

City of Richmond Homeless Strategic Plan: Update to City Council

Kelly King Horne, Homeward

www.homewardva.org

Greater Richmond Continuum of Care

www.endhomelessnessrva.org

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Update on City Plan and Collaborative Pandemic response

- Overview of Richmond City Strategic Plan to End Homelessness and regional efforts to end homelessness
- Review of Plan goals, metrics, partners, key challenges and opportunities
- How to get engaged in the collaborative response to homelessness
- Collaborative Pandemic response: client data
- Questions

Executive Summary: Problem Statements

- Homelessness was a crisis before the pandemic and the needs of people experiencing or facing homelessness have been exacerbated by the public health & economic conditions.
- People who are unsheltered (living outdoors) are at greater risk for exposure to and transmission of COVID-19.
- Many people experiencing homelessness are older and have underlying health conditions which put them at greater risk.
- African-Americans are over-represented in homelessness due to historic and institutional racial inequities in housing and other systems.
- A majority of adults experiencing homelessness have been involved in the criminal justice system.

Executive Summary: Problem Statements

- Thousands of households are threatened with evictions, housing instability, and homelessness.
- The needs of people experiencing homelessness are complex and may not be resolved quickly.
- The solutions to homelessness are also complex and require cross-sector and multi-agency coordination. No one agency can solve this complex human crisis.

Executive Summary: Opportunities

- Providing access to safe, indoor accommodations has helped to mitigate the risks of the virus for people experiencing homelessness and has reduced human suffering.
- The City's plan on homelessness is aligned with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, the regional collaborative network working to address homelessness.
- The Greater Richmond Continuum of Care partners have increased the intensity of services during the pandemic and engaged new partners to address the supportive service and other needs of our neighbors.
- Partnerships (such as those with healthcare providers and mental health resources) developed during our collaborative pandemic response will be strengthened and should persist beyond the crisis.

Executive Summary: Opportunities

- CARES Act ESG-CV & other funding is designed to address these needs. CDBG-CV can also be used to support homeless services and public health resources.
- Recovery and workforce programs can contribute to the long-term stability of people experiencing homelessness. These programs provide additional options for individuals.
- Permanent supportive housing remains a significant need in our community and CARES Act funding does not cover this housing program. Additional investment in PSH is needed.
 - To learn more about permanent supportive housing:
<https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/permanent-supportive-housing/>

City Plan to End Homelessness: Goals

- Prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.
- Add capacity to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness through housing-focused emergency shelter.
- Support homeless service providers serving City residents.
- Increase permanent supportive housing and related housing stability services.

*The goals are paraphrased for brevity.

City Plan Goals, cont'd

- Provide additional supportive services for targeted subpopulations.
- Promote connections to comprehensive services for households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Educate City residents on homelessness and provide collaborative leadership aligned with the coordinated response to homelessness.

Goal: Prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

Targeted programs to assist households in maintaining stable housing and avoiding evictions.

Definition of success:

Reduction in number of households facing eviction; decreased number of households experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Data Points:

More than 1400 eviction court cases scheduled in Richmond in coming 8 weeks (CVLAS.)

Pre-pandemic: (January 2020 point-in-time count)
25.4% of individuals experiencing homelessness indicated that they had been “kicked out or evicted by their landlord” in the past three years.

Goal: Prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

Needs:

High volume of households seeking rental assistance

Investment in resources for poverty alleviation are not to scale; potential Congressional action (HEROES Act)

African-Americans and people of color are at greater risk for eviction, housing instability, and homelessness

Partners & Initiatives:

EFA-RVA (coordination of emergency financial assistance resources in the region)

