Alliance for Regional Solutions

Shelter Provided to the Homeless in North San Diego County Bridge Housing Between 07/1/2023 - 06/30/2024

Acknowledgements

Table of Contents

Introduction

The Alliance for Regional Solutions (ARS) collected client shelter stay data during its 2023-2024 Bridge Housing homeless services in North San Diego County. This report describes the number of clients that were sheltered, the demographic characteristics of these clients, the length of shelter provided to these clients, as well as a brief review of clients served during both the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 year.

The ARS commissioned the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) to analyze the 2023-2024 Bridge Housing data. The data was entered by Bridge Housing staff into a secure online database and extracted for analysis in August 2024.

Background

A. Data Collection

Shelter staff collected information about the residents who stayed in their respective bridge housing shelters. This included client demographics and residential information. The staff members entered the data into a secure online homeless management information system (HMIS) database called Clarity which is the designated HMIS for the San Diego City and County Continuum of Care region. Data represents ARS bridge housing program entries recorded in Clarity until or before July 1, 2024.

B. Data Analysis

Most of the data manipulation was done using Looker and various HUD reports which generated the final numbers used in this report. Looker is the data analysis tool integrated into Clarity's web-based HMIS. Clarity also has several HUD reports built into its system. All graphs and charts were created using Looker and Microsoft Excel.

C. Limitations

Any time data is collected, there can be errors in the data collection or the data entry process. During collection, data may not be completely collected, or it may be recorded erroneously. Another limitation is that most questions primarily rely upon client self-report, which may or may not be truthful. Self-report, however, is often the only method available.

D. Scope

These findings apply only to the persons who used these bridge housing shelter services and not to the homeless population at large in North San Diego County nor to all sheltered clients in San Diego. Whether or not these sheltered clients were similar to those served in other bridge housing in San Diego or to the general homeless population was not examined.

Results

A total of 467 distinct clients were recorded from the six 2023-2024 North San Diego ARS bridge housing programs. The three largest Alliance North San Diego Bridge Housing programs provided shelter service to 384 clients, which is about 82% of the total number of clients (Catholic Charities - La Posada De Guadalupe, Operation Hope North County, and Interfaith Community Services - Escondido Family Shelter (Table 1).

A. Location and Length of Service

A total of 208 ARS beds were available to temporarily house homeless individuals in the North San Diego area throughout the year (Table 1). Together these beds enabled 63,372 bed-nights to be provided (Bed Nights Available) between the 467 distinct clients. Program utilization (bed-nights used/bed-nights available) ranged from 36% to 89%.

The 467 distinct client stays in the North San Diego Bridge Housing averaged eighty-two nights (Table 1). Although the number of nights varied from 1 day to 1 year. Eleven percent were sheltered for 7 to 29 nights (1 week - 1 month) and thirty-four percent (33.8%) of the clients were sheltered for 30 to 89 nights (1-3 months) (Graph 1).

Table 1.   **Shelter Capacity and Shelter Provided, 2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing**

Program Name _Clients served_	Program Capacity			Shelter Provided			
	Number of Beds [1]	Number of Operating Nights [2]	Bed-Nights Available [3]	Bed-Nights Used [4]	Bed-Night Utilization	Enrollments in the programs	Client count
Interfaith Shelter Network-North County Inland [5] _Men, women and families_	12	21	252	93	37%	7	7
Interfaith Shelter Network-North County Coastal [6] _Men, women and families_	12	58	696	610	88%	18	18
Catholic Charities -La Posada De Guadalupe _Men_	50	366	18,300	16,274	89%	169	162
Operation Hope North County _Families and women_	45	366	16,470	10,636	65%	148	144
Interfaith Community Services-Haven House Bridge Housing [7] _Men and women_	49	366	17,934	6,411	36%	72	72
Interfaith Community Services-Escondido Family Shelter _Men, women and families_	40	243	9,720	7,165	74%	89	89
Total	**208**	**1,420**	**63,372**	**41,189**	**65%**	**503**	**467**

[1] Number reported by project staff.
[2] Dates of operation reported by project staff; operating nights were calculated based on what was reported to the RTFH during the 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC).
[3] The number of beds multiplied by the number of operating nights.
[4] One person staying one night is a bed-night. It is calculated using the sum of enrollment days in the project for each provider.
[5] Interfaith Shelter Network North County Inland was operating for 21 nights, from February 20 2024 to March 12 2024.
[6] Interfaith Shelter Network North County Coastal was operating for 58 nights, from January 9 2024 to March 17 2024
[8] Total distinct client count may not add up to the listed provider's client count since duplicate clients are served in different programs.

Graph 1
Number of Nights of Shelter per Client per Stay,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467)
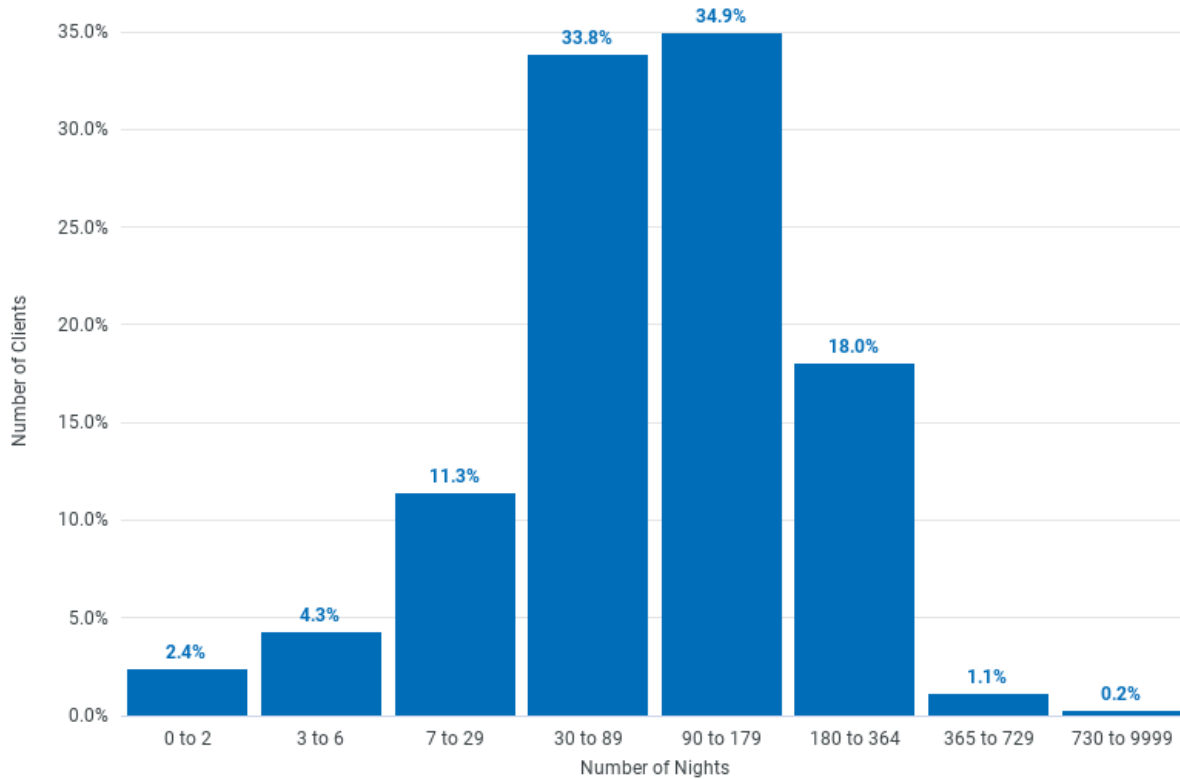
B. Demographic and Prior Living Situation Information

Demographic and prior living situation information for the clients served is presented below. The data was collected on adults and children, unless the description explicitly states otherwise.

1. Information Collected from All Clients

As seen in the graphs that follow (Graphs 2 and 3), 66% of sheltered individuals were males, and 19% of all clients were of singularly Hispanic/Latino/a/e origin. The majority of sheltered individuals (53%) identified as white, followed distantly by Hispanic origin (19%) (Graph 3). More clients reported as a combination of both White and Hispanic ethnicities (22%) as opposed to singularly Hispanic (19%).

Graph 2
Gender distribution of Clients Sheltered,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467)

Client prefers not to answer - 0.21%

Woman (Girl, if child) - 33.83%

Man (Boy, if child) - 65.95%

Graph 3
Race and Ethnicity distribution of Clients Sheltered,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467)

Race	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Asian or Asian American		2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		1%
Black, African American, or African		18%
Muti-racial		2%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous		3%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	19%	
White		53%
Client prefers not to answer		1%
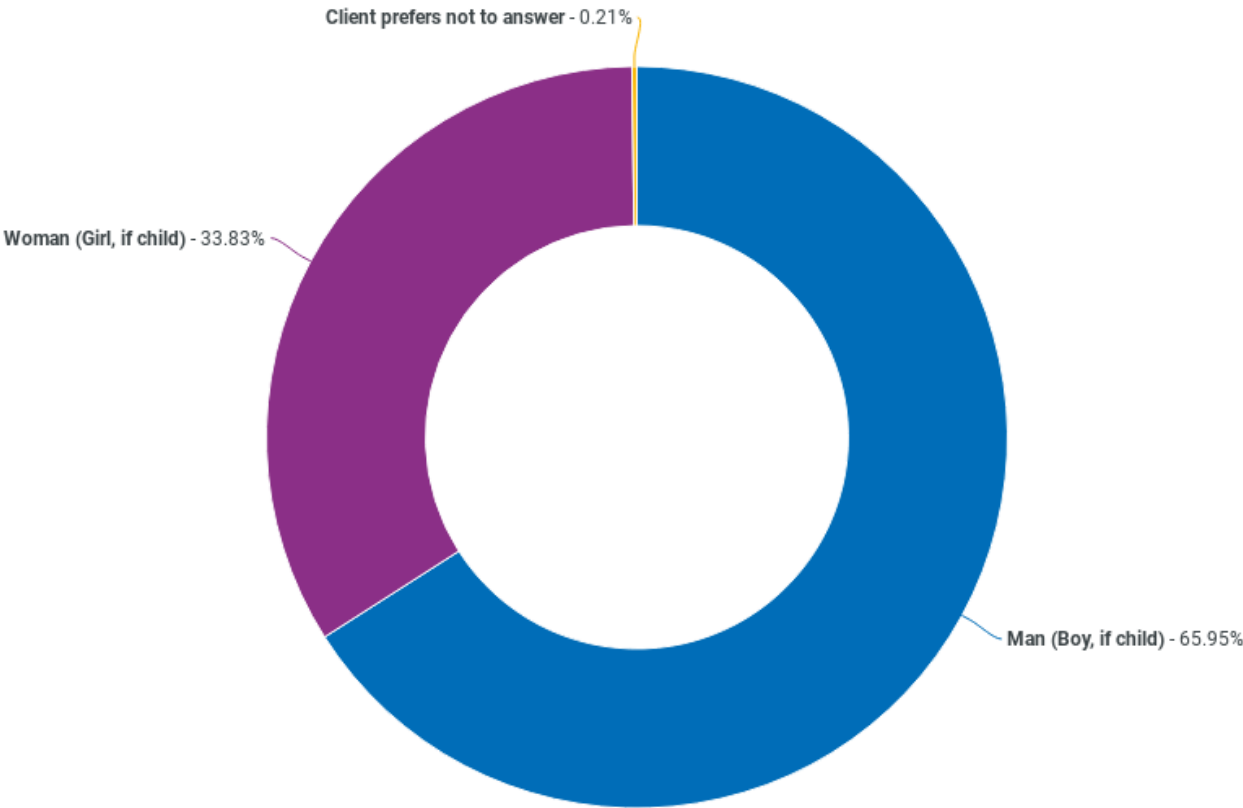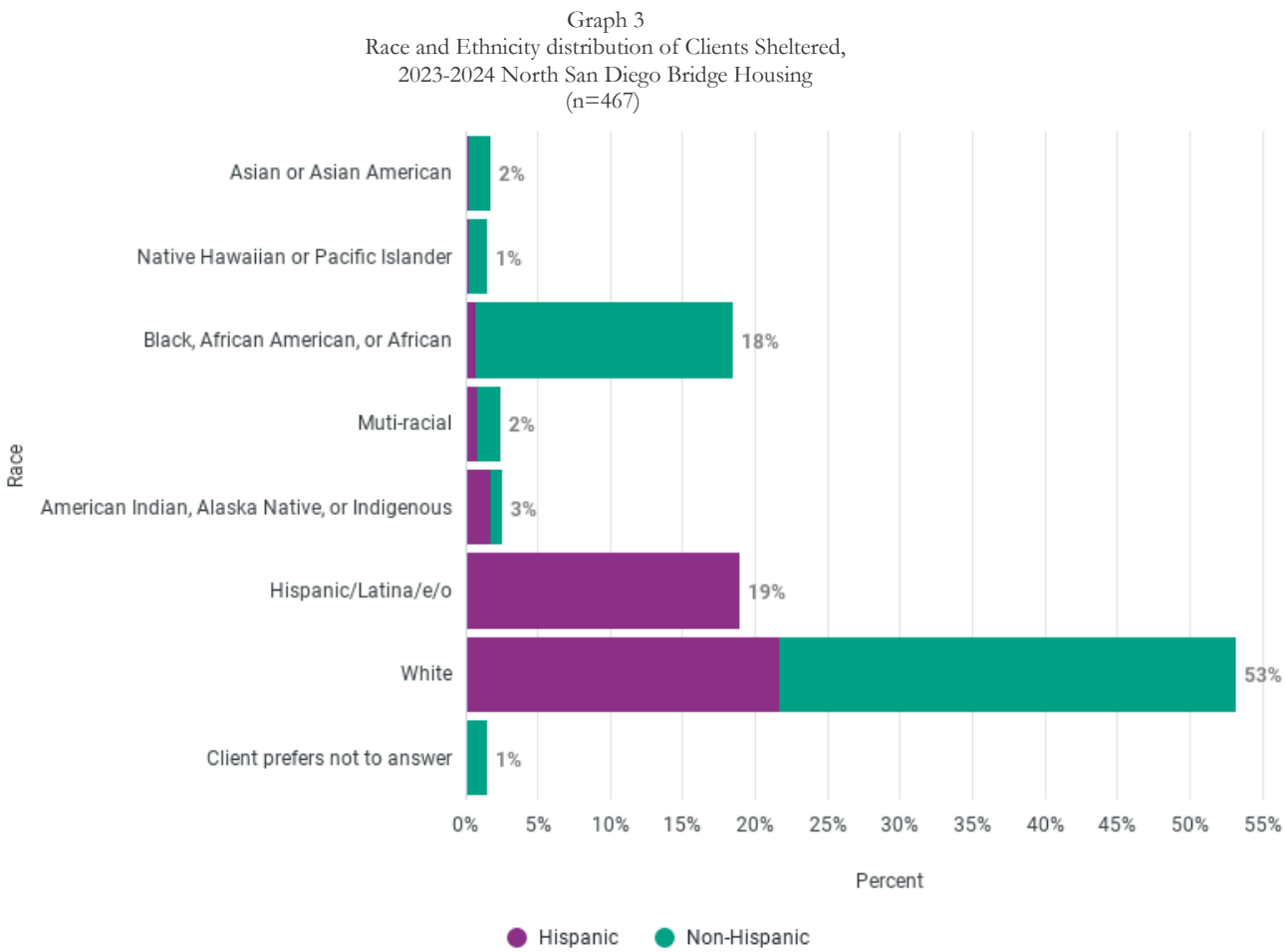
Table 2.   **Race and Ethnicity distribution of Clients Sheltered**

Race distribution of Clients Sheltered		
	Client Percent	
Race and Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
White	22%	31%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	19%	0%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	2%	1%
Multi-Racial	1%	1%
Black, African American, or African	1%	18%
Asian or Asian American	0%	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	1%
Client prefers not to answer	0%	1%
Total	**206**	**261**

Breaking down the age demographics of sheltered clients, 12.6% were aged between 45-54, 13.7% fell within the 55-61 age bracket, and 12% were aged 62 and above. Notably, children (those 17 years or younger) constituted 29% of the clientele with young kids aged 5-12 representing the largest portion of youth at 15.8% This means that a significant 71% of the sheltered clients were adults, ranging from 18 to 62 years and older (Graph 4).

