



# SNAPSHOT 2019

OF SERVICE AND SHELTER USE  
USING 2018 CALENDAR YEAR DATA

## IOWANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



# #HOMELESSIOWANS

# 12,180

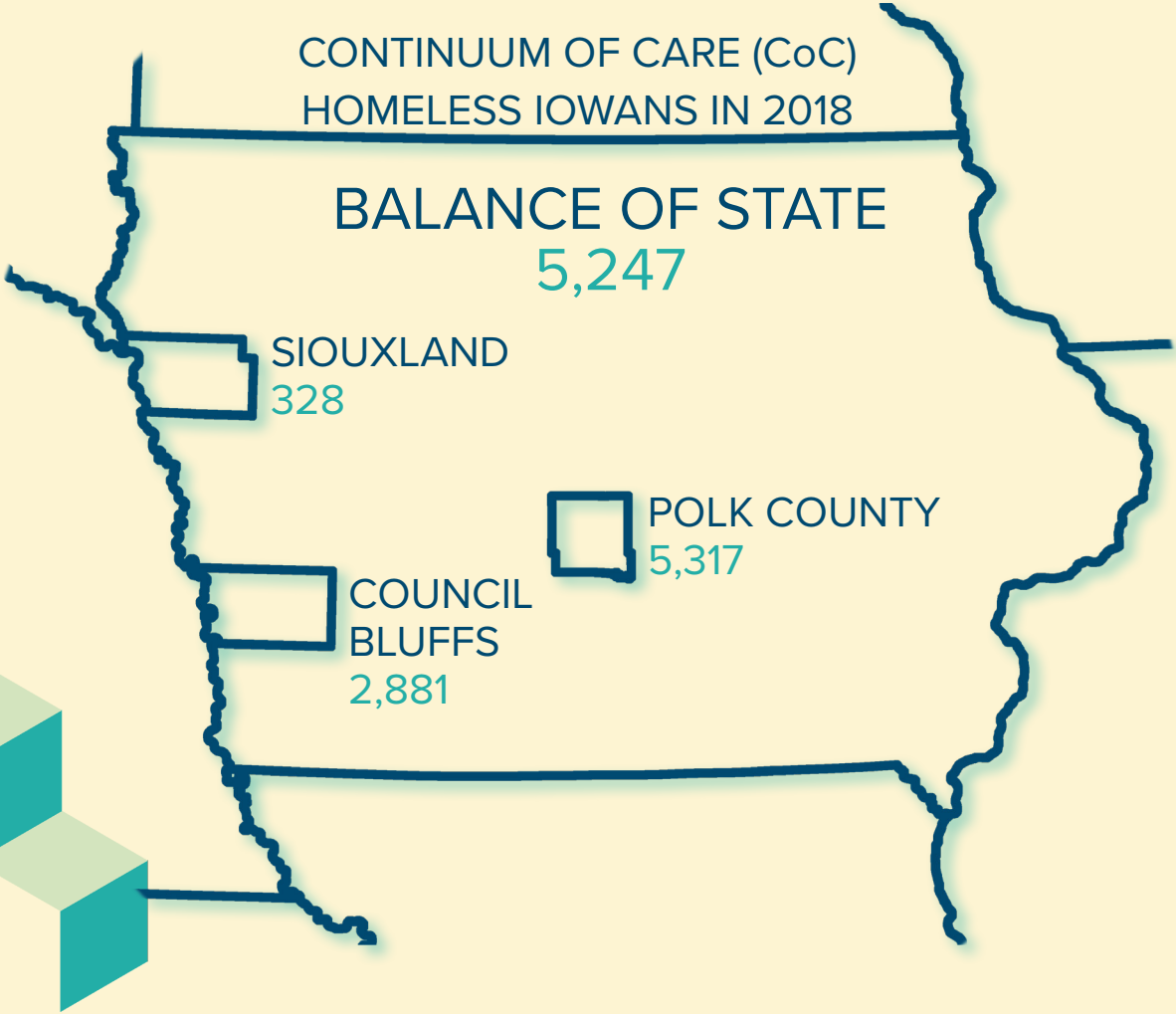
Homeless lowans were served by agencies in 2018  
at emergency shelter (11,799),  
safe haven (56), transitional housing (1,918),

Agencies permanently housed lowans in  
rapid rehousing (2,695), permanent supportive  
housing (978), and supportive housing  
without a disability requirement (285).

Each number in this report is an un-duplicated count.  
A person may be counted in multiple populations  
if they were in multiple populations  
during the year.