ACTS

HOME

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

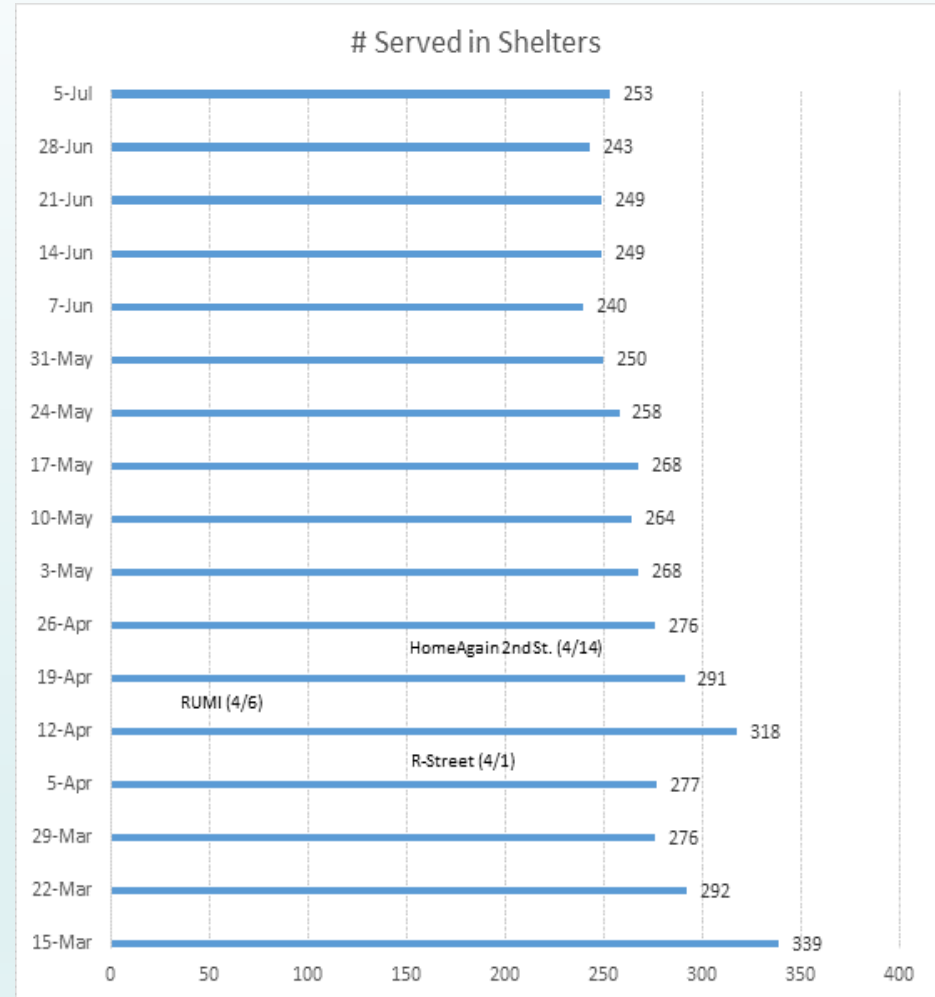
Office of Community Wealth-Building

Many others

Goal: Add capacity to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness through housing-focused emergency shelter.

Safe, indoor accommodations with supportive services are a key strategy to addressing homelessness.

Definition of success:
Reduction in the number of people who are unsheltered;
Performance metrics for emergency shelters



Goal: Add capacity to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness through housing-focused emergency shelter.

Partners: Year-round housing-focused shelters

CARITAS

Daily Planet Health Services

Hanover Safe Place

Home Again

Housing Families First

Liberation Veteran Services

Safe Harbor

The Salvation Army

YWCA

Needs:

Staffing support to help shelter residents exit to stable housing

Operational support

Reduced census and extended hours (24/7) during pandemic to keep residents and staff safe

Pandemic Response: Add capacity to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness through housing-focused emergency shelter.

Shelter as a primary public health response:

“Non-congregate shelter” (individual housing or hotel rooms) is a key recommendation of the CDC to reduce the risk for people living outdoors.