Graph 4
Age Group of Clients Sheltered,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467) [1]

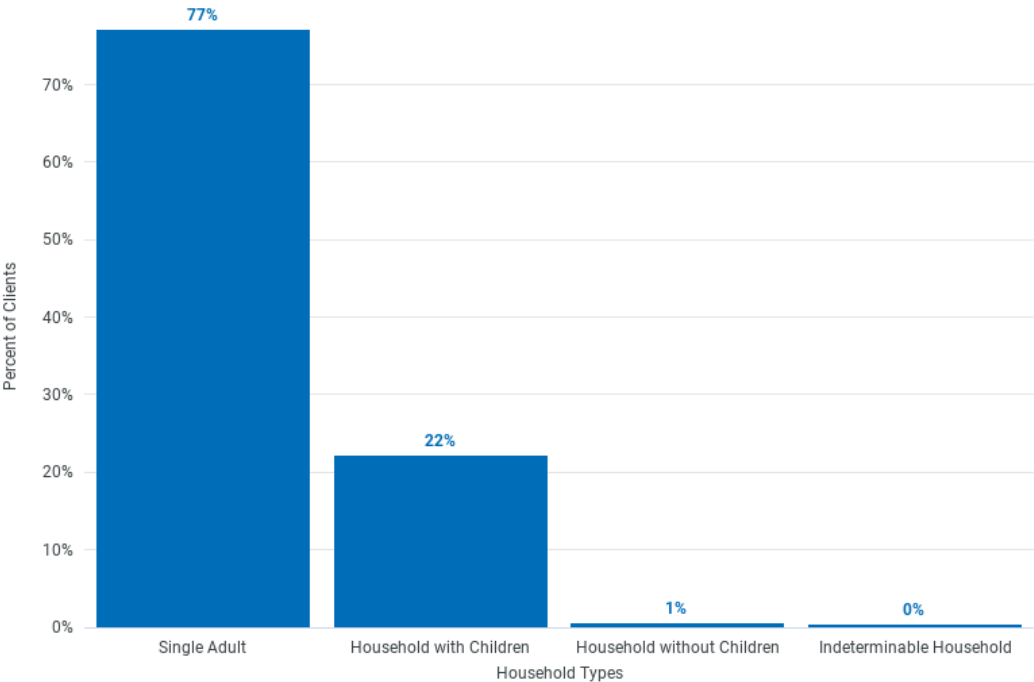| Age Tier	Percentage
Under 5	9.0%
5-12	15.8%
13-17	4.3%
18-24	4.5%
25-34	13.3%
35-44	14.6%
45-54	12.6%
55-61	13.7%
62+	12.0%
CDK / Refused / DNC	0.4%
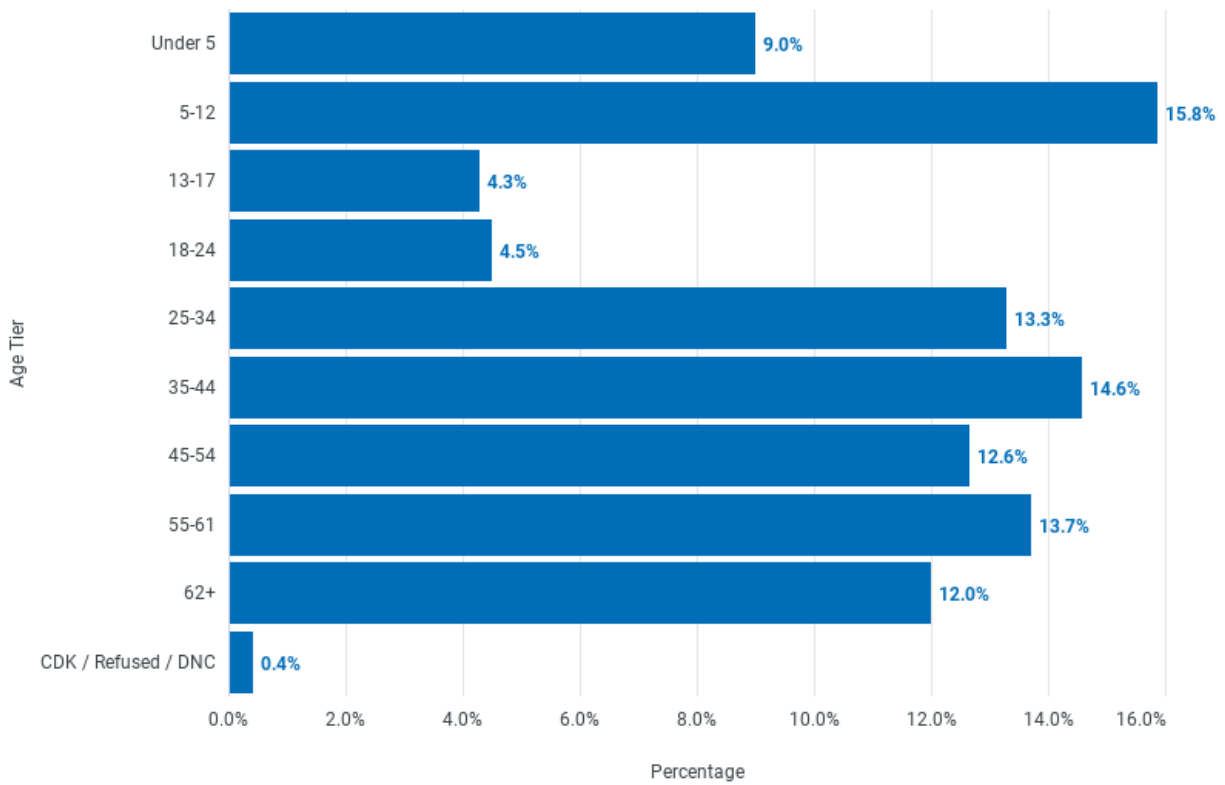
[1]   Age of the client at the project start.

Analyzing the enrollment patterns, 49% of clients registered alongside family members, while the majority, 51%, enrolled as individuals (see Graph 5). When examining the types of households served, 22% are categorized as "Households with children", whereas a significant 77% fall under "Single Adult" households (refer to Graph 6).

Graph 5
Family versus Individual Client Enrollments,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467)

Family - 48.61%

Individual - 51.39%

Graph 6
Households Served by Households Type,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=79)

Percent of Clients

77%

22%

1%

0%

Single Adult · Household with Children · Household without Children · Indeterminable Household

Household Types

Out of the 467 clients, a majority of 51% are single adults. In contrast, 48% are part of "Households with children" (illustrated in Graph 7). Delving deeper into the 223 clients from "Households with Children" (graph 8), adults constitute 39%, while children represent a larger portion at 61%.

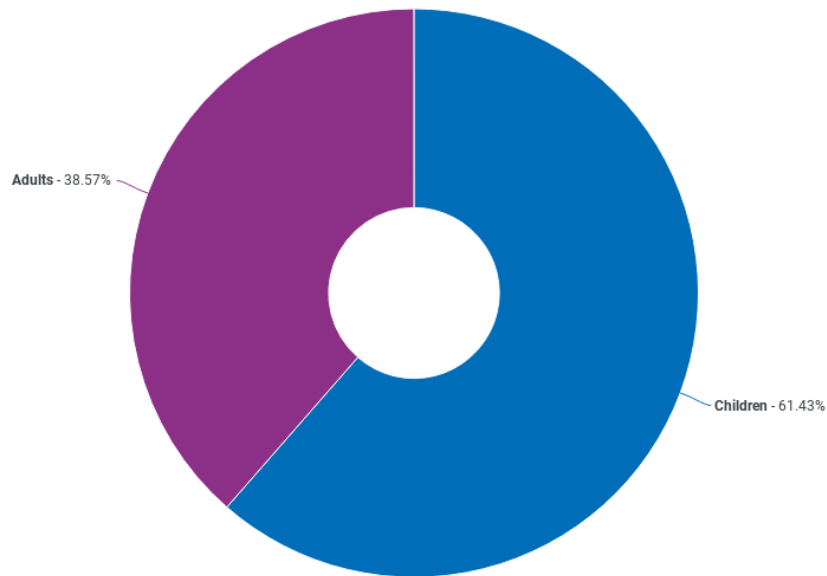Graph 7
Total Clients Served by Households Type,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467)
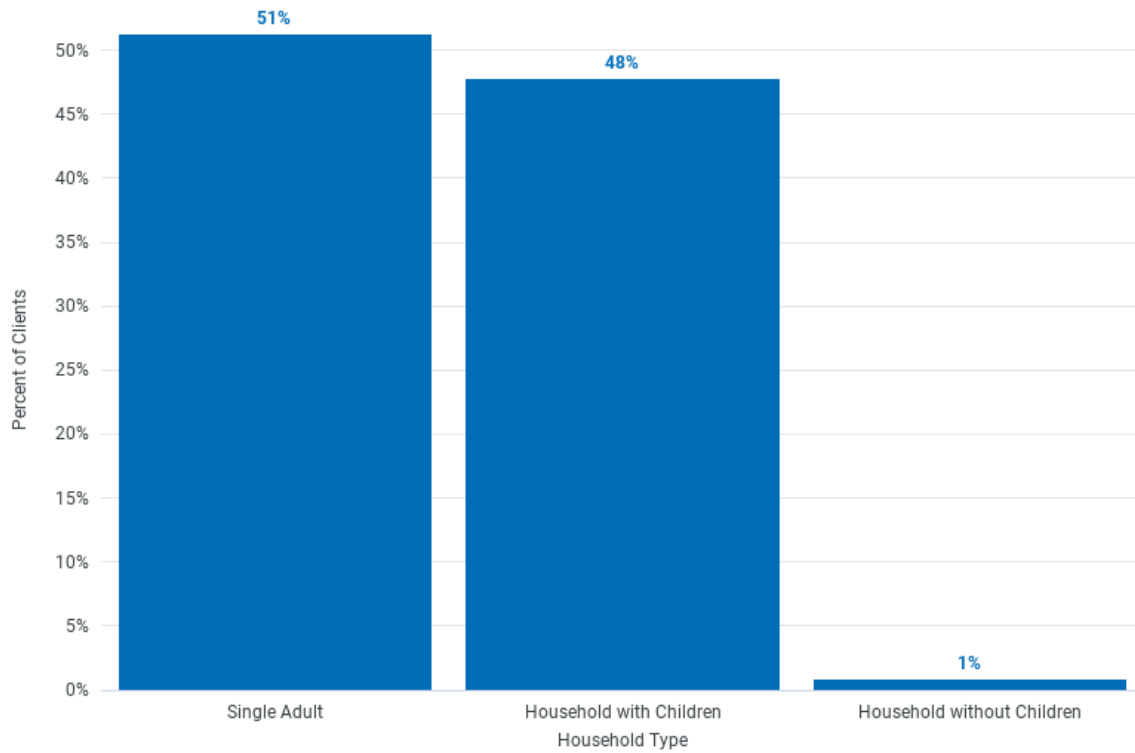
Graph 8
Households with Children and Adults Served
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=223)

Adults - 38.57%

Children - 61.43%

Graph 9
Location Immediately Prior to Entry
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=407)[1,2]
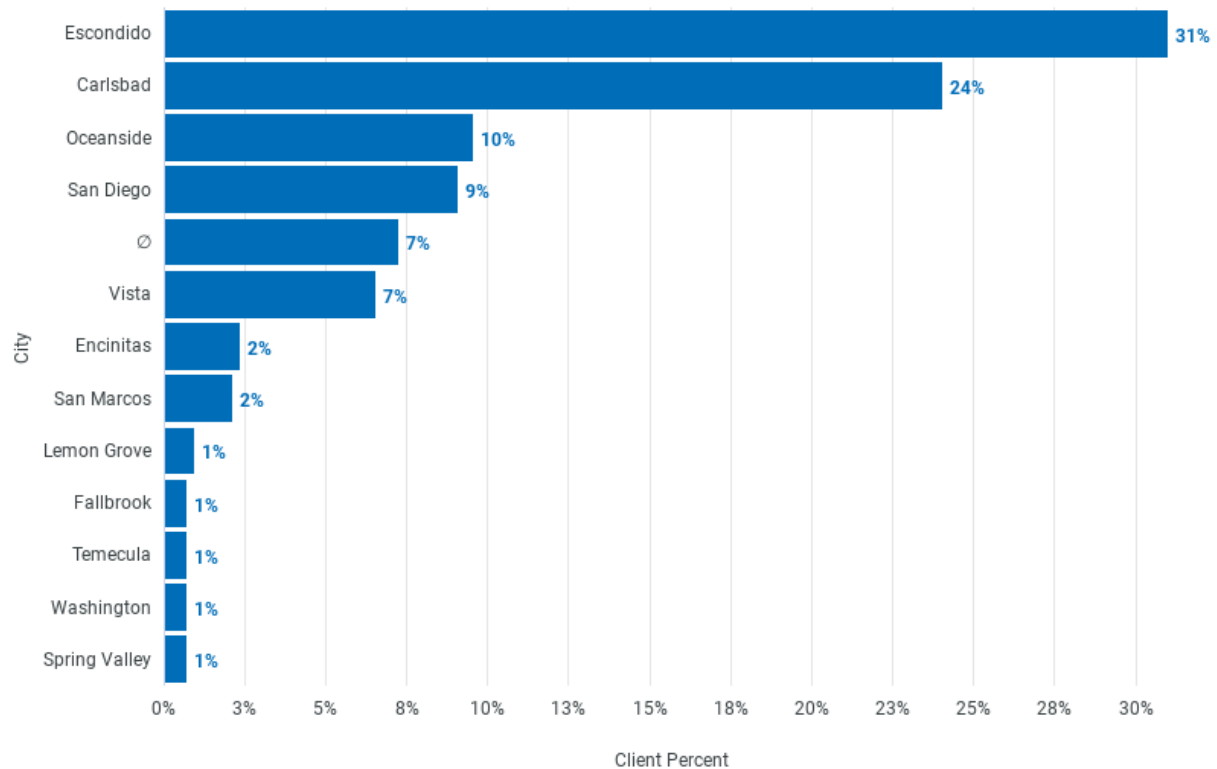
[1] Response categories Client Doesn't Know/Client prefers not to answer/Missing were collapsed into one category, "Data not Collected".
[2] Clients could have more than one enrollment, and therefore more than one location prior to entry.

