

2013

SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA CONTINUUM OF CARE

BILLINGS HOUSING STATUS SURVEY RESULTS

A Report on the annual point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless living in Billings, Montana.

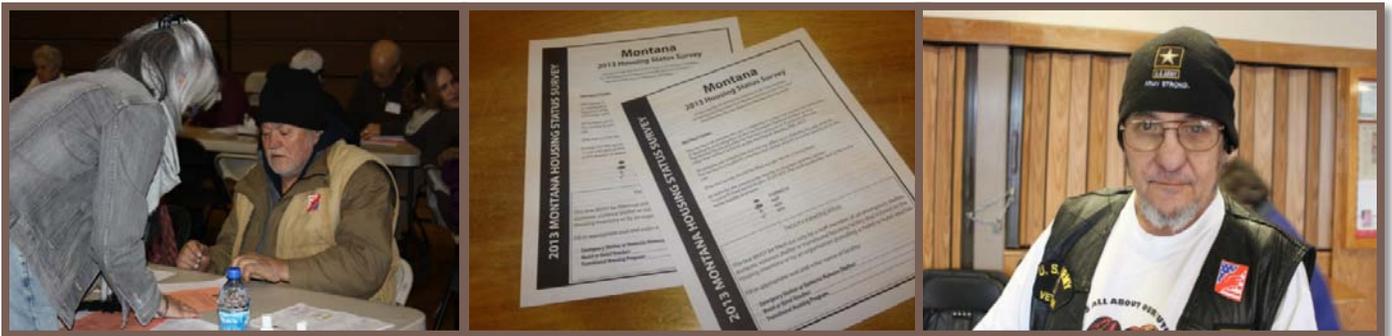


Table of Contents

Special Acknowledgments.....	3
Introduction	4
Survey Methodology	4
Defining Homelessness	5
Survey Limitations	7
HUD Defined Homeless in Billings	7
Overview.....	7
Sleeping Location	9
Demographics.....	9
Chronic Homelessness.....	10
Overall Homelessness	11
Overview of Homelessness in Billings.....	11
Length of Residency	13
Race/Ethnicity	13
Veterans	14
Families and Children	14
Income and Non-Cash Benefits	15
Causes of Homelessness	16
Needed Services and Assistance	17
Conclusion	18
End Notes	19

Special Acknowledgments

The administration of the 2013 Montana Housing Status Survey in Billings would not have been possible without the efforts of:

Lynda Woods

Community Development Coordinator
City of Billings, Community Development Division

and

Carmen Gonzalez

Team Lead – Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (P.A.T.H)
The South Central Regional Mental Health Center

The South-Central Montana Continuum of Care would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped administer the Montana Housing Status Survey and conduct data entry, along with the following service providers who dedicated staff time to administering the survey at their location:

Angela’s Piazza	District 7 HRDC
AWARE	The HUB
Community Crisis Center	Indian Health Board
CLDI Adullum House	Interfaith Hospitality Network
CLDI Hannah House	The South Central Regional Mental Health Center
Family Service, Inc.	Montana Rescue Mission
Family Support Network	Rimrock Foundation
Family Tree	Riverstone Health Healthcare for the Homeless
Friendship House	Tumbleweed Program Inc.
Housing Authority of Billings	Volunteers of America Independence Hall

This Report was prepared by:

Kelly Fessler

AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America
Billings Metro VISTA Project (MVP)
City of Billings, Community Development Division



INTRODUCTION

Every year the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition conducts a statewide point-in-time count of homeless persons living in Montana by administering the Montana Housing Status Survey. The Montana Housing Status Survey provides a snapshot of homelessness in Montana on a single night in January by identifying who is homeless, causes of homelessness, and what services and resources are most needed to end conditions of homelessness.

The survey is part of a larger, nationwide, data collection initiative organized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The data collected from the Montana Housing Status Survey ensures our community's continued eligibility for federal funding under the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program and provides statistical information that aids local homeless service providers and helps shape policy in furtherance of Welcome Home Billings, the City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Successful administration of the Montana Housing Status Survey is a state-wide effort that requires the cooperation and participation of several smaller subsidiaries of the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition. The South-Central Montana Continuum of Care is responsible for administering the Montana Housing Status Survey in Billings and the surrounding geographic area.

This report analyzes the data collected from the 2013 Montana Housing Status Survey administered in Billings. It does not analyze all survey data collected in Montana, nor does it comment on homelessness in Montana as a whole.

Survey results will be presented in two sections. The first will analyze the data developed by the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition using HUD's definition of homelessness. The second will analyze the data internally developed by the City of Billings, Community Development Division and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care using a broader, more encompassing definition of homelessness.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2013 Montana Housing Status Survey collected data on people experiencing homelessness on the night of January 24, 2013. The survey is made up of 27 questions designed to gather basic demographic information on who is homeless, what causes homelessness, and what services and resources are most needed to end conditions of homelessness.

The Montana Housing Status Survey was developed by the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, and the Montana Human Resources Development Councils. The survey is designed to comply with HUD's survey protocols and satisfies all HUD reporting requirements. To prevent duplicative surveys, the first name, initial of the last name, and day of birth were taken from each respondent.

In Billings, administration of the survey was planned for and conducted by the City of Billings, Community Development Division, the Mental Health Center P.A.T.H Team, and the South-Central

Montana Continuum of Care. The survey was conducted over a two week period which started on the night of January 24, 2013.

A total of 614 surveys were completed in Billings and the surrounding geographic area. More than a third of all surveys completed this year were done at Billings Community Connect. Billings Community Connect is a one-day event that provides a safe place for homeless or near-homeless individuals and families to access numerous forms of assistance in a caring, one-stop setting.

Volunteer interviewers helped administer the survey at various locations including the Montana Rescue Mission Men's Shelter, the Community Crisis Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Parmly Billings Library, Billings Community Connect, and at the Salvation Army Community Table and Harvest Church food truck stops. All volunteer interviewers who helped administer the survey obtained training either locally or through webinars conducted by the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition.

The Mental Health Center P.A.T.H team helped locate and administer the survey to homeless individuals living on the street. The P.A.T.H Team also distributed the survey to surrounding geographic areas including Laurel, Lame Deer, Hardin, and Crow Agency. Various service providers also dedicated staff time to internally administering the survey to clients at their respective organizations.

DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

For the purpose of HUD reporting, the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition must use HUD's definition of homelessness which includes all sheltered and unsheltered individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence. Pursuant to the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH Act), sheltered and unsheltered homeless are defined as follows:

Sheltered Homeless: An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregated shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organization or by federal, state, or local government).