# TOTAL HOMELESS



# PEOPLE PROGRAM TYPE



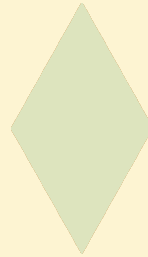
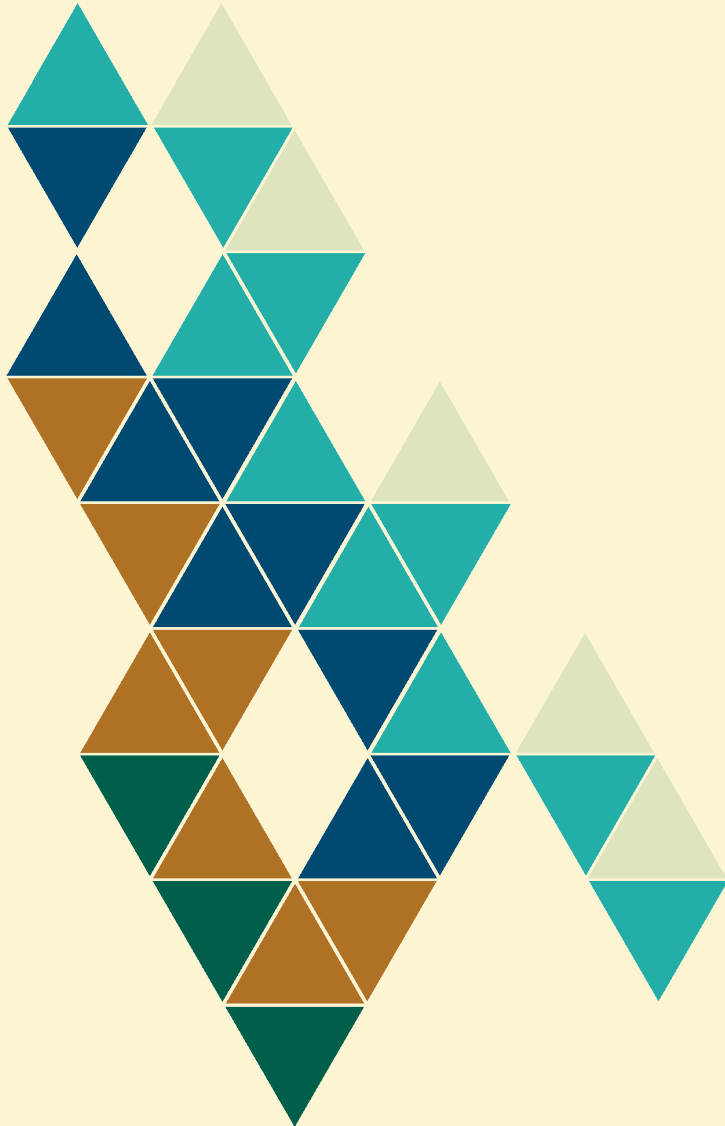
**978 PEOPLE**  
Permanent Supportive  
Housing for persons with disabilities  
provides housing and  
services.

**1918 PEOPLE**  
Transitional Housing  
projects provides  
temporary lodging  
and move people into  
permanent housing  
in no longer than  
24 months.

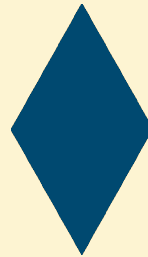
**11799 PEOPLE**  
Emergency Shelter  
projects offer  
temporary shelter.

**2695 PEOPLE**  
Rapid Re-housing  
projects provide  
limited-term rental  
assistance.

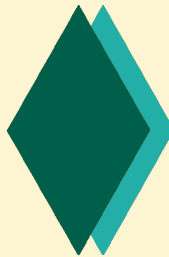




EMERGENCY SHELTER  
78 PROJECTS  
WITH  
3,087 BEDS



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
77 PROJECTS  
WITH  
1,777 BEDS



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE  
AND RAPID RE-HOUSING  
116 PROJECTS  
WITH  
2,682 BEDS



# HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS

Among people being served in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or rapid re-housing...



In the Balance of State 36% and in Polk County 33% report having experienced domestic violence.



In the Balance of State 17% and in Polk County 12% are veterans.



In the Balance of State 35% and in Polk County 22% are employed.



In the Balance of State 66% and in Polk County 71% report a disability.



In the Balance of State 62% and in Polk County 49% have some source of income.

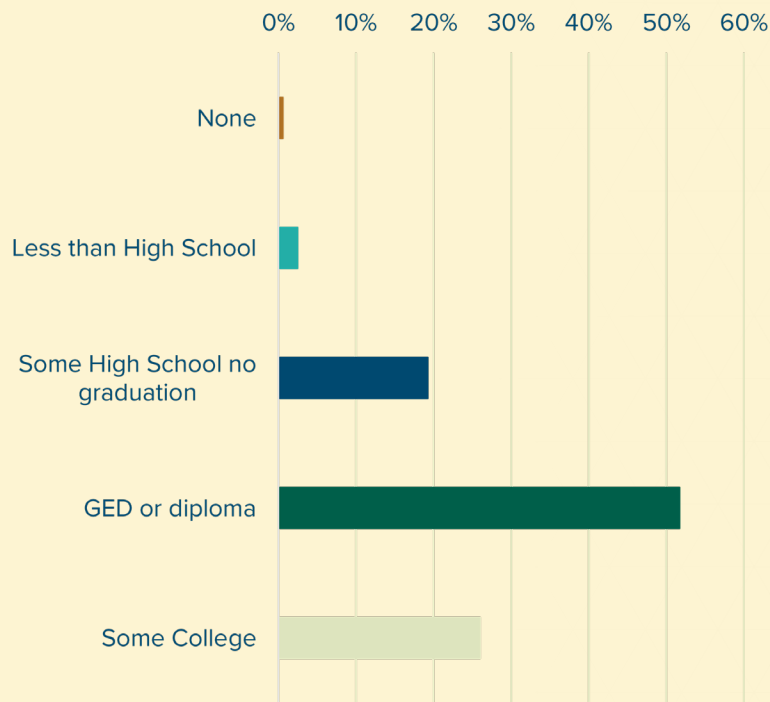


In the Balance of State 61% and in Polk County 59% have access to non-cash benefits.

