

Homelessness in New Orleans: The Big Picture

June 30, 2011



UNITY
OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS

UNITY of Greater New Orleans

A Collaborative of 63 Agencies Providing Housing and Services to the Homeless

- ☀ **Founded in 1992 with assistance from the City, UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization designated by HUD as the lead agency for the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish and working in partnership with the City to implement a strategy to reduce and end homelessness.**

- ☀ **The UNITY Collaborative was selected from 9,000 organizations nationwide to receive the 2010 Nonprofit Achievement Award by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the leader in this field.**



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A Collaborative of 63 Agencies Providing Housing and Services to the Homeless

- ☀ **UNITY does strategic planning and coordination, ensures high performance of the CoC, and applies for and administers CoC funds for its member organizations to provide housing and services for the homeless. UNITY also performs training, monitoring, and evaluation of its agencies' programs.**
- ☀ **The Collaborative also runs a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the UNITYhousinglink.org housing search database; advocates for sound public policies; develops affordable housing and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH); mobilizes an outreach team; and maintains a system-wide PSH Registry, currently listing 1,077 disabled homeless people awaiting housing placement, who are ranked in order of their likelihood to die if not housed.**



The UNITY Continuum of Care

- AIDS Law of Louisiana
- Alternatives Living
- Armstrong Family Services
- Baptist Friendship House
- Belle Reve
- Bridge House
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- City of New Orleans Office of Community Development
- Collaborative Solutions
- Community Service Center
- Covenant House
- Daughters of Charity
- Desire Community Housing
- Excelth
- Episcopal Community Services
- Family Services of Greater New Orleans
- First Evangelist CDC
- First Pilgrim Baptist Church
- Gateway Recovery Systems
- Goodwill Industries, SELA
- Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services
- Harry Tompson Center
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Home Again
- Hope House
- House of Esther Ministry
- House of Ruth
- Jefferson Parish Community Development
- Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority
- Last Hope
- Liberty House
- Lindy's Place
- Living Witness
- Lovetouch Ministries
- Loyola Law Clinic
- McCaleb Educational Fund
- Metropolitan Battered Women's Program
- Metropolitan Human Services District
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Ninth Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association
- New Hope Church
- New Orleans Council on Aging
- New Orleans Mission
- New Orleans Public Schools – Homeless Education
- New Orleans Women's Shelter
- NO/AIDS Taskforce
- Odyssey House
- Ozanam Inn
- Pillow House for Humanity
- Pro-Bono Project
- Project Lazarus
- Resources for Human Development
- Responsibility House
- Salvation Army
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Seven Wonders of God, Inc
- Shared Housing of New Orleans
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Total Community Action
- Traveler's Aid
- Tulane Drop In Center
- Via Link
- Volunteers of America



Housing and Services Provided by the CoC



Supportive Services:

- Outreach
- Crisis Line/Information Referral
- Case Management
- Employment Assistance
- Medical Care
- Mental Health Services
- Day Program
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- HIV/AIDS Services
- Domestic Violence Services
- Legal Services
- Youth Drop-In Center
- Day Care for Children
- Transportation
- Housing Search



Homeless Clients Served in 2010

as recorded by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

21,585

Number of persons served by homeless programs

Subpopulations:

3,118 Homeless children

950 Unaccompanied youth

4,285 Young adults (18 – 24 years old)

1,263 People over age 60

7,555 People in families

14,030 Unaccompanied individuals

5,474 Persons living in abandoned buildings, on the streets
and in cars

6,749 Disabled adults

4,064 Chronically homeless persons

* These numbers exceed 21,585 because many clients meet multiple subpopulation criteria