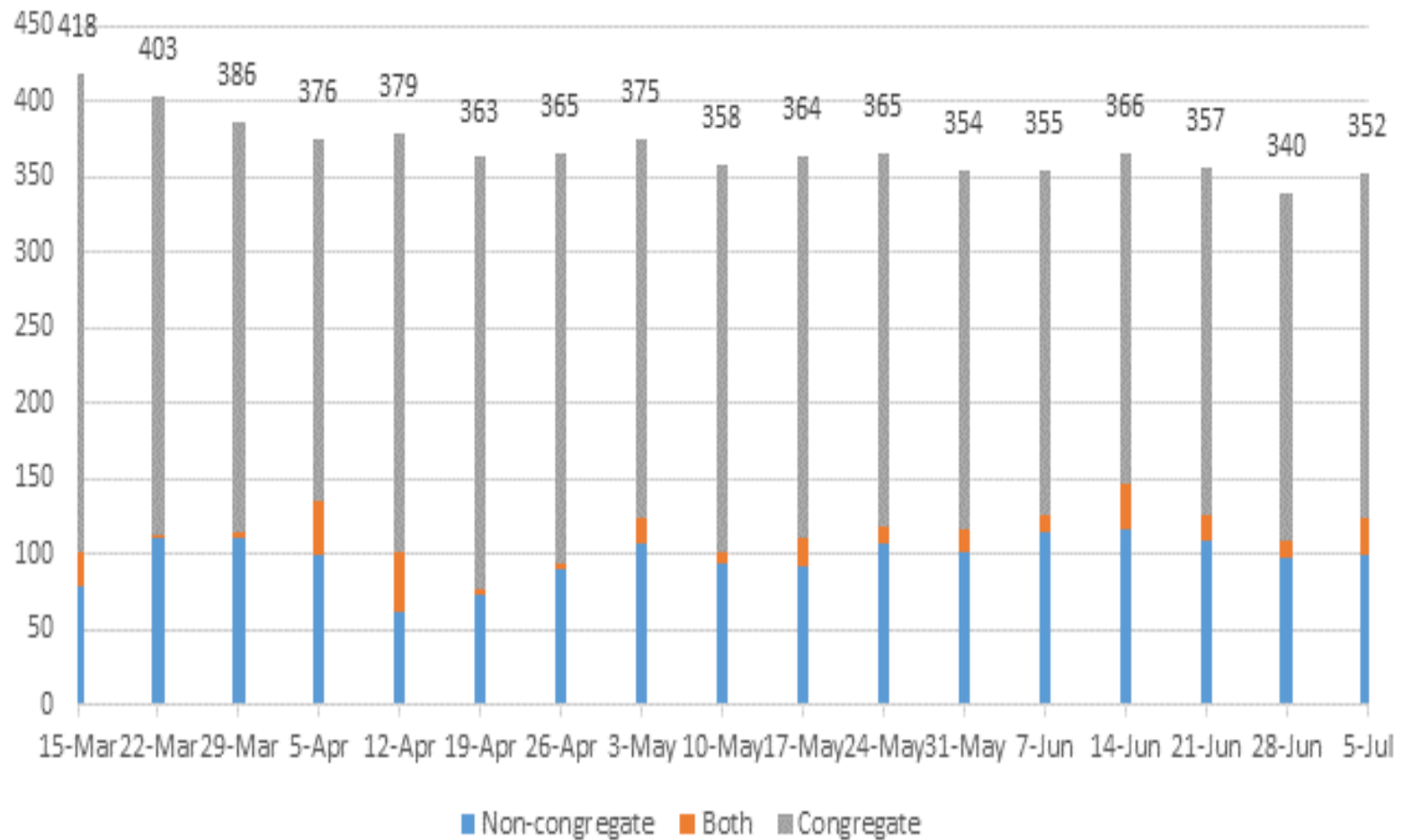
Non-congregate shelter (NCS) offers:

- Access to safe indoor space
- Ability to respond to community need
- Ability for self-isolation and quarantine
- Ability to serve those for whom other shelters are not a good fit
- Supportive services, meals, laundry, clinical supports
- Cost per household: approx. \$2,600

Initiatives and Needs

Cross-sector case conferencing: Homeward, Daily Planet Health Services, RUMI, Richmond Department of Social Services, RBHA, & others come together weekly to make & monitor housing and service plans for NCS residents.

Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelter Use



Goal: Increase permanent supportive housing and related housing stability services.

Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units (scattered site and facility-based) to meet the needs of the most vulnerable households with the longest histories of homelessness.

Definition of Success: Increase in number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who are served by Permanent Supportive Housing

Initiative: Virginia Supportive Housing's Cool Lane Project:
https://richmond.com/news/local/henrico-and-richmond-working-with-nonprofit-to-convert-abandoned-retirement-home-into-housing-for-the/article_dac3d952-924f-5654-affc-82094faad901.html

Need: Estimated need = 300 units of permanent supportive housing
(Critical investment need; not eligible for ESG funding)

Partners:
Home Again
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
Virginia Supportive Housing

Goal: Support homeless service providers serving City residents.