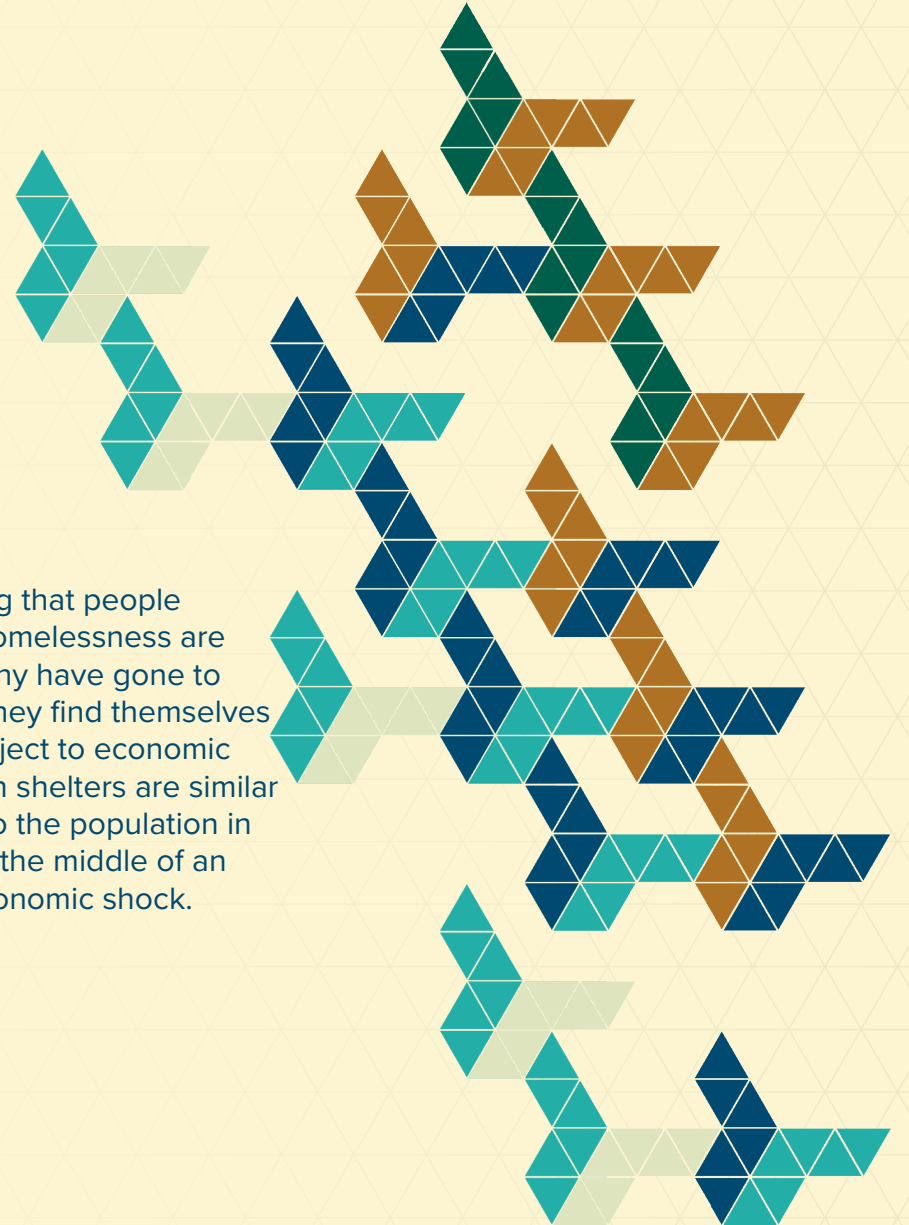


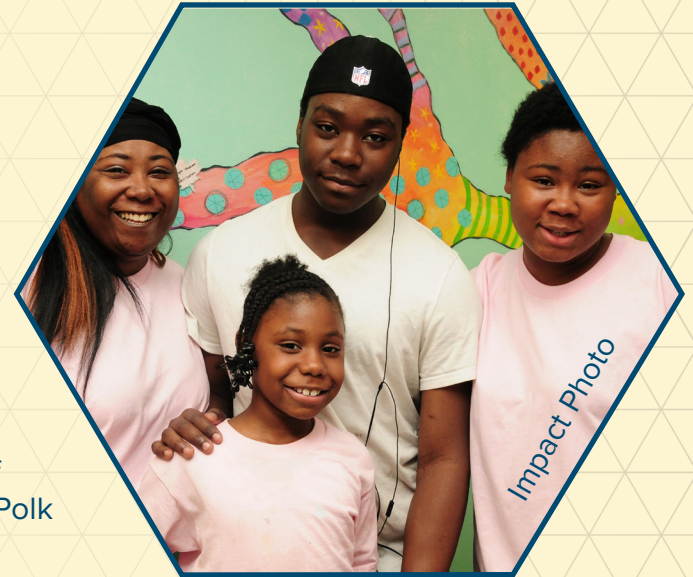
In the Balance of State 86% and in Polk County 85% have access to health insurance.

# EDUCATION AT ENTRY



It is often surprising that people who experience homelessness are well educated. Many have gone to college. Though, they find themselves in poverty and subject to economic hardship. People in shelters are similar demographically to the population in poverty, but are in the middle of an unmanageable economic shock.





▲ Permanent housing programs (excluding rapid rehousing) have a retention rate of 91% statewide. Homeless programs (including rapid rehousing, shelter, transitional and safe haven) exit 46% of clients to permanent destinations, 30% in Polk County and 53% in the Balance of State.

▼ Statewide 24% of people who exit to a permanent destination from emergency shelter return to homelessness within 24 months. For permanent housing programs its 14%

▼ In Polk County emergency shelters its 27% and permanent housing programs its 18%. Across the Balance of State emergency shelters its 22% and permanent housing programs its 11%.

# SYSTEM PERFORMANCE



Statewide, on average people in emergency shelter stay for 43 days.

