NORTHERN KENTUCKY HOMELESSNESS WORKING GROUP

REPORT ON THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY
BASED ON FINDINGS FROM NEW DATA COLLECTION
JULY 1, 2018 to JUNE 30, 2019

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In early 2018, Kenton County, Kentucky, Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann asked Candace McGraw, CEO of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), to convene a broad-based working group to examine the issue of homelessness in Northern Kentucky. The initial charge of the group was to explore the condition of the unsheltered homeless (as opposed to other definitions and categories of individuals experiencing homelessness), as well as to improve the quality and scope of data collected on the unsheltered homeless population.

This work led to a strong partnership with the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), which administers U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs for the "balance of state" in Kentucky. Data collection focused on additional questions/elements included in the Kentucky Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) at KHC. Client-level information included in the data is taken from emergency shelters, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing projects for the KYHMIS participating agencies shown at right.

The data collection and findings do not include information from the following agencies that do not participate in KYHMIS, nor do they capture sheltered or unsheltered persons who never accessed a KYHMIS project.

- Women's Crisis Center Emergency Shelter
- Family Promise Emergency Shelter
- Fairhaven Rescue Mission

KYHMIS Participating Agencies

DATA SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

Beginning on July 1, 2018, clients served in the participating KYHMIS partner projects/agencies were asked to provide responses to three new data points (additional to basic demographic data, etc.).

- County, City, and State of Last Stable Home
- Date of Last Stable Housing
- City and State of High School

The key observations and findings shared here are reflective of one (1) full year's data being collected on the unsheltered homeless population in Northern Kentucky using these methods.

During this period, at least 1,530 individuals experienced unsheltered homelessness in the three-county Northern Kentucky region. Seventy-seven (77)% of these individuals were age 18 or older, while 349 clients were children or reported no age. These figures represent 829 households.

These data are depicted below, are visualized in pages 6-10, are mapped in pages 10-12, and are also detailed in the appendix.

1,530 individuals
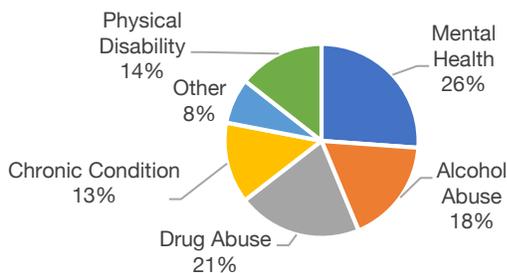Experienced unsheltered homelessness in Northern Kentucky between July 2018 and June 2019

829 households

Cisgender Male, 842	Cisgender Female, 660

44% adult men
Of the total 1,530 clients served, 674 between July 2018 and June 2019 were adult men (an additional 168 were boys)

Households Without Children, 498	At Least 1 Child and 1 Adult, 269	

Only Children (17 and Under), 62

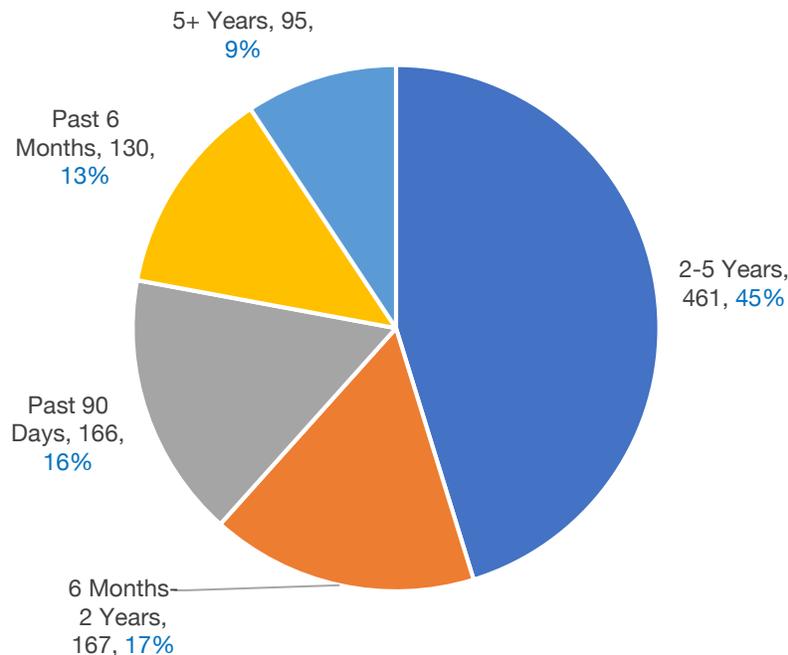**60% of households did not include children**
Of the total 829 households served, more than a third had at least one child