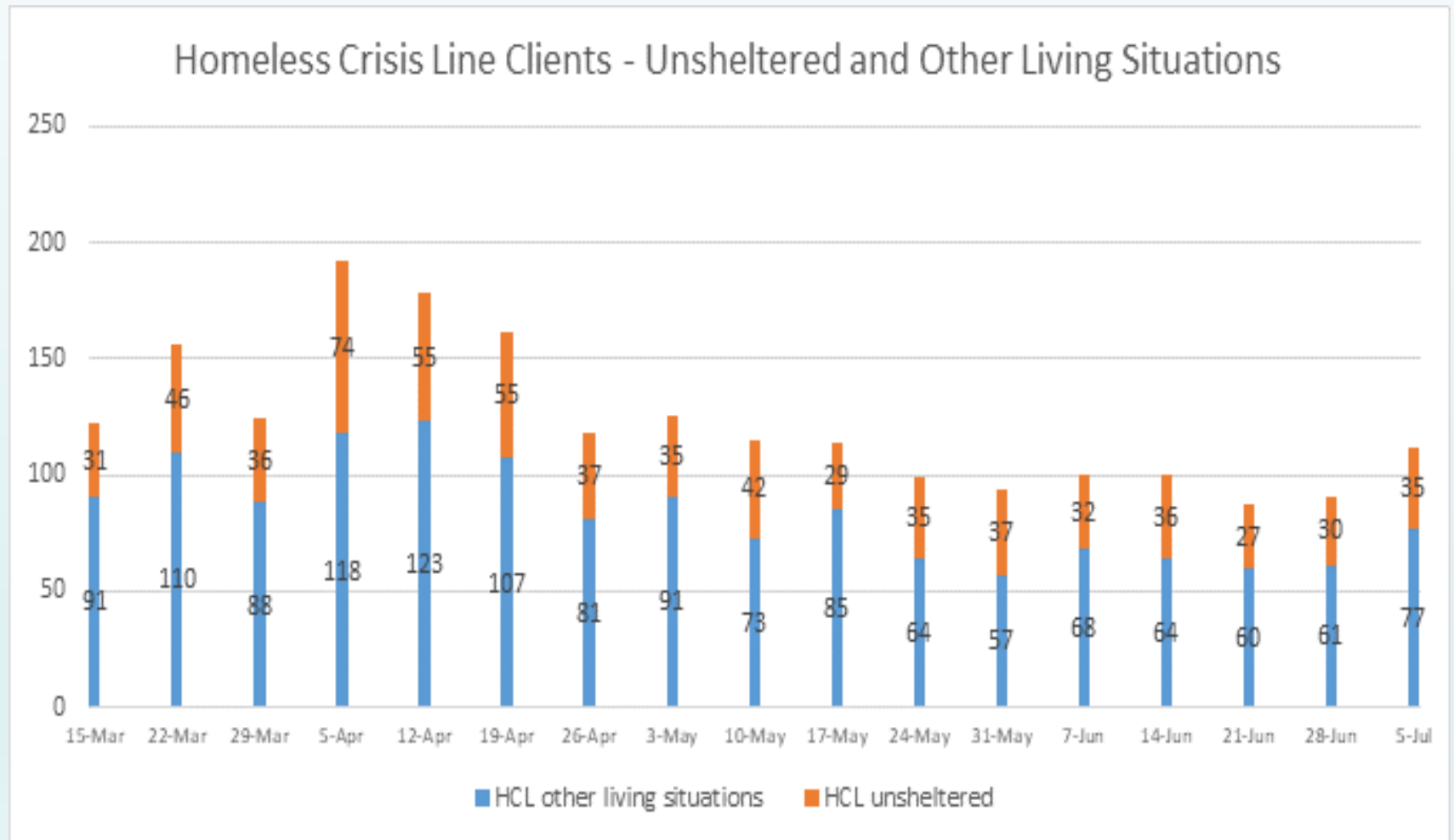
Increase the stability of funding to address community needs and system gaps, with particular focus on increasing resources for housing-focused emergency shelter programs that are

- coordinated through the regional Coordinated Entry System,
- located in areas with high entries to emergency shelter or calls to the Homeless Crisis Line,
- are well-managed and adequately staffed,
- are connected to transit options for residents, and
- are linked to case management, permanent housing, and employment resources.