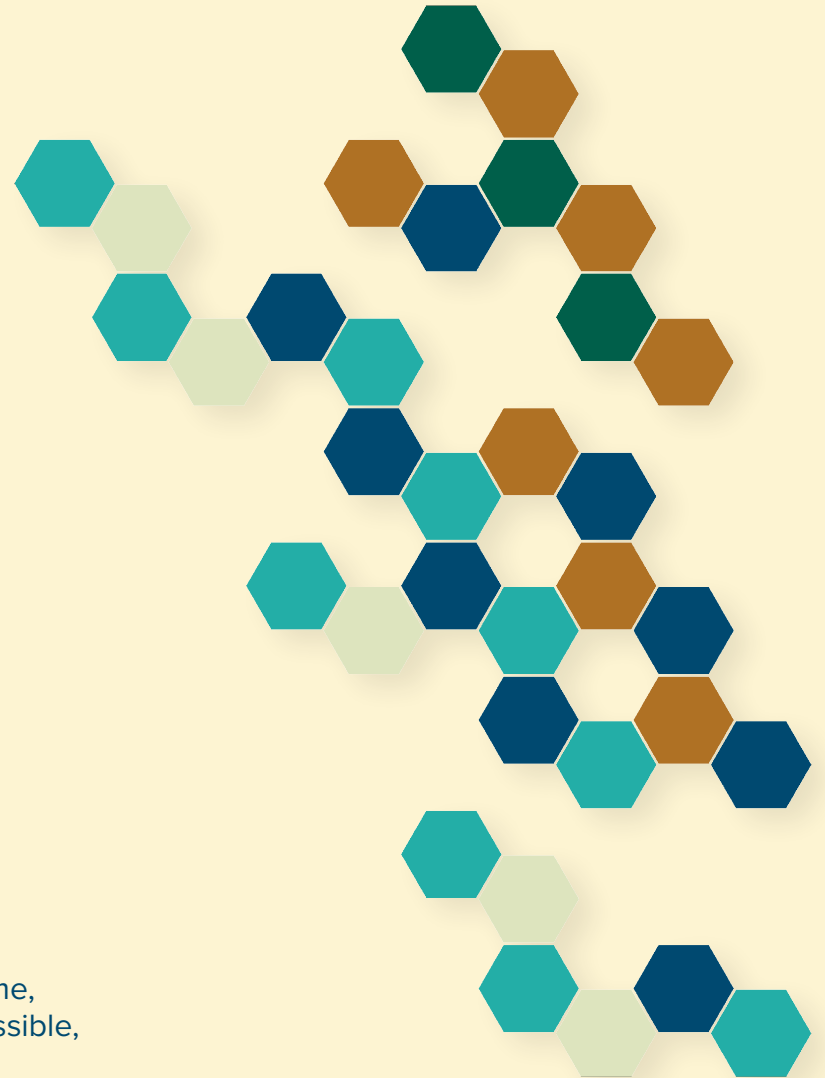


In Sioux City the average is 25 days  
In Polk County the average is 46 days  
In Council Bluffs the average is 45 days  
In the Balance of State the average is 40 days



First time homelessness is complicated. Ideally as few people as possible will become homeless for the first time, and those people will represent as high of a percent of the total as possible, so returns to homelessness can end.

Statewide 73% of homeless have no entry in the previous 2 years, 68% in Polk County and 77% in the Balance of State.





# COORDINATED ENTRY



Most people experience housing instability for a short period, need a little help and then move on quickly. For some people the situation is beyond their capacity to address unassisted.

The system response begins with coordinated entry. A tool is used to assign the correct intervention by evaluating the strengths and needs of people and match them with the right resources and help them find lasting stability quickly.

Coordinated entry helps agencies make informed and objective decisions to reduce burdens on people who can **self-resolve** while better assisting people with higher needs. **2,014** people self resolved.

## 2,014 PEOPLE SELF RESOLVED HOMELESSNESS

# HMIS PARTICIPATION

Iowa's Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used by most agencies. Programs exclusively serving people fleeing domestic violence are statutorily excluded from participating. Also, a few privately funded agencies are non-participating.

	Balance of State	Omaha/ Council Bluffs	Polk County	Siouxland	Total
Emergency	79%	71%	100%	59%	78%
Transitional	83%	34%	100%	100%	74%
Permanent Supportive	45%	52%	100%	0%	63%
Other Permanent	100%	17%	100%	-	65%
Total	74%	54%	100%	64%	72%

# HMIS BEDS

Ideally all available beds are always full. We don't want there to be more homeless people. We want the distance between the need and the supply to be as small as possible, so more resources can go to higher demand programming and unnecessary beds are taken out of the inventory.

	Balance of State	Omaha/ Council Bluffs	Polk County	Siouxland	Total
Emergency	1095	1059	482	177	2813
Transitional	1114	435	228	88	1865
Permanent Supportive	481	820	550	36	1887
Other Permanent	49	167	185	0	401
Total	2739	2481	1445	301	6966

# UTILIZATION

INCLUDING NON-HMIS AGENCIES  
(ON POINT-IN-TIME NIGHT)

	Balance of State	Omaha/ Council Bluffs	Polk County	Siouxland	Total
Emergency	77%	96%	94%	107%	96%
Transitional	67%	76%	83%	78%	76%
Permanent Supportive	91%	98%	93%	86%	98%
Total	75%	94%	91%	96%	94%





5% of homeless households are headed by a veteran

49% of homeless households are headed by a person with disabilities.

71% of homeless households are headed by a person with have income and 44% are employed.

78% of homeless households have access to mainstream benefits.

52% of homeless households are headed by a person with a self-reported history of domestic violence.