Homelessness Today

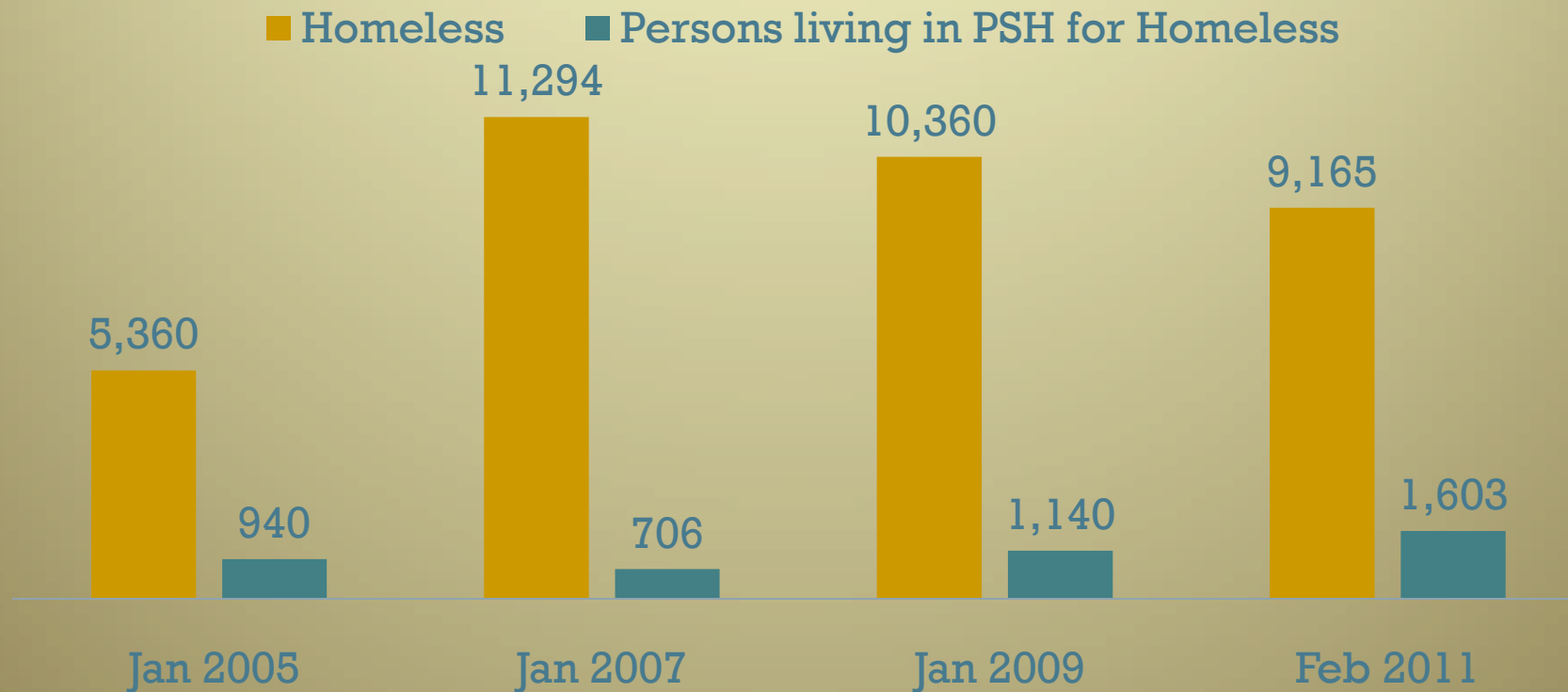
Comprehensive Estimate of Homelessness Feb. 2011

- Homelessness remains a huge problem in New Orleans, 5 ½ years after Katrina.
- 9,165 persons meeting the HUD definition of homelessness (including people facing imminent eviction or discharge from institutions) in Orleans and Jefferson Parish on any given night. An additional 1,603 persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing.
- 6,687 Core Homeless Persons – persons residing in places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters and transitional housing.
- 70% increase in homelessness since Hurricane Katrina.