Partners: (Signed MOU's)

- ACTS
- CARITAS
- Commonwealth Catholic Charities
- Daily Planet Health Services
- Focused Outreach
- HandUp
- Hanover Safe Place
- Henrico DSS
- HomeAgain
- Homeward
- Housing Families First
- Liberation Veteran Services
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
- Richmond DSS*
- St. Joseph's Villa
- The Salvation Army
- Virginia Supportive Housing
- YWCA

Coordinated Entry to homeless services: 804-972-0813



Accessing Homeless Assistance

- Homeless Crisis Line:
804-972-0813

Initiatives:

Expanding outreach personnel

- Greater Richmond
Regional Hotline:
804-612-6126

Using technology to increase accessibility on DV Hotline and Homeless Crisis Line (text, chat, translation)

- Coordinated
Outreach:
tgarrett@dailyplanetva.org;
bit.ly/RVAOutreach

Working to expand hours of Homeless Crisis Line

Homeless assistance is not an entitlement resource.

Resources are targeted based on need

Innovations in homeless services

“Self-resolution”: private funding used to support costs for people living outdoors or in shelters to access stable housing

Community Housing Coordinator: system –level function to engage landlords in coordinated efforts to reduce homelessness

Need: Housing options for older adults with complex medical and behavioral health issues

Goal: Provide additional supportive services for targeted subpopulations.

- Households with minor children
- Justice-involved individuals
- Veterans
- Youth and young adults
- Older adults

Data Points:

- 9% of homeless adults have children living with them (PIT, 2020)
- 73.5% of homeless adults are justice-involved (PIT, 2020)
- 20.4% served in the military (PIT, 2020)
- 5% of non-congregate shelter users are 18 – 24 years old
- 35% of non-congregate shelter users are older than 55 years

Goal: Provide additional supportive services for targeted subpopulations.

New resources: Youth & Young Adults

Side by Side LGBTQ youth shelter

CCC Youth Hub

St. Joseph's Villa Youth Outreach Worker

Housing Families First & Richmond Public Schools partnership

Meeting the needs of Older Adults experiencing homelessness:

Senior Connections is now a partner on the Homeless Crisis Line

Partnership with VCU School of Nursing

Partnership with senior housing facilities

Goal: Promote connections to comprehensive services for households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Develop supportive service partnerships and joint activities to maximize public sector and mainstream benefits for households experiencing homelessness.

Partnerships to address complex needs.

Definition of success: Increase in income from employment; increase in connections to behavioral health services

Partners and Connection Points:

CARITAS Works

OAR

Office of Community Wealth-Building

Real Life Community Center

RBHA

Richmond City Health District

Richmond Public Library

RUMI

The Healing Place

Virginia Career Works Centers

Goal: Educate City residents on homelessness and provide collaborative leadership aligned with the coordinated response to homelessness.

Service coordination: Want to increase your impact by collaborating with others? Email info@homewardva.org to learn more about the Case Manager's List-serve (over 350 members)

To join the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care:
<http://endhomelessnessrva.org/contact-us>

All Partner Updates:
<http://endhomelessnessrva.org/service-providers/training-materials/all-partner-updates>

Volunteer Opportunities:
<https://www.handsonrva.org/> and <https://www.rvastrong.org/housingstability>

Data on homelessness:
<http://www.homewardva.org/data>

GRCoC Board and Homeward:
http://endhomelessnessrva.org/images/MemberResources/CoCStructure/Collaborative_Applicant.pdf

Thank you to the staff and
leaders of the homeless service
providers and partners mentioned
in this presentation for all you
have done and continue to do
to make homelessness rare, brief,
and one-time.



Questions?

Kelly King Horne, kkhorne@homewardva.org

Phone: 804-343-2045, ext. 19

Would you like a speaker on homelessness or a training for your staff or organization?

info@homewardva.org

Know someone who needs homeless assistance?

