


Buffalo and Erie County State of Homelessness

Dale Zuchlewski
Executive Director
Homeless Alliance of WNY

Introduction

- ▶ A community profile of local homeless
 - ▶ Prepared by Kristen Cipollone and Homeless Alliance staff
 - ▶ Data from HMIS, Point in Time Count, Monthly Data and Housing Inventory Chart
- 

Number of Homeless

2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Total Homeless	Adults	Children
8030	6568	1462

- 8500 total people experienced homelessness

Number of Homeless (Cont'd)

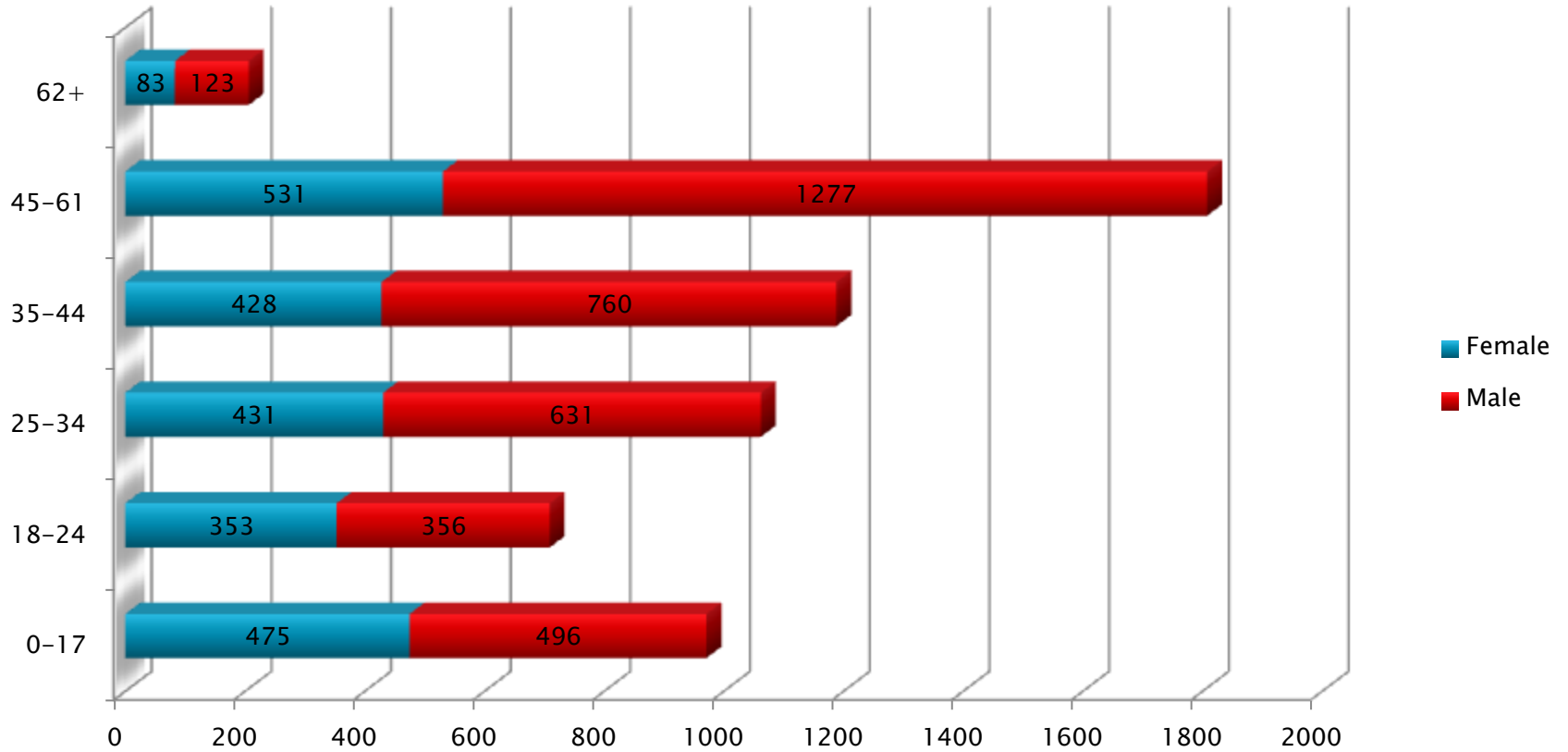
2008 Monthly Data		2009 Monthly Data		2010 Monthly Data	
January		January		January	1181
February		February	1183	February	1151
March		March	1197	March	1274
April	1235	April	1162	April	1137
May	1200	May	1172	May	1174
June	1186	June	1173	June	1156
July	1194	July	1263	July	1160
August	1240	August	1245	August	1204
September	1184	September		September	1134
October	1207	October		October	1159
November	1181	November		November	1249
December	1191	December		December	1238
Average	1202	Average	1199	Average	1184