Physical Disability 14%
Other 8%
Mental Health 26%
Chronic Condition 13%
Alcohol Abuse 18%
Drug Abuse 21%

52% with 1 (or more) disability
792 clients self-reported with one or more disabilities; disability types are broken out above

40 clients or 3% of total were veterans
Most clients served between July 2018 and June 2019 did not self-report as a military veteran

5+ Years, 95, 9%

Past 6 Months, 130, 13%

Past 90 Days, 166, 16%

6 Months- 2 Years, 167, 17%

2-5 Years, 461, 45%

Elapsed Time Since Last Stable Housing

Of the 1,530 clients served between July 2018 and June 2019, 511 (or about 33%) did not know or report how long since they last lived in stable housing. Of the remaining two-thirds, the recency of their displacement from stable housing is broken out in the pie chart at left.

The data lead to three key findings.

1. While the unsheltered homeless in Northern Kentucky are mostly white, non-Hispanic, there is a mix of men and women, adults and children, who were served.
2. More than half of clients originally reported their last stable home to be Boone, Campbell, or Kenton Counties in Kentucky. The single-largest city that clients reported was their last stable home was Covington, Kentucky, but other Kentucky cities, such as Florence, Newport, and Erlanger, were originally home to many clients served. A significant source of the population served also reported stable housing last in Cincinnati or Ohio.
   a. The identification of the city in which the respondent attended high school was asked to drill deeper into the location in which the respondent was raised. While 83% of adults provided a response to this question, over 50% of those responses indicated a high school in Cincinnati or Covington. However, it is accurate to report respondents are "originally from" all parts of Northern Kentucky and beyond, as many states were also represented in the answers.
3. These data show that the issue of homelessness is wide-reaching: individuals and families from across Northern Kentucky struggle with homelessness, and some of those have not had stable housing for many years while others have only recently (or for a short time) struggled with homelessness.

Based on data collected by HMIS partners in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the reporting period of January to December 2018, HMIS providers there served 10,160 clients (over six times as many as Northern Kentucky during a 12-month period—although different reporting periods noted). In that time, in Cincinnati, 472 or 5% of the total clients served reported a ZIP code in Boone, Campbell, or Kenton Counties as their last permanent ZIP code. On the other hand, in Northern Kentucky, 213 of 996 (or 21%) reported their last stable housing outside of Kentucky; of those 213, 165 reported an Ohio ZIP code, so the proportion of the population thought to be originating in Kentucky but served in Ohio surpasses the converse of those Ohioans served in Kentucky.

Finally, it is worth reiterating a caveat that the July 2018 – June 2019 data collection may not include unsheltered homeless individuals or households who did not participate in a formal HMIS program. Clients, such as those served by street outreach programs, would not necessarily be counted in these totals. Further, since this reporting period was the first year in which some of the participating agencies asked these questions, and

because adoption and accurate questioning and recording of responses may have been slow to roll out, the reported figures are likely to experience some deviation from actual numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

In analyzing these data, the Northern Kentucky Homelessness Working Group has developed the following findings and recommendations for action.

1. Data should inform decision-making in public policy, helping to drive the allocation of resources. Any agency or provider serving homeless populations should continue to make strong efforts to collect information for aggregate regional reporting, while prioritizing client confidentiality and relevant privacy restrictions.

2. Gaps exist in the data collection for (1) certain geographies and (2) certain populations. The Northern Kentucky region should work with service providers and others to overcome these gaps. Additionally, work should be done across state lines, at least in terms of data sharing, to look at the unsheltered homeless across the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region.

3. Data should be gathered and reviewed on a systematic basis. Those data should be shared regularly with the service providers and community. The three Northern Kentucky counties should hire a regional coordinator (or otherwise designate a neutral third party) to continue the work begun here: validate data, report findings, and make policy recommendations to public agencies for how to address the unsheltered homeless.

