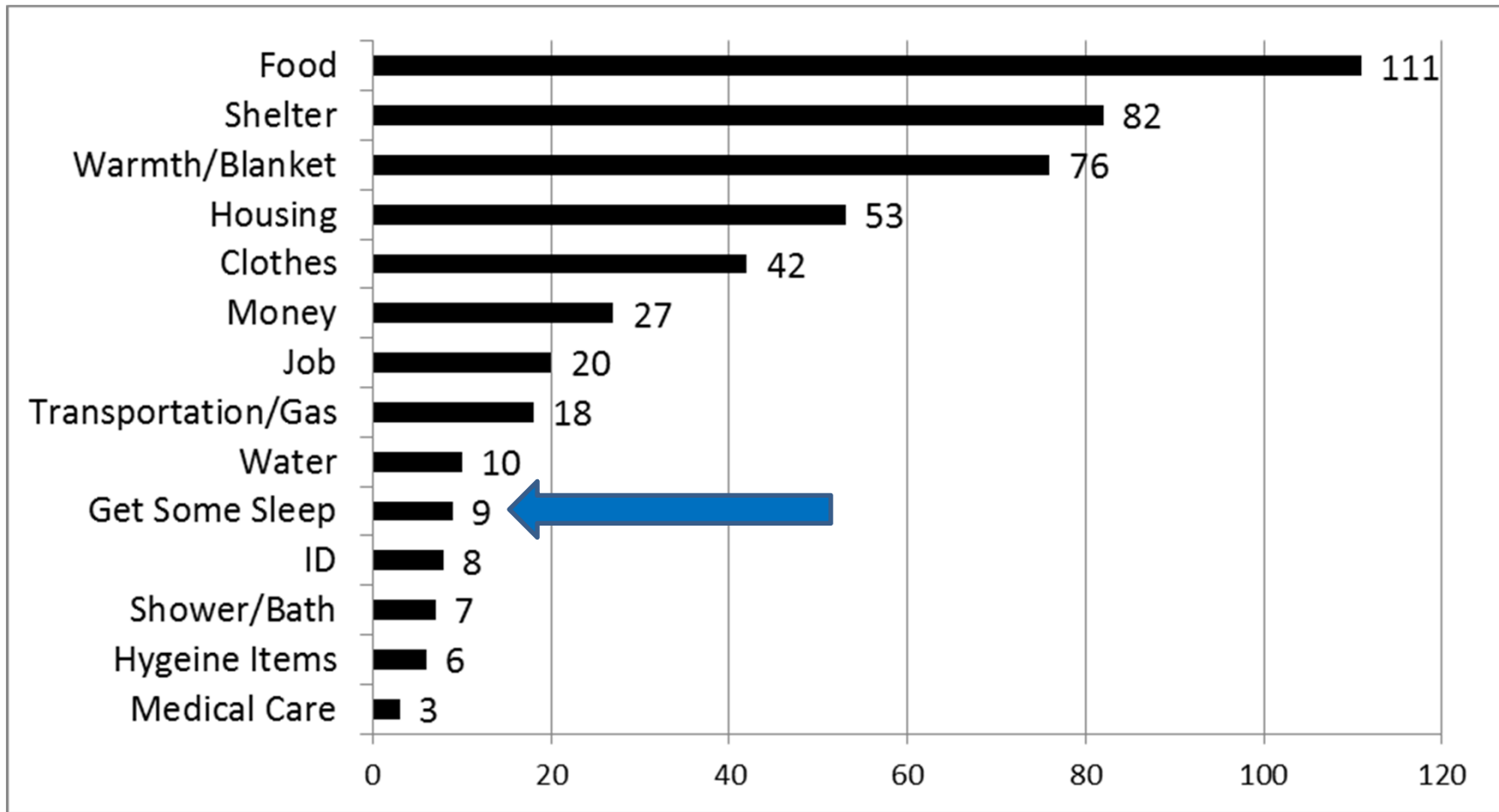
From Other Stats: 5%

This is a typical distribution.