An overwhelming 90% of clients who provided data indicated that they experienced homelessness within San Diego County just before entering the project. Specifically, 72% of these clients pinpointed their location of homelessness to North County San D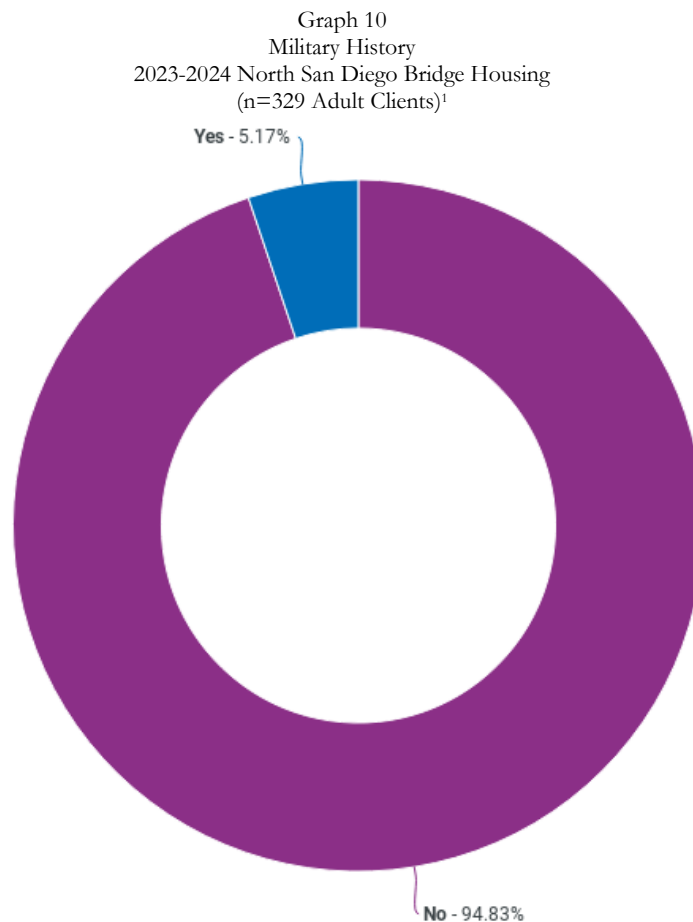iego. The primary areas within North County include Escondido (31%), Vista (7%), Oceanside (10%), and Carlsbad (24%). Furthermore, 1% of clients experienced homelessness outside of California prior to their project entry (refer to Graph 9).

Demographic details were specifically gathered for adult clients aged 18 and above, totaling 329 individuals. Of these adults, 5.17% reported a history of military service (refer to Graph 10). A closer look reveals that 100% of these veterans are male, and a notable 33.3% of all homeless veterans in the reporting cohort are chronically homeless (details in Appendix B, Table 9, 10).

Graph 10
Military History
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=329 Adult Clients)[1]

Yes - 5.17%

No - 94.83%

[1] Military history was not collected from all 467 clients because it is only applicable to adult clients.

Approximately 17.9% of adults disclosed a history of domestic violence (refer to Graph 11). Analyzing this by gender, of the 59 survivors of domestic violence, 62.7% identified as female, and 37.3% as male (see Graph 12).

Graph 11
Survivors of Domestic Violence
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing

(n=329 Adult Clients)[1]
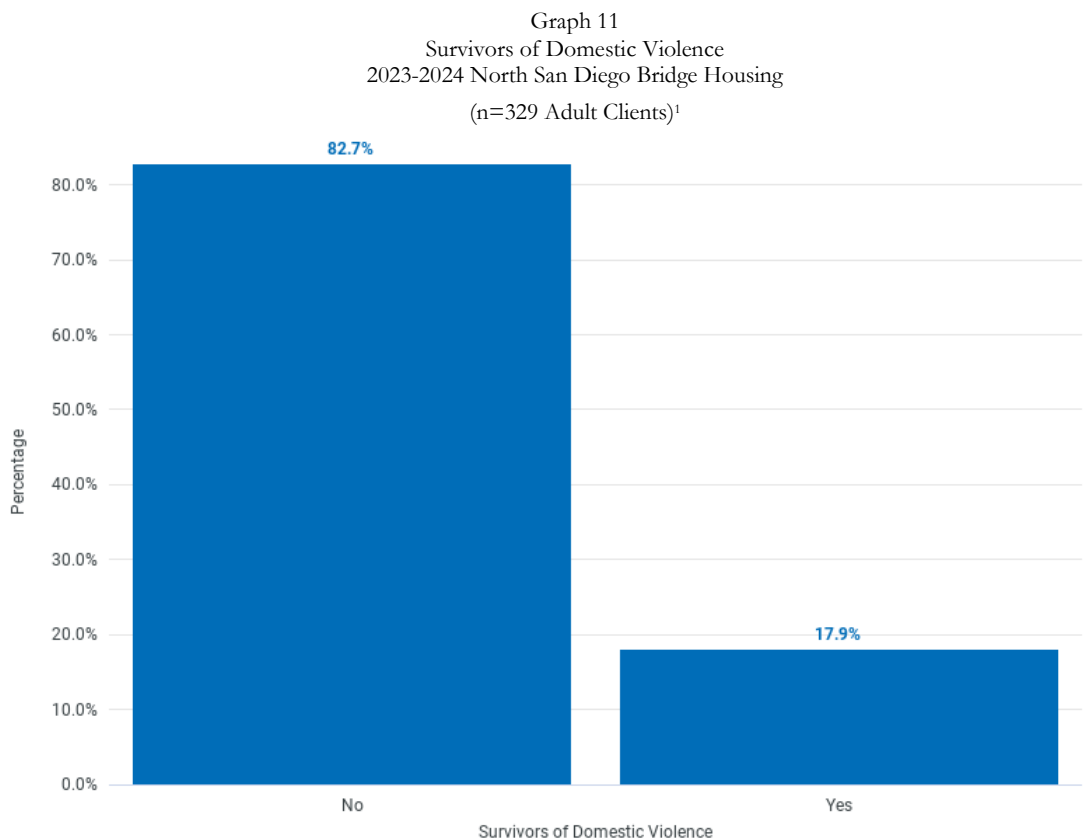
[1] History of domestic violence was not collected from all 467 clients because it is only applicable to adult clients.

Graph 12
Domestic violence History by Gender
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=59 Adult Clients)

Man (Boy, if child) - 37.29%

Woman (Girl, if child) - 62.71%

Forty-five (45.1%) of clients indicated they have a disabling condition, whereas 54.7% stated they do not have such a condition (refer to Graph 13).

Graph 13
Disabling Condition
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=470 Clients)[1]

Client prefers not to answer - 0.21%

Yes - 45.11%

No - 54.68%
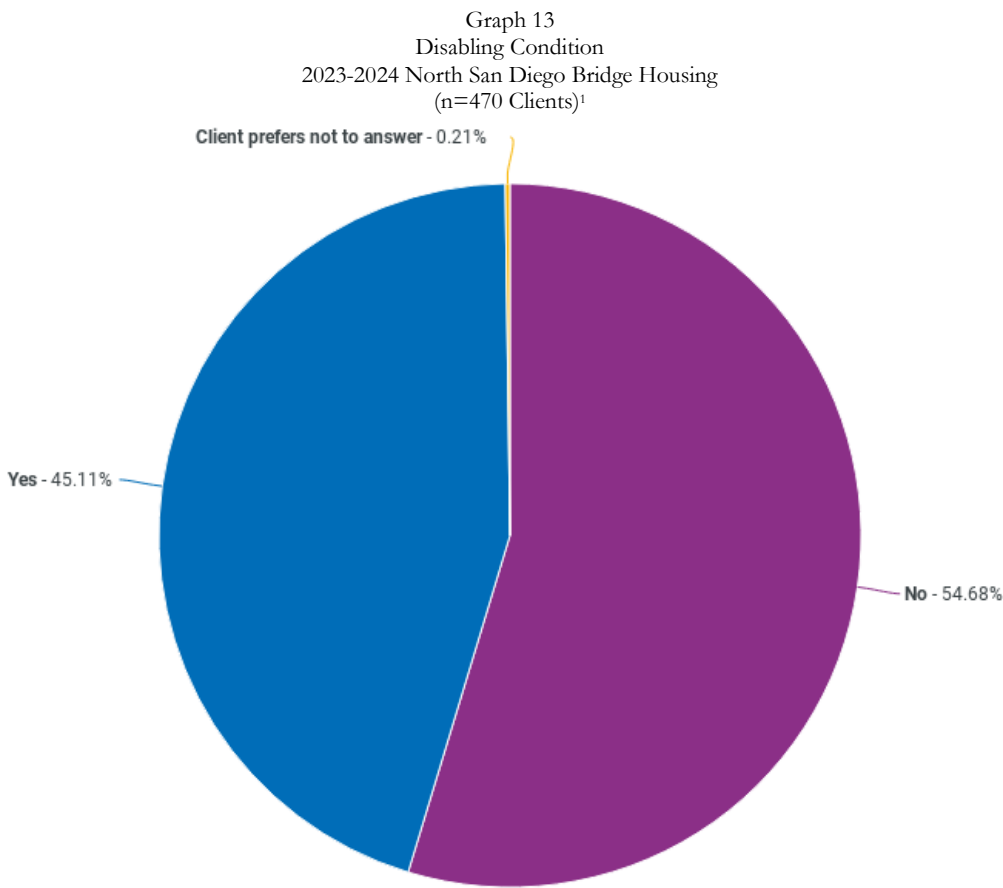
[1] Some clients have more than one enrollment throughout the reporting period; hence, there are more than 467 disabling condition responses.

Among the clients, physical disabilities and mental health disorders were the most commonly reported conditions with 118 and 112, respectively. Chronic health conditions were cited 105 times, substance abuse 83 times, and developmental disabilities 32 times. A minimal number of disabilities reported, 3% (6), were reported as HIV/AIDS (see Graph 14).

Graph 14
Disability Type
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=218 clients)

Disability Type	Client Count	Percentage of Clients with Disability
Physical Disability	118	54%
Mental Health Disorder	112	51%
Chronic Health Condition	105	48%
Substance Use Disorder	83	38%
Development Disability	32	15%
HIV/AIDS	6	3%
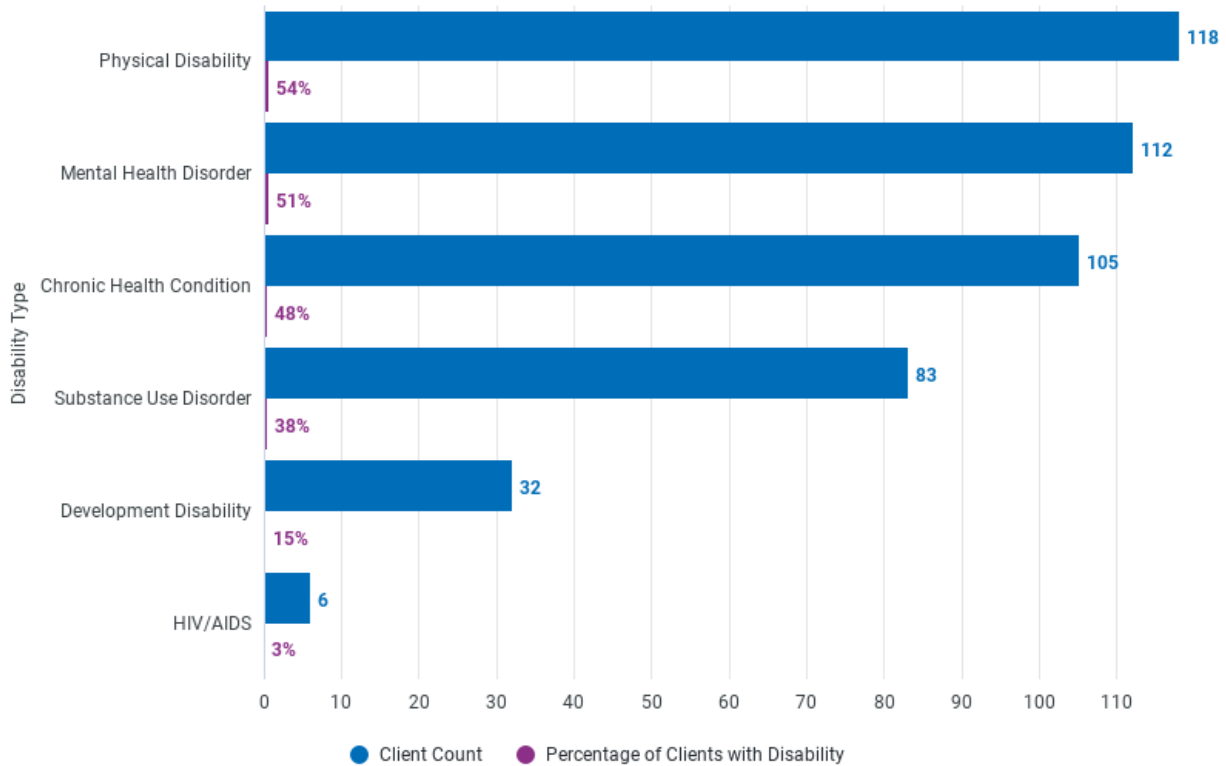
[1] In determining the total number of distinct clients with a disablement, it was found that there are 218 clients. This figure takes into account that certain clients have been diagnosed with multiple conditions. Therefore, the total number of disabilities exceeds the number of unique clients.