Unsheltered Homeless: An individual or family 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.ⁱ

HUD's definition of homelessness excludes many individuals and families commonly recognized as homeless by local service providers. For example, HUD's definition does not include individuals who, for economic reasons, are doubled-up or couch surfing, temporarily sleeping in a motel or hotel, or temporarily living in a psychiatric or addiction treatment facility.

While this report will analyze the point-in-time data using HUD's definition of homelessness, it will also analyze the data using an *overall* definition of homelessness which more accurately reflects the realities of homelessness in Billings.

Overall homelessness includes homeless individuals as defined by HUD, along with those individuals who are precariously housed. An individual is *precariouly housed* if they are in imminent risk of becoming homeless under HUD’s definition. This includes individuals who are temporarily living in a motel, doubled up with friends or family, couch surfing, or temporarily staying in an institution such as a hospital or treatment facility.



The question on the Montana Housing Status Survey used to determine whether a respondent is homeless asks respondents to identify where they slept on the night of January 24th from a predetermined set of choices. Based on their selection, respondents were classified as HUD defined homeless, precariously housed, or not homeless. The following is a list of the possible responses to this question and the resulting classifications.

Response Options

- Outside or other place not meant for sleeping
- Emergency shelter
- Domestic violence shelter
- Motel or hotel paid by voucher
- Transitional housing program for homeless
- With friends or family; on emergency basis, for short duration
- With friends or family; voluntarily for long duration
- Motel/hotel paid by self
- Hospital
- Jail, prison or detention facility
- Psychiatric facility
- Substance abuse treatment facility
- Youth foster care home
- Rented apartment or house, paid by a subsidy
- Apartment or house rented or owned paid by self

HUD Defined Homeless

Precariously Housed

Not Homeless

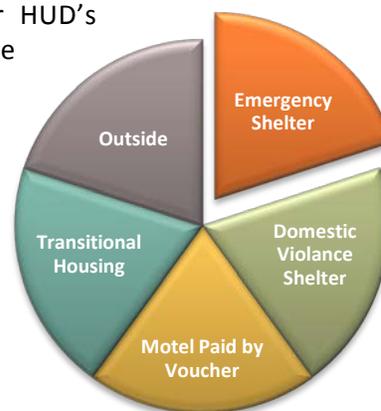
SURVEY LIMITATIONS

It is important to note that the Montana Housing Status Survey only produces a snapshot of homelessness on a single night in January and does not represent, nor count all homeless persons. Point-in-Time surveys typically underestimate the number of homeless in a community. Factors that limit the ability to count every homeless person include: the number and skill level of volunteers administering the survey; the level of participation and cooperation from homeless service providers; the inherent difficulties in locating homeless individuals; the willingness or ability of homeless individuals to participate in the survey; the weather; and the vastness of the geographic area that must be covered. Despite these limitations, the Montana Housing Status Survey is a useful tool that provides our community with information on the causes of homelessness and needs of our homeless population.

HUD DEFINED HOMELESSNESS IN BILLINGS

This section analyzes the data developed by the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition using HUD's definition of homelessness. To be counted as homeless under HUD's definition, respondents had to indicate that they slept at one of the following five locations on January 24th, 2013:

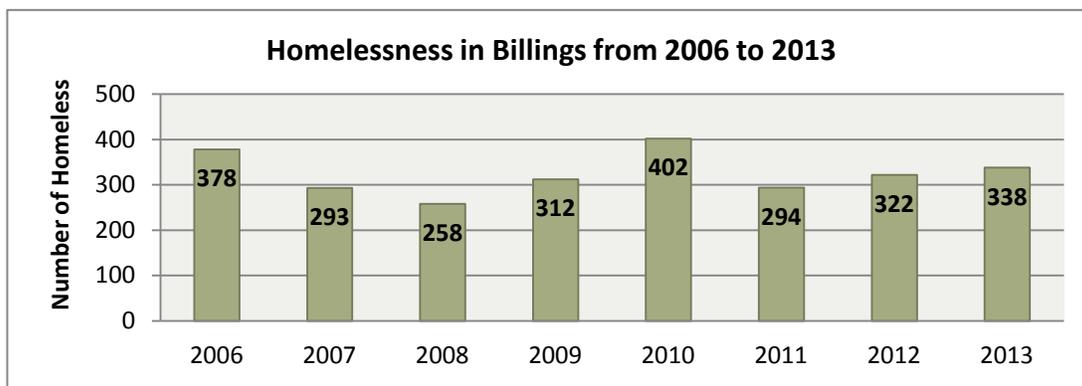
1. Outside or other place not meant for sleeping, such as on the street, under a bridge, in a camp, park, vehicle, bus station, or abandoned structure;
2. Emergency shelter;
3. Domestic violence shelter;
4. Motel or hotel paid for by a voucher; or
5. Transitional housing program for homeless persons.



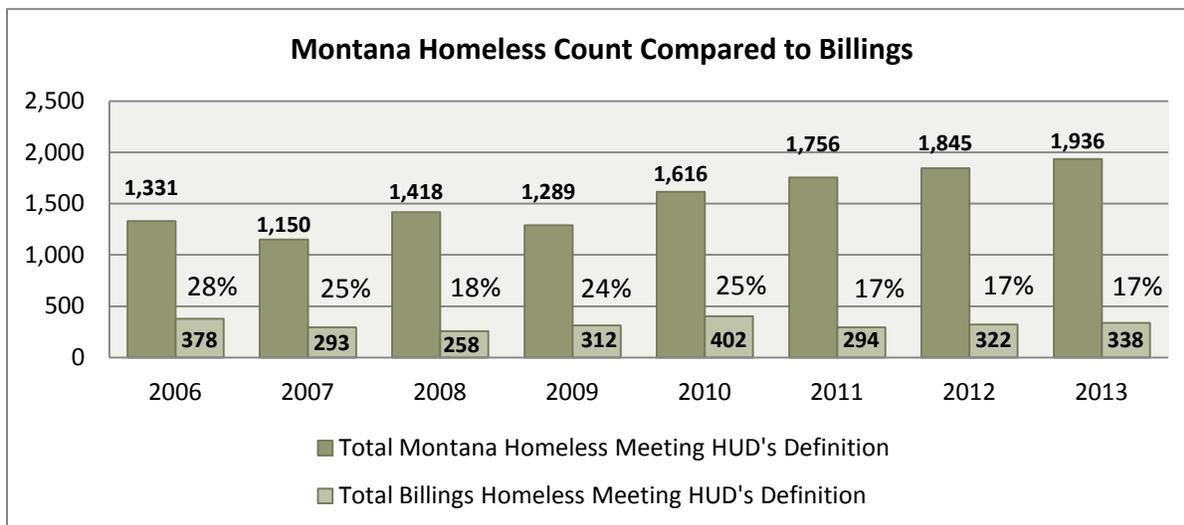
HUD Defined Homeless

OVERVIEW

The 2013 Montana Housing Status Survey data indicates that on January 24th there were 338 homeless individuals living in Billings. While this is a 5% increase from last year's point-in-time results, it marks a 19% decrease in HUD defined homeless in Billings since the City adopted its 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in October of 2009.