4. While a coordinator would determine a full work plan, we suggest the most immediate issues to address would include the following.
   a. Encourage public bodies across the region to do more to support homeless populations, to examine various ways to support service providers, and to prioritize funding for tools that are demonstrated to work in bringing the unsheltered homeless back into stable housing
   b. Address recidivism in the unsheltered homeless population
   c. Examine funding of homelessness service providers and ensure that local public allocations are consistent with desired outcomes

5. Once a coordinator is in place, a study should be commissioned to look at longer-term policy issues. The coordinator would identify foundations and other agencies that could potentially fund such a study.

DATA VISUALIZATION ON KEY FINDINGS

FIGURE 1 – REPORTED CITY OF LAST STABLE HOUSING

Figure 1 below shows the cities of clients' last reported stable home and how many respondents reported that city. To be shown here, the reported city would have needed more than five (5) respondents select it. Those cities (in Kentucky) that had fewer than five (5) clients report it are aggregated into an "Other Kentucky City" category, which had 111 counts. Also not shown are 58 who listed a city in a state other than Kentucky and Ohio, as well as 51 who reported a city other than Cincinnati in Ohio. This figure also does not include 237 respondents who were marked as N/A in this data field (they refused to answer, did not know the city, etc.).

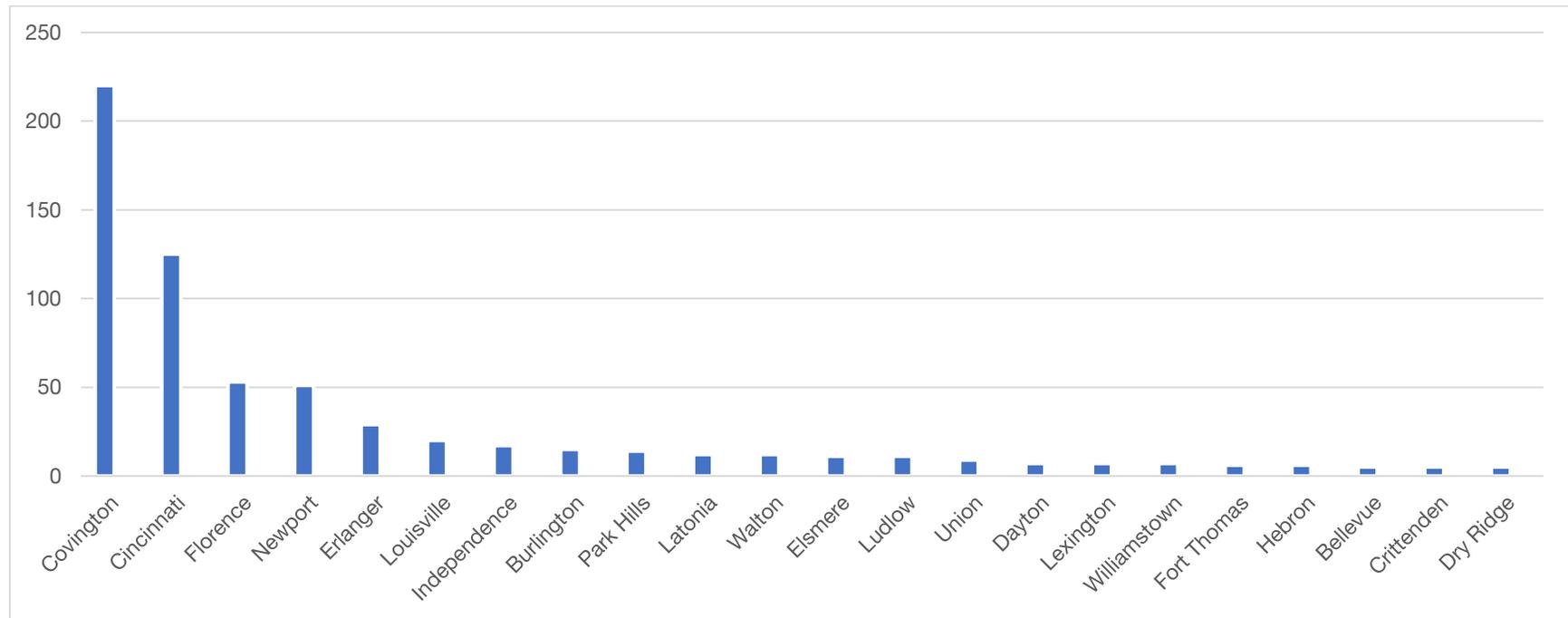These data only include adult respondents (not clients who are children).