Out of the total clients served, 62% (or 136 clients) reported having two or more co-occurring disabilities. Meanwhile, 37% (or 82 clients) indicated they have just one type of disability. Specifically, 34% (or 75 clients) mentioned two co-occurring disabilities, and about 28% (or 61 clients) reported three or more types of disabilities. (Refer to Graph 15).

Graph 15
Disabilities by Number
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=218 clients)
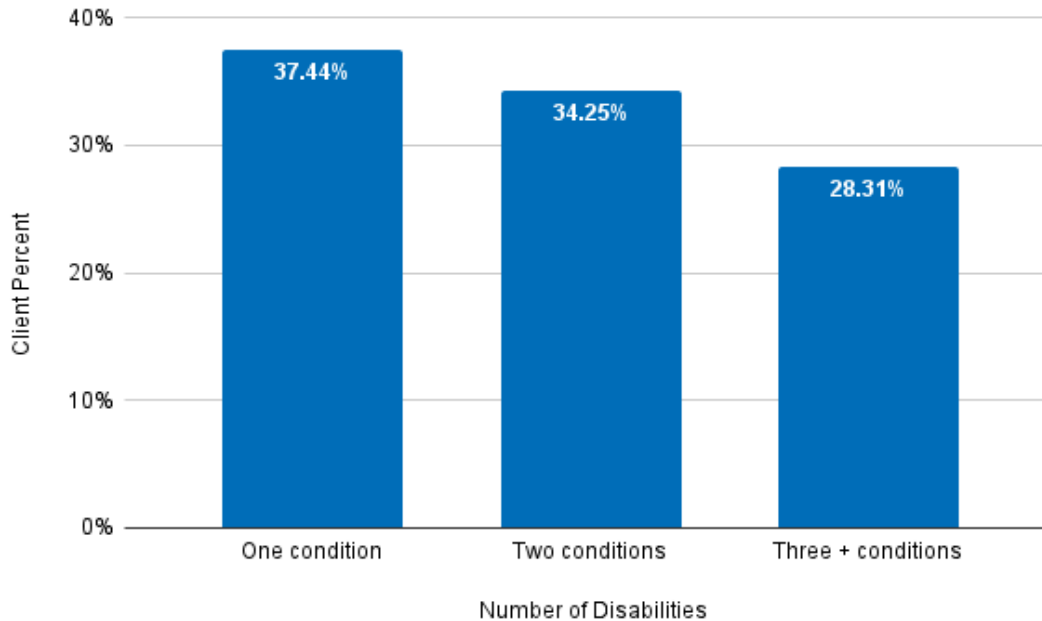
Chronic homelessness is defined by prolonged or recurrent periods of homelessness, typically manifesting as life on the streets, in emergency shelters, or in safe havens, coupled with a persistent disabling condition. In the 2023-2024 operating year, 21.4% of all clients served were identified as chronically homeless upon their enrollment into an ARS shelter (see Appendix Data Table 20). A gender breakdown reveals that 87% of these individuals were male, while 12% were female. 1% of clients declined to share their gender (refer to Graph 16). The age group 55-64 stood out, with 29% of the chronically homeless clients falling into this category, making it the most represented age bracket (Appendix Data Table 22). At the point of project entry, 54 of these chronically homeless individuals reported mental health issues, 40 indicated substance use disorders, and 58 cited physical disabilities (details in Appendix Data Table 23).

Graph 16
Chronic Homelessness amongst Clients Sheltered
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=100 clients)
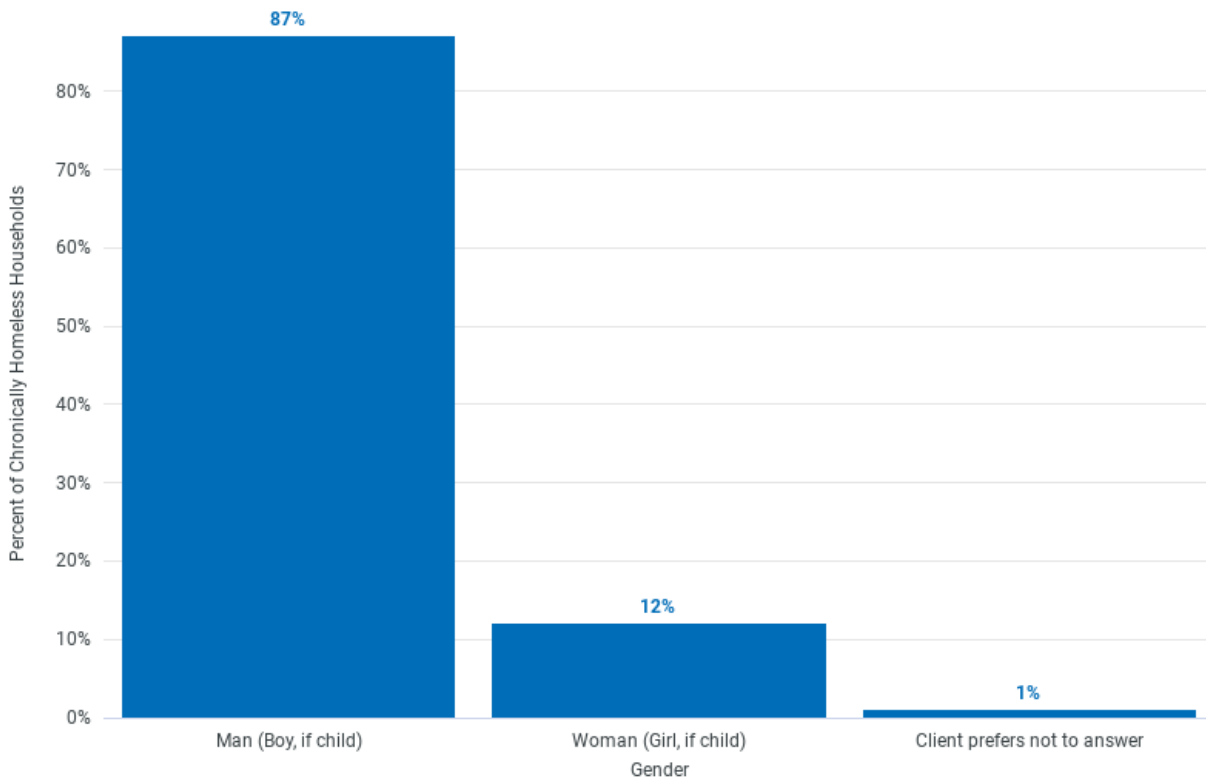
[1] In this analysis, all chronically homeless adults were included without consideration for family status.

[2] HUD Chronic Homelessness Definition: an individual (1) with a disabling condition or expected to be of long–continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs ability to live independently of physical disability, developmental disability, chronic health condition, HIV/AIDS, mental health problem or substance abuse, and (2) who enter from streets, emergency shelter or safe haven, and (3) has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, OR (4) a household member of a head of household (who may be a child) or any adult in the household meeting the previous disability & homelessness criteria outlined in 1, 2 and 3. (HMIS Standard Reporting Terminology Glossary, October 2015, Version 2.2).

Data detailing the living conditions of clients the night prior to their shelter program entry was compiled for adult clients (n=329, see Graph 17). A significant 61% reported their immediate prior living situation as a 'place not meant for habitation'. This encompasses areas like streets, cars, abandoned buildings, fields, beneath highway overpasses, and other similar locations. Beyond these unconventional dwellings, a predominant number (37%) of clients transitioned to the shelter from unstable or temporary accommodations. This includes emergency shelters, motels or hotels (either funded by an organization or the client themselves), residences of family or friends, or institutional settings. However, self-pay motels aren't considered a homeless situation and may not be eligible for housing subsidy. It shows people most often are on the streets (61%), shelter (16%), or trying to make it on their own (6%) in a very expensive stop-gap.

Graph 17
Living Situation Prior to First Shelter Night for Sheltered Adult Clients,
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=329 Adult Clients)
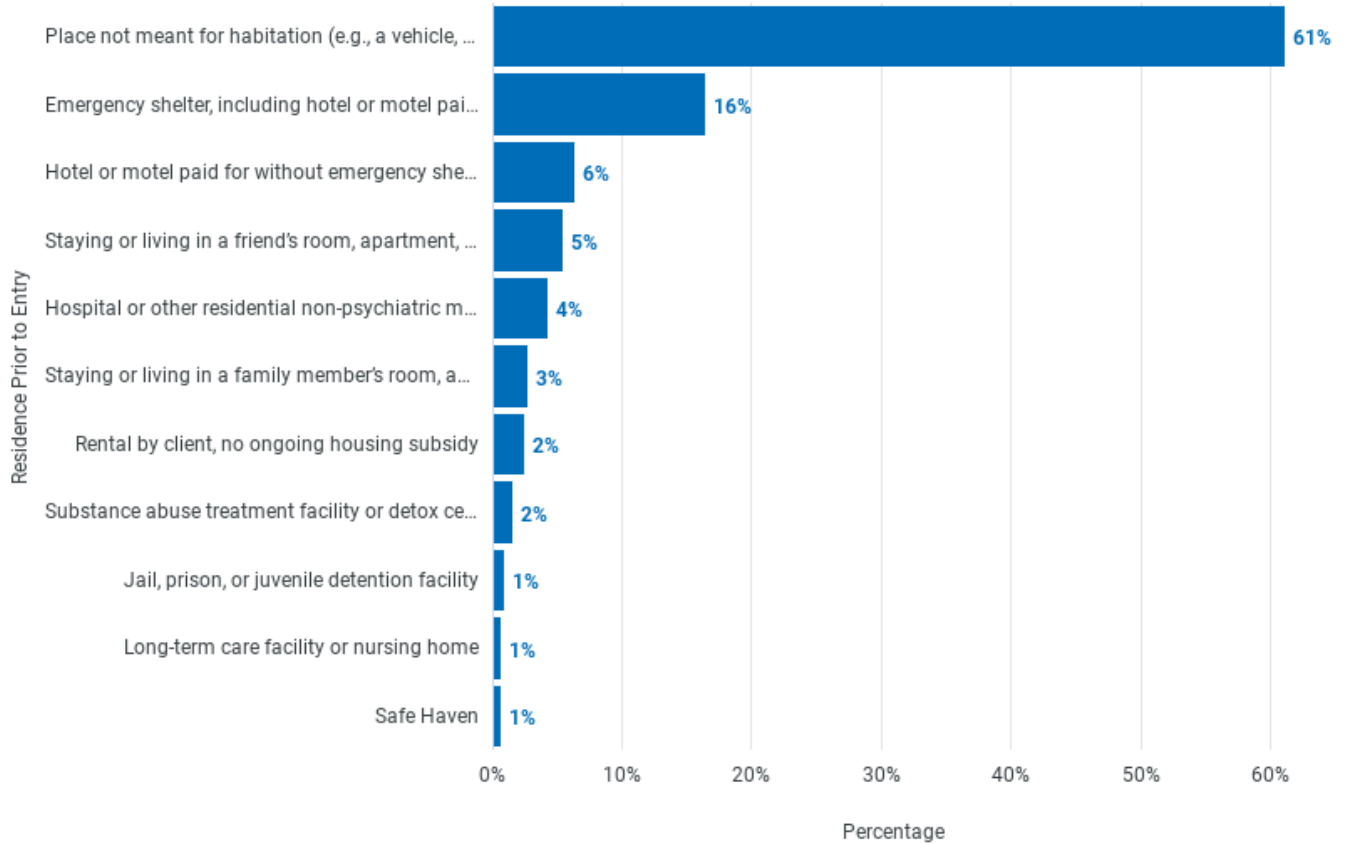
C. Income, Non-Cash Benefits, and Employment Situation

Information about a client's income at project entry was recorded for adult clients served. Only clients who were adults at entry had their income recorded upon entry into the shelter (n=329). 51% of adult clients reported having at least one source of income, and 49% said they did not have any source of income at entry into the shelter (Graph 18).

Of those with a source of income, a large plurality of clients reported receiving earned income from employment (29%), Social Security Income (SSI) (23%), or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) (11%) (Graph 19).