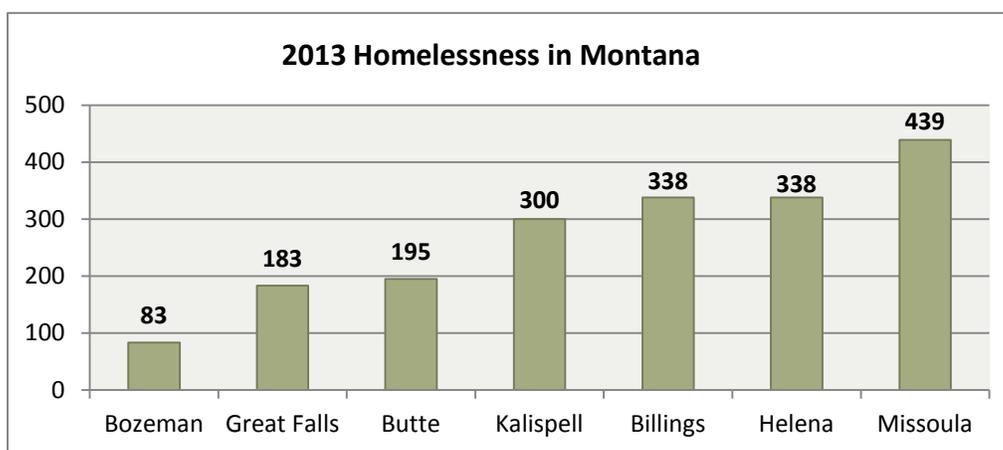


Similar to what is found in Billings, Montana’s total homeless population is also up 5% from last year. The homeless population in Montana increased from 1,845 individuals in 2012 to 1,936 individuals in 2013. For the past three years, 17% of Montana’s overall homeless population has lived in Billings.



For every 10,000 people living in Billings, 33 are experiencing homelessness.ⁱⁱ This rate is higher than the national average, which is calculated by the National Alliance to End Homelessness to be 20 homeless individuals for every 10,000 people living in the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ

Despite having the largest population in Montana, Billings did not report the largest homeless population; 439 HUD defined homeless slept in Missoula on the night of January 24th. Missoula is 23% of Montana’s overall homeless population and has the largest congregation of HUD defined homelessness in the state.^{iv}

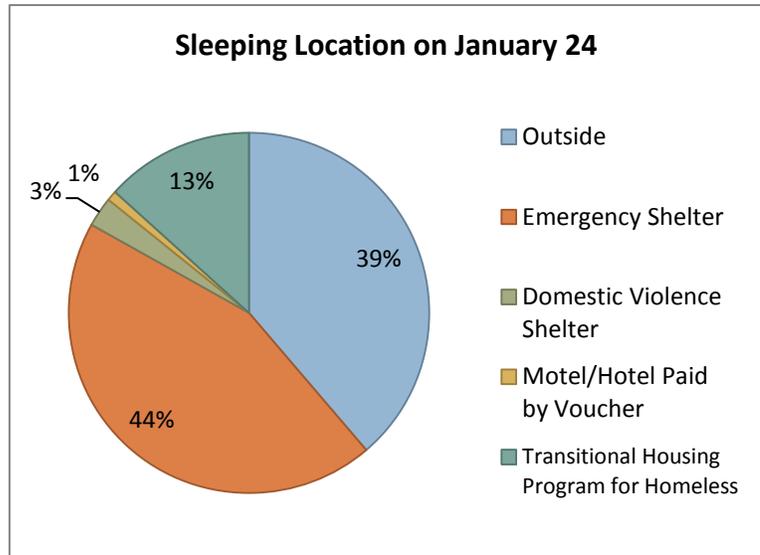


The vast majority of HUD defined homeless people living in Billings have experienced homelessness before. For example, when asked how many times they have been homeless in the last three years, 40% of respondents identified this is their second time homeless, 22% identified this as their third time homeless, and 10% indicated this was their fourth time homeless. Only 2% of respondents identified this as their first incidence of homelessness in the last three years.

SLEEPING LOCATION

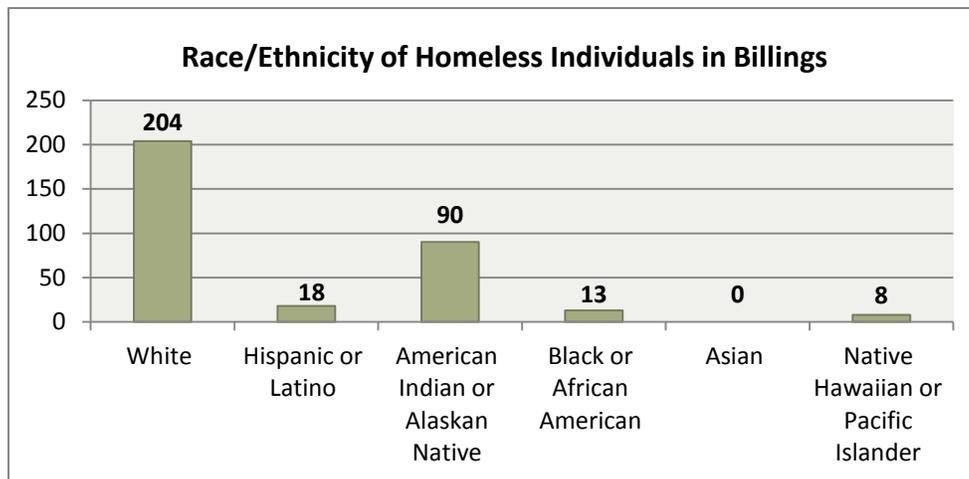
As the adjacent graph indicates, a large majority of homeless individuals living in Billings sleep in either an emergency shelter or out on the streets.

In particular, of the 338 HUD defined homeless, 44% slept in an emergency shelter on the night of January 24th; 39% slept outside or in some other place not generally meant for sleeping; 13% slept in a transitional housing homeless program; 3% slept in a domestic violence shelter; and only 1% of respondents slept in a motel or hotel paid for by a voucher.