FIGURE 2 – REPORTED COUNTY OF LAST STABLE HOUSING

Figure 2 shows the states and most prominent Kentucky counties where clients reported their last stable residence. These data only include adult respondents (not clients who are children) and do not include 185 respondents who did not provide data for this field.
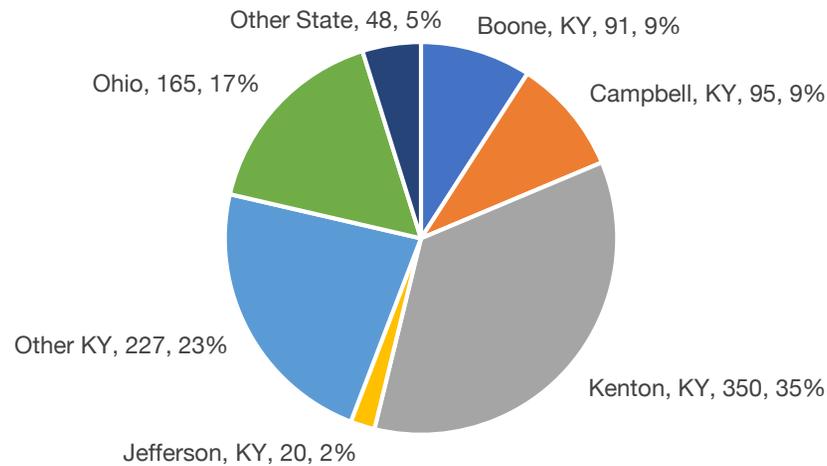
This table shows the counts on which the chart is based.

Last Stable Home County (Adults Only)		
	Total	Percentage
Number of Adults with Last Stable Home Answered	996	84%
Number of Adults without Last Stable Home Answered	185	16%
Locations of Last Stable Home Reported	Total	Percentage
Boone County	91	9%
Campbell County	95	9%
Jefferson County	20	2%
Kenton County	350	35%
Other Kentucky Counties	227	23%
Out of State	213	22%

FIGURE 3 – REPORTED CITY OF HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Figure 3 shows the cities in Kentucky and Ohio (and Indiana generally) where respondents reported attending high school, so long as the count for that city exceeded one. The table below groups these locations into the state/county reported.
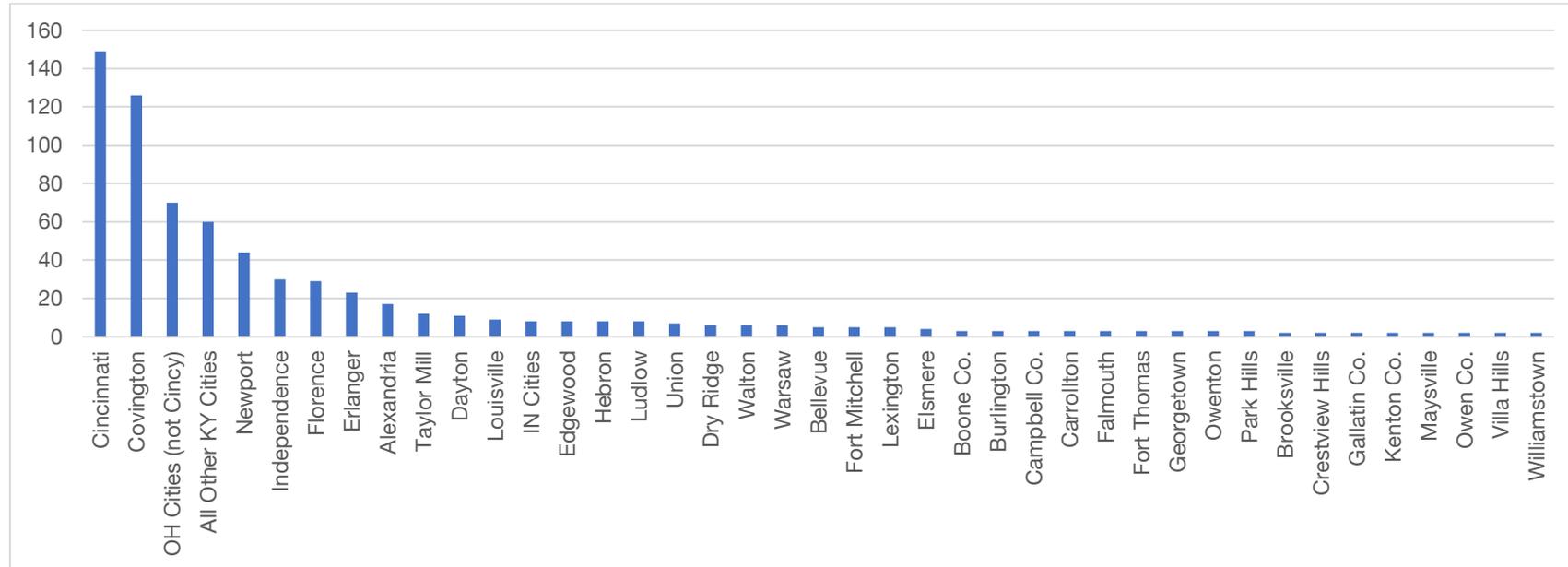
City of High School (Adults Only)		
	Total	Percentage
Number of Adults with High School City Answered	985	83%
Number of Adults without High School City Answered	196	17%
Locations Reported for City of High School	Total	Percentage
Boone County	82	8%
Campbell County	80	8%
Jefferson County	59	6%
Kenton County	241	24%
Other Kentucky Counties	250	25%
Out of State	273	28%