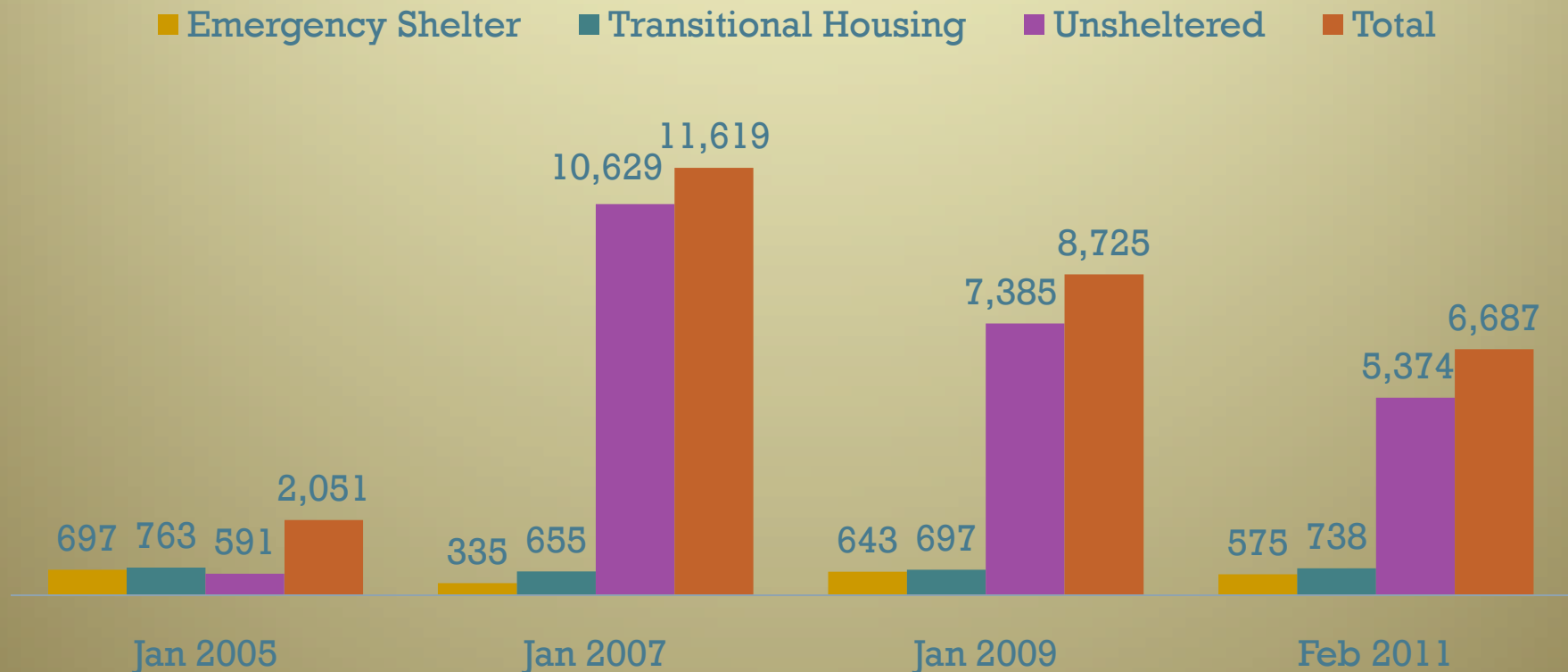
Homelessness in New Orleans: Before and After Katrina

12% decrease in HUD-defined homelessness since 2009



Homelessness in New Orleans: Before and After Katrina

23% decrease in core homelessness since 2009



Homelessness in New Orleans: Five Factors Causing Post-K Homelessness



1. Devastation of Rental Stock
2. Escalating Rents
3. Physical and Mental Health Trauma
4. Loss of Healthcare Infrastructure
5. Loss of Extended Family and Neighborhood Supports

By the Numbers

\$674	SSI monthly check for a disabled person in Louisiana. There is no state supplement to SSI in Louisiana.
\$850	2011 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for 1 bedroom apartment in New Orleans. Pre – Katrina, FMR for a 1 bedroom apartment was \$578.
47%	Percentage that rents have increased since Hurricane Katrina.
66%	Percentage of persons who are rent-burdened in New Orleans. Highest percentage in the country.



Homelessness in New Orleans: Large-Scale Homeless Camps

- Between Nov. 2007 and July 2008, **452 people** housed from two large squalid homeless camps in the heart of downtown New Orleans – a national record.
- **975 different** individuals documented who lived in one or both of these camps.
- **64%** said they came from an abandoned building
- In 2011, homelessness no longer concentrated in downtown as it was before Katrina – now it is spread across the city, with Central City the largest “hot spot.”



Homelessness in New Orleans: Abandoned Buildings

- Random sample survey Feb. 2011: Estimated **4,767 homeless persons** residing in abandoned buildings on any given night.
- **38,382** abandoned residential and commercial buildings.
- **75%** are Katrina survivors.



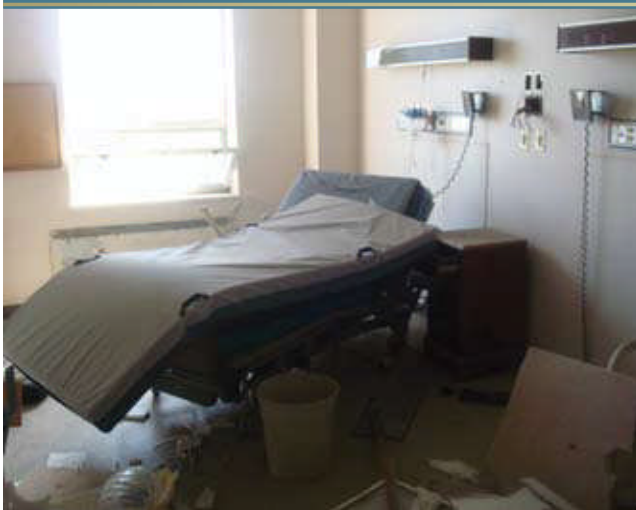
Abandoned Building Outreach



We are the only outreach team in the nation to send its outreach workers, armed only with flashlights, into abandoned buildings in the middle of the night to find and rescue severely disabled homeless people.