1200–1500 people are homeless on any given day

Age of Homeless Population

2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Age	Percentage	N-value
0-5 years of age	7%	582
6-17 years of age	11%	903
18-24 years of age	12%	955
25-34 years of age	20%	1607
35-44 years of age	19%	1511
45-61 years of age	26%	2042
62 years+	3%	267
Age unknown	2%	176

Biological Sex and Age



Homelessness & Gender

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Gender/Sex	Percentage	Gender/Sex	Percentage	N-value
Female	36%	Female	39%	3112
Male	56%	Male	59%	4727
Transgender	.03%	Transgender	0.05%	4
Unknown	.04%	Unknown	0.26%	22
Not recorded	8%	Not recorded	2.20%	177

Homelessness & Race

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Race	Percentage	Race	Percentage	n-value
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	89
Asian	1%	Asian	6%	434
Black	51%	Black	45%	3550
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	12
White	33%	White	32%	2493
Multiracial	0.4%	Multiracial	0.3%	27
Other	14%	Other	16%	1228

First Time Homelessness

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Extent of Homelessness	Percentage	Extent of Homelessness	Percentage	N-Value
1 st time	56%	1 st time	60%	3792
1-2 times	27%	1-2 times	24%	1540
Multiple times but does not fit chronic description*	5%	Multiple times but does not fit chronic description	7%	420
Chronic: 4 times in the last 3 years	6%	Chronic: 4 times in the last 3 years	7%	412
Long-term: 2 years or more	4%	Long-term: 2 years or more	3%	170

Chronic Homelessness

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Gender/Sex	Percentage	Gender/Sex	Percentage	N-value
Female	22%	Female	28.3%	206
Male	77%	Male	70.8%	516
Transgender	0.1%	Transgender	0.3%	2
Unknown	0%	Unknown	0.1%	1
Gender not record	0.6%	Gender not record	0.5%	4

Homelessness & Disabilities

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Disabling Condition	Percentage	Disabling Condition	Percentage	N-value
Yes	37.8%	Yes	43%	2571
No	58.9%	No	52%	4053
Refused	0.4%	Refused	1%	28
Unknown	2.9%	Unknown	4%	199

Veteran Status

2008-2009 HMIS Data		2009-2010 HMIS Data		
Veteran Status	Percentage	Veteran Status	Percentage	N-value
Yes	9.4%	Yes	7%	434


Family count	Client count
326	1008
Entry Exit Provider Id	client Count
Salvation Army - Emergency Family Shelter(2)	564
Cornerstone-Emergency(321)	181
Hispanics United of Buffalo(70)	27
Gerard Place(249)	45
YWCA Scattered Sites(276)	43
YWCA Transitional Haven(274)	10
Cornerstone-Transitional(322)	51
YWCA Transitional Housing - Amherst(275)	9
American Red Cross(269)	78

Homeless Households

Household type	Household count
Female Single Parent	269
Two Parent Family	44
Male Single Parent	3
Other	1
Foster Parent(s)	1
Couple With No Children	5
Grandparent(s) and Child	3

HPRP Breakdown

	BHOP	ECHO	TTAP	TOTAL
Couple With No Children	89	39	23	151
Female Single Parent	3,044	501	241	3786
Foster Parent(s)	2	0	0	2
Grandparent(s) and Child	28	11	11	50
Male Single Parent	181	60	26	267
Non-custodial Caregiver(s)	8	5	0	13
Two Parent Family	509	179	175	863
Other Relative	35	5	4	44
Other	223	20	48	291
Data Missing	799	120	40	959
TOTAL	4918	940	568	6426

- ▶ There is a dire need for continued prevention funds on a larger scale. 60% of the people that were homeless last year in Erie County were homeless for the first time. 84% were homeless 1–2 times.
 - ▶ Even with HPRP people still became homeless. We are probably going to see an increase after the program ends.
 - ▶ The National Alliance to End Homelessness is predicting a 5% increase in homelessness next year
- 