Homeless Crisis Line, 804-972-0813

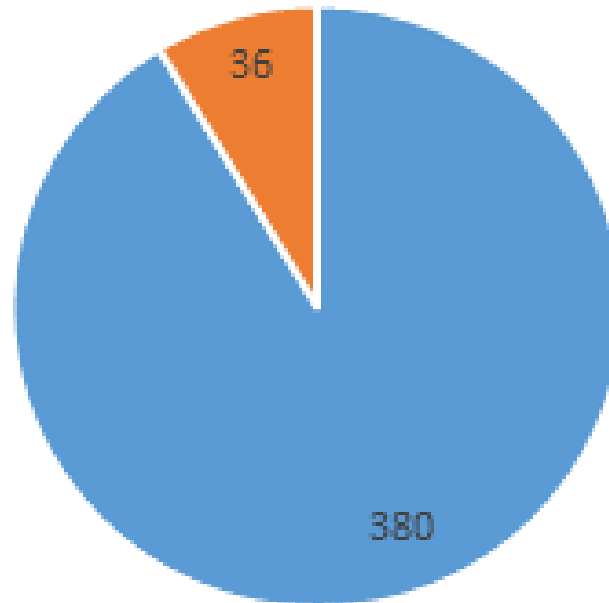
Data on Non-congregate Shelter Programs, 3/15/20 – 7/23/20

Data provided by Homeward from the Homeless
Management Information System



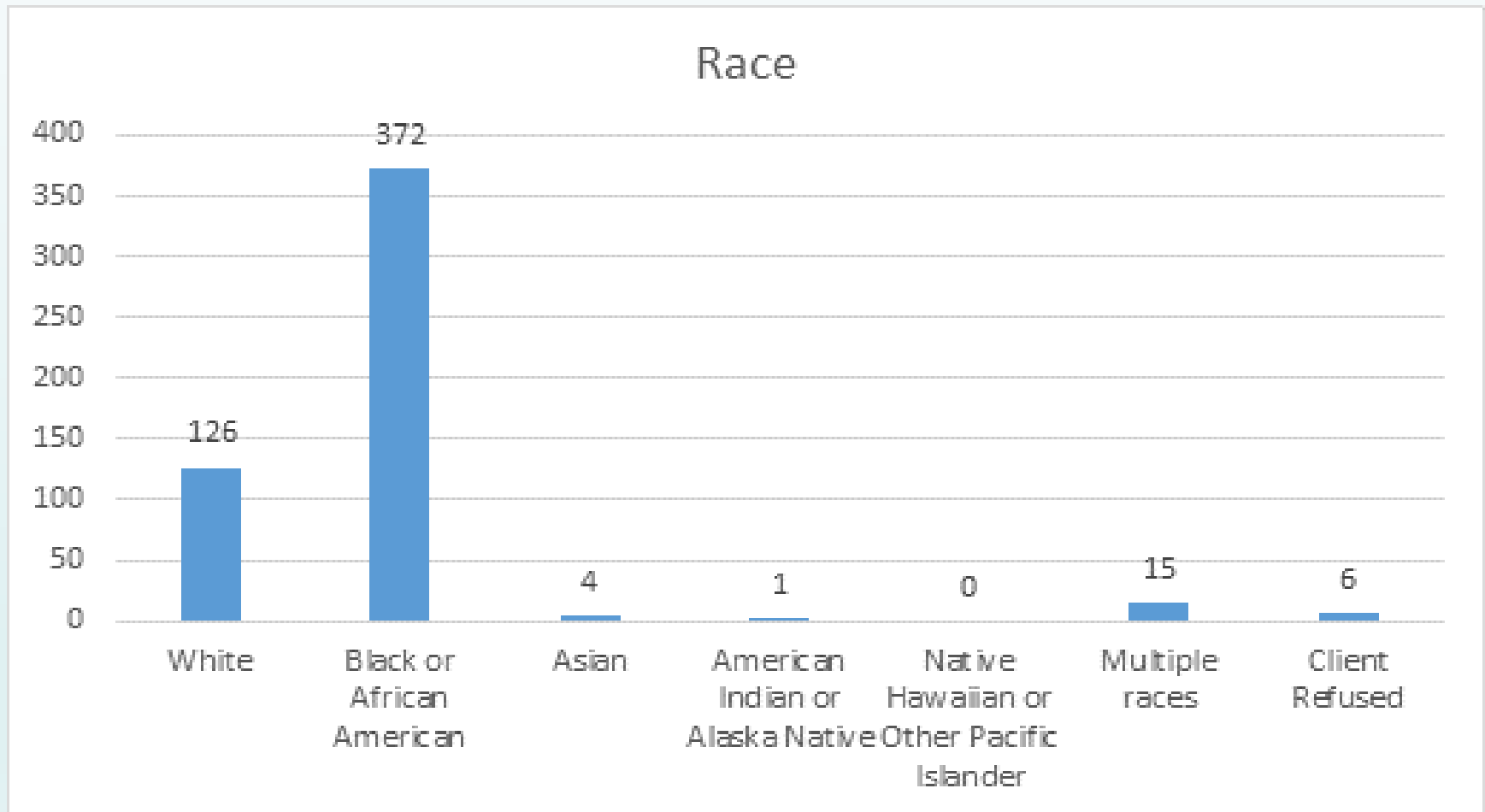
Demographics of individuals served in non-congregate shelters (March to 7/23/2020)