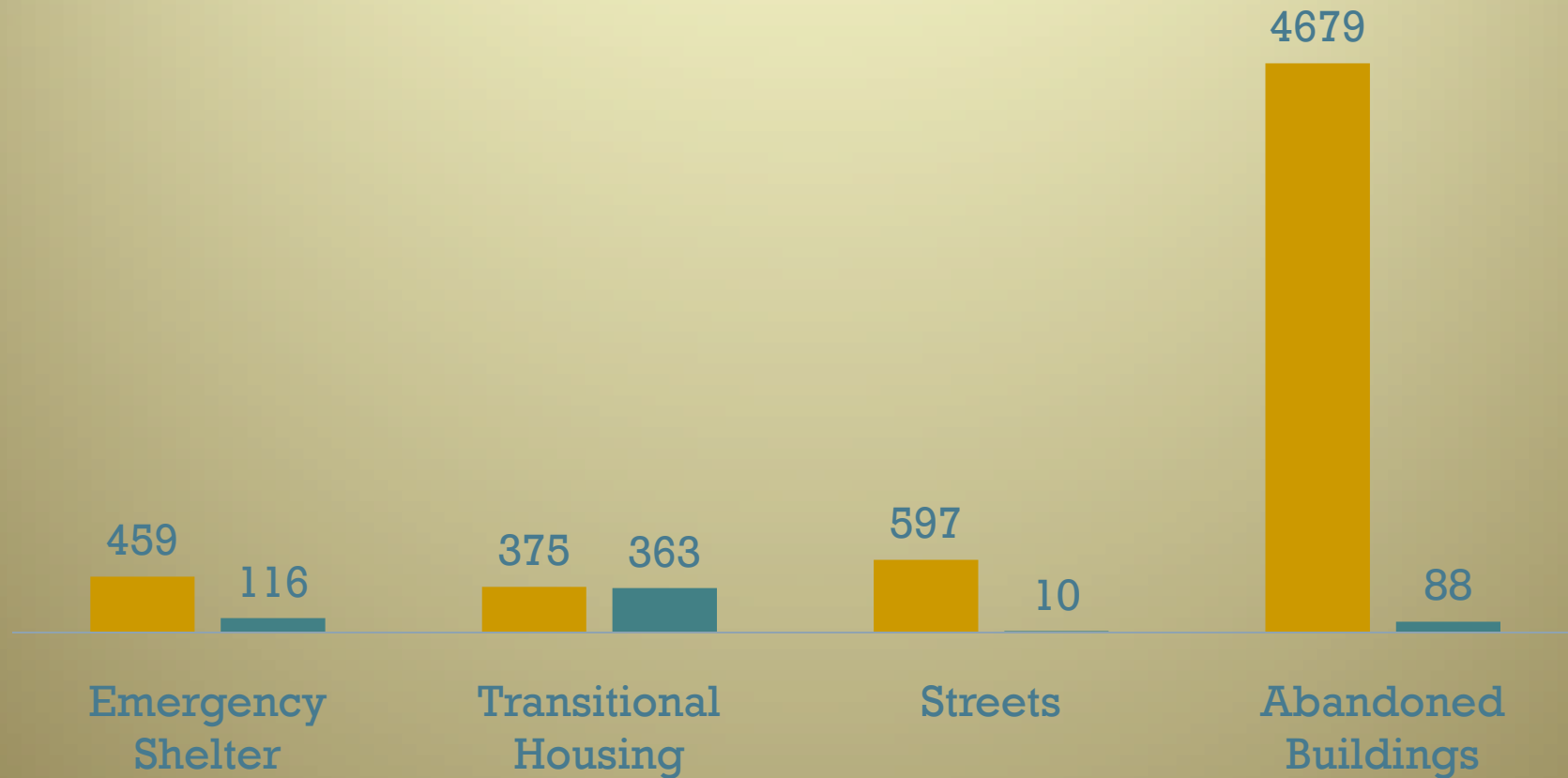
Where People Sleep When They Have Nowhere Else to Live



