



## Hypothermia FY17 Debrief: *Virginia Williams Family Resource Center*

Prepared for the Interagency Council on Homelessness for the District of Columbia  
May 2017

### ***Family Experiences at Virginia Williams***

A total of **1556 families** sought services at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) during Hypothermia '17 (November 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017). All told, these families made **1879 visits** to the VWFRC during the season. There were far fewer documented visits to Virginia Williams during Hypothermia '17 than in the previous season; during Hypothermia '16 **2530 families** made **2901 visits**.

**Sixty-eight (68) percent** of the families that sought services at Virginia Williams reported that they were living with family or friends at the time of their visit. Most families that were offered a shelter placement were living with family or friends but were offered placement because they reported that they could no longer stay with the friend or relative at the time of their visit to VWFRC.

Site Living at When Visiting VWFRC During Hypo. FY '17 (n=1556)		
Housing Situations	Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	9.6%
	Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	4.3%
	Permanent supportive housing	0.5%
	Staying or living with family members	48.0%
	Staying or living with friends	20.0%
Experiencing Homelessness	Emergency shelter	2.0%
	Transitional housing for homeless persons	2.0%
	Place not meant for habitation	4.0%
Institutional Settings	Foster care home or foster care group home	0.1%
	Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	0.1%
	Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	0.4%
	Hospital or other medical facility (non-psychiatric)	0.2%
Other	Other	2.4%
	Client doesn't know	0.6%
	Client refused	0.8%
	Data not collected	5.0%

### ***Household Type***

**Seventy-eight (78) percent** of the households seeking services during Hypothermia '17 were single-parent; **fourteen (14) percent** were two-adult/two-parent households; **five (5) percent** of households served were headed by women who were pregnant but who had no other children; the remaining **three (3) percent** of households were headed by other configurations (i.e. grandparent(s) or other guardian(s)).

## Repeated Visits to Virginia Williams

**Fifty-eight (58) percent (or 899 of the 1556 families)** have sought services at VWFRC more than once, either during the Hypothermia '17 season or sometime prior to the season. **Of the 899 families** that sought services more than one time:

- **409 families or 45 percent** visited Virginia Williams 1-2 times in the past
- **376 families or 42 percent** visited Virginia Williams 3-4 times in the past
- **114 families or 13 percent** visited Virginia Williams 5 or more times in the past

The average number of days between these visits was **334 days**.

HMIS records show that for families that visited 1-2 times prior to the current Hypothermia season, an average of **422 days** passed between visits. The average number of days between visits for families with 3-4 visits was **272 days**, and the average number of days between visits for families with 5 or more visits was **319 days**.

The table below shows the mean (average) and median number of days between prior visits for all families who visited at least once during Hypothermia '17. The tables also shows the mean number of days between the start and end of each visit for those families who had at least one visit prior to hypothermia.

*Number of families and days between visits by number of visits to Virginia Williams prior to Hypothermia '17*

	Number of families	Days between visits (mean)	Days between visits (median)	Days between start and end of each open case (mean)
Visited VWFRC 1-2 <u>prior</u> to Hypothermia '17	592	422	267	19
Visited VWFRC 3-4 <u>prior</u> to Hypothermia '17	140	272	157	21
Visited VWFRC 5 <u>prior</u> to Hypothermia '17	46	319	84	24
Visited VWFRC multiple times <u>during</u> Hypothermia '17	121	26	14	

*(Note: this table does not include repeat visits during the current Hypothermia season.)*



## Hypothermia FY17 Debrief: *Family Emergency Shelter*

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### **Family Shelter Entries and Exits**

On November 1, 2016 there were **865 families** in Emergency Shelter for families; this included:

- **544 families** in motels operated by either DHS and The Community Partnership;
- **225 families** in DC General and the associated scattered site properties; and
- **96 families** in Temporary/Apartment-style shelter

Over the course of Hypothermia '17, 485 families received a total of **504 placements into family shelter** (19 families were placed twice over the course of the season). A total of **1350 unique families** were served in emergency shelter during the season. There were **456 exits** from the emergency shelter-level of the Continuum of Care over the course of the Hypothermia '17, with **913 families** in emergency shelter on March 31, 2017.

<b>Families in Emergency Shelter, Nov. 1, 2016</b>	865
<b>Placements in ES During Hypo. '17</b>	504
<b>Exits from ES During Hypo. '17</b>	456
<b>Families in ES, Mar. 31, 2017</b>	913

Of the **456 families exiting**, **315** were families that were in Emergency Shelter prior to the beginning of the season, with **141** both entering and exiting Emergency Shelter during the season. Of the **913 families that did not exit** Emergency Shelter by the end of the season, **550** were in shelter prior to the season and **363** entered during the season.

	<b>Exited Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '17</b>	<b>Did Not Exit Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '17</b>
<b>Entered Emergency Shelter Prior to Hypo. '17</b>	315	550
<b>Entered Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '17</b>	141	363

The table on the following page charts the number of exits per month, and the destination to which each family was exiting.

