**Hypothermia FY 17 Debrief – Unaccompanied Persons**
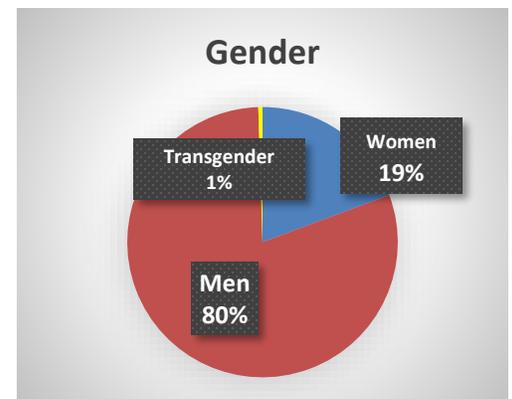**Prepared for the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness**
**April 2017**

The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
of Homelessness

## Unaccompanied Men & Women Served in Low Barrier & Severe Weather Shelter, Hypothermia FY 17

- **5,879 persons** used the Low Barrier and Severe Weather Shelters1 listed in the Winter Plan for single, unaccompanied persons during Hypothermia FY 17 – a decrease of 1.9 percent from Hypothermia FY 16. Between Hypothermia FY 16 and FY 17, the number of Hypothermia alerts increased from 68 to 83, respectively. The decrease in use of Low Barrier and Severe Weather Shelters from season to season is similar to the overall decrease in unaccompanied persons seen in comparing the 2017 and 2016 Point-in-Time counts.

- **19.3 percent** of the single persons served were women, **79.8 percent** were men, and **0.5 percent** identified as transgender.

- **43.9 percent** of men spent seven nights or fewer in shelter over the course of the season (down from 45.4 percent last year), while **9.7 percent** of men spent the entire season in shelter (down from 12.5 percent last year).

- **45.0 percent** of women spent seven nights or fewer in shelter over the course of the season (down from 45.2 percent last year), while **14.5 percent** spent the entire season in shelter (down from 15.1 percent last year).



**Gender**

Transgender 1%

Women 19%

Men 80%

---

1 There are currently 818 Winter Shelter beds in total. This includes 209 "seasonal", or low barrier beds which are open nightly from November through March; 479 "hypothermia alert" beds; and 130 beds that are open when the aforementioned resources are full and/or when a "Cold Weather Emergency" is in effect. The activation of these resources is determined through consultation with the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and the National Weather Service. A hypothermia alert is called when the actual or forecasted temperature is 32 degrees or below, though DHS will also call an alert when the temperature is forecasted to be 40 degrees or below with a 50 percent chance or greater or precipitation. Cold Weather Emergencies are called when the temperature or wind chill is 15 degrees or below (or 20 degrees with heavy snow, snow accumulation, or other meteorological threats as determined by HSEMA) (all temperatures listed are in Fahrenheit). Note that the weather conditions on the night of the 2017 Point- in- Time count did not call for the activation of either the hypothermia alert or Cold Weather Emergency beds.

- Men spent an average of **11 nights** over the course of the season in shelter while women spent an average of **ten nights** in shelter across the season – the averages were nine nights for men and 11 nights for women, respectively, last year.

| Nights in Low Barrier/Severe Weather Shelter, Hypothermia FY 17 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Men** | | **Women** | |
| | | | |
| **1 to 7 nights** | 43.9% | **1 to 7 nights** | 45.0% |
| **8 to 30 nights** | 23.4% | **8 to 30 nights** | 19.9% |
| **31 to 60 nights** | 12.4% | **31 to 60 nights** | 12.4% |
| **61 to 90 nights** | 6.0% | **61 to 90 nights** | 5.3% |
| **91 to 120 nights** | 4.5% | **91 to 120 nights** | 2.9% |
| **121 to 151 nights** | 9.7% | **121 to 151 nights** | 14.5% |

- **5.5 percent** of persons served used only the Overflow/Warming sites when accessing shelter; **24.1 percent** used only Winter Plan-designated Hypothermia alert sites; **51.5 percent** used only year-round Low Barrier sites; and **18.8 percent** used a combination of two or more of the three types of shelter.

- The median age for men and women served in Low Barrier and Severe Weather Shelter during the season was **48 years** and **49 years**, respectively, as compared to the median age of 50 reported for men and 49 for women last year. The table below provides a breakdown by age category of the 5,879 who used shelter during Hypothermia '17.

| Age Distribution for Men & Women Served in (Low Barrier/Severe Weather) Emergency Shelter, Hypothermia '17 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Men** | **Women** |
| **Under 18** | **0.0%** | **0.0%** |
| **Age 18 - 24** | 4.7% | 7.6% |
| **Age 25 - 30** | 8.3% | 9.6% |
| **Age 31 - 40** | 17.8% | 14.3% |
| **Age 41 - 50** | 20.5% | 20.2% |
| **Age 51 - 60** | 30.6% | 30.6% |
| **Age 61 - 70** | 16.3% | 15.6% |
| **Age 71 & Over** | 1.8% | 2.0% |

- The table below provides disability and subpopulation information collected from the men and women who were residing in Emergency Shelter on January 25, 2017, the date of the annual Point-in-Time count.

| Point-in-Time Survey Results from Men & Women Counted in Emergency Shelter: Jan. 25, 2017 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL Number of Individuals in Emergency Shelter at PIT: 1,988 | | | |
| History of Substance Abuse | 15.9% | U.S. Military Veteran | 4.5% |
| History of Mental Illness | 21.6% | History of Domestic Violence | 25.9% |
| Physical Disability | 21.1% | Limited English Proficiency | 9.4% |
| Chronic Health Issue | 16.4% | Formerly in an Institutional Setting | 31.1% |
| Chronically Homeless[2] | 47.0% | Formerly in Foster Care | 6.0% |

---

[2] In order to be considered chronically homeless, per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, individuals must be living with a disabling condition AND have been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR have had four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined occasions of homelessness total a length of time of at least one year.