2011 Point in Time Count Data

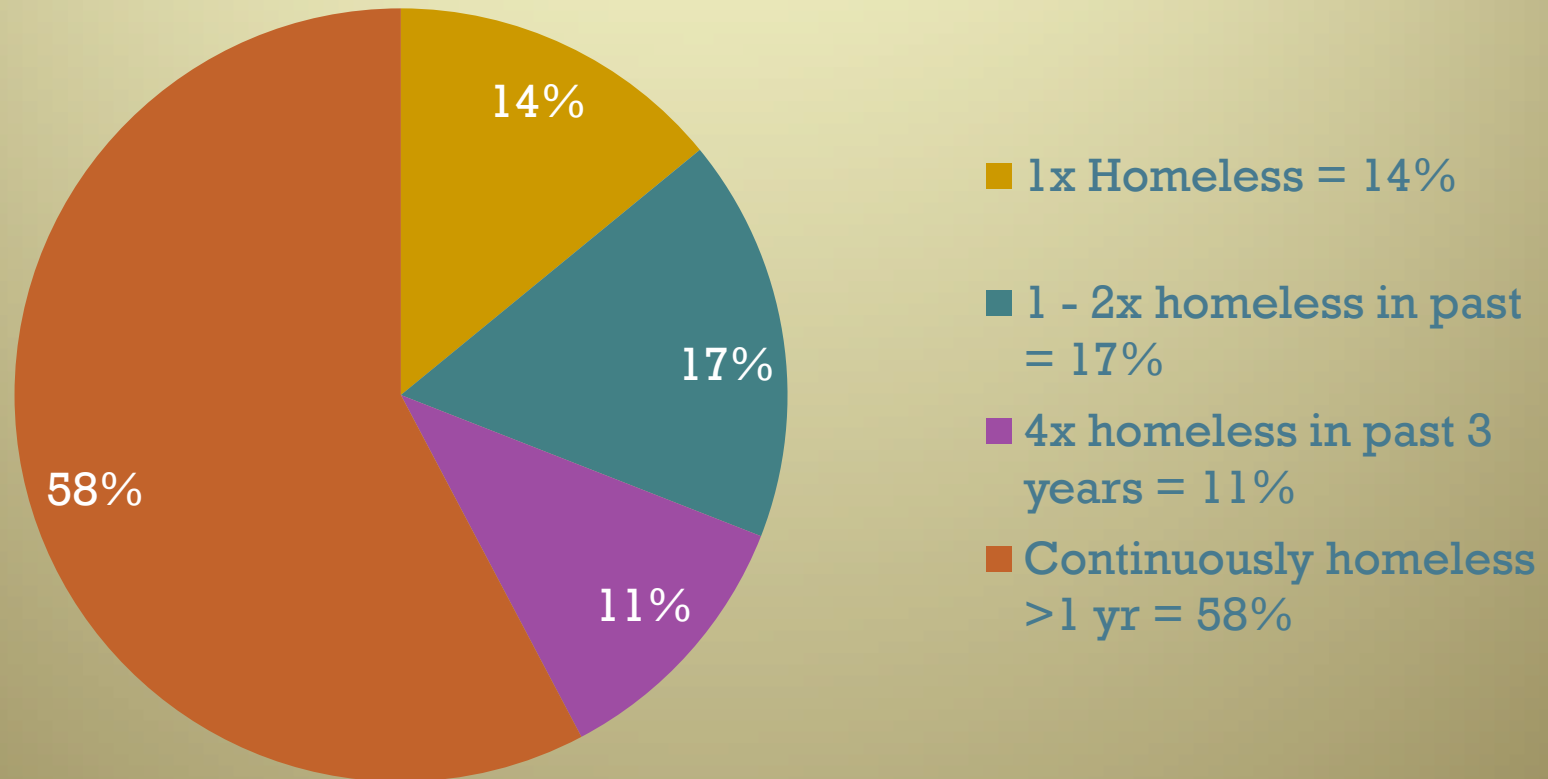
Core Homeless

■ Individuals ■ Persons in Families



2011 Point in Time Count Data

Length of Homelessness



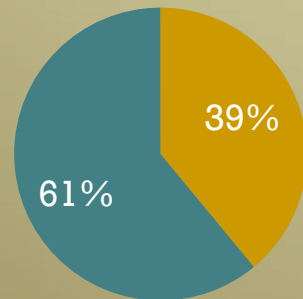
2011 Point in Time Count Data

Chronic Homelessness

A Chronically Homeless person is a homeless person with disabilities living in emergency shelters or places not meant for human habitation for more than a year or having 4 or more episodes of such homelessness in the past 3 years.