MAPPING

MAP 1 – REPORTED CITY OF LAST STABLE HOUSING

While shelter provider locations are marked by a green triangle, the count of respondents reporting a city as their last stable housing before experiencing an unsheltered homeless event is overlaid by circles of various sizes corresponding to the total count. Counts for cities outside of this geographic area are not shown.

Last Stable Home City
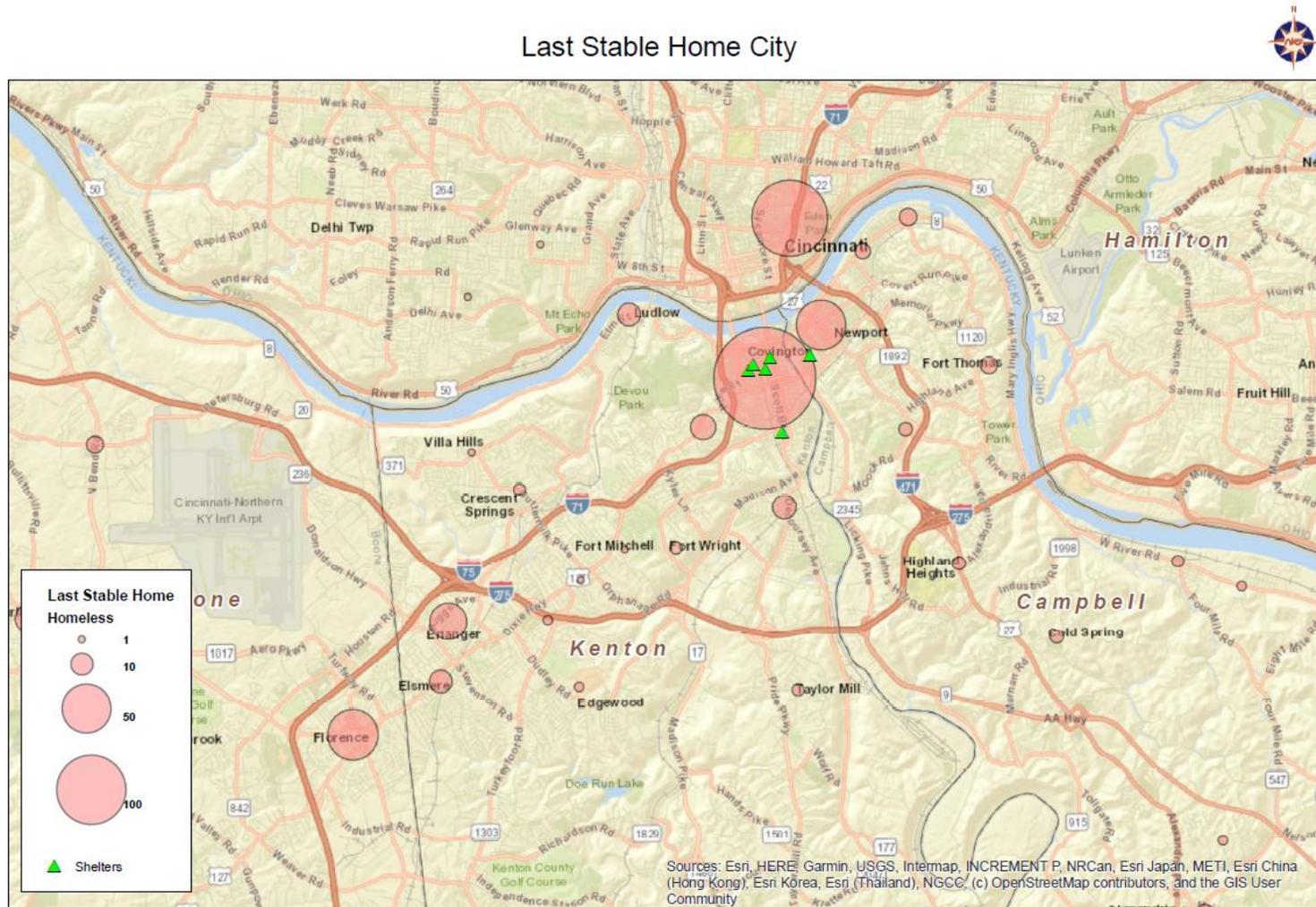
MAP 2 – REPORTED CITY OF HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