DEMOGRAPHICS

At 59%, the majority of HUD defined homeless people living in Billings are male; leaving 41% who are female. The Billings homeless population is predominantly Caucasian (60%). Native Americans are the largest and most disproportionately represented minority group amongst the homeless community. Despite representing only 4% of the population in Billings, Native Americans are an alarming 27% of the total homeless population.^v



Most homeless individuals (65%) have lived in Billings for over a year and many are long term residents of the area. For example, of the 338 HUD defined homeless, 45% have lived in Billings for more than five years and 22% have called Billings home for more than 20 years. A third of the respondents are new to the community and have lived in Billings for less than a year.

Amongst the homeless population in Billings, 13% have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or were called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or Reservist. On the night of January 24th, 40% of veteran respondents slept outdoors, 36% slept in a transitional housing program, and 24% slept in an emergency shelter.

Nine percent of respondents indicated that they are homeless with fellow family members. Of those accompanying family members, 48 are children. Sixty three percent of accompanying homeless children slept in an emergency shelter on the night of January 24. An additional 17% of homeless children slept out on the streets or in some other place not generally meant for human habitation like in an abandoned structure or car.

For the plurality of respondents (18%), losing a job or not having a job was the catalyst that caused them to leave the last place they called home. This is followed by the 17% who left there last home because of conflicts with family or friends and the 15% forced to leave their last home due to rent problems. Thirty percent of respondents identified a job as the assistance they most need to become housed again.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

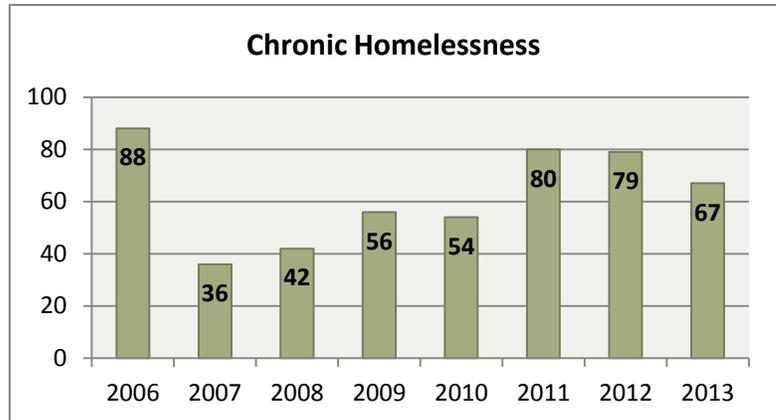
Chronically homeless individuals are often the most visible amongst the homeless population. HUD defines chronic homelessness as any individual who has a disability and has been homeless for over a year or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.^{vi} The rate of chronic homelessness in Billings is slightly higher than the national average. Nationally around 16% of the homeless population is chronic. In Billings 20% of the homeless population is chronic.^{vii}

Chronic homelessness as a percentage of the overall homeless population peaked in 2011 at 27%. Since then, the rate of chronic homelessness in Billings has declined and is down 5% from last year.

Chronic Homelessness in Billings 2006-2013								
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of Chronic Homeless	88	36	42	56	54	80	79	67
Percent of Total Homeless Population	23%	12%	16%	18%	13%	27%	25%	20%

Those who are chronically homeless are more likely to be long-term residents of the Billings area than the general homeless population. For example, 57% of the chronic homeless population has lived in Billings for over five years, where only 45% of the general homeless population has. At 39%, a significant portion of the chronic homeless population has called Billings home for over 20 years.

The vast majority of chronically homeless individuals are male. This year, 82% of the chronic homeless population was identified as male and 18% as female. Most chronically homeless individuals (61%) sleep outside or in some other place not generally meant for human habitation. Veterans comprise 15% of the Billings chronic homeless population.



OVERALL HOMELESSNESS IN BILLINGS

In addition to sending completed surveys to the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition, the City of Billings and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care retained copies of all surveys administered in Billings for internal analysis. HUD requires all Continuum of Care organizations to comply with strict survey standards. While such standards ensure an unduplicated homeless count, it also results in the elimination of completed surveys for minor reasons like respondent failure to identify his or her date of birth.

Analyzing the data internally allows the City of Billings and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care to develop a more accurate and complete picture of homelessness in Billings. As such, rather than limiting the internal data analysis to HUD defined homelessness; this section will look at *overall homelessness* in Billings.

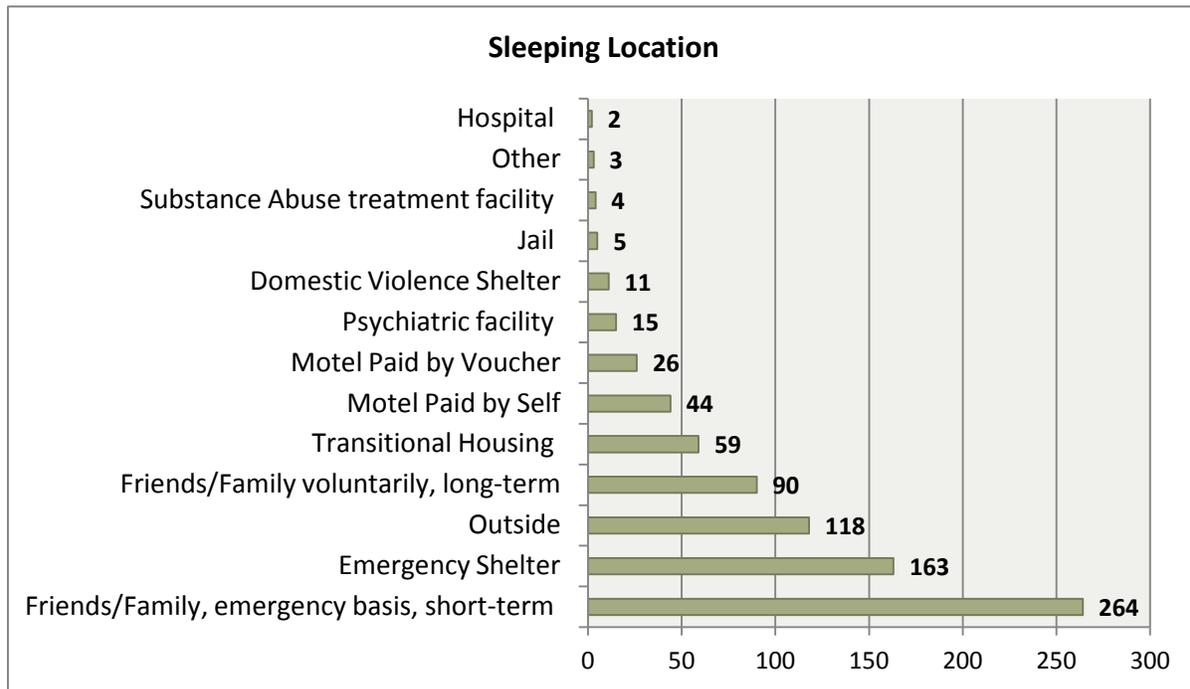
As previously described, *overall homelessness* includes both HUD defined homeless along with those individuals who are precariously housed. An individual is *precariously housed* if they are in imminent risk of becoming homeless under HUD's definition. This includes those who are temporarily living in a motel, doubled-up with friends or family, couch surfing, or staying in an institution like a hospital or treatment facility.