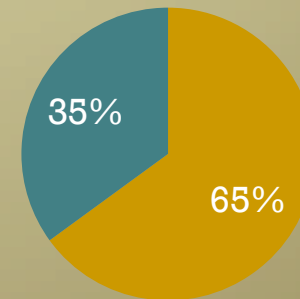
Chronic Homelessness in New Orleans

- % of Persons who are not Chronically Homeless
- % of Homeless Persons who are Chronically Homeless



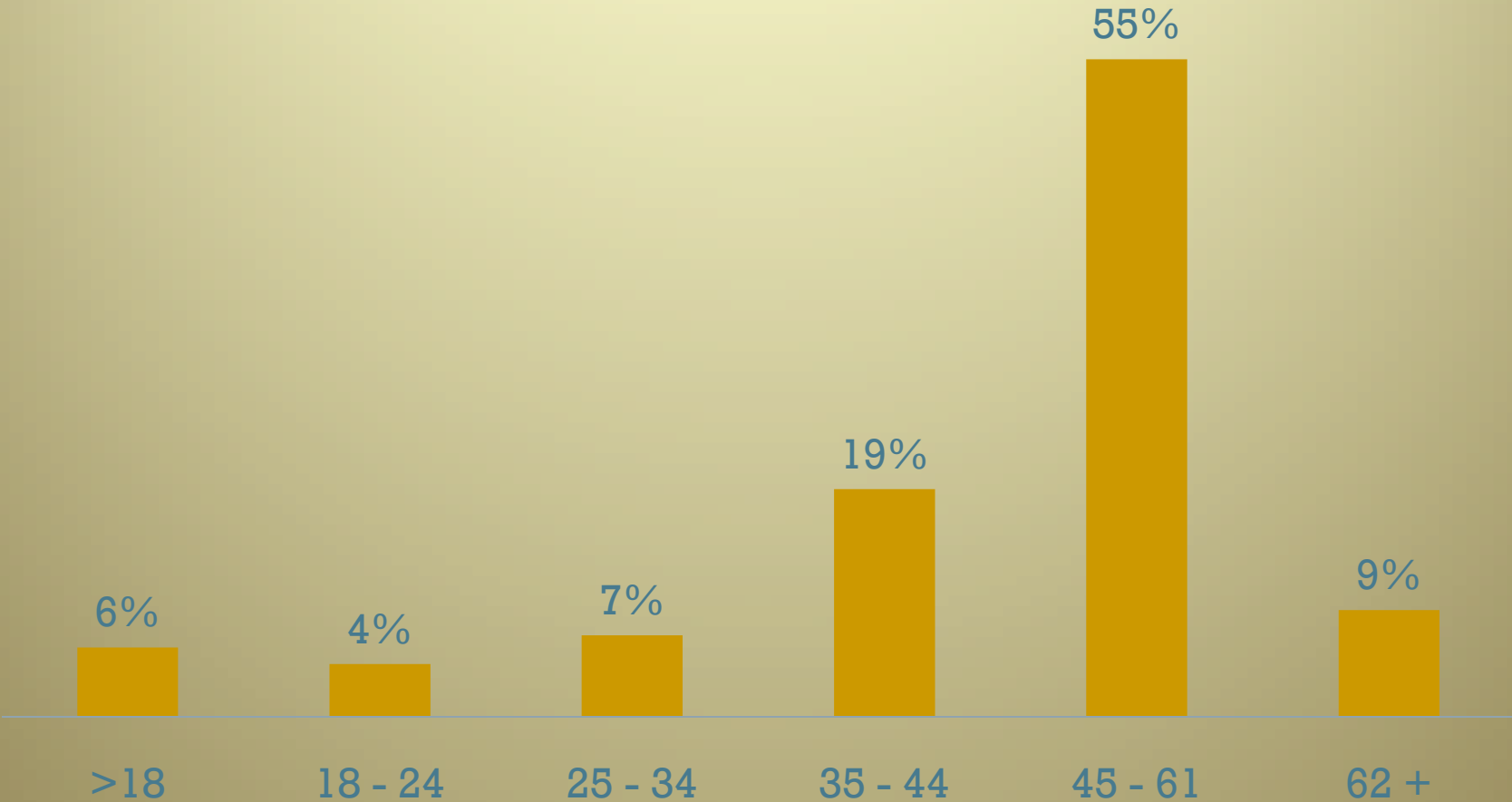
National Rate of Chronic Homelessness

- % of Persons who are not Chronically Homeless
- % of Homeless Persons who are Chronically Homeless