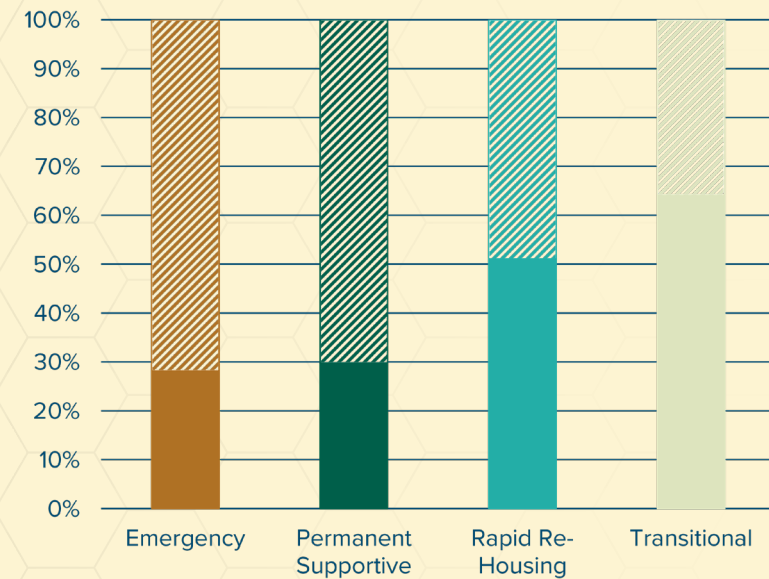


# FAMILY HOUSEHOLD



Cohesive families help reduce homelessness. Intact families are less likely to stay homeless for extended periods of time. People often become homeless with their family then appear later without their family. Family homelessness can be a step toward the disillusion of the family. Family programs help prevent the disintegration of this important social institution, which aids in long term stability. One aspect of family homelessness touches on gender and race. While most single homeless are white men, more homeless families are headed by single women and are more often minority racial and ethnic populations.