While shelter provider locations are marked by a green triangle, the count of respondents reporting a city as the location of their high school attended is overlaid by circles of various sizes corresponding to the total count. Counts for cities outside of this geographic area are not shown.

High School Attended City

MAP 3 – APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF KNOWN HOMELESS CAMPS IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY

While shelter provider locations are marked by a green triangle, the yellow circles are approximate locations of reported or known homeless camps in the three-county Northern Kentucky area.
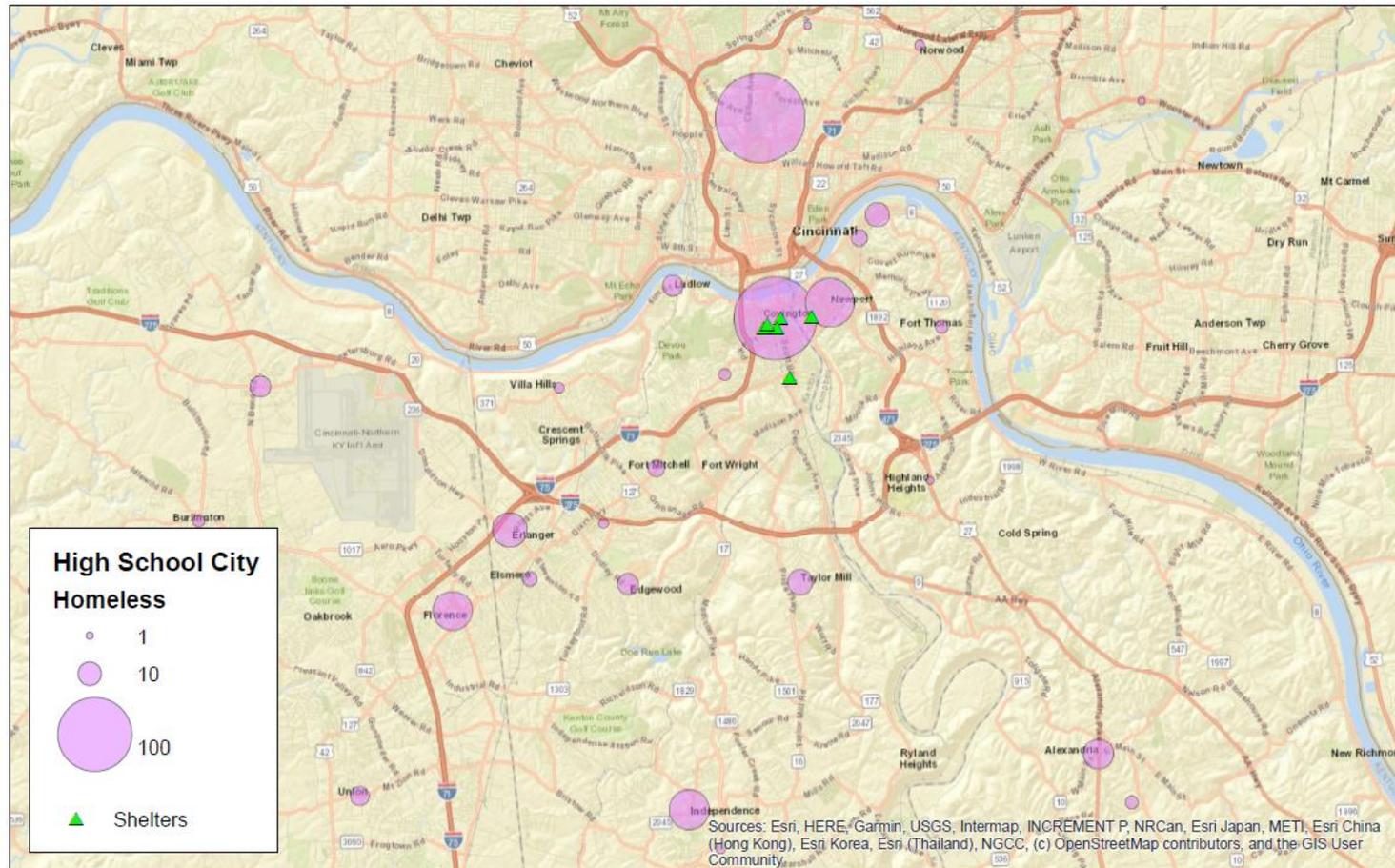
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – NORTHERN KENTUCKY DATA FROM KYHMIS