Local experts believe precariously housed individuals and families are homeless because they lack a fixed and regular night time residence. The City of Billings, Community Development Division and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care have accordingly decided to include them as part of this analysis.

OVERVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS IN BILLINGS

One the night of January 24th, there were 803 overall homeless individuals living in Billings.^{viii} Clearly, the inclusion of those who are precariously housed dramatically impacts the homeless count in Billings. This is particularly true when we consider that the largest section of the Billings homeless population

(33%) are living with family or friends on an emergency short-term basis and do not qualify as homeless under HUD’s definition.

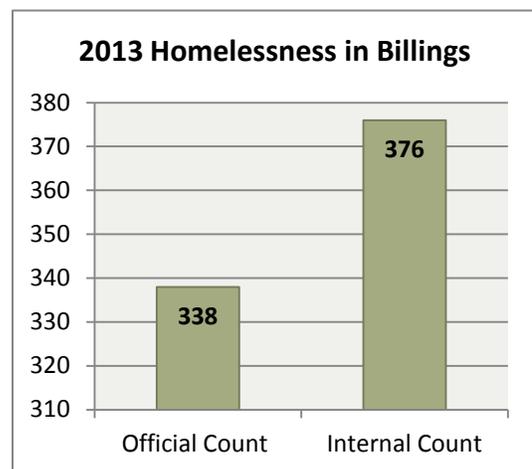


On the night of January 24th, there were 803 overall homeless individuals living in Billings.^{ix} Clearly, the inclusion of those who are precariously housed dramatically impacts the homeless count in Billings. This is particularly true when we consider that the largest section of the Billings homeless population (33%) are living with family or friends on an emergency short-term basis and do not qualify as homeless under HUD’s definition.

While a large number of the Billings homeless population is “doubled-up” or “couch surfing” with family or friends; on any given night, 15% of the homeless population in Billings is sleeping outside, sometimes in sub-zero temperatures, or in other places not generally meant for sleeping.

Similar to what was found using HUD’s definition of homelessness, 60% of the overall homeless population in Billings is male and 40% is female.

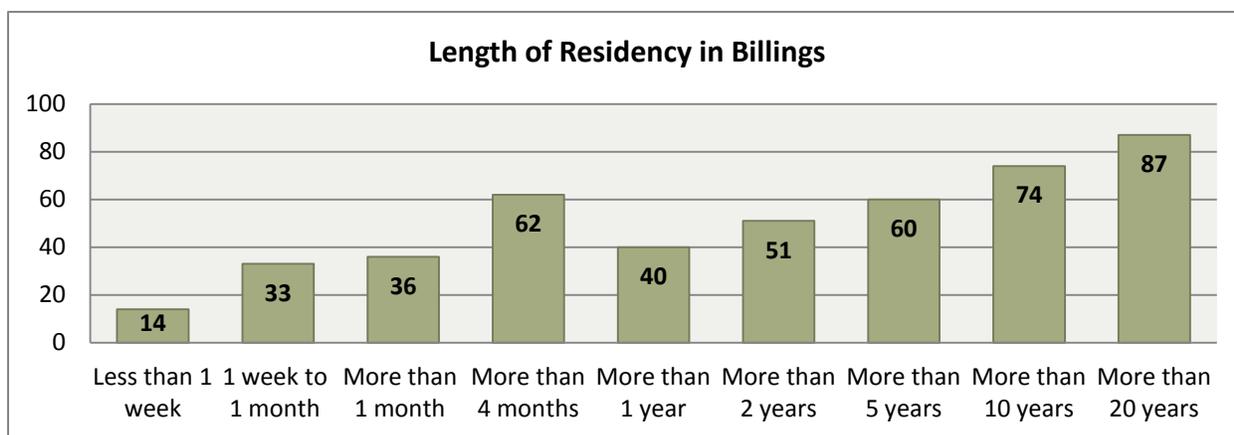
It is worth noting, that the HUD defined homeless count internally developed by the City of Billings, Community Development Division and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care is higher than what the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition reported to HUD. While internal data analysis indicates that on the night of January 24th there were 376 HUD defined homeless sleeping in Billings, the official point-in-time homeless



count recognizes only 338 individuals. This is a difference of 38 individuals and is a result of the Montana Continuum of Care Coalition following strict HUD survey requirements.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY

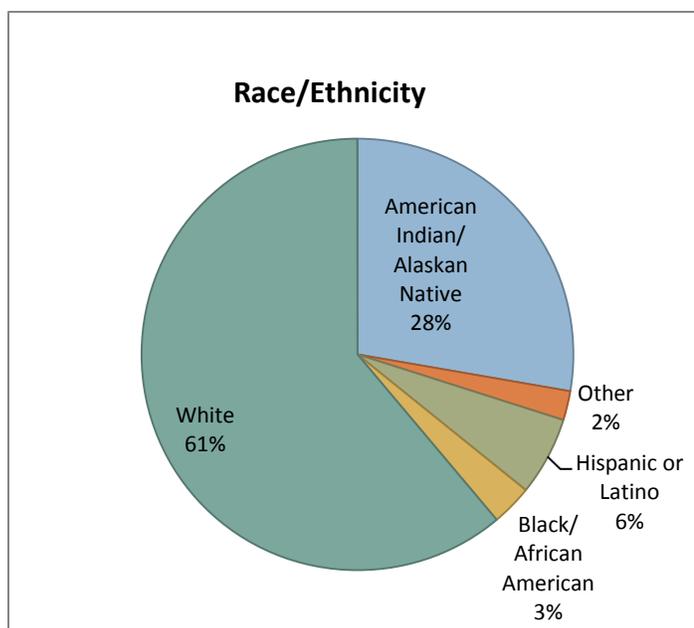
Results from the Montana Housing Status Survey indicate that the majority of Billings' homeless are local residents who have lived in Billings for multiple years. This dispels the commonly held notion that the homeless population in Billings is transit and simply passing through. To the contrary, when asked how long they have lived in the Billings community, the response most frequently given was over 20 years. While 31% of those who are homeless have lived in Billings for less than a year, 20% have lived here between one and five years, nearly half have lived in Billings for more than five years, and 35% have called Billings home for more than ten years.



RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority (61%) of homeless individuals living in Billings are white. At 28%, Native Americans are the largest and most disproportionately represented minority group amongst the homeless population in Billings. While Native Americans are only 4% of the Billings population, they comprise over a fourth of the total homeless population.

Twenty percent of the Native American homeless population has been homeless for over two years. Conflict with family or friends is the most cited reason for



homelessness amongst the Native American community. To become housed again, Native American respondents identified a job or housing search and placement as the assistance most needed.

VETERANS

Including precariously housed individuals increases the homeless veteran population from 45 to 66 individuals. Similar to national findings, veterans are disproportionately represented in the Billings homeless population. Veterans comprise 14% of the total homeless population but only make up 9% of the overall Billings' population.^x

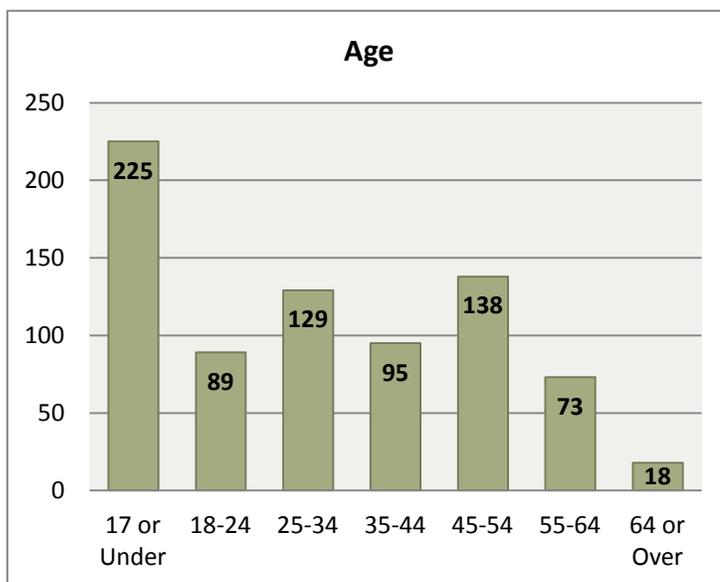
Many homeless veterans are long-term residents of Billings. Forty-two percent have lived in Billings for over 10 years and nearly half of all homeless veterans have called Billings home for over five years. While homeless veterans most frequently live with family or friends on a short-term, emergency basis, there is still a sizable portion, 23%, living out on the streets or in some other place not meant for human habitation. Twenty-one percent of homeless veterans have been homeless for over a year.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

A majority of those experiencing homelessness in Billings, 58%, are homeless with family members. In particular, the point-in-time survey identified 162 homeless families, representing 466 adults and children. At 65%, the majority of individuals who identified themselves as the head-of-household and completed the Montana Housing Status Survey on behalf of their family were female. Twenty-two individuals indicated that at the time of the survey, they or someone they were with, was pregnant.

Nearly half of all homeless families (47%) are doubled up or couch surfing with family or friends on either a temporary or long term basis. Twelve percent are living on the streets or some other place not meant for human habitation and 19% are living in an emergency shelter.

Ethnic minorities are more likely to find themselves in homeless family situations than their white counterparts. Twenty-eight percent of white respondents indicated they were homeless with family members. This percentage is much lower than the 40% of Hispanic respondents who are homeless with family and the 46% of Native American respondents.

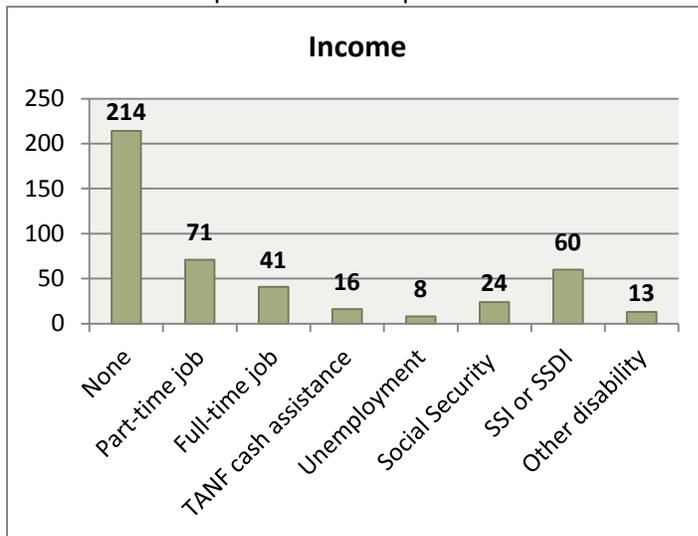


Of the 162 homeless families, 94 have children. Homeless families with children average 2 children per family unit. On the night of January 24th, there were 225 homeless children living in Billings. This means that over a quarter (28%) of the homeless population in Billings is under the age of 17.

Most homeless children are precariously housed and are not recognized under HUD’s definition. This accounts for the large disparity between the number of homeless children reported to HUD and internal data analysis. By including precariously housed individuals, the number of homeless children increases from 46 to 225 children.

INCOME AND NON-CASH BENEFITS

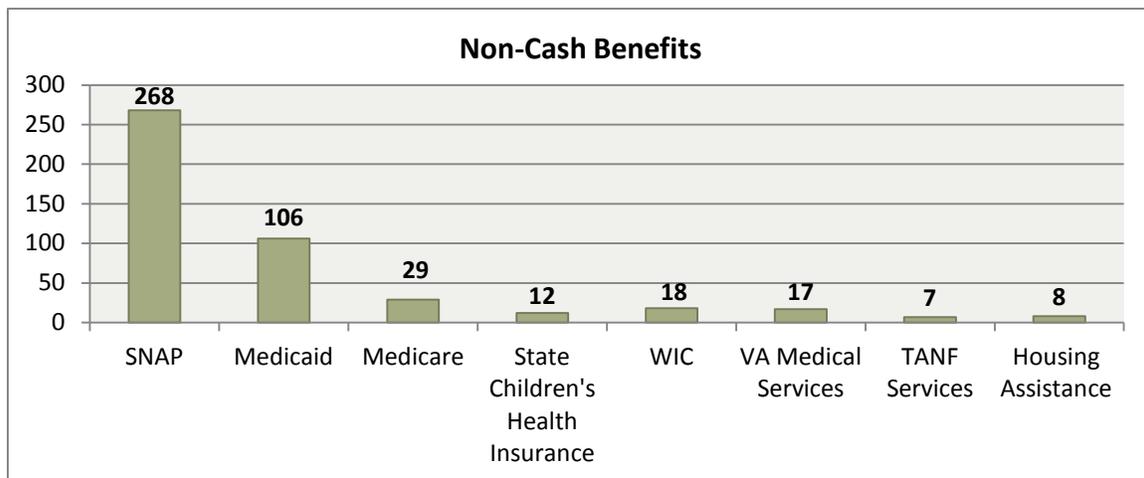
The Montana Housing Status Survey asks respondents to identify all sources of income and cash-benefits received. Respondents were allowed to select multiple sources of income and cash assistance in response to this question. 54% of homeless respondents have at least one source of



income. This means nearly half of the Billings homeless population (47%) receives no income or cash assistance of any kind. While it is often assumed that homeless individuals are unemployed, in Billings, nearly a quarter of the homeless population (24%) is working at either a part-time or full-time job.