Household composition

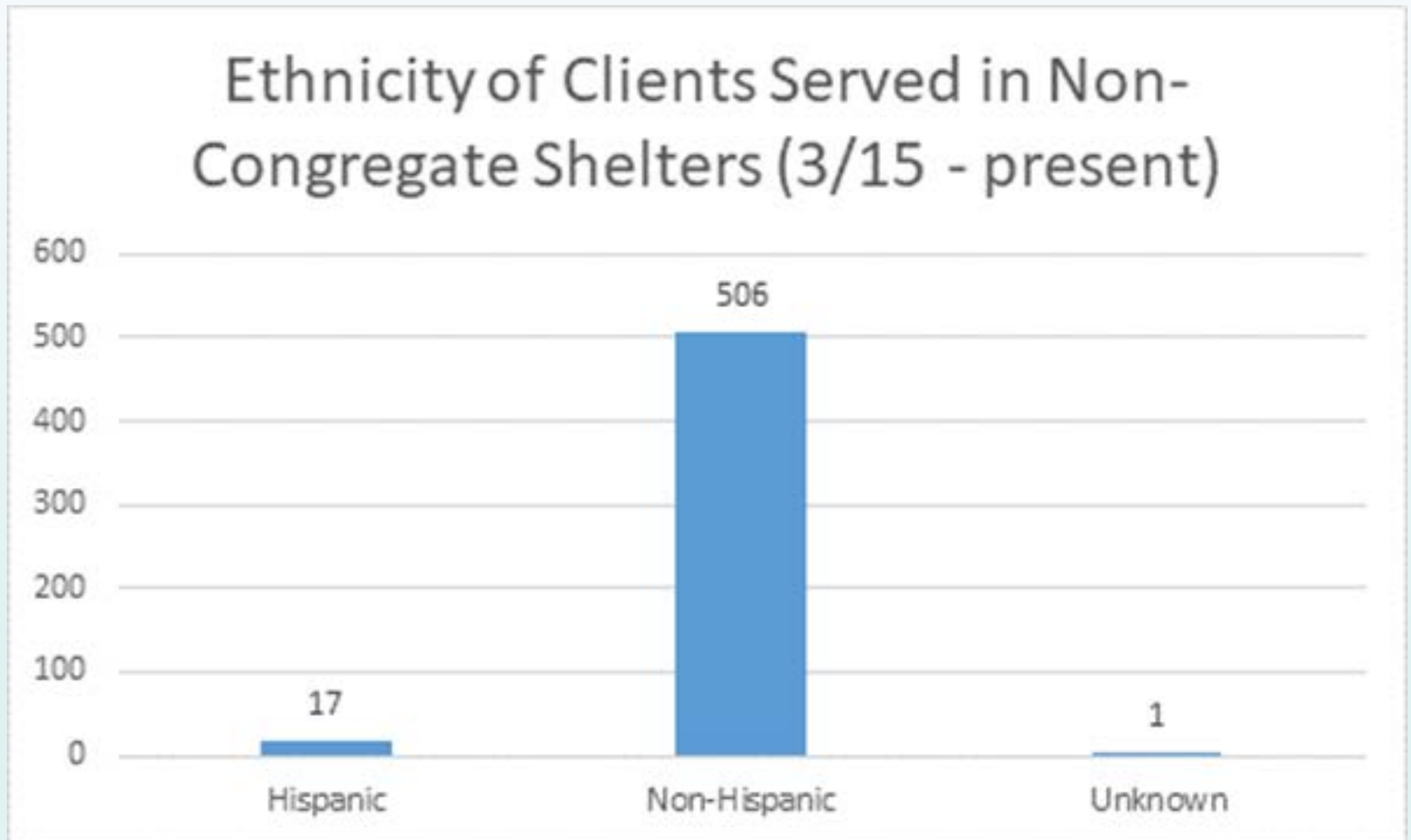


■ Singles ■ Families