Destinations of Families Exiting Emergency Shelter Sites, Hypothermia FY 17										
	Nov.	%	Dec.	%	Jan.	%	Feb.	%	Mar.	%
Transitional Housing	5	6%	4	4%	8	10%	8	9%	6	5%
Rapid Rehousing	32	41%	43	43%	24	31%	30	34%	43	38%
Permanent Supportive Housing	4	5%	6	6%	5	6%	7	8%	1	1%
Unsubsidized Housing	3	4%	5	5%	8	10%	7	8%	11	10%
Living with Family or Friends	0	0%	4	4%	2	3%	5	6%	2	2%
Other non CoC Destinations	25	32%	27	27%	16	21%	19	22%	26	23%
Destination not reported	8	10%	12	12%	14	18%	11	13%	18	16%
Transferred but did not accept placement	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	6	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>		<b>101</b>		<b>77</b>		<b>87</b>		<b>113</b>	

### Length of Stay

The families served in Emergency Shelter during Hypothermia '17 spent, on average, **264 days** in shelter with a median of 197 days.<sup>1</sup> The table below details the mean (average), median, and mode length of stay in shelter (in days) for the families served during Hypothermia '17 broken down by whether they entered prior to or during the season and when they exited (if applicable).<sup>2</sup>

Length of Stay of Families served in Emergency Shelter, Hypothermia '17				
	Number of Families	Families' Mean Length of Stay	Families' Median Length of Stay	Families' Mode Length of Stay
Entered Shelter Prior to Hypo '17/ Exited During Hypo '17	315	291	247	147
Entered Shelter During Hypo '17/ Exited During Hypo '17	141	37	27	1
Entered Shelter Prior to Hypo '17/ DID NOT EXIT	550	426	373	338
Entered Shelter During Hypo '17/ DID NOT EXIT	353	83	86	130
<b>Total Number of Families Served Hypo '17 (all placements)</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refers to the number of continuous nights spent collectively in motels, DC General, and/or Temporary/Apartment-style shelter in an episode of homelessness that occurred at any point during Hypothermia FY 17.

<sup>2</sup> Exits from shelter displayed in tables on this page do not include those families that exited one emergency shelter site for another shelter site, i.e. moving from a motel to DC General. This was counted as a continuous stay.

The table below details the average length of stay cross-referenced with destinations for families exiting the emergency shelter level of the Continuum of Care during Hypothermia '17.

	<i>Length of Stay and Destination</i>	
	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Avg. LOS in Days</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	28	213
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	23	424
<b>Rapid Rehousing</b>	172	225
<b>Unsubsidized Housing</b>	34	284
<b>Living with Family or Friends</b>	17	50
<b>Other non CoC Destinations</b>	140	91
<b>Destination not reported/did not accept transfer</b>	102	61

***Demographics of Families Served***

*Family Size*

**Seventy-two (72) percent** of the households served during Hypothermia '17 were single-parent; **27 percent** were two-adult/two-parent households. **Sixteen (16) placements (1 percent)** were offered for women who were pregnant but had no other children at the time of placement. Among households with children, **70 percent** of the families had 1-2 children, **26 percent** had 3-4 children, and **five percent** had 5 or more children in the household.

*Age of Head of Household*

The median age among the heads of households served in Hypothermia '17 was 28, with **twenty-nine (29) percent** of heads of household being between the ages of 18 and 24 at the time of their shelter entry. Heads of household entering in FY17 have skewed older than those served in Hypothermia '16 when **thirty-nine (39) percent** were between the ages of 18 and 24 at the time of their shelter entry.

<b>Age at Entry Distribution for Heads of Household Served in Emergency Shelter, Hypothermia '17</b>	
<b>Under 18</b>	-
<b>Age 18 - 24</b>	29%
<b>Age 25 - 30</b>	33%
<b>Age 31 - 40</b>	23%
<b>Age 41 - 50</b>	9%
<b>Age 51 - 60</b>	3%
<b>Over age 60</b>	.3%
<b>HoH did not disclose age/date of birth</b>	1%

### Other Demographic Information

The table below charts the prevalence of disabling conditions and key homelessness subpopulations among heads of household in Family Emergency Shelter, as reported during the annual Point in Time enumeration (held on January 25, 2017). These conditions are not mutually exclusive.

As has been the case in previous years, Point in Time shows that many of the disabling conditions seen among unaccompanied homeless individuals are not as common among adults in homeless families. This seems to indicate that homelessness among families is driven by economic factors such as the lack of affordable housing and access to employment.

Point in Time Survey Results, Heads of Household in Family Emergency Shelter: January 2017 (n=975)			
History of Substance Abuse	2%	U.S. Military Veteran	.02%
History of Mental Illness	15%	History of Domestic Violence	26%
Physical Disability	5%	Limited English Proficiency	5%
Chronic Health Issue	3%	Ever resided in an Institutional Setting	7%
Chronically Homeless	12%	Ever resided in foster care	7%

### Income and Employment

According to information collected during the annual Point in Time enumeration, **twenty (20) percent** of adults in families served report that they have no income of any kind.

Of those families with adults who reported at least one income source, **fifty-one (51) percent** said that their primary source of income is TANF. **Twenty-nine (29) percent** report that their primary income source is income from employment, **sixteen (16) percent** report receiving Social Security/Disability related income, and the remaining **four (4) percent** report other public assistance as their primary income source.

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