Shelter Entries

Gender	Client Counts	Percentage
Don't Know	1	0.03%
Female	998	33.72%
Gender Not Recorded	7	0.24%
Male	1954	66.01%
Sum:	2960	


More than one Shelter Entry

Agency	Count of reentry
Buffalo City Mission	343
Cornerstone	35
Compass House	18
Salvation Army - Emergency Family Shelter	9
Transitional Services Inc.	1
TOTAL (deduplicated)	402

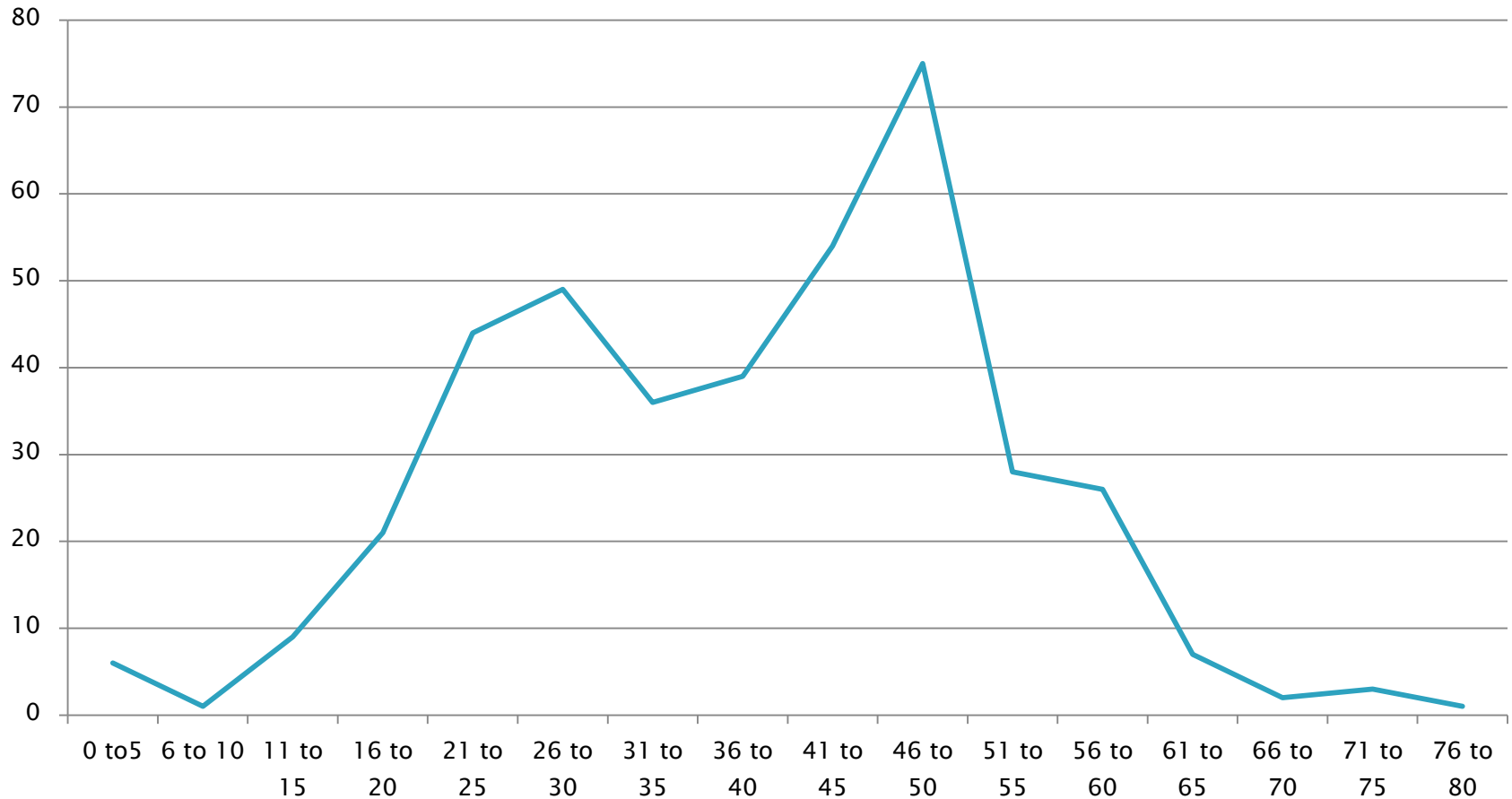
Age of Re-entry Clients

Age	Count
0 to5	6
6 to 10	1
11 to 15	9
16 to 20	21
21 to 25	44
26 to 30	49
31 to 35	36
36 to 40	39
41 to 45	54
46 to 50	75
51 to 55	28
56 to 60	26
61 to 65	7
66 to 70	2
71 to 75	3
76 to 80	1
Unknown	1
TOTAL	402