Graph 18
Income Received for Adult Sheltered Clients
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
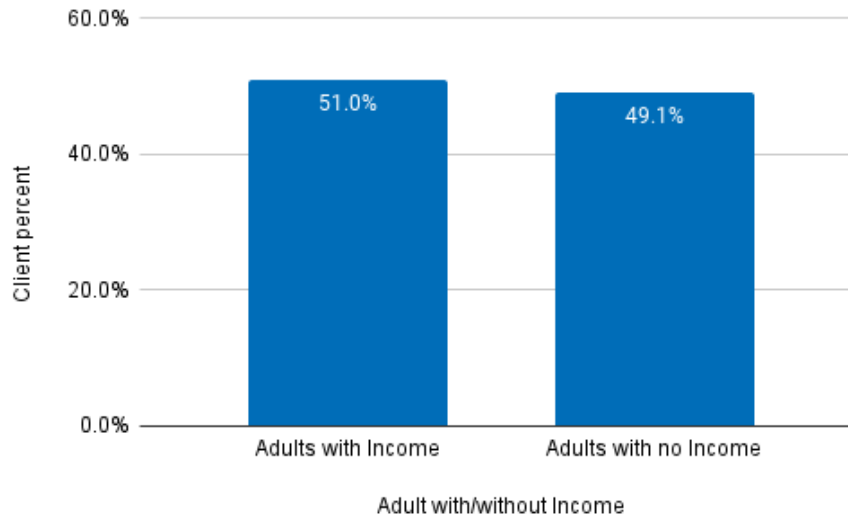
(n=329 Adult Clients)

Graph 19
Income Source for Adult Sheltered Clients
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing

(n=168 Adult Clients)[1]
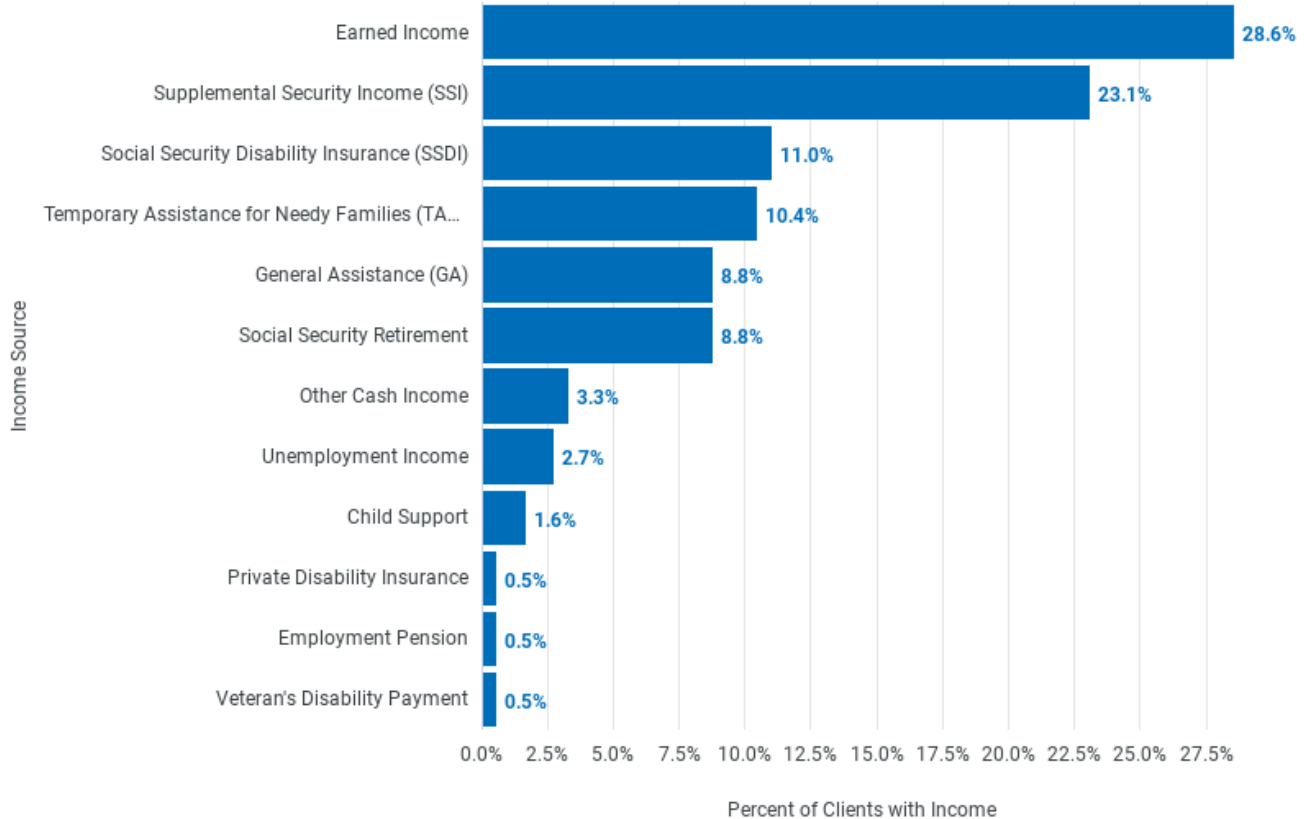
[1] Percentages add up to be greater than 100% because clients could report more than one source of income.

Income levels spanned a wide range among clients at ARS shelters. Monthly incomes ranged from a minimum of $73 to a maximum of $5,920 (refer to Table 2). A significant 93.5% of clients fell into the 'extremely low income' bracket, earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Another 5.3% were classified as 'very low income', earning between 31-50% of AMI, while a mere 0.6% were categorized as 'low income', earning between 51-80% of AMI (see Graph 21). The mean monthly income for clients who reported earnings stood at $1,391.21, with a median of $1,180. This suggests that the presence of data errors in which a few clients with notably high incomes is elevating the average income, making it higher than what might be anticipated in a standard distribution.

Graph 20
Income Levels - Count of Clients at each Income Brackets reported at Entry
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
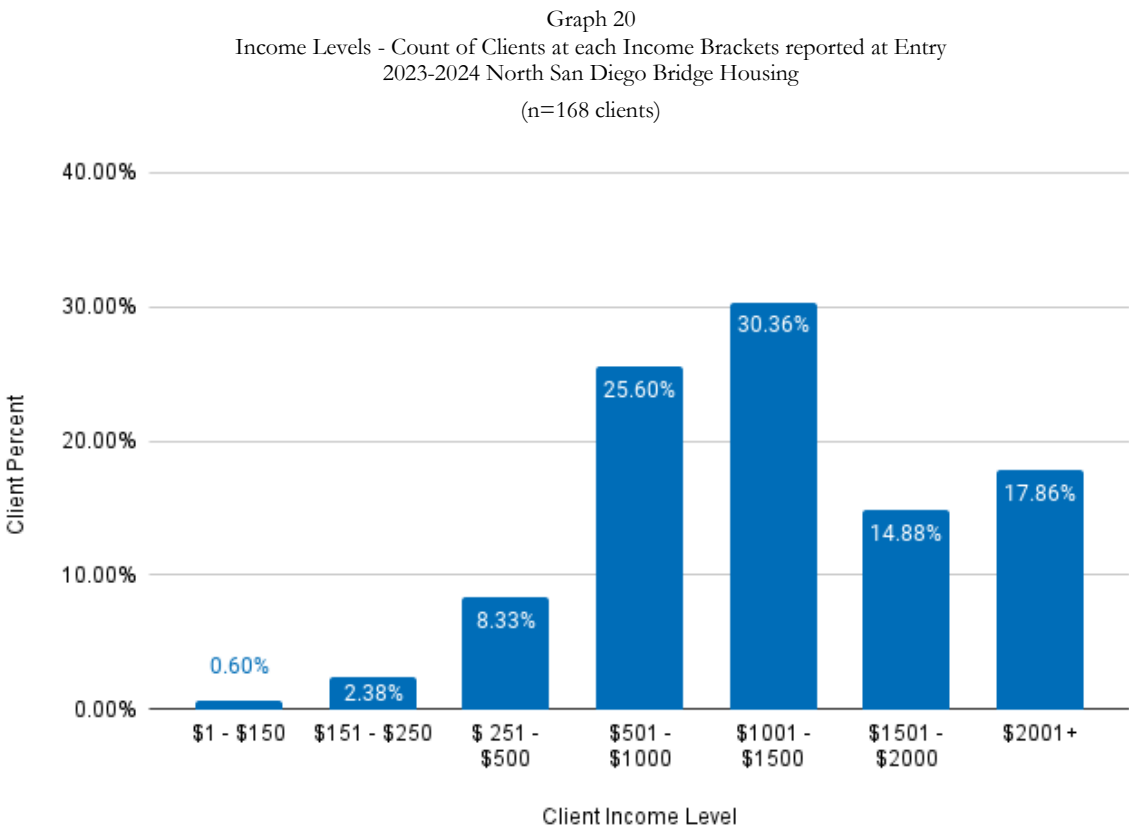
(n=168 clients)

Table 2.   Income Amount for Adult Clients Sheltered, 2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing (n=168 adults with income amounts reported) [1]

Summary of Income Amounts Reported			
Minimum	**Maximum**	**Median**	**Average**
$73	$5,920	$1,180	$1,391.21

[1] Income amounts from all sources totaled for each client.

Graph 21
Area Median Income – AMI as reported at Entry
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing (n=329)
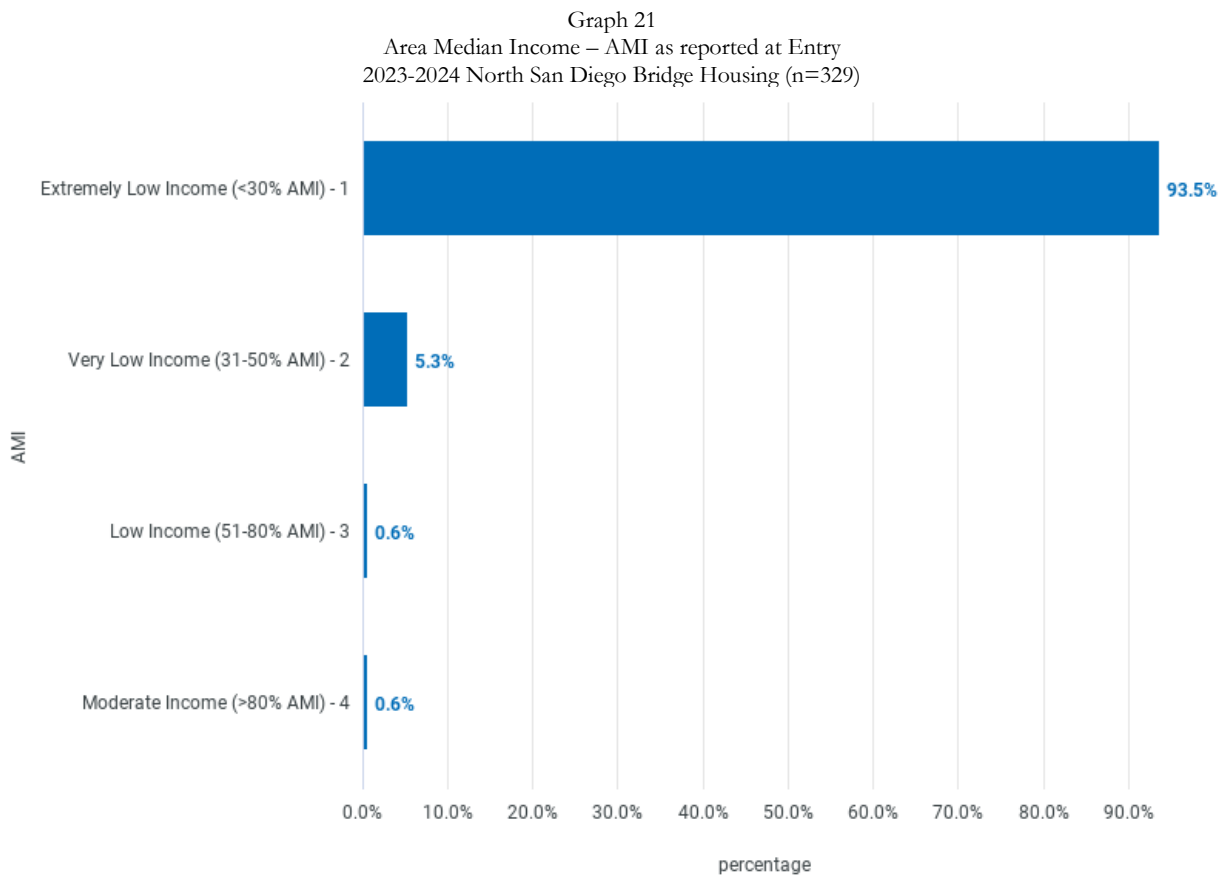
Non-cash benefits serve as a crucial resource for many clients. Upon project entry, 192 adult clients indicated they were beneficiaries of such non-cash aids, while 139 stated they weren't receiving any (refer to Graph 22). Diving into specifics, 188 clients were recipients of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps), and 4 clients reported availing other types of services (as depicted in Graph 23).