In addition to gathering information on received income, the Montana Housing Status Survey also collects data on non-cash benefits received. Respondents were allowed to select multiple sources

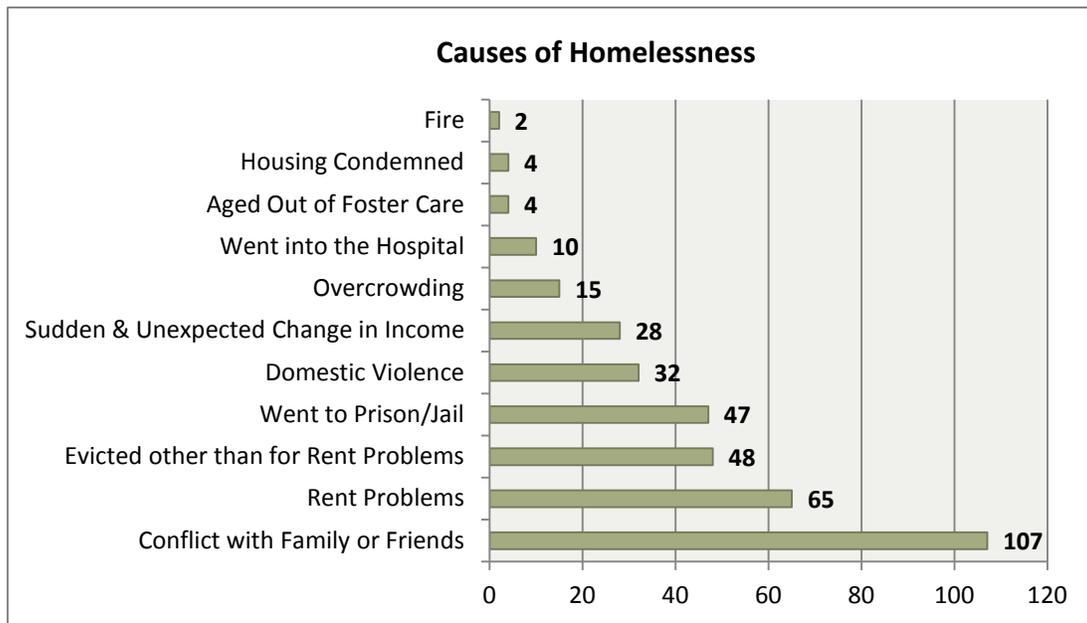
of non-cash benefits in response to this question. The majority of homeless individuals living in Billings receive food stamps, 23% of respondents are on Medicaid, and 6% are on Medicare. Thirty-one percent of the Billings homeless population receives no non-cash assistance of any kind.



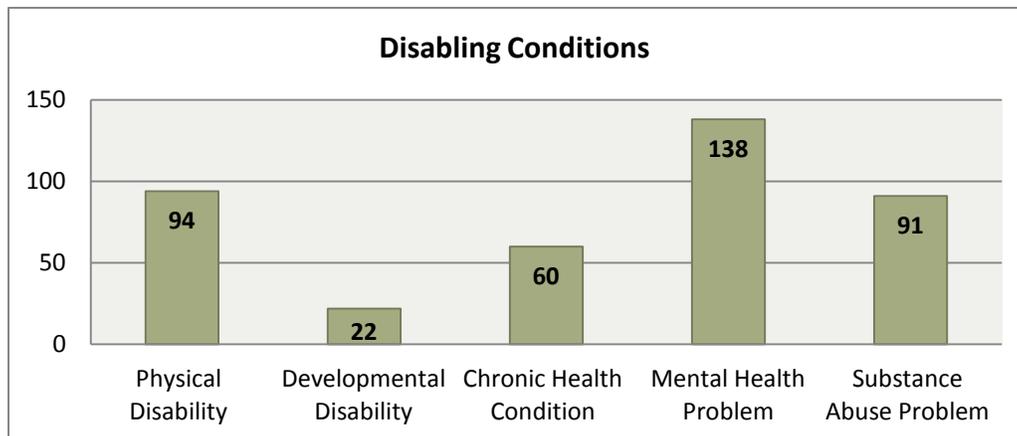
CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Identifying the causes of homelessness is a challenging endeavor. While some homeless individuals choose to be homeless, many are forced into homelessness by unforeseen and unplanned for economic and/or social occurrences.

Conflict with family or friends was the most prevalent reason for why Billings homeless left the last place they called home. This is followed by the 14% of respondents who identified rent problems as the reason they left their last home, the 10% who were evicted for non-rent issues, and an additional 10% of respondents who left their last home because they were taken to jail or prison.



Disabling conditions like mental health problems and substance abuse contribute to one's likelihood of homelessness. The National Alliance to End Homelessness calculates that about half of all people experiencing homelessness suffer from mental health issues.^{xi}