If you knew a group of people were about to die, would you do something to prevent it from happening?



Age of Re-entry Client



Unsheltered Count

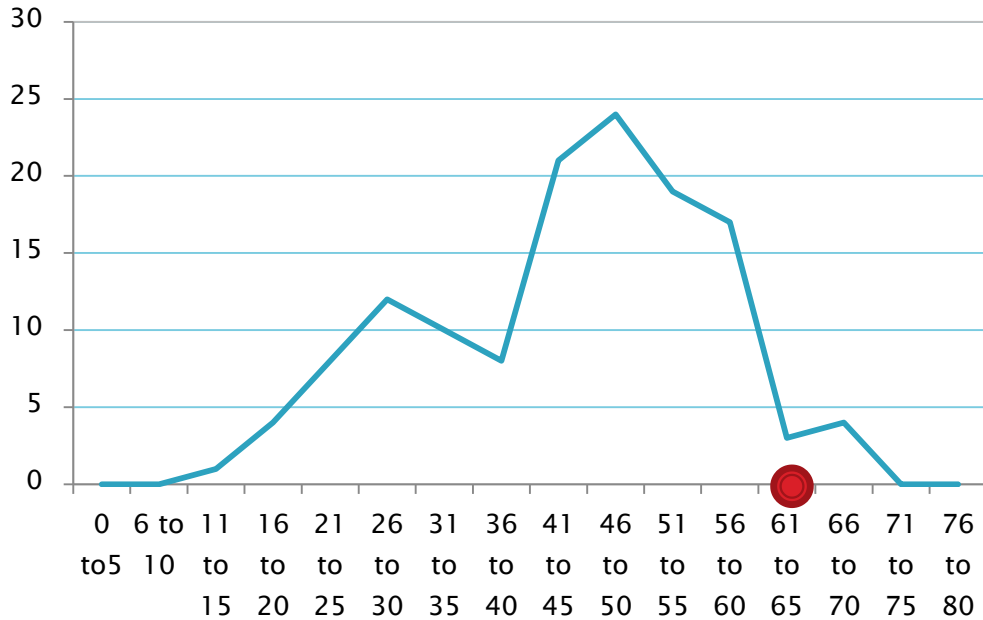
10-13 to 10-15, 2011

Locations: soup kitchen, poverty fair, project connect, street,
bridge, library, etc.