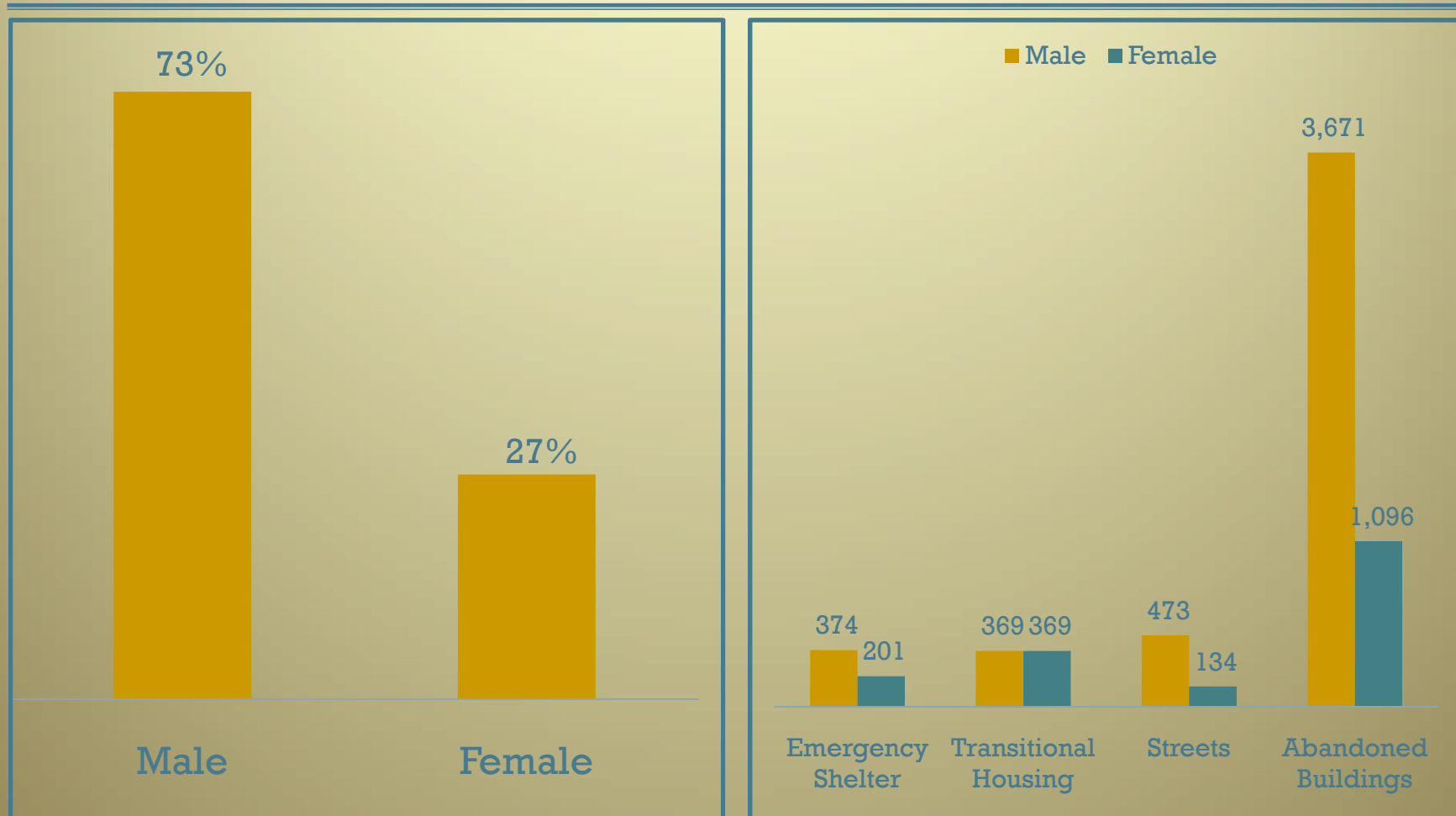
2011 Point in Time Count Data

Homelessness by Age



2011 Point in Time Count Data

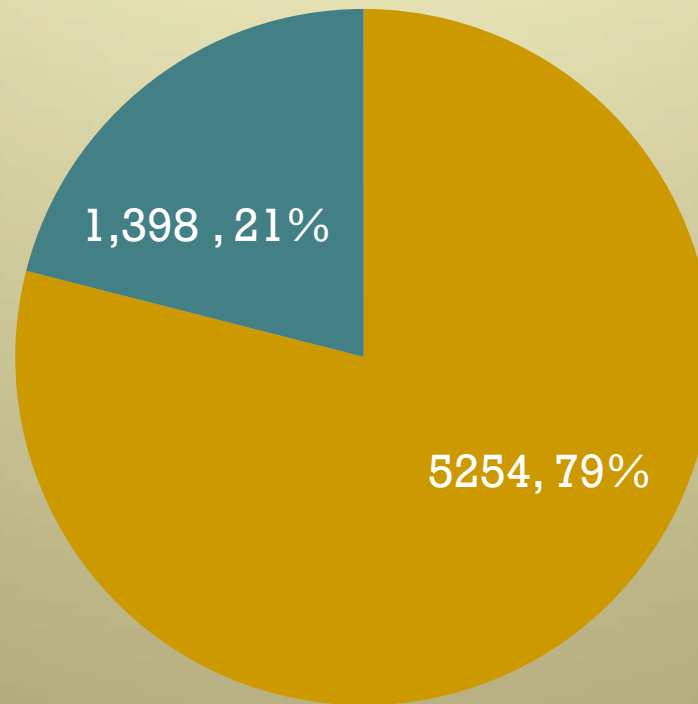