Hierarchy of Needs



What I Need Tonight - Unsheltered



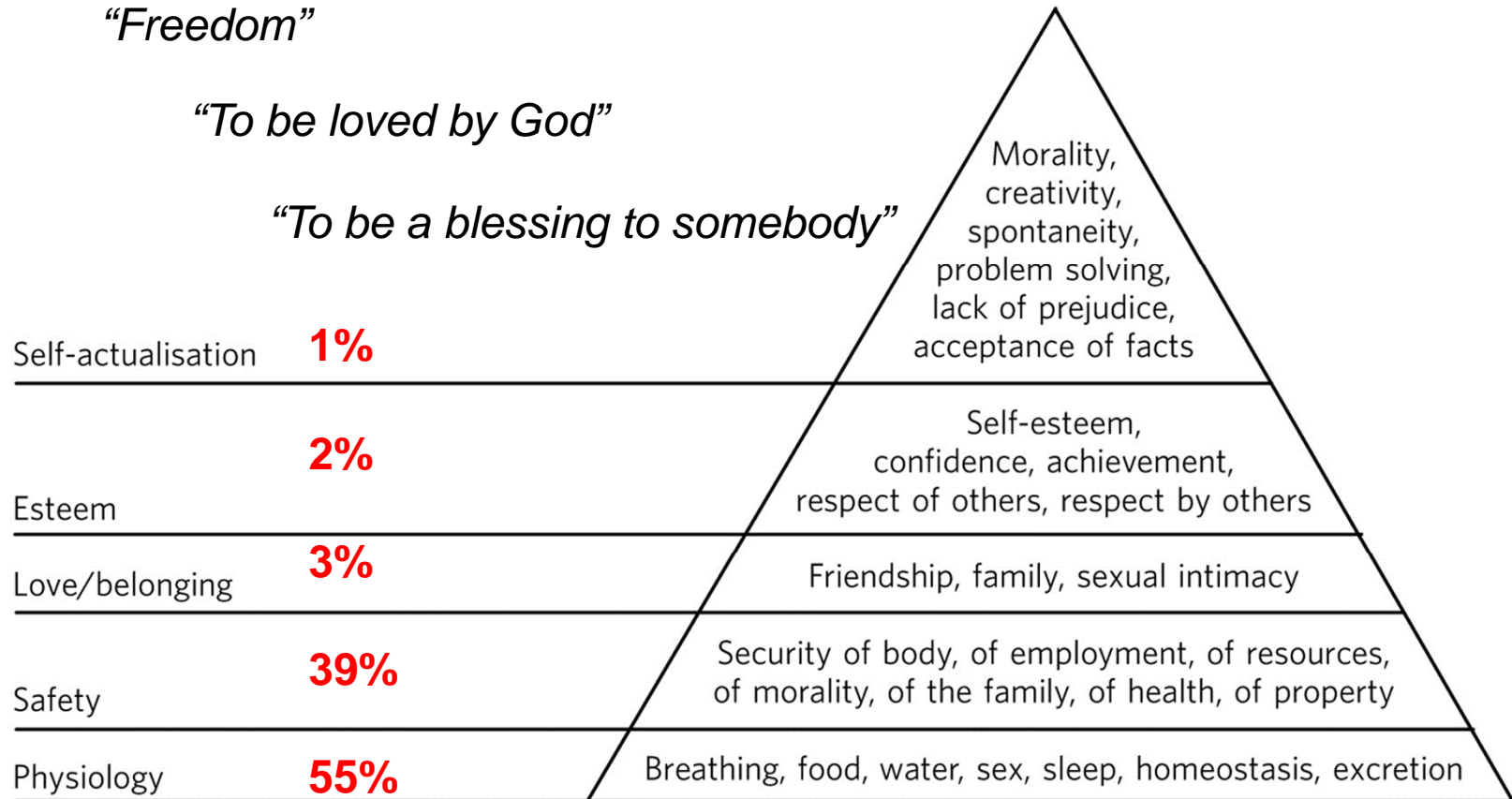
What I Need Tonight

“Medicine for my friend”

“Freedom”

“To be loved by God”

“To be a blessing to somebody”