Client Totals		
Total number of persons	1,530	
Total number of households	829	
Subpopulations	Total	Percentage
Number of Adults (age 18 or over)	1,181	77%
Number of Children (under age 18)	322	21%
Number of Persons with Unknown Age	27	2%
Number of Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 25	80	5%
Number of Parenting Youth Under Age 25 with Children	80	5%
Veterans (Self-Reported)	40	3%
Households by Household Type	Total	Percentage
Number of Households Without Children	498	60%
Number of Households with at least 1 Adult and at least 1 Child	269	32%
Number of Households with Only Children (17 and Under)	62	7%
Gender of Adults	Total	Percentage
Male	674	57%
Gender Non-Conforming	1	<1%
Female	506	43%
Gender of Children	Total	Percentage
Male	168	52%
Female	154	48%
Race	Total	Percentage
White	1,099	72%
Black or African American	371	24%
Other	60	4%
Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,461	95%
Hispanic/Latino	29	2%
Client Doesn't Know/Refused	40	3%

Physical and Mental Health Conditions at Program Entry for Adults and Children (Client-Reported)	Total	Percentage
Number of Clients with one or more disabilities	792	52%
Number of Clients without disability or disability not reported	738	48%
Type of Disability Reported (more than 1 disability possible, per person)	Total	Percentage
Mental Health Problems	421	53%
Alcohol Abuse	284	36%
Drug Abuse	334	42%
Both Alcohol and Drug Abuse	20	3%
Chronic Health Condition	218	28%
HIV/AIDS	5	<1%
Developmental Disability	97	12%
Physical Disability	232	29%

When did you last live in stable housing?	Number of Clients
Unknown	511
Past 90 days	166
Past 6 months	130
More than 6 months to 1 year	167
2-5 years	461
5+ years	95
	1530

Last Stable City	Corresponding State	Number
Did Not Answer/Refused	-	196
Doesn't Know	-	31
Other State/Country	-	53
Other	Indiana	8
Alexandria	Kentucky	4
Bellevue	Kentucky	5
Boone Co.	Kentucky	2
Bromley	Kentucky	3
Burlington	Kentucky	15
California	Kentucky	6
Campbell Co.	Kentucky	2
Carrollton	Kentucky	1
Cold Spring	Kentucky	4
Covington	Kentucky	220
Crescent Springs	Kentucky	3
Crestview Hills	Kentucky	2
Crittenden	Kentucky	5
Dayton	Kentucky	7
Dry Ridge	Kentucky	5
Edgewood	Kentucky	2
Elsmere	Kentucky	11
Erlanger	Kentucky	29
Falmouth	Kentucky	4
Florence	Kentucky	53
Fort Mitchell	Kentucky	1
Fort Thomas	Kentucky	6
Fort Wright	Kentucky	1
Georgetown	Kentucky	1
Grant Co.	Kentucky	1
Hebron	Kentucky	6
Highland Heights	Kentucky	4
Independence	Kentucky	17
Kenton Co.	Kentucky	2
Lakeside Park	Kentucky	1
Latonia	Kentucky	12