Homelessness by Gender



Homelessness Today

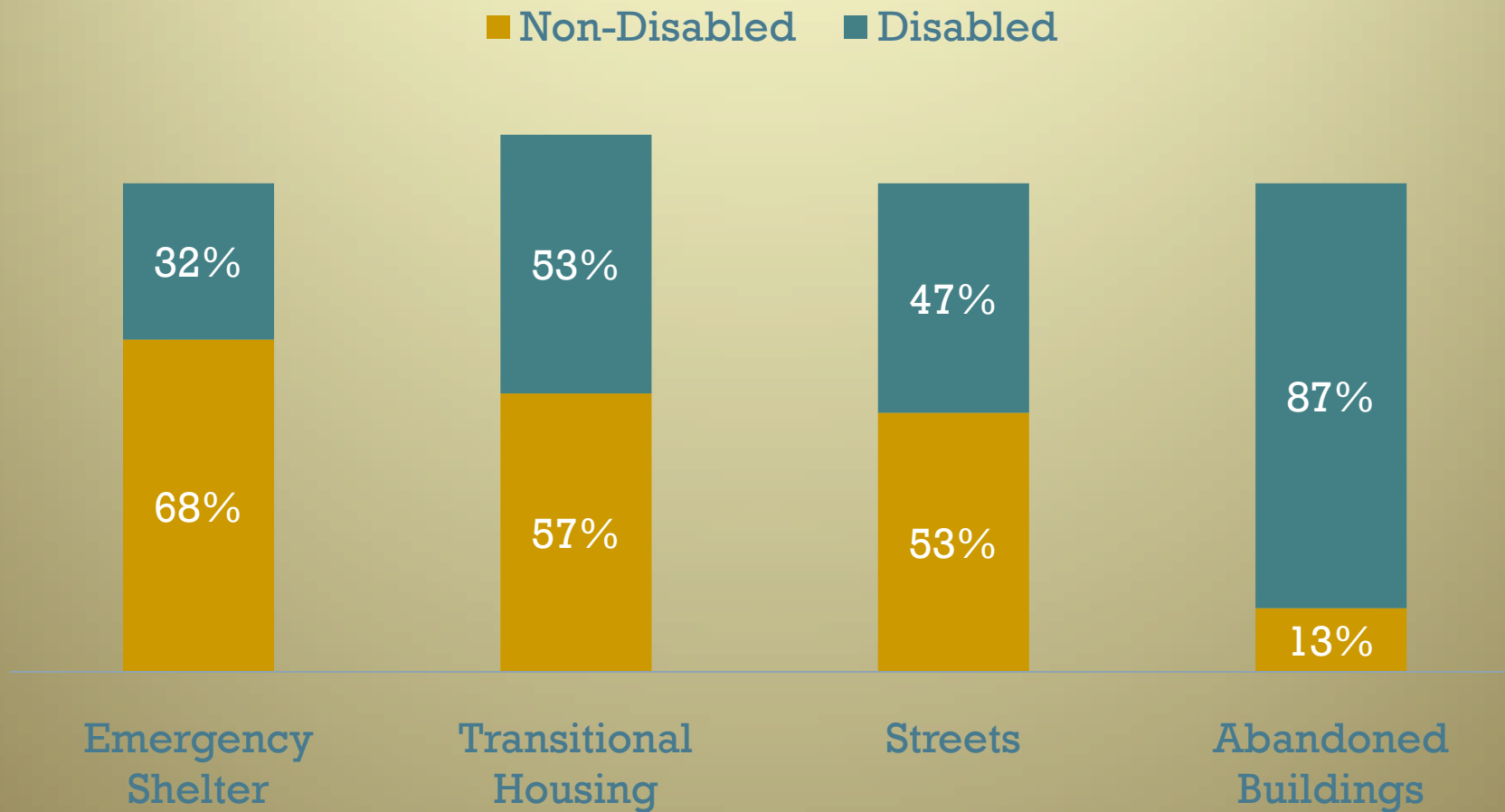
Homelessness and Disability

■ Disabled ■ Non-Disabled