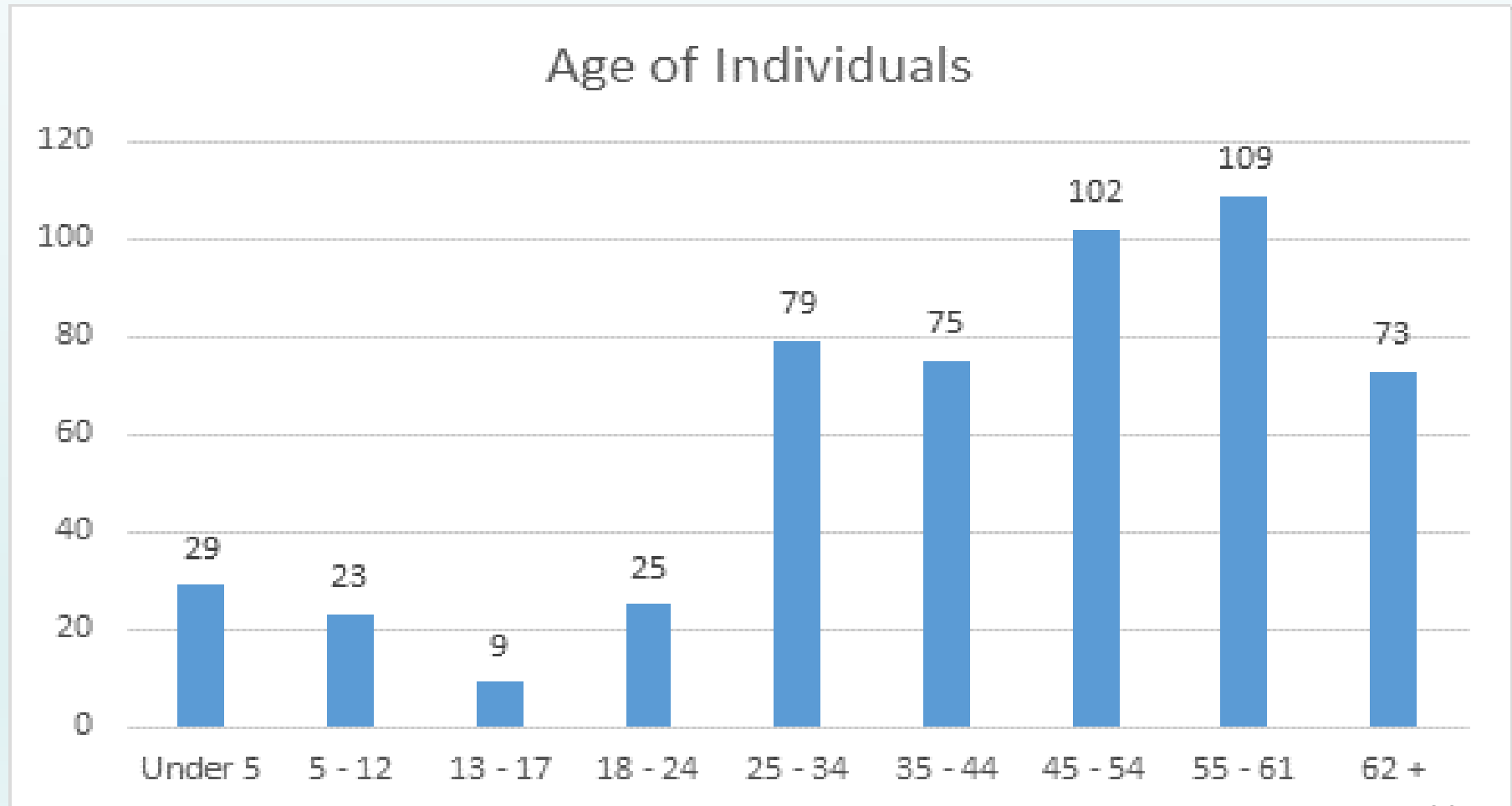
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