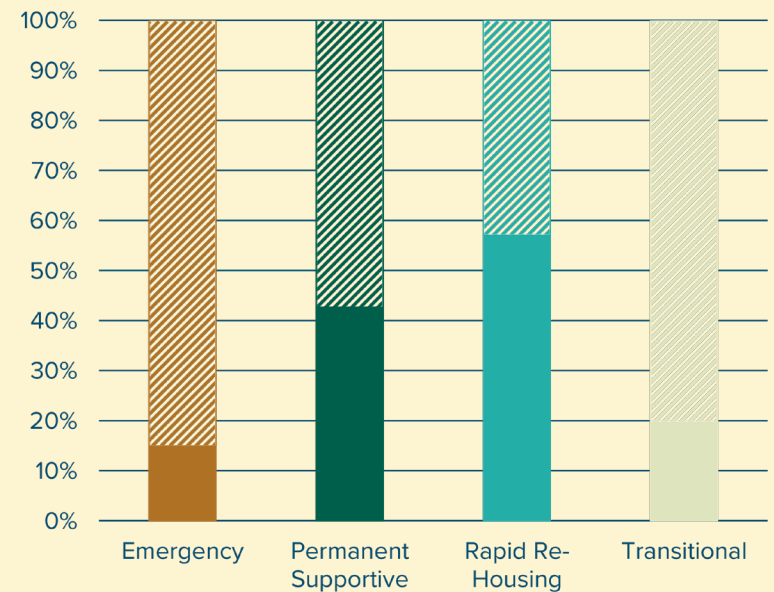
## BALANCE OF STATE

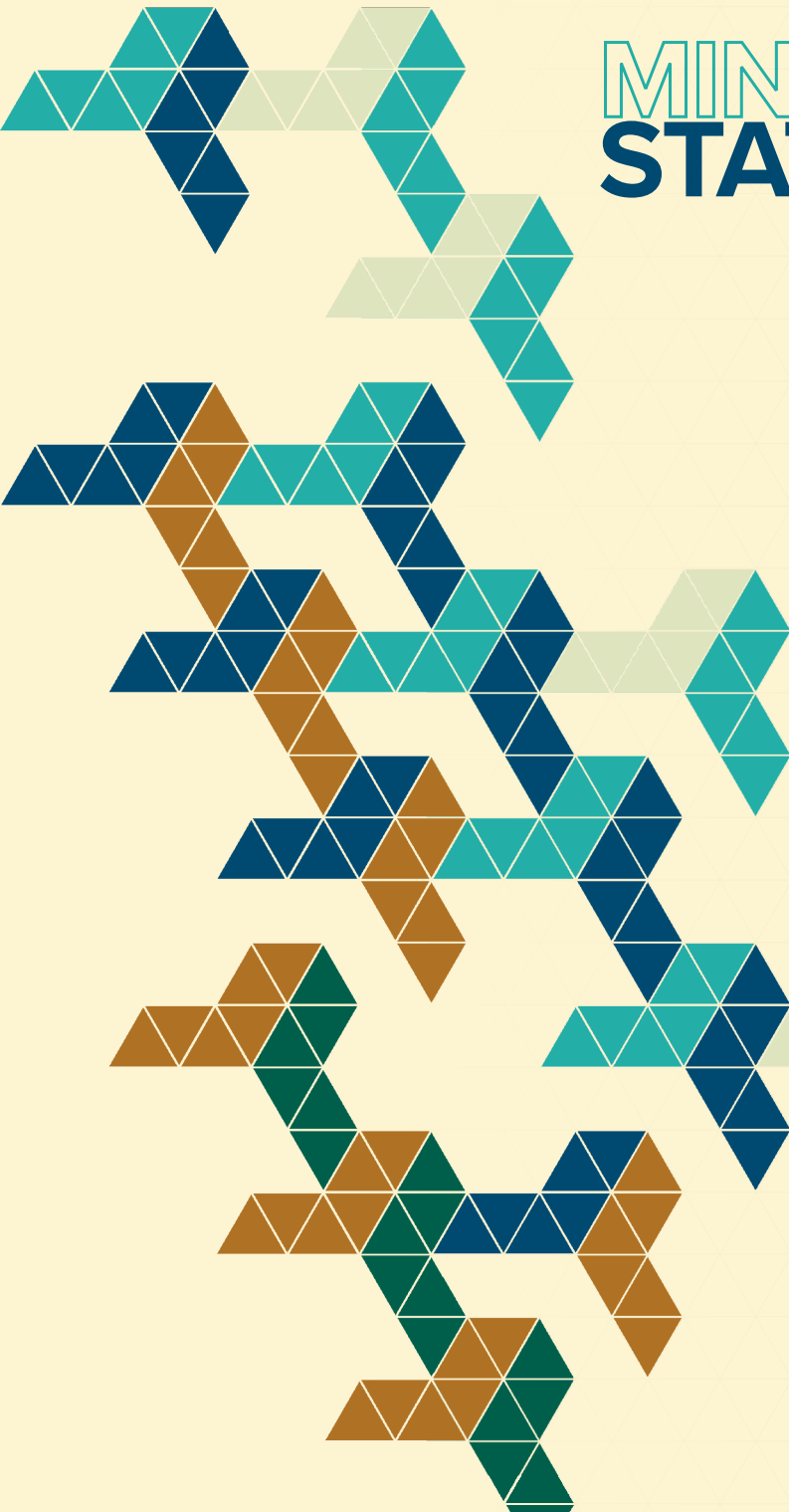


SINGLES

FAMILIES

## POLK COUNTY





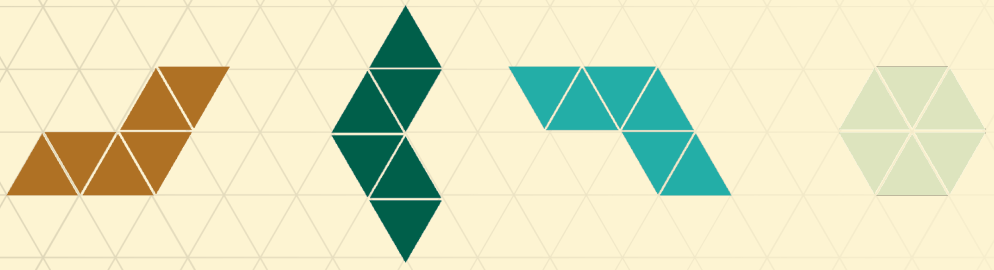
# MINORITY STATUS

Racially equitable service of homeless persons is a priority for Iowa's continua of care. The representation of minorities in the homeless system is egregiously and significantly outsized compared to the general population, in every community, across and between every program.

The CoCs and ICA are working to face the impact of race on the homeless system. We are looking at causes including decision assistance tools, the diagnosis of disability, and differences in funding by program type.

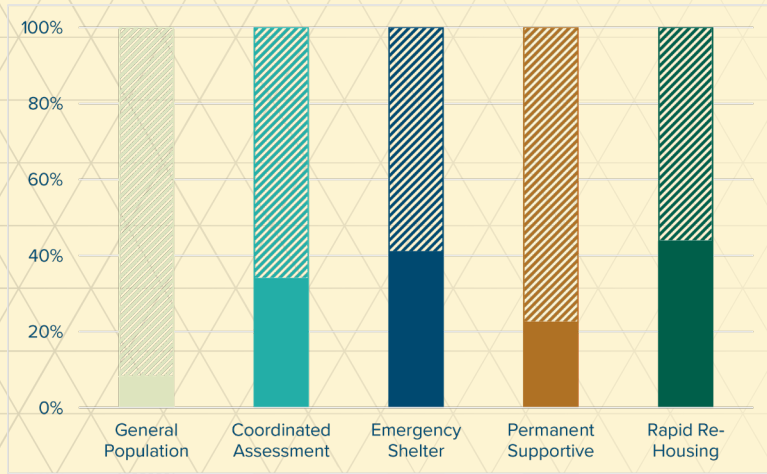
Homeless people who identify as racial minorities are 8% less likely to have a diagnosed disability compared to racial majority populations. This means minority populations have less access to best practice interventions like permanent supportive housing.

Minority households also skew about 65% younger due to the increased likelihood of including children. 13% of minority homeless are under 18 compared to just 8% of majority population homeless.



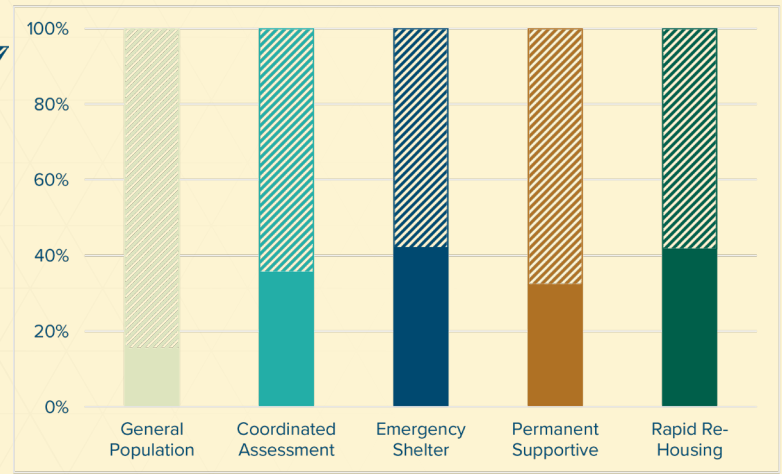
# BALANCE OF STATE

# POLK COUNTY



**MAJORITY**  
WHITE

**NONWHITE**  
**MINORITY**





100% of chronic homeless are disabled, definitionally, compared to 61% of non-chronic homeless.