Graph 22
Non-Cash Benefit for Sheltered Adult Clients at Project Start
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=333 clients)
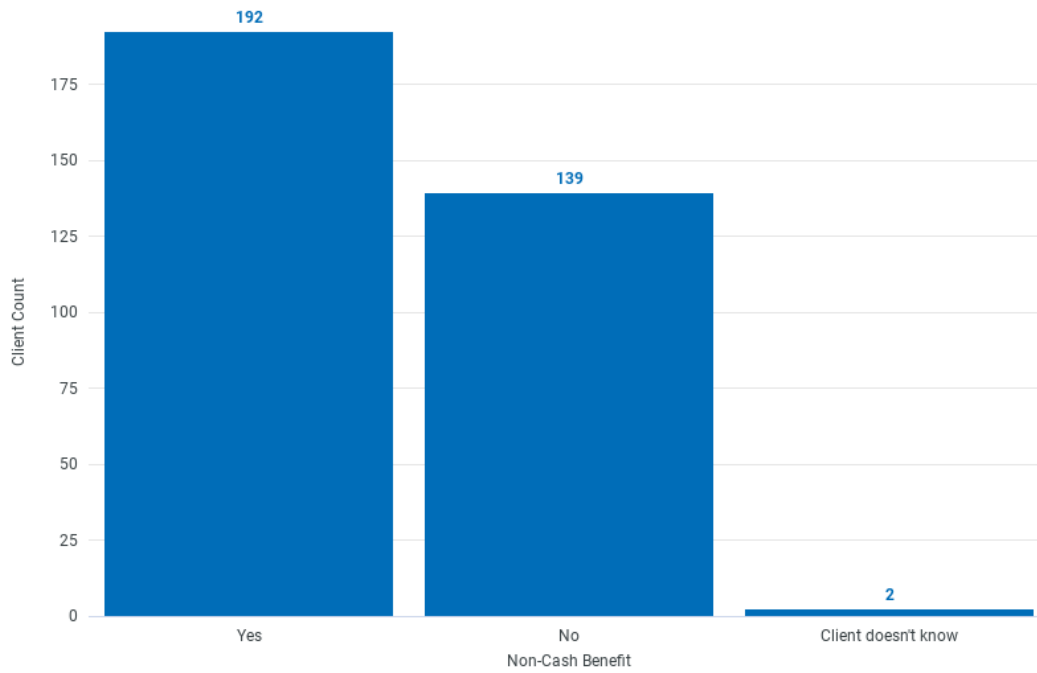
Graph 23
Non-Cash Benefit Type for Sheltered Adult Clients at Project Start
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=192 clients)[1]
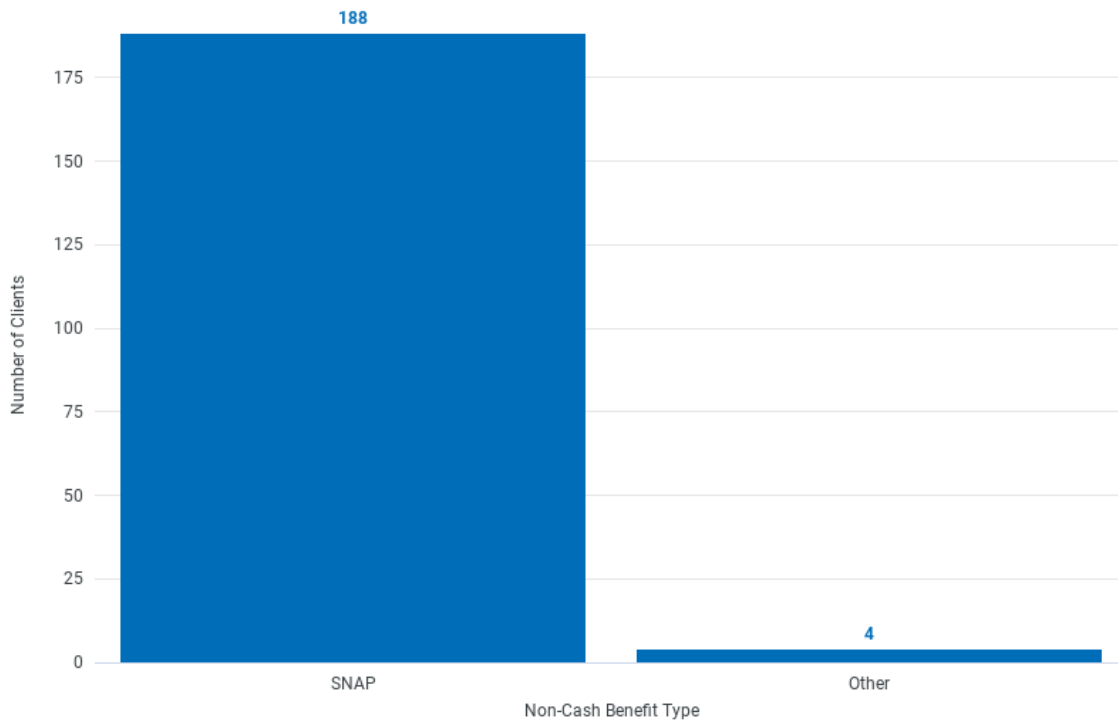
[1] "Other" include benefit types such as out of state SNAP equivalents and income from an unknown source.

D. Length of Participation in Shelters

Using HMIS data, we assessed the duration of unique shelter stays for clients in the ARS North County emergency shelter programs. A significant portion, 35% (or 164 clients), had continuous stays of 91-180 days (see Graph 24).

Graph 24
Length of Stay - All Clients
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=467 clients)
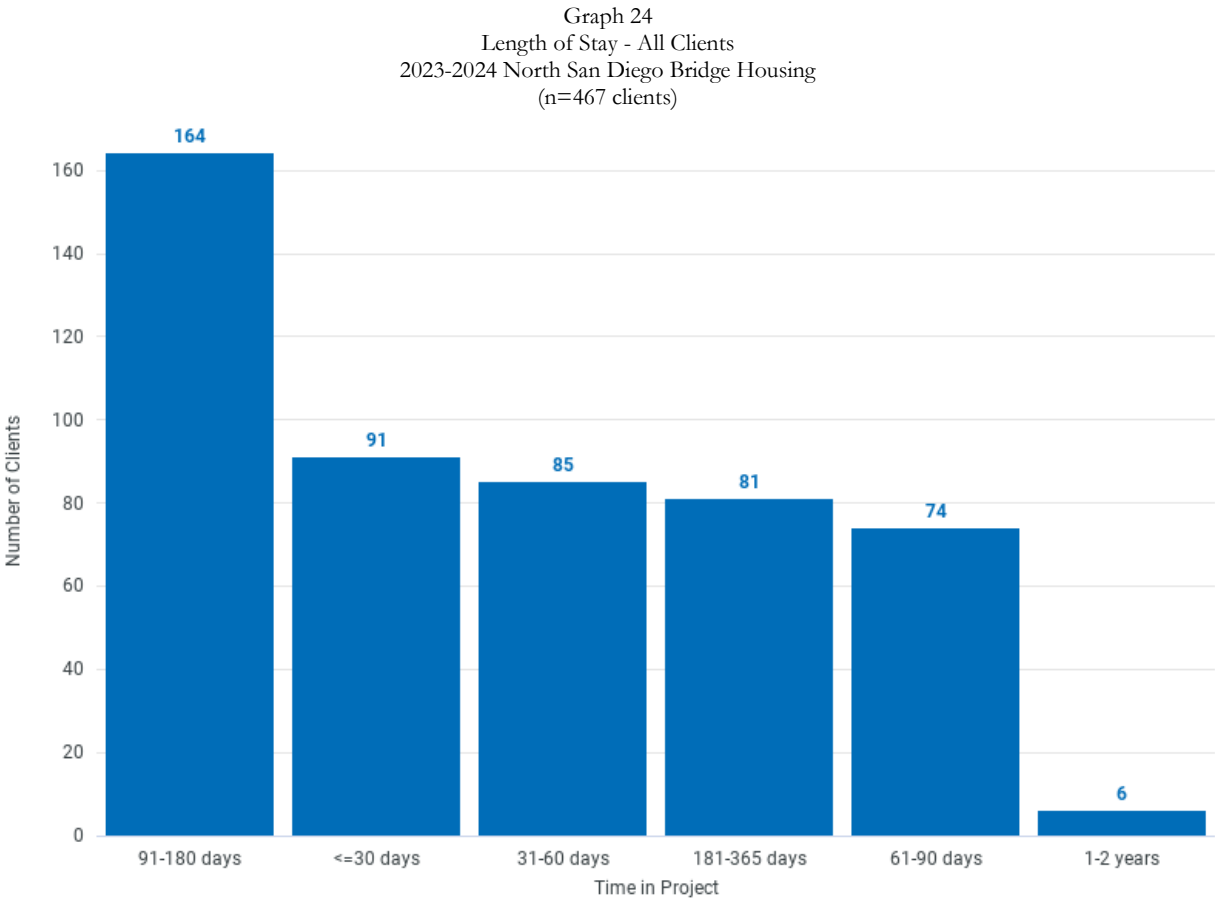
The number of stayers and leavers continuously decreases as the time in the project measurement lengthens (refer to Graphs 25 and 26). For the context of this report, a 'stayer' is defined as a client who remains enrolled in an ARS shelter up to the report's concluding day. Conversely, a 'leaver' refers to an individual who was enrolled at some point during the reporting year but was not enrolled in any ARS shelter by the end of the reporting period.

Graph 25
Length of Stay - Stayers
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=83 clients)
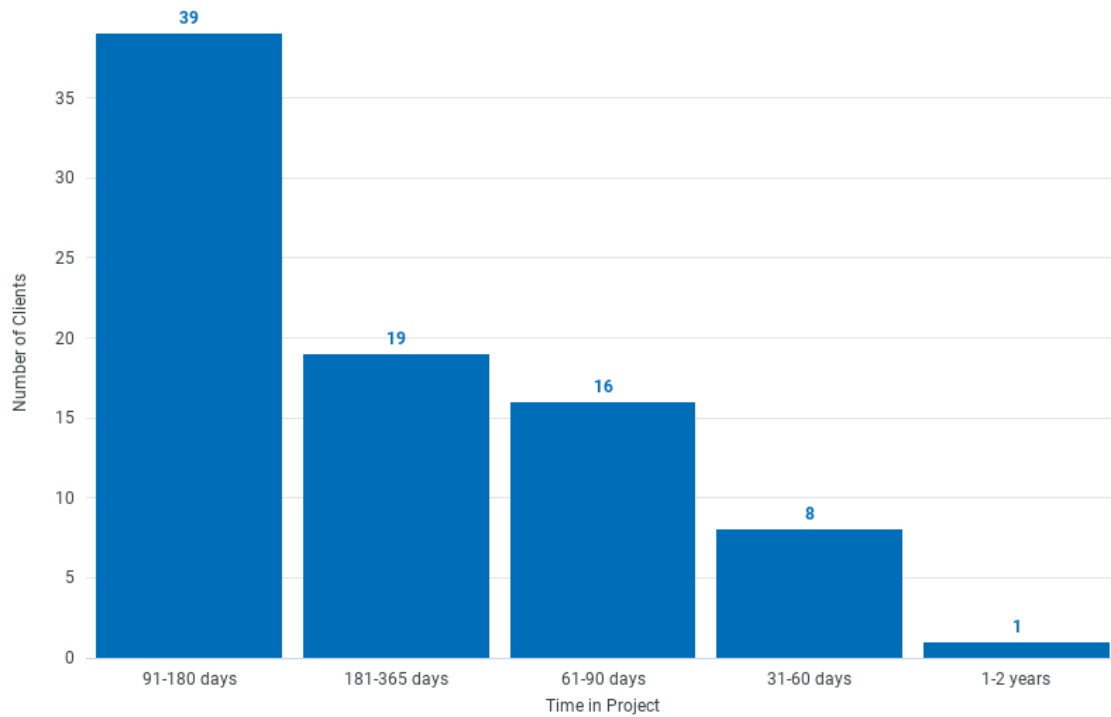
Graph 26
Length of Stay - Leavers
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=419 clients)[1]
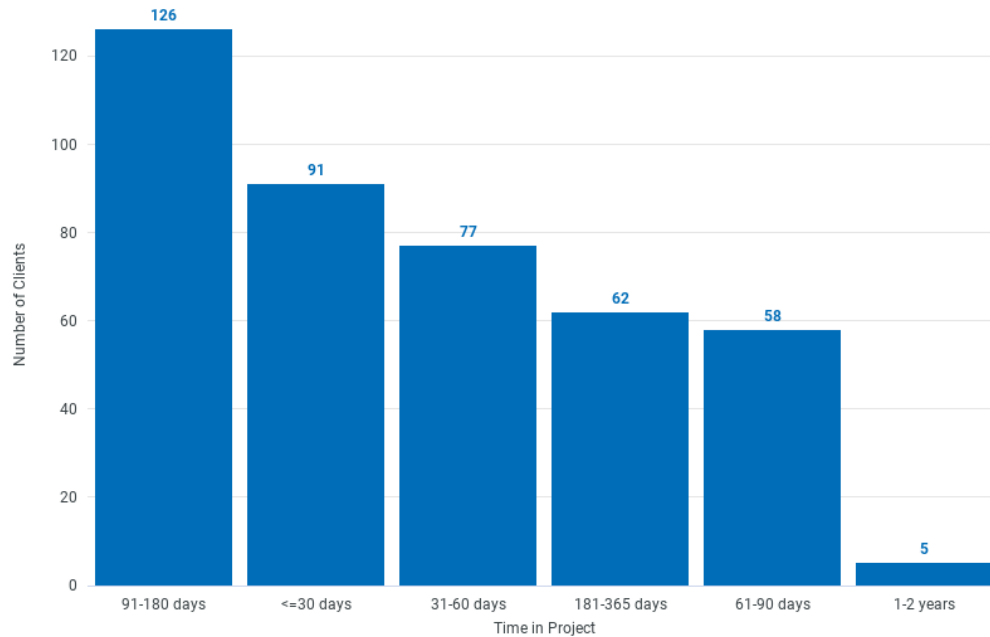
[1] The number of stayers and leavers does not equal the total number of distinct clients due to there being more than 467 enrollments into the various Bridge Housing programs.