Total counted 135 clients

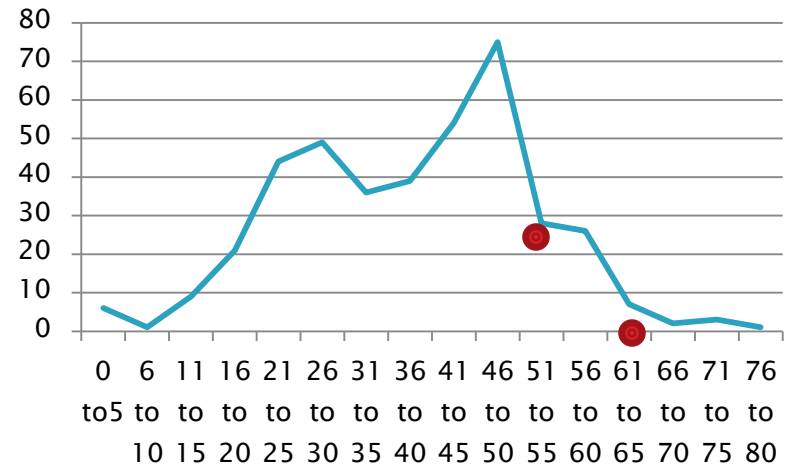
Age

Unsheltered count



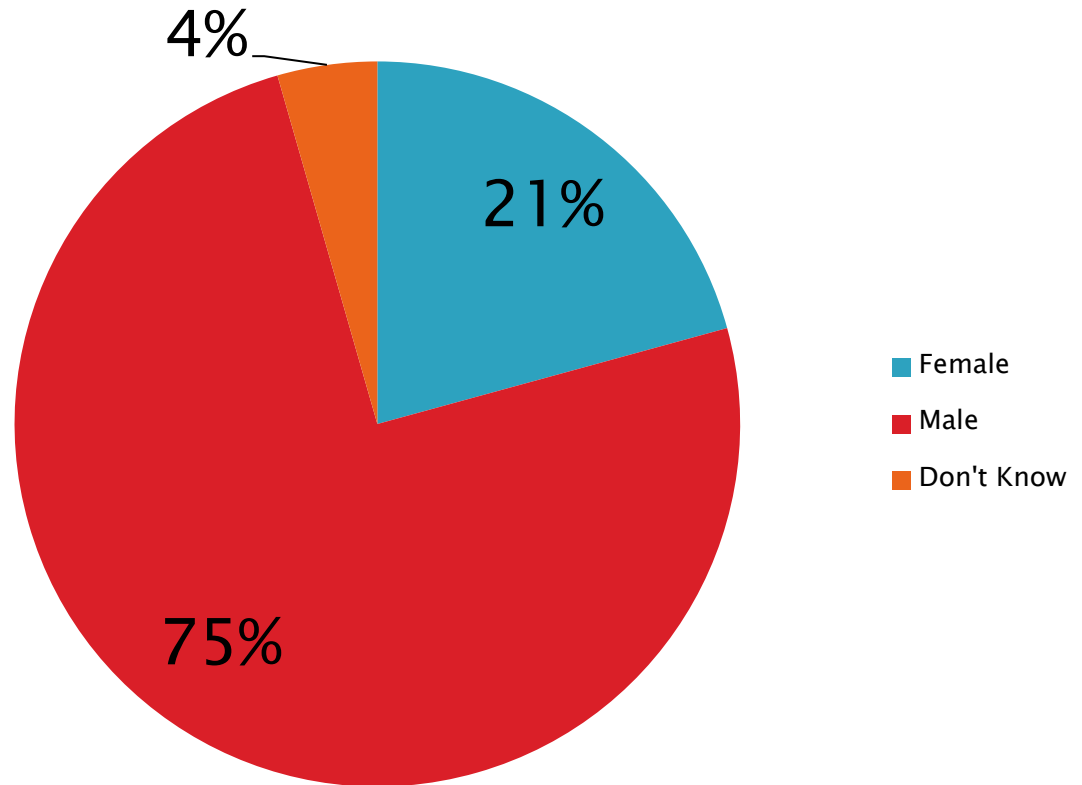
Comparison

Reentry clients



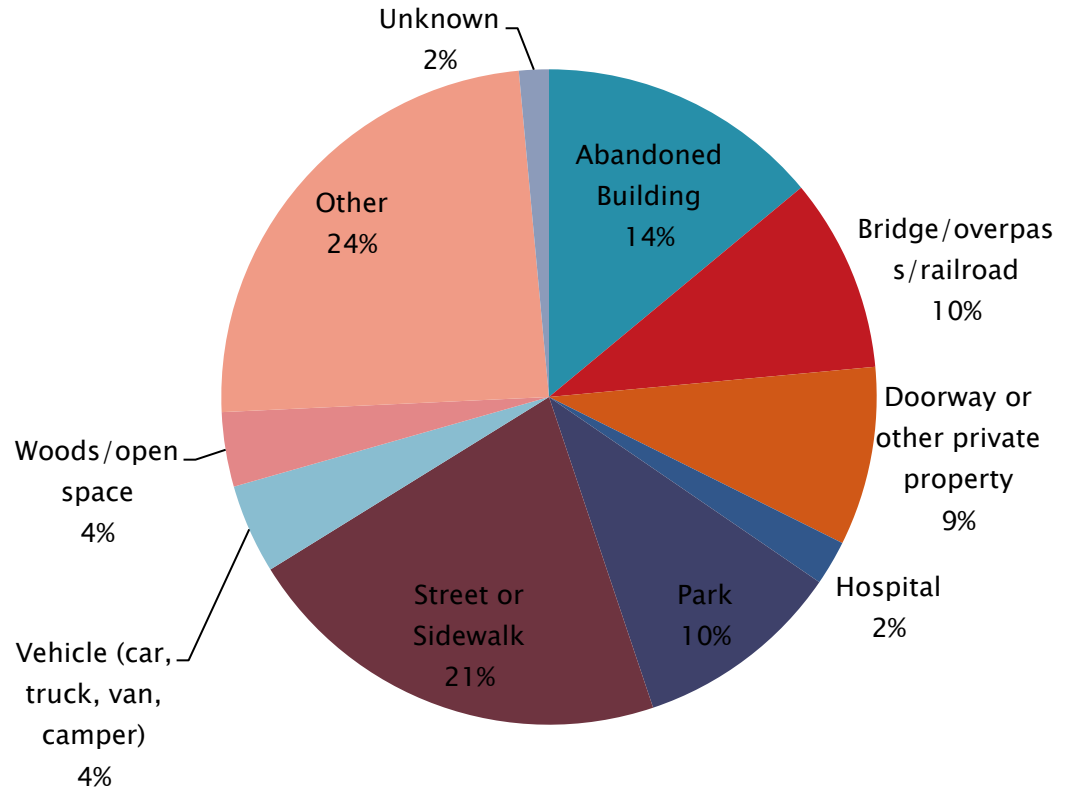
Gender

Client Gender	Count
Female	28
Male	101
Don't Know	6



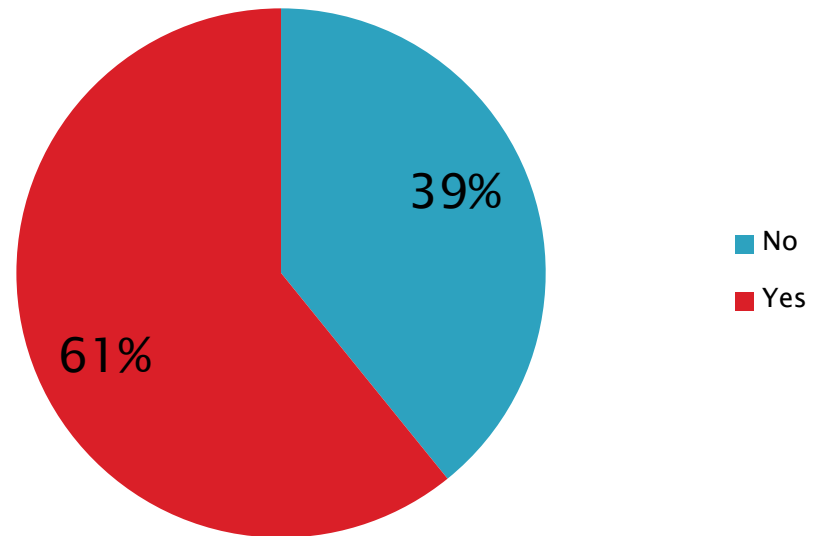
Living situation

Prior living situation	Count
Abandoned Building	19
Bridge/overpass/railroad	13
Doorway or other private property	12
Hospital	3
Park	14
Street or Sidewalk	29
Vehicle (car, truck, van, camper)	6
Woods/open space	5
Other	33
Unknown	2




Chronically Homeless


Chronically Homeless?	Count
No	47
Yes	73
Unknown	15



Recommendations

- ▶ More Safe Havens & Housing First Options
 - ▶ Prevention w/ safe & affordable housing
 - ▶ More educational opportunities & a living wage
 - ▶ There appears to be a need for SRO's
 - ▶ Jobs that pay a living wage need to be created.
- 


What we can do next


- ▶ Government decisions should have an “impact statement” discussing how the decisions affect poverty and homelessness.
 - ▶ Educate the public on homelessness.
 - ▶ More funding on all levels is necessary.
 - ▶ Buffalo’s zoning codes must make it easier to provide services and housing for the homeless.
 - ▶ Continue to participate in our planning efforts.
- 

The Poverty Challenge




What is the poverty challenge?