Compared to nonchronic homeless, chronic homeless are about half as likely to be employed

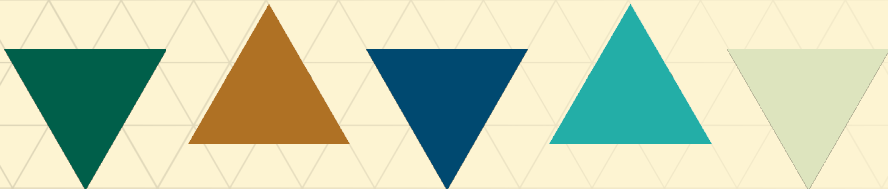
but are just as likely to have some source of income and are more likely to have non-cash benefits.

Chronic homeless are just 1% more likely to be veterans

and 1% less likely to have experienced domestic violence compared to non-chronic homeless.



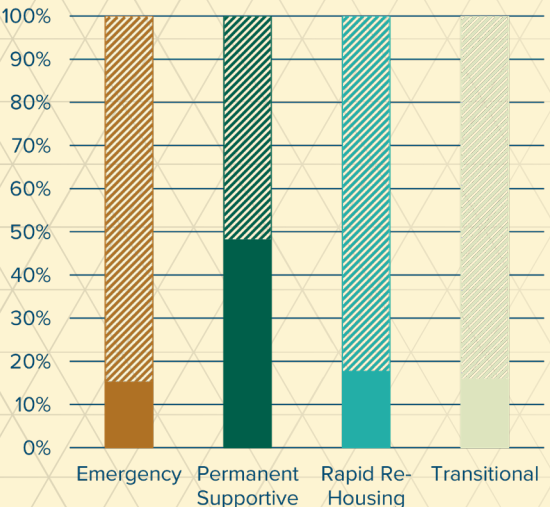
# CHRONICALLY HOMELESS



The problem is, we do not know which people are going to be chronic. No variables we collect are predictive of eventual chronicity.

A common thought in homeless policy is that there are really two kinds of homeless people, chronic and not chronic. Those who are not chronic will self-resolve if left to guide their own process with assistance when requested. By contrast, the chronically homeless have a severe disability and lack the ability to self-resolve.

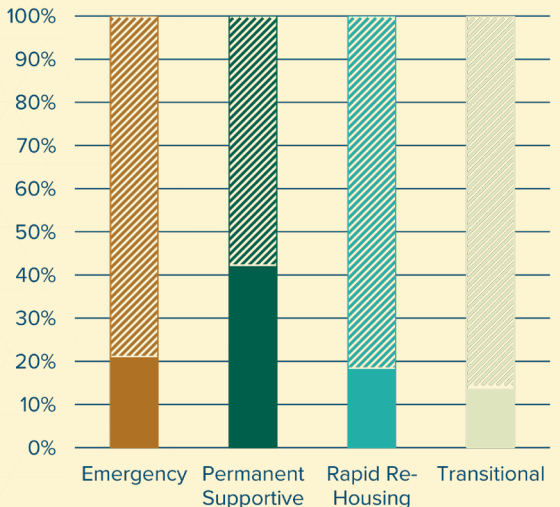
## BALANCE OF STATE



NONCHRONIC

CHRONIC

## POLK COUNTY



# HOMELESS VETERANS

In the balance of state 17% of people experiencing homeless in emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing programs are veterans. In Polk county its 12%

This, in spite of having declared and maintained functional-zero veteran homeless in Polk County since 2016. This means that as soon as a homeless veteran is identified they are housed in shelter and find permanent housing within 90 days. The average is much lower. This speaks both to the hard work of the office of Veteran Affairs and the area service providers, but also to the persistence of the problem.

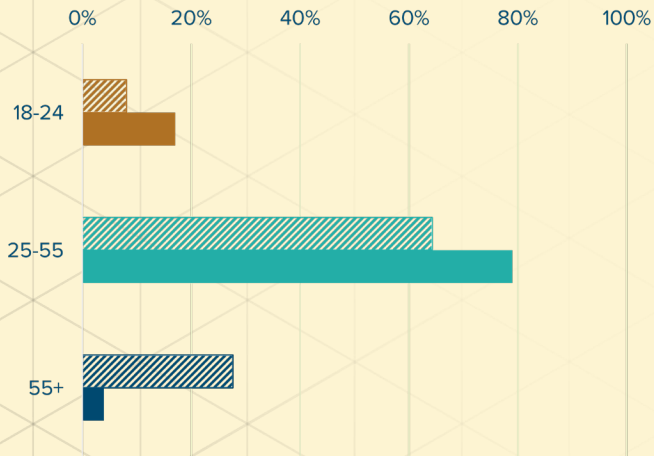
VETERANS ARE  
25% MORE LIKELY  
TO BE DISABLED  
AND 10% MORE  
LIKELY TO BE  
EMPLOYED



Marshall spent most of his life as a chronically homeless US. Military veteran. He says drinking started as a way to cope with PTSD resulting from severe childhood trauma. The military was his way out. Years later the case managers at the Department of Veteran Affairs have helped Marshall find stability. Now, with sobriety, Marshall focuses on community and his spiritual life. He has friends and has reconnected with family. He has the respect of others and he has self respect.

# HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS

## AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD AT ENTRY AS A PERCENT OF SINGLE/FAMILY POPULATION



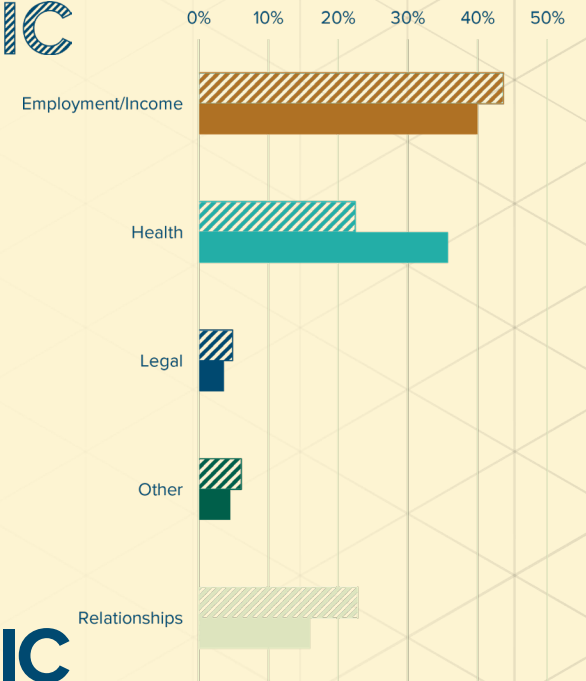
## SINGLES

## FAMILIES

## NONCHRONIC

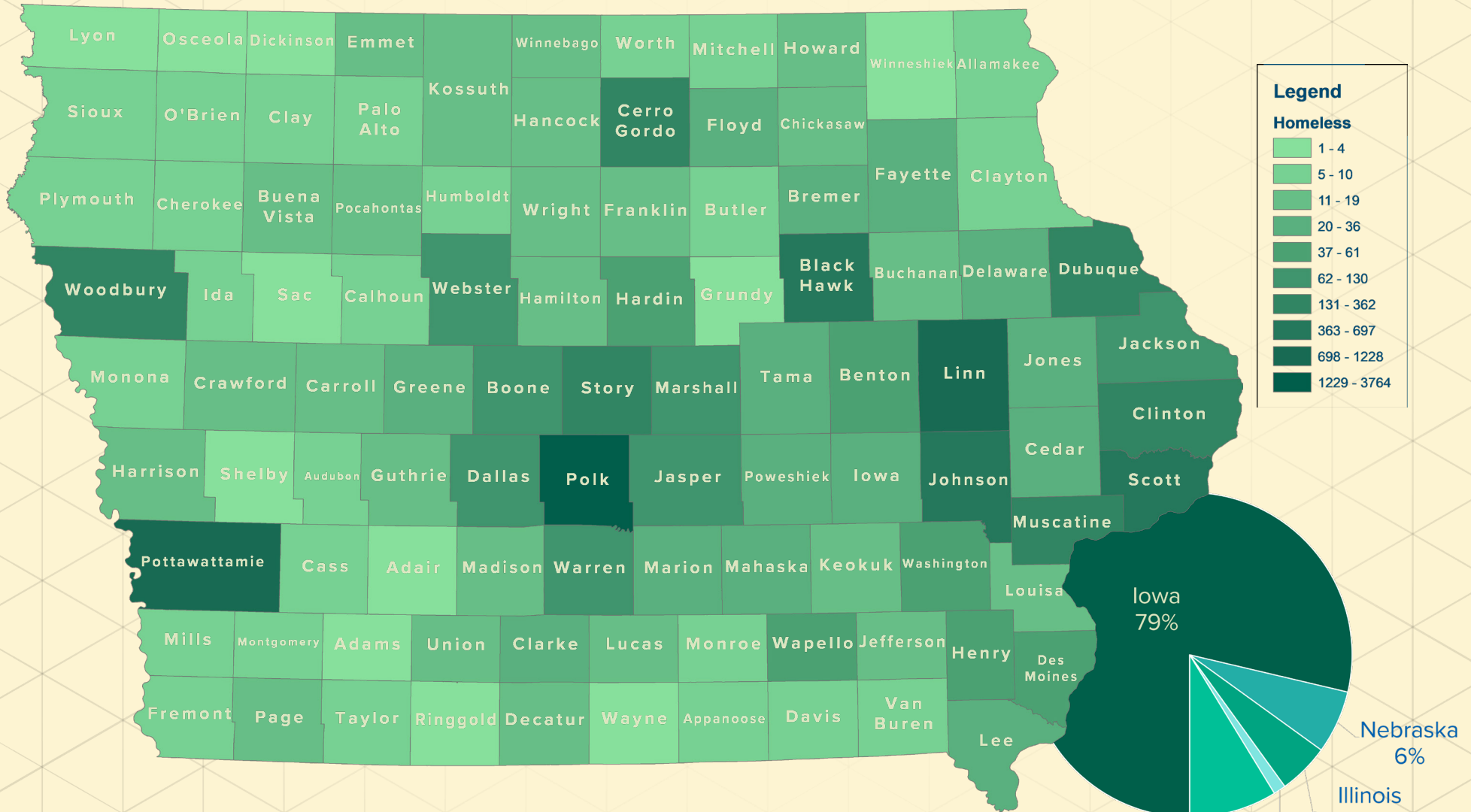
## CHRONIC

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AS A PERCENT OF NONCHRONIC/CHRONIC POPULATION





# HOMELESS BY ZIP CODE OF LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS



EVERYONE  
DESERVES A  
HOME