E. Destination upon Leaving Shelter

For the 2023-2024 reporting period, exit data was captured for 84% of clients leaving shelters (352). Of the 369 departures from the shelters by the year's end, 15% (or 56 exits) were to another emergency shelter, while 19% (or 71 exits) were to another temporary or permanent housing situation (see Graph 27). The predominant exit route of these 352 clients, represented by 74 departures (21%), led to places not intended for habitation. An exit interview was unable to be completed for 47 enrollments (as depicted in Graph 28).
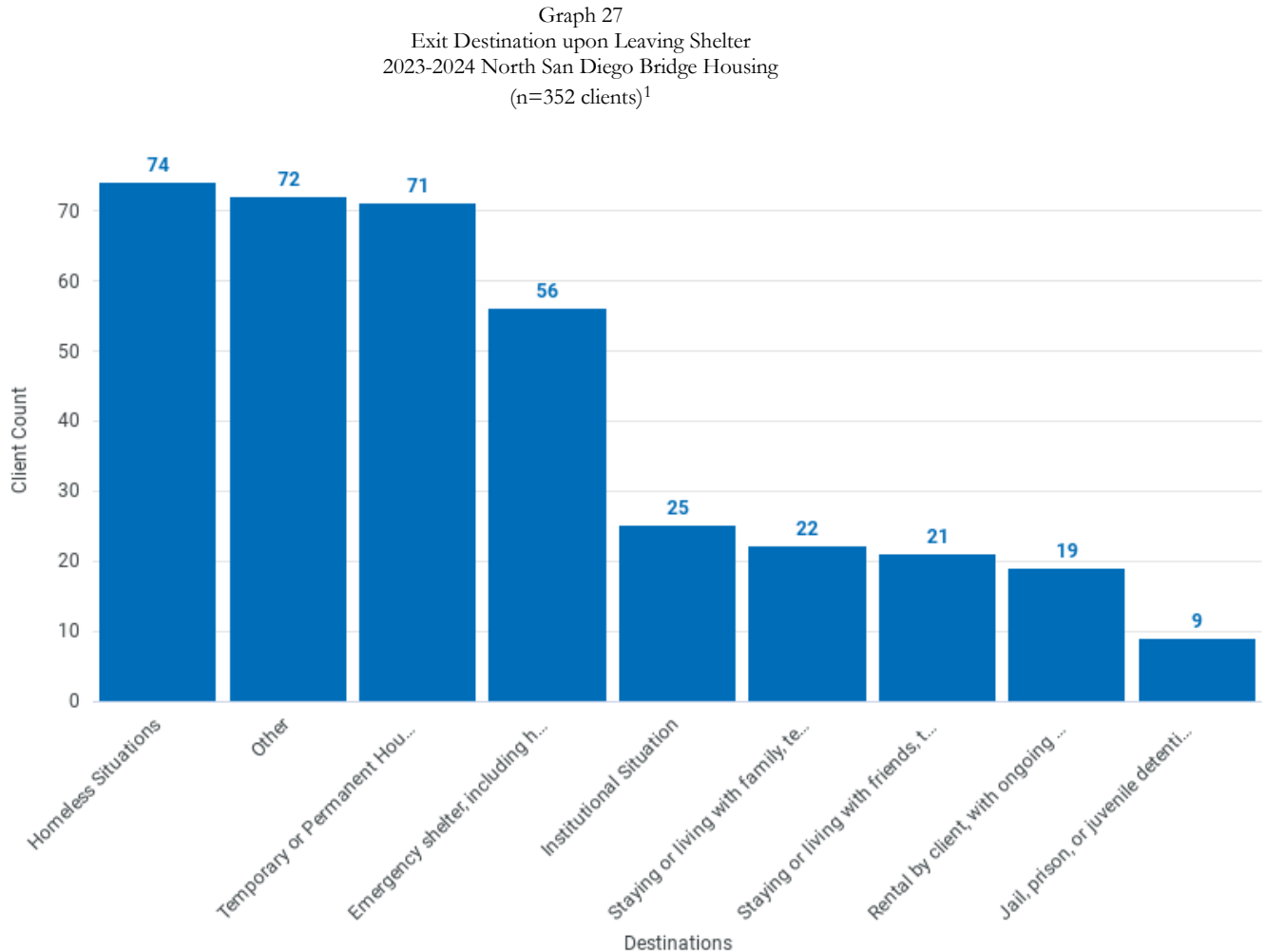
Graph 27
Exit Destination upon Leaving Shelter
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=352 clients)[1]

[1] There are more exit destinations than the number of unique clients (352) due to the multiple enrollments of some clients into these programs throughout the reporting period.

Graph 28
Exit Destination upon Leaving Shelter (by Category)
2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=352 clients)[1]

Destination	Client Count
Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, ...	73
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel pai...	56
No exit interview completed	47
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	28
Staying or living with family, temporary tenure ...	22
Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure...	21
Other	19
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	19
Transitional housing for homeless persons (in...	17
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency she...	13
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	12
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric m...	9
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	9
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox ce...	8
Data not collected	4
Foster care home or foster care group home	3
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	3
Deceased	2
Long-term care facility or nursing home	2
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	2
Safe Haven	1

[1] There are more exit destinations than the number of unique clients (352) due to the multiple enrollments of some clients into these programs throughout the reporting period.

F. Clients exiting 2022-2023 and returning in 2023-2024

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the clientele served by North San Diego Bridge Housing, we juxtaposed the list of clients sheltered during the 2023-2024 operating year with those from the preceding 2022-2023 year. Notably, 9.2% (or 43 out of 467) of this year's clients had also been served in the previous year. Nearly 70% of these returning clients were adults (refer to Graph 31).

Examining the gender distribution of these returning clients, approximately 77% were male, while close to 23% were female (see Graph 29). No clients identified as veterans (illustrated in Graph 32). Of this group of 43 returning clients, 36.5% of them reported a disabling condition (Graph 32).

Graph 29
Gender of Returning Clients Sheltered
North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=43 clients)
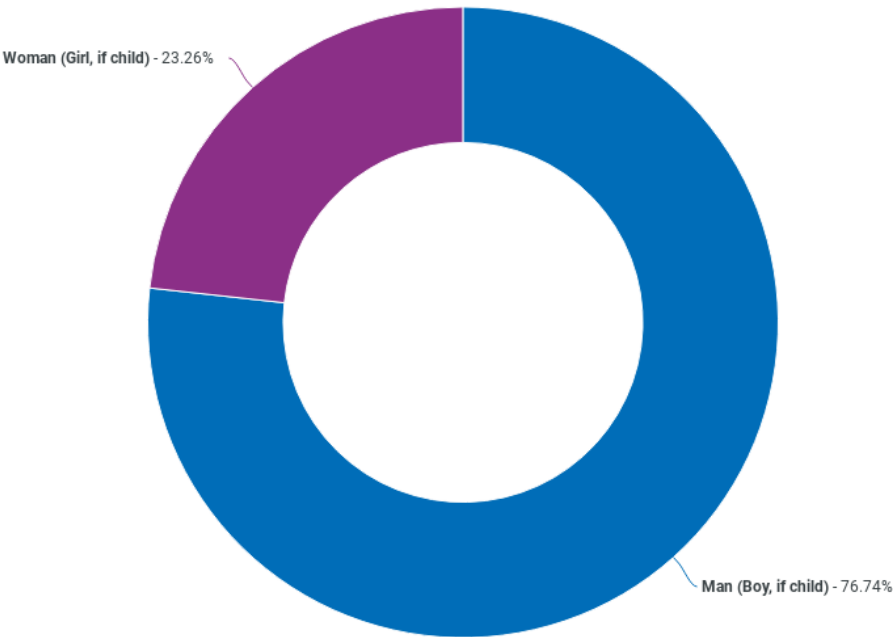
Woman (Girl, if child) - 23.26%

Man (Boy, if child) - 76.74%

[1] Clients with shelter stay(s) during the 2022-2023 year returning for shelter stay(s) during the 2023-2024 year.

Graph 30
Veteran History of Returning Clients Sheltered
North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=43 clients)
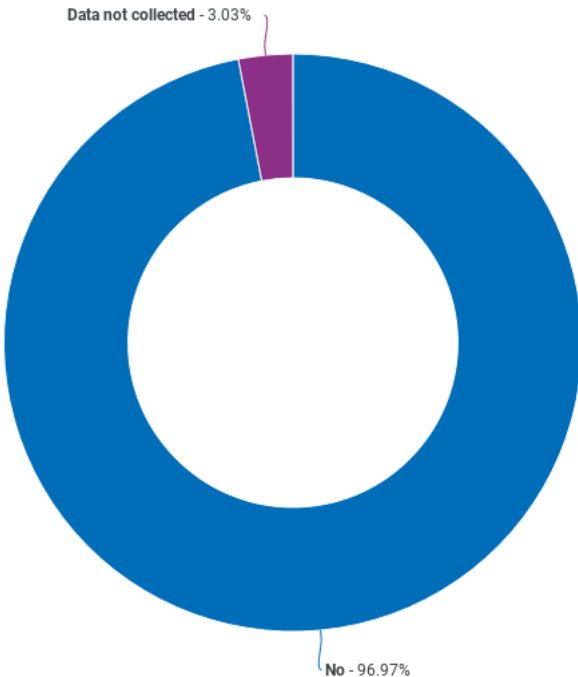
Data not collected - 3.03%

No - 96.97%

[1] Clients with shelter stay(s) during the 2022-2023 year returning for shelter stay(s) during the 2023-2024 year.

Graph 31
Age Group of Returning Clients Sheltered in both
2022-2023 & 2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=43 clients):

[1] Clients with shelter stay(s) during the 2022-2023 year returning for shelter stay(s) during the 2023-2024 year.

Graph 32
Disabling Condition Status of Returning Clients Sheltered
North San Diego Bridge Housing
(n=43 clients):
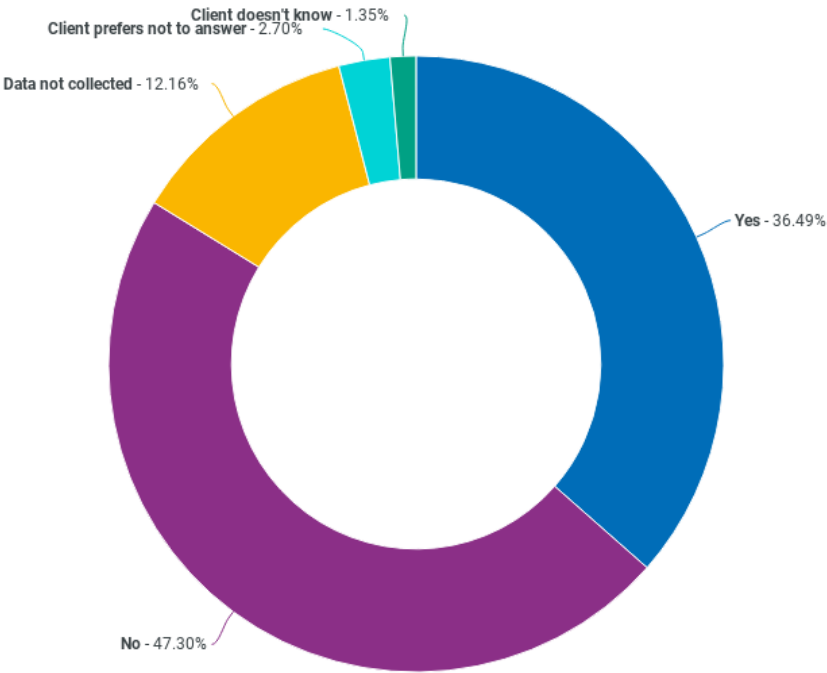
[1] Clients with shelter stay(s) during the 2022-2023 year returning for shelter stay(s) during the 2023-2024 year.

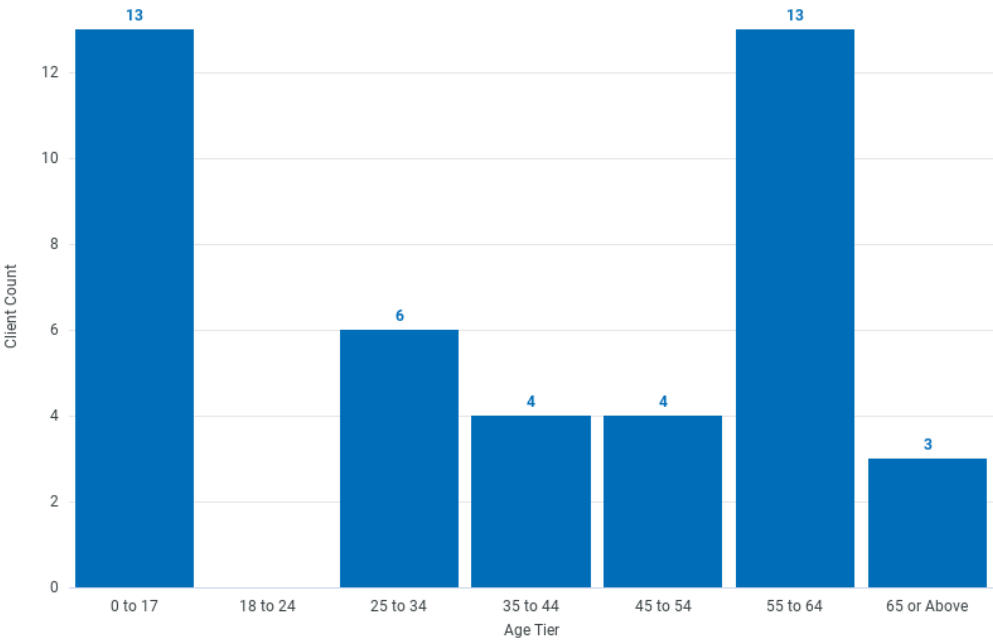Upon examination of the post-shelter exit destination for returning clients across the two years, noticeable variations emerged (as depicted in Graph 33). The following data pertains to the cohort of 46 clients who had an enrollment in each reporting year. These individuals had exited during the 2022-2023 year and subsequently returned in the 2023-2024 year.

Similarly, in both the 2022-2023 period and the 2023-2024 period, the predominant exits for these returners were to a location not designed for habitation and a rental by client with no ongoing housing subsidy. The trend in the various exit destinations seems to be consistent in both of the reporting periods, i.e. the types of exit destinations are receiving a comparable amount of clients in both time spans.

Graph 33
Exit Destinations of Returning Clients Sheltered in Each Year
North San Diego Bridge Housing
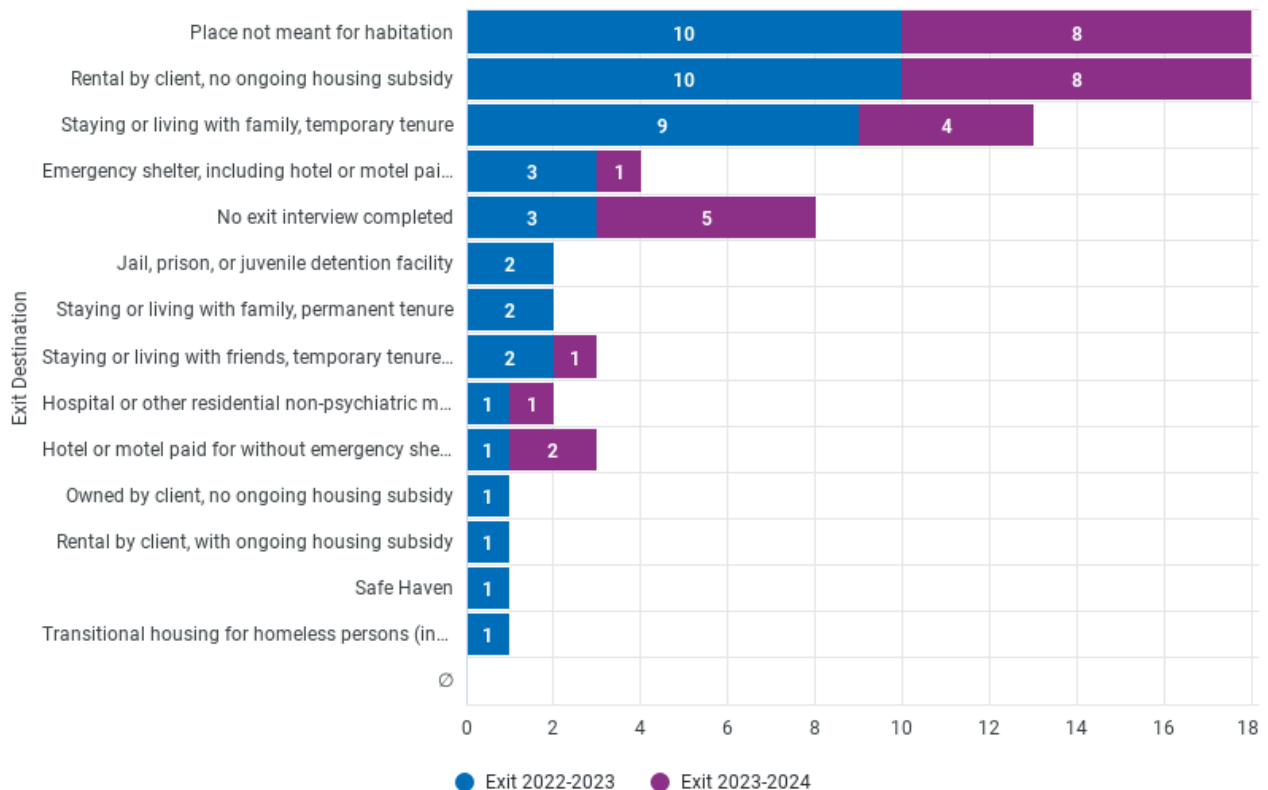
Summary

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the North San Diego ARS Bridge Housing accommodated 467 distinct individuals. The majority of these clients were predominantly white, male, non-Hispanic, and not part of a family unit, as indicated in Graphs 2, 3, 5, and 7.