Last Stable City	Corresponding State	Number
Lexington	Kentucky	7
Louisville	Kentucky	21
Ludlow	Kentucky	11
Maysville	Kentucky	1
Melbourne	Kentucky	2
Morning View	Kentucky	2
Newport	Kentucky	51
Other	Kentucky	43
Owen Co.	Kentucky	1
Owenton	Kentucky	1
Park Hills	Kentucky	14
Petersburg	Kentucky	1
Silver Grove	Kentucky	3
Southgate	Kentucky	4
Taylor Mill	Kentucky	3
Union	Kentucky	9
Villa Hills	Kentucky	1
Walton	Kentucky	12
Warsaw	Kentucky	1
Williamstown	Kentucky	7
Amelia	Ohio	2
Batavia	Ohio	3
Blue Ash	Ohio	1
Cincinnati	Ohio	125
Cleves	Ohio	2
Cleveland	Ohio	1
Columbus	Ohio	2
Dayton	Ohio	3
Deer Park	Ohio	1
Delhi	Ohio	1
Fairfield	Ohio	2
Hamilton	Ohio	3
Mason	Ohio	1
Middletown	Ohio	2
Milford	Ohio	1

Last Stable City	Corresponding State	Number
Norwood	Ohio	1
Price Hill	Ohio	1
Other	Ohio	19

Last Stable City	Corresponding State	Number
West Chester	Ohio	1
Wilmington	Ohio	2
		1092

High School State	High School City	Number
Did Not Answer/Refused	-	207
Did Not Attend/Dropped Out	-	2
Doesn't Know	-	62
Other State/Country	-	117
Indiana	Aurora	1
Indiana	Other	7
Kentucky	Alexandria	17
Kentucky	Bellevue	5
Kentucky	Boone Co.	3
Kentucky	Brooksville	2
Kentucky	Burlington	3
Kentucky	Campbell Co.	3
Kentucky	Carrollton	3
Kentucky	Covington	126
Kentucky	Crestview Hills	2
Kentucky	Crittenden	1
Kentucky	Cynthiana	1
Kentucky	Dayton	11
Kentucky	Dry Ridge	6
Kentucky	Edgewood	8
Kentucky	Elsmere	4
Kentucky	Erlanger	23
Kentucky	Falmouth	3
Kentucky	Florence	29
Kentucky	Fort Mitchell	5
Kentucky	Fort Thomas	3
Kentucky	Gallatin Co.	2
Kentucky	Georgetown	3
Kentucky	Grant Co.	1

High School State	High School City	Number
Kentucky	Hebron	8
Kentucky	Highland Heights	1
Kentucky	Independence	30
Kentucky	Kenton Co.	2
Kentucky	Lexington	5
Kentucky	Louisville	9
Kentucky	Ludlow	8
Kentucky	Maysville	2
Kentucky	Newport	44
Kentucky	Other	60
Kentucky	Owen Co.	2
Kentucky	Owenton	3
Kentucky	Park Hills	3
Kentucky	Petersburg	1
Kentucky	Taylor Mill	12
Kentucky	Union	7
Kentucky	Villa Hills	2
Kentucky	Walton	6
Kentucky	Warsaw	6
Kentucky	Williamstown	2
Ohio	Amelia	1
Ohio	Cincinnati	149
Ohio	Cleveland	1
Ohio	Colerain	1
Ohio	Columbus	2
Ohio	Dayton	3
Ohio	Fairfield	2
Ohio	Georgetown	1
Ohio	Hamilton	2

High School State	High School City	Number
Ohio	Harrison	1
Ohio	Hillsboro	2
Ohio	Kings Mill	1
Ohio	Lebanon	3
Ohio	Mariemont	1
Ohio	Miamisburg	1
Ohio	Middletown	1
Ohio	Milford	4
Ohio	Montgomery	2

High School State	High School City	Number
Ohio	Mount Healthy	1
Ohio	Norwood	2
Ohio	Other	34
Ohio	Sharonville	1
Ohio	St. Bernard	1
Ohio	Wilmington	1
Ohio	Winton Woods	1
		1092