- A three day poverty simulation
 - Is an attempt to raise awareness about poverty, not “play poor”
 - Poverty is the root cause of homelessness
- 

- ▶ Poverty is the root cause of homelessness. 29% of the people in Buffalo and 14% of the people in the County live below the poverty level.
 - ▶ 43% (11,110) of female head of households in Buffalo live below the poverty level, 30% (15,344) in Erie County.
 - ▶ 58% (36,476) of renters in Buffalo pay more than 30% of their income for rent.
- 

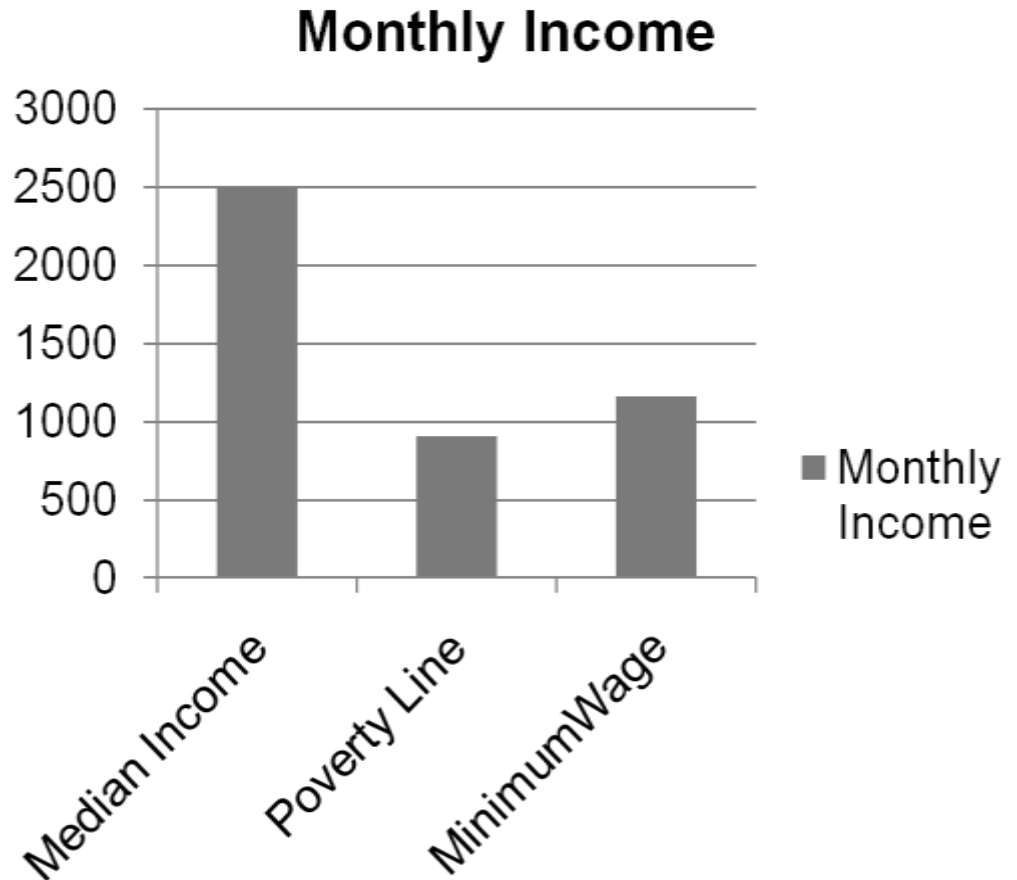
2011 Poverty Levels

Persons in Family	48 Contiguous States and D.C.			Alaska	Hawaii
	1	\$10,890		\$13,600	\$12,540
2	14,710		18,380	16,930	
3	18,530		23,160	21,320	
4	22,350		27,940	25,710	
5	26,170		32,720	30,100	
6	29,990		37,500	34,490	
7	33,810		42,280	38,880	
8	37,630		47,060	43,270	
For each additional person, add	3,820		4,780	4,390	

- ▶ A minimum wage job pays \$7.25 per hour
 - ▶ If you were lucky enough to work 40 hours per week you would net \$290
 - ▶ If you worked a minimum wage job for 52 weeks you would earn \$15,080 before taxes.
- 

How do I participate?

- sign up at [wnyhomeless.org/poverty challenge](http://wnyhomeless.org/poverty-challenge)
- Follow instructions in Budget/Reflection Guide or Budget Spreadsheet
- Encourage others to do the event with you



<http://wnyhomeless.org/>

“Like” us on Facebook at:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Homeless-
Alliance-of-Western-New-
York/128138143873](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Homeless-Alliance-of-Western-New-York/128138143873)