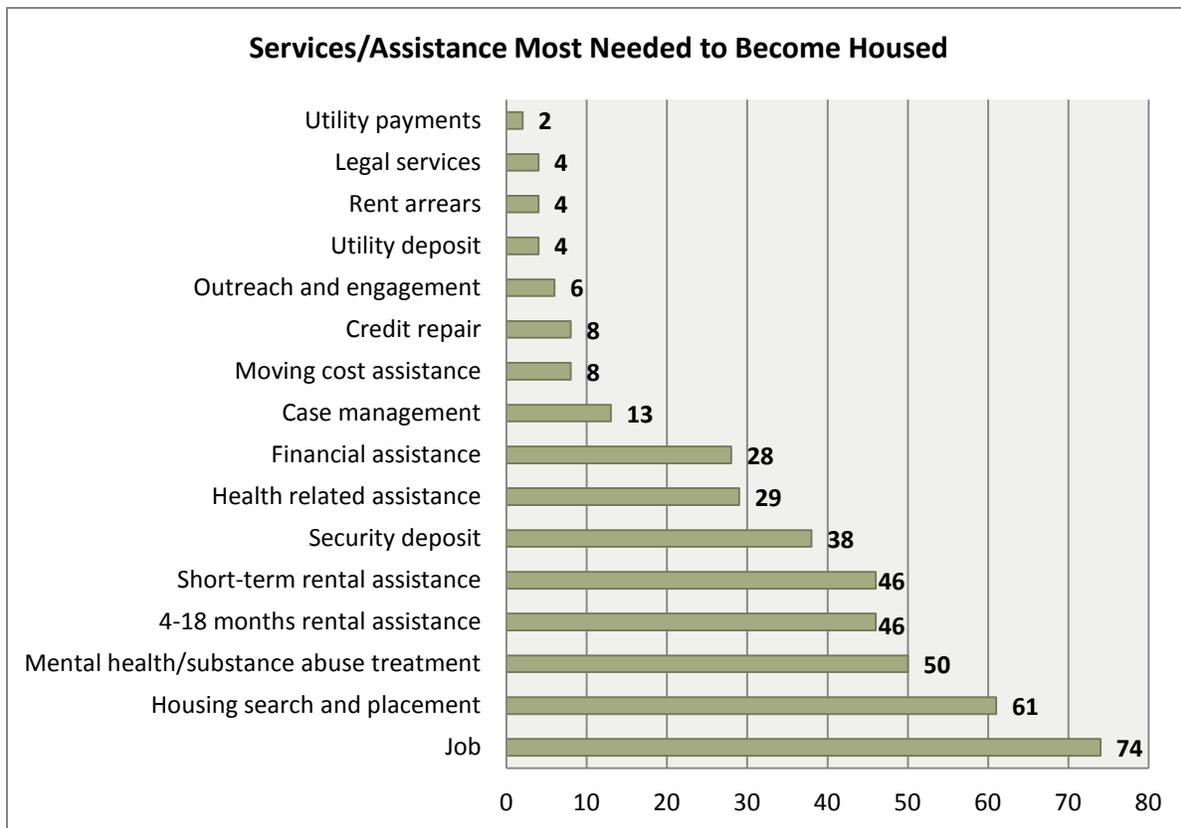


The Montana Housing Status Survey asks respondents to indicate whether they or anyone in their family suffers from a disabling condition that limits their ability to get or keep a job or take care of personal matters. Thirty percent of homeless respondents indicated that either they or someone in their family suffered from mental health problems, 20% identified a physical disability, another 20% identified substance abuse problems, and 13% indicated that they or someone in their family suffered from a chronic health condition. It should be noted that results to this question most likely underestimate the prevalence of disabling conditions within the homeless population because of the stigma sometimes associated with admitting to such conditions.

NEEDED SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

The limited and competitive nature of resources requires the Billings community to strategically develop programs that impact and reduce homelessness. To that end, the Montana Housing Status Survey seeks to identify the services and assistance most needed by the homeless population to become housed again.

Homeless respondents most frequently identified a job, housing or rental assistance, and mental health and substance abuse treatment as the assistance most needed to once again become housed. In particular, 20% of homeless respondents indicated that some form of rental assistance was most needed, 16% recognized a job as the most needed assistance, and 11% cited substance abuse or mental health treatment.



The Montana Housing Status Survey also asks respondents to identify what service or assistance would have most helped them stay in their last home. By a significant margin, the most frequent two responses to that question were a job at 21% and mental health or substance abuse treatment at 18%.

CONCLUSION

The Montana Housing Status Survey is important because it allows the Billings community to better serve the homeless population by collecting critical data on who is homeless, what causes homelessness, and what services and resources are most needed to end conditions of homelessness.

The data presented in this report provides a “snap shot” of homeless in Billings on a single night in January. On that night, there were 803 overall homeless individuals sleeping in Billings. Of the 803 homeless in Billings, 225 or 28% are children.

Most homeless individuals living in Billings are precariously housed; meaning they are temporarily living in a motel, doubled up with family or friends, couch surfing, or temporarily staying in an institution like a hospital or treatment facility. The frequency of precariously housed homeless persons in Billings explains the disparity between HUD defined homeless and overall homeless counts. When the definition of homelessness is scaled back to include just HUD defined homeless, the homeless count drops from 803 to 338 individuals.

Those experiencing homelessness in Billings are not strangers. They are our friends, family, and neighbors. Nearly half of the homeless population has called Billings home for over five years and 35% have lived in Billings for more than ten years. With homelessness on the rise, up 5% from last year, it is more important than ever for the Billings community to pull together and lend a helping hand to those most in need. The City of Billings, Community Development Division and the South-Central Montana Continuum of Care believe that collectively a difference can be made in the fight against homelessness.

End Notes

ⁱ Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transitional to Housing: Continuum of Care Program; Interim final Rule 24 CFR Part 582 § 582.5

ⁱⁱ The Montana Continuum of Care Coalition has contracted with Nth Degree Analytics, LLC to develop an online survey analysis tool that allows anyone to access and analyze Montana Housing Status Survey Data. All data used in this section was taken from the Nth Degree Analytics websites for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. www.mthomeless.org and <http://www.mthomeless.org/2013/hud/index-2013-hud.html>.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Alliance to End Homelessness, *The State of Homelessness in America 2013*, April 8, 2013, <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-state-of-homelessness-2013>.

^{iv} It is questionable whether Missoula's homeless population is actually larger than Billings. When it comes to administering the Montana Housing Status Survey, Missoula is more organized than Billings. Missoula's larger homeless count is perhaps more reflective of a stronger more organized coordinated community effort to administer the Survey rather than a homeless count generally higher than Billings.

^v Information on Native Americans as a percentage of the Billings total population was taken from United States Census Bureau website, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/3006550.html>.

^{vi} Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transitional to Housing: Continuum of Care Program; Interim final Rule 24 CFR Part 578 § 578.3.

^{vii} National Alliance to End Homelessness, http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/chronic_homelessness

^{viii} It should be noted that the Montana Housing Status Survey predominantly collects data on those identified as head-of-household. While the overall homeless count in Billings is 803, 466 of those individuals represent the head-of-households who completed the Montana Housing Status Survey on behalf of their family. Much of the following statistics are developed from the 466 head-of-households, the exception to this being the section on Families and Children.

^{ix} It should be noted that the Montana Housing Status Survey predominantly collects data on those identified as head-of-household. While the overall homeless count in Billings is 803, 466 of those individuals represent the head-of-households who completed the Montana Housing Status Survey on behalf of their family. Much of the following statistics are developed from the 466 head-of-households, the exception to this being the section on Families and Children.

^x Information on Veterans as a percentage of the Billings total population was taken from the United States Census Bureau website, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30/3006550.html>.

^{xi} National Alliance to End Homelessness, http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/mental_physical_health