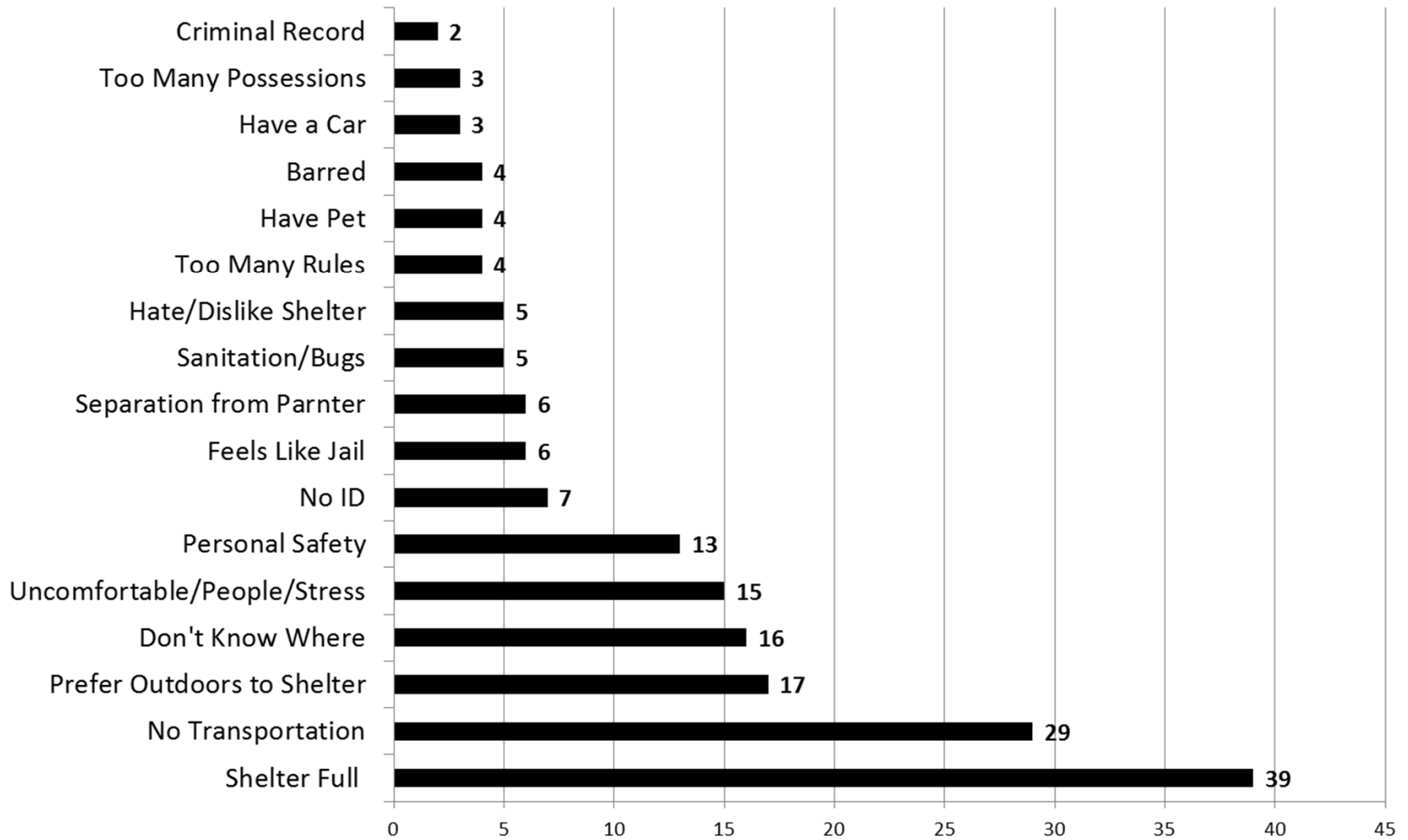


Do unsheltered homeless want help?

- 365 persons gave us their full name
- 216 asked for a street outreach follow up visit
- 186 gave detailed contact information
- 136 let us take their picture for the HMIS

Yes.

Why are you not staying in an Emergency Shelter?



Chronic Homeless

Definition:

*Homeless **at least 1 year** or homeless four or more times in the last 3 years where the cumulative time homeless is at least 1 year AND Possess a documented **disabling condition**.*

Goal:

End chronic homelessness moved, again, to December 2017.

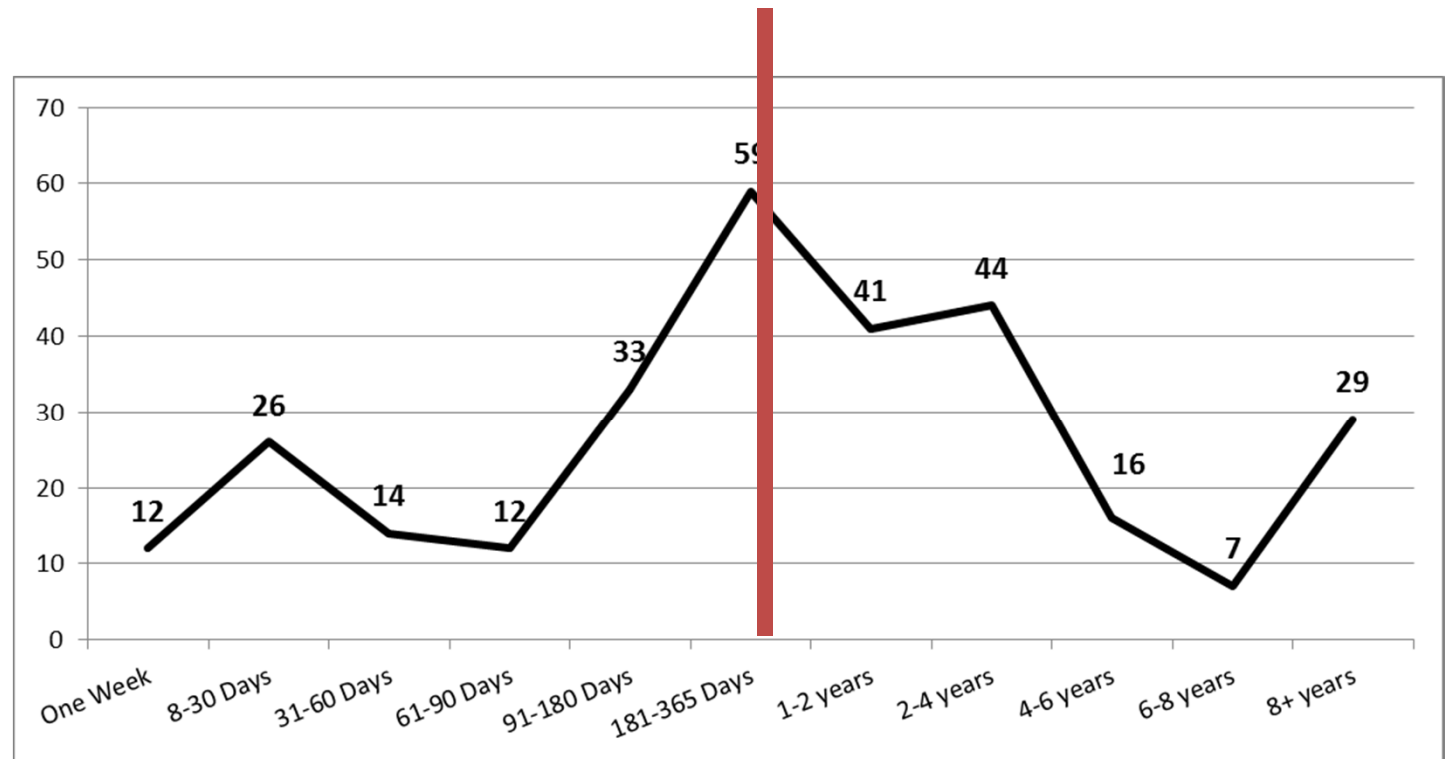
Length of time homeless - Unsheltered

Total Responses: 293

Homeless less than 30 days: 13%

Homeless over one year: 47%

First Time Homeless: 147



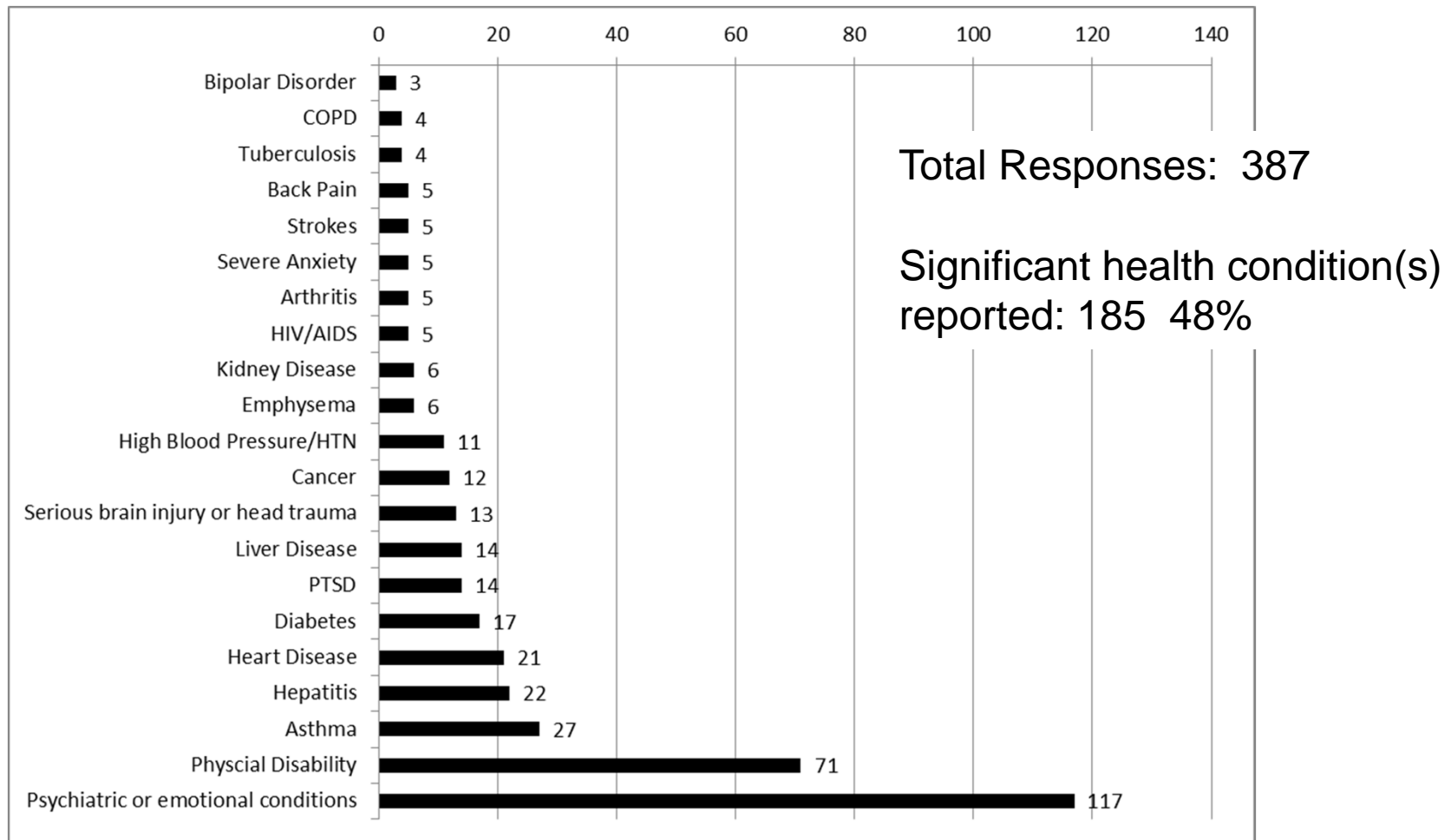
Health and Unsheltered Homelessness

- Irregular or no proper administration of prescription drugs (lost, no storage, stolen, sold)
- Insufficient, irregular nutrition
- Irregular access to clean water
- Unsanitary living conditions
- **Sleep deprivation**

Health and Unsheltered Homelessness

- Poor physical health is associated with poverty in general but is more pronounced among those who are without homes (APA, 2010).
- Rates of mental illness among people who are homeless in the United States are twice the rate found for the general population (Bassuk et al., 1998).
- 47% of homeless women meet the criteria for a diagnosis of major depressive disorder—twice the rate of women in general (Buckner, Beardslee, & Bassuk, 2004).
- When compared with the general population, people without homes have poorer physical health, including higher rates of tuberculosis, hypertension, asthma, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS (Zlotnick & Zerger, 2008), as well as higher rates of medical hospitalizations (Kushel et al., 2001).
- **Housing *is* Healthcare**

Health Status - Unsheltered



Chronic Homeless – Disabling Conditions

133 Chronic Unsheltered (34% of the 387 interviewed)*

- 64 with 1 disabling condition
- 51 with 2 disabling conditions
- 15 with 3 disabling conditions
- 3 with 4 disabling conditions

**HUD report will include only the actual identified. For local CoC Planning, the 34% rate applied to the total unsheltered would yield an estimated additional 118 chronically homeless.*

Total Chronically Homeless

2016	UN	ES	SafeHaven	Total	2015
Chronically Homeless Individuals	133	411	22	566	
Chronically Homeless Families	0	12 Households 31 persons	0	31	
			TOTAL	597	615

Where the Chronic live:

- Unsheltered – 22%
- Metrocare Safehaven – 4%
- The Bridge – 5%
- Austin Street – 28%
- Dallas Life Center – 19%
- The Salvation Army – 19%
- Union Gospel Mission – 3%

Chronic Homeless – Disabling Conditions

133 Chronic Unsheltered

- 62 with 1 disabling condition **53 do not have SSI/SSDI**
- 49 with 2 disabling conditions **39 do not have SSI/SSDI**
- 15 with 3 disabling conditions **9 do not have SSI/SSDI**
- 2 with 4 disabling conditions **1 does not have SSI/SSDI**

Access to Mainstream Benefits for the Disabled

- *SSI/SSDI* = \$733
- *SNAP (food stamps)* = \$194

Establishing a household income for the homeless disabled.

\$11,124

Documentation of Priority Status – DOPS and Coordinated Assessment System

- CoC Housing Prioritization Policy set July 2016
- DOPS Coordinator position added at MDHA March 2016
- In 2016: Set priority definitions for Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Other Permanent Housing

Families with Children

2016	UN	ES	SH	TH	Total
Total Households	2	149	0	283	434
Total Adults	3	172	0	308	660
Total Children	3	356	0	485	844
Unaccompanied Youth				7	7
					1,511

21.7% of total homeless are under 18.
National 2014 average was 23%.

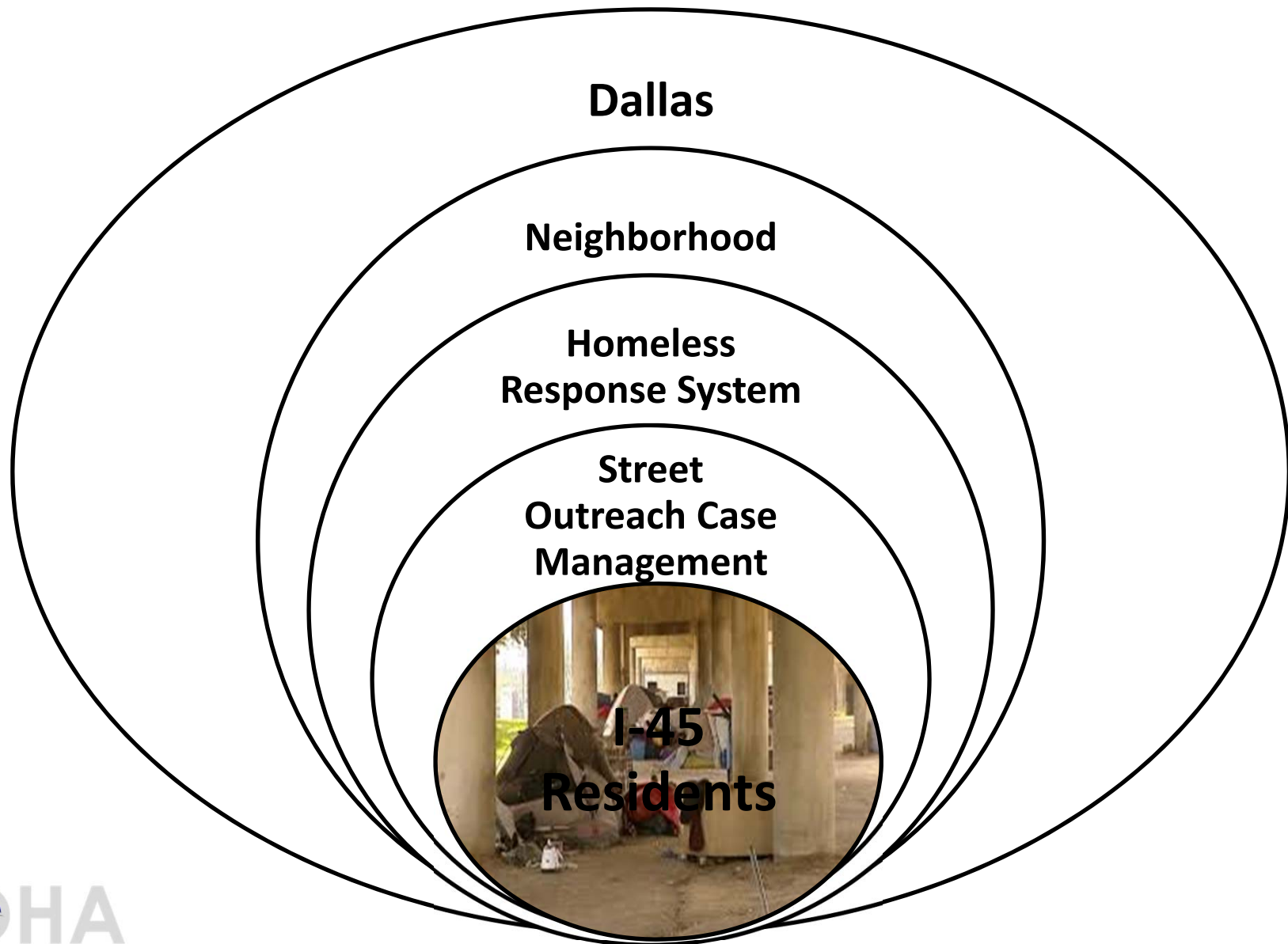
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LESSONS FROM TENT CITY

I-45 Encampment – “Tent City”

- 4.5 FTE Case management since Feb 28
- 156 case files established, entered into the HMIS, vulnerability and housing barrier assessments complete
- 2 complete, and subsequent weekly ID Blitz at City Square
- 60 + persons in Case Management caseloads
- Daily contact, **daily problem solving**
- Weekly resident Town hall starting 3/21
- Weekly ID/Community Court services
- Weekly SSI/SSDI services
- 14 moved out through services, 12 scheduled in next 10 days
- Self-selecting and camp migration

Tent City Communication Targets



Lessons from I45 Encampment

- Dallas **must** increase professional **Street Outreach**/ACT Teams
- ID access cannot be funneled to ONE agency when it is a pervasive need
- **HMIS HMIS HMIS** – must document episodes of unsheltered homeless
- **Interagency collaboration** saves time, money, and improves care.
- **Interagency staffing** breaks down barriers, stops service ‘shopping’ and focuses on problem solving
- Homeless can and should when possible be housed **directly from the street.**

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COC STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

2015-2016 Accomplishments – COCSWP 3Q

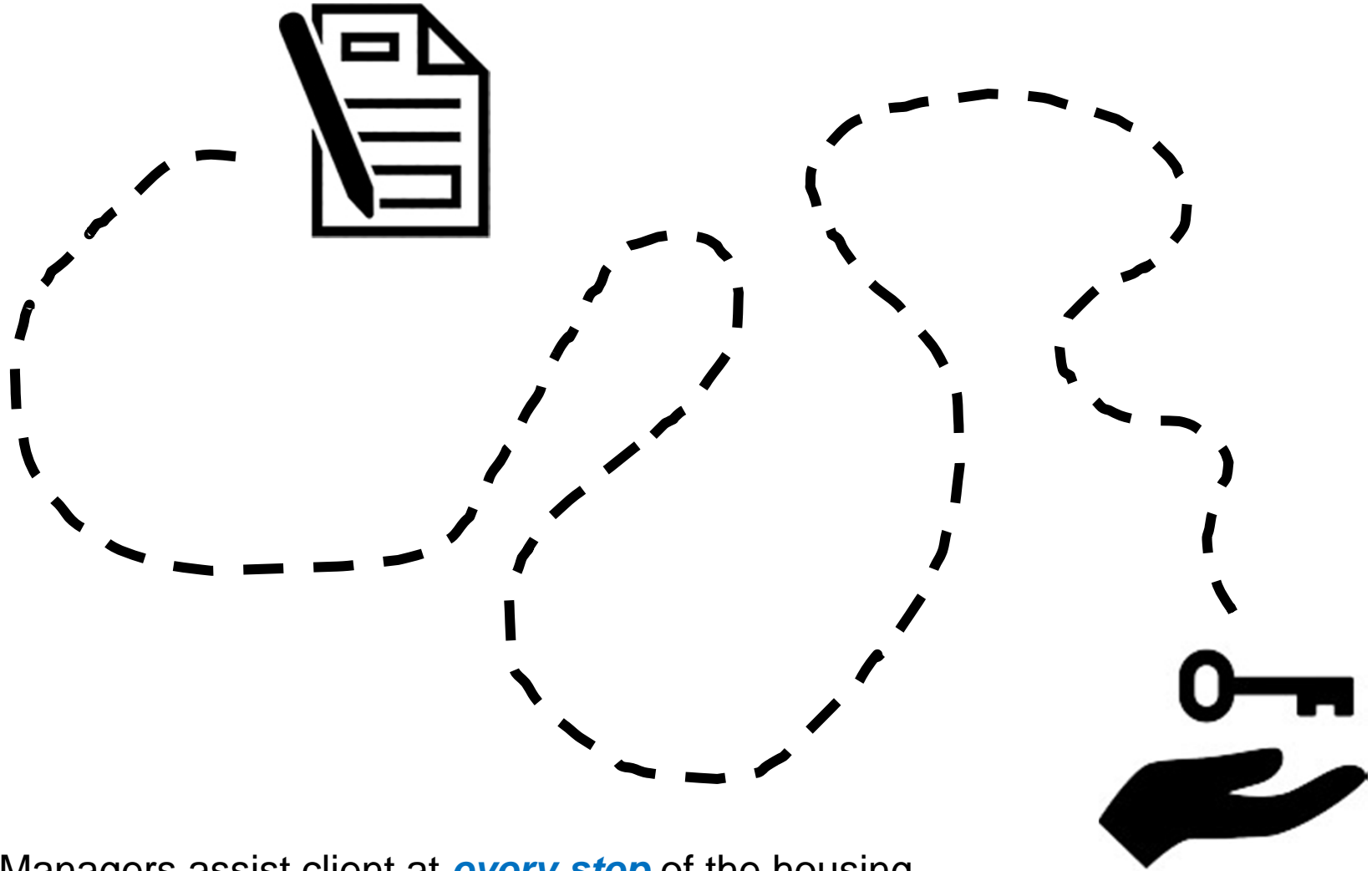
- **Addressing the Data Gap:** IRIS as the new HMIS, built HUD latest standards. Mapping pathways between clinical and social information.
- **Improving quality of care** through professional development and interagency communication
- **Building the system** infrastructure: Data, Inventories and Prioritization
- **Reinforcing the policy infrastructure:** amended bylaws, leadership

Resources Available

- An Environment of Scare Resources
- It's okay to flip flop: we are expected to change the path when the path is not leading to the results we need

What do we do in the *Short Term* ?

- Pervasive top to bottom mantra “*What is your Housing Plan?*”
- Paid professional real estate Apartment Finder Brokers – change our social work approach to real estate
- Aggressive implementation of Coordinated Assessment System to *prioritize* resources
- Improve Tenancy with Ready-to-Rent curriculum
- *Real-time housing inventories* within HMIS



Case Managers assist client at **every step** of the housing process **till the key is in the door**

And Long Term Housing solutions?

- More dedicated DHA Vouchers **WITH** supportive services
- Policy Changes: NIMBY
- **Urban Land Institute** Recommendations
- Housing Trust Fund and Development Incentives
- ‘Matching Funds’ Trust for State and Federal RFPs
- Capital Improvement Program **General Obligation Bond Election: Affordable Housing** (Austin example)

Supply – Emergency Shelter Beds

100 beds in an Emergency Shelter

Average Length of Stay is **180 days**.

Can serve **200 people** in a year.

OR

100 beds in an Emergency Shelter

Average Length of Stay is **90 Days**

Can serve **400 people** in a year

Supply – Emergency Shelter Beds

How many beds do we need?

More.

But, to plan properly, more data is required to ‘right-size’:

- Number of *new* homeless each month
- *Length of Stay* in the emergency system (UN, ES, TH)
- Recidivism rates

Shelter leadership needs to consider a comprehensive examination and consultation of the emergency shelter system. Inventories, coordination and population right-sizing.

More work in 2016-2017

*Understand the nature and extent of **Youth Homelessness***

- *ISD record*
- *Needs assessment from education and child welfare professionals*

***Affordable Housing Market Analysis** inventory of our subsidized housing resources and organize criteria and eligibility standards and agree to prioritization before we can produce an accurate market analysis of the **unmet need in affordable housing for persons between 0-30% AMI** (annual income of \$0-\$14,800 for 1 person) We are woefully behind, but we need numbers.*

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THE TAKE-AWAYS

But nobody ever gives us any

Referrals

WHO is our customer?

HOW do we deliver our services?

HOW do we describe our services?

Final Thoughts

CoC **Data** Infrastructure will transform in next 24 months

Long Term success dependent on State and local **housing policy** decisions and funding priorities now

Without **interagency cooperation, collaboration and coordination** of information and services, we will keep people homeless longer

Each of us can do better.

SOHHA

PUBLIC FORUM