The age brackets most frequently utilizing the shelter were those between 5-12, 35-44, and 55-61 years of age, constituting 15.7%, 14.6%, and 13.7% of the total population, respectively (See Appendix B, Table 3). Approximately 45% of the clients disclosed having at least one disability (Appendix B, Table 14). Physical disablements were the most commonly reported disability, affecting 26% of the clientele with a disability, followed by mental health disorders at 25%. HIV/AIDS was the least reported condition, making up just 1.32% of the cases (Appendix B, Table 15). Nearly 18% of the adult clients indicated that they were survivors of domestic violence (Appendix B, Table 12). Among these, 62.7% identified as female and 37.3% as male (Appendix B, Table 13).

When it comes to exiting the ARS shelter system, roughly 51%, 189 people, of leavers transitioned to a temporary or permanent housing situation such as an emergency shelter, staying or living with family or friends on temporary tenure, a rental by client with an ongoing housing subsidy, and others. Approximately 1 in every 5 people departed to a homeless situation (Graph 27). Given the emergency-focused nature of Bridge Housing shelters and their transient operational periods, it's noteworthy that 70% of stays during the 2023-2024 year were within a span of 90 days (Graph 26).

Cyclic shelter use—exiting and re-entering shelters—is sometimes a step in a client's journey toward resolving homelessness. Data shows that 9.23% (or 43 individuals) of the clients served this year had also utilized ARS shelter services in the previous year, 2022-2023. These returning clients were predominantly male (77%), non-veterans (74%), and a majority of them were below the age of 45 (53%) (Appendix B, Tables 24, 25, 26).

Additionally, 21.4% of clients were categorized as chronically homeless upon entering the ARS Bridge Housing shelters (Appendix B, Table 20).

In summary, the data collected offers valuable insights into the demographics and needs of the clients served by the ARS shelter system in North San Diego County. The ARS Bridge to Housing Committee will be presented with these findings in order to spark ideas for solutions and recommendations on how to best offer services.

Appendix A – Recommendations

The ARS North County Bridge Housing continues to impress with their consistent and careful data entry practices for data collected. The minimal amount of missing data illustrates their dedication to completing intake/assessment forms and meticulous data entry into HMIS. Moving forward, we offer the following recommendations:

1. **Employee Checklist:** Develop and provide checklists (sometimes known as "cheat sheets" colloquially) for staff to remember data entry steps, such as: ensuring to add the correct prior/current location for clients, ensuring the correct toggles are selected, and that all numerical data (such as client funds) are entered correctly.
2. **Client Exit Completion:** Consider implementing strategies, such as a communication card for clients to communicate back with the shelters, for data completeness when clients exit programs. Data shows (graph 33) that the number of exit interviews not completed amongst cohort returners rises, which results in data errors for ARS North County Bridge Housing.
3. **Shared Housing Opportunities**: Based on the income data in this report as well as recent and ongoing efforts to encourage a shared housing model, it is our recommendation to explore shared housing opportunities between clients in the ARS network of shelters.
4. **Enhanced Cross-Verification**: Utilizing the reports available in HMIS, it is our recommendation to develop and/or continue incorporating the use of a cross-check system between HMIS data and actual data about clients staying at the shelters. This will prevent any issues with income, prior living, or any potentially missing exits or enrollments and can enhance HMIS's ability to act as a live roster.
5. **Routine Data Quality Reviews and Updates**: Participate in the HMIS Monitoring to ensure accurate data quality has been met, in addition to regularly running and reviewing reports such as the APR to ensure timely entry of both enrollment and exit data at all shelters. If any data updates are needed, ARS North County Bridge Housing may correct data quality issues and collaborate with RTFH as needed.
6. **Continued Staff Training**: Continue to ensure staff who collect and/or record responses related to chronic homelessness are trained and fully aware of the HUD definition. Staff should also be well-trained to collect and record disabling conditions appropriately. Staff should also regularly have refresher training to further ensure guidelines are being upheld and lead to higher data competency.
7. **Incentivizing Data Competency**: Leveraging this performance report and HMIS data as well as reports available in HMIS can lead to the continued fostering of a culture of data competency and literacy in North County San Diego. Data Quality, timeliness, and data completeness check-ins with staff or teams can support an environment of collaboration and positive outcomes.
8. **Follow-up Data Collection**: Consider introducing more comprehensive follow-up data collection after clients exit the program. This data could provide crucial insights into the long-term impact of the program, contributing to a more informed strategy for sustainable solutions to homelessness.
9. **Continued Collaboration with RTFH**: As a final recommendation, we suggest maintaining and deepening collaboration with RTFH CoC staff in data analysis, review, and strategy implementation. ARS is an exemplary leader in community commitment towards solving homelessness in North County. Further collaboration between ARS and RTFH could significantly enhance the entire region's response to homelessness, using North County and ARS as a model.

As a concluding recommendation, we strongly advocate for the continuation and enhancement of collaboration with RTFH CoC staff. The process of analyzing, reviewing, and implementing strategies based on the findings of this report has proven to be an effective approach to enhancing capacity building, system planning, and implementation. The ARS's leadership and unwavering commitment have played a pivotal role in addressing homelessness in North County. By continuing to work in tandem with the RTFH, the ARS can further strengthen their position as a regional leader in the fight against homelessness. The success of these joint efforts can serve as a blueprint for other regions,

showcasing how collaborative, data-informed approaches can lead to significant strides in resolving homelessness. This ongoing collaboration between ARS and RTFH has the potential to enhance not only North County's response to homelessness but also the response of the entire region, thus amplifying the impact of these valuable initiatives.

Appendix B – Data Tables

A. Demographic Characteristics of Clients Sheltered, 2023-2024 North San Diego Bridge Housing (n=467 clients)

Table 1. Gender

Demographic Characteristic	Number	Percent
Male	308	66%
Female	158	34%
Client Prefers Not to Answer	1	0%
Total	***467***	***100%***

Table 2. Race and Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White	147	32%
Multi-Racial	125	27%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	88	19%
Black, African American, or African	83	18%
Asian or Asian American	7	1%
Client prefers not to answer	7	1%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	1%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	4	1%
Total	*467*	*100%*

Table 3. Age Group (Age at Project Start)

Age Group	Number	Percent*
Under 5	42	9%
5-12	73	16%
13-17	20	4%
18-24	21	4%
25-34	62	13%
35-44	68	15%
45-54	59	13%
55-61	64	14%
62+	56	12%
CDK/PNTA/DNC	2	0%
Total	*467*	*100%*

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 4. Age - Adult versus Child

Age Group	Number	Percent
Adult (18+ Years)	329	71%
Child (0-17 Years)	136	29%
Total	*465*	*100%*

* 2 clients with an age of CDK/PNTA/DNC

Table 5. Enrolled with Family versus Individually

Enrolled with Family/Individual	Number	Percent
Family	227	49%
Individual	240	51%
Total	*467*	*100%*

Table 6. Household Served by Household Type

Household type	Served count	Percent*
Households without children	10	13%
Households with at least one adult and one child	69	87%
Total	*79*	*100%*

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 7. Total Clients Served by Household Type

Household type	Served count	Percent
Households without children	4	1%
Households with at least one adult and one child	223	48%
Single Adults	239	51%
Indeterminable Household	1	0%
Total	*467*	*100%*

Table 8. Military Veteran

Military Veteran	Number	Percent
Yes	17	5%
No	312	95%
Total	*329*	*100%*

Table 9. Chronic Status of Military Veteran

Chronically Homeless Veterans	Number	Percent
Yes	6	33%
No	12	67%
Total	*18*	*100%*

Table 10. Gender Distribution of Military Veteran

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	17	100%
Female	0	0%
Total	*17*	*100%*

Table 11. Age Distribution of Military Veteran

Age tier	Number	Percent*
18-24	1	6%
25-34	1	6%
35-44	1	6%
45-54	2	12%
55-64	5	29%
65+	7	41%
Total	*17*	*100%*

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 12. Domestic Violence History (for adults)

Domestic Violence Victim history	Number	Percent
Yes	59	18%
No	272	82%
Total	*331*	*100%*

Table 13. Domestic Violence Victim History (By Gender)

Gender	Number	Percent
Female	37	63%
Male	22	37%
Total	*59*	*100%*

Table 14. Disabling Condition

Disabled (Has a Disabling Condition)	Number	Percent
Yes	212	45%
No	257	55%
Client prefers not to answer	1	0%
Total	*470*	*100%*

Table 15. Health Conditions of Clients Sheltered

Disability Type	Number	Percent
Physical Disability	118	26%
Mental Health Disorder	112	25%
Chronic Health Condition	105	23%
Substance Use Disorder	83	18%
Developmental Disability	32	7%
HIV / AIDS	6	1%
Total	*456*	*100%*

Table 16. Number of Disabilities per Disabled Client

Disability Type	Number	Percent
1 Condition	82	38%
2 Conditions	75	34%
3+ Conditions	61	28%
Total	*218*	*100%*

Table 17. Presence of Income within Adult Population

Adult with/without Income	Number	Percent
Adults with Income	168	51%
Adults with no income	161	49%
Missing/PNTA/Refused	0	0%
Total	*329*	*100%*

Table 18. Income Type

Income Type	Number	Percent
Earned Income	53	29%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	42	23%
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	20	11%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	19	10%
General Assistance (GA)	16	9%
Social Security Retirement	16	9%

Other Cash Income	6	3%
Unemployment Income	5	3%
Child Support	3	2%
Employment Pension	2	1%
Veterans Disability Payment	1	0%
Private Disability Insurance	1	0%
Total	**184**	**100%**

Table 19. Length of Participation

Days in a program	All client count	Leavers count	Stayers count
<30 Days	91	91	0
31-60 days	85	77	8
61-90 days	74	58	16
91-180 Days	164	126	39
181-365 Days	81	62	19
1-2 Years	6	5	1
Total	**502**	**419**	**83**

Table 20. Number of Chronically Homeless Persons at Project Start

Chronic status	Number	Percent*
Chronically Homeless	100	21%
Not Chronically Homeless	361	75%
Null/DK/PNTA	18	4%
Total	*479*	*100%*

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 21. Gender Breakdown of Chronically Homeless Head of Households

Gender	Number	Percent*
Male	82	87%
Female	10	12%
Client prefers not to answer	1	1%
Total	*93*	*100%*

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 22. Age of Chronically Homeless Persons

Age group	Number	Percent*
0-17	5	5%
18-24	0	0%
25-34	8	8%
35-44	19	19%
45-54	26	26%

55-64	30	30%
65+	11	11%
Data Not Collected	1	1%
Total	***100***	***100%***

* Numbers adjusted for rounding

Table 23. Health Conditions of Chronically Homeless Persons

Disability Type	Number	Percent
Physical Disability	58	26%
Mental Health Disorder	54	25%
Chronic Health Condition	52	24%
Substance Use Disorder	40	18%
Development Disability	13	6%
HIV/AIDS	2	1%
Total	***219***	***100%***

B. 2022-2023 North San Diego Bridge Housing Returning Clients

Clients Sheltered During both 2022 - 2023 & 2023 - 2024 Years

Table 24. Gender of Returning Clients

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	33	76.7%
Female	10	23.3%
Total	**43**	**100%**

Table 25. Military History of Returning Clients

Veteran Status	Number	Percent
Yes	0	0.0%
No	32	74.4%
Null/Data not collected	11	25.6%
Total	**43**	**100%**

Table 26. Age Tier of Returning Clients

Age Tier	Number	Percent
0-17	13	30.2%
18-24	0	0.0%
25-34	6	14.0%
35-44	4	9.3%
45-54	4	9.3%

55-64	13	30.2%	
65 or Above	3	7.0%	
Total	**43**	**100%**	

Table 27. Exit Destination of Returning Clients

Destination Category	Exit Destination	2022-2023	2023-2024
Homeless Situations	Place not meant for habitation	10	8
	Emergency Shelter (Including hotel/motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher)	3	1
	Safe Haven	1	0
Institutional Situations	Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	1	1
	Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	0	2
	Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	2	0
Temporary Housing Situations	Staying or living with family, temporary tenure	9	4
	Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure (e.g. room, apartment or house)	2	1
	Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	10	8
	Transitional Housing	1	0
	Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	1	2
Permanent Housing Situations	Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	0	0
	Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	2	0
	Rental by client, with housing subsidy	1	0
Other	No exit interview completed	3	5
	Client doesn't know/ Data not collected/ Other	0	0
	Total	46	32

References

National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Chronically Homeless" (December 2023), https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/chronically-homeless/ accessed 7-1-2024.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, "HMIS Standard Reporting Terminology Glossary" (March 2024), version 1.2.

Alliance for Regional Solutions, "2022-2023 Bridge to Housing Report", (July 2023).

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, "FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards Manual" (October, 2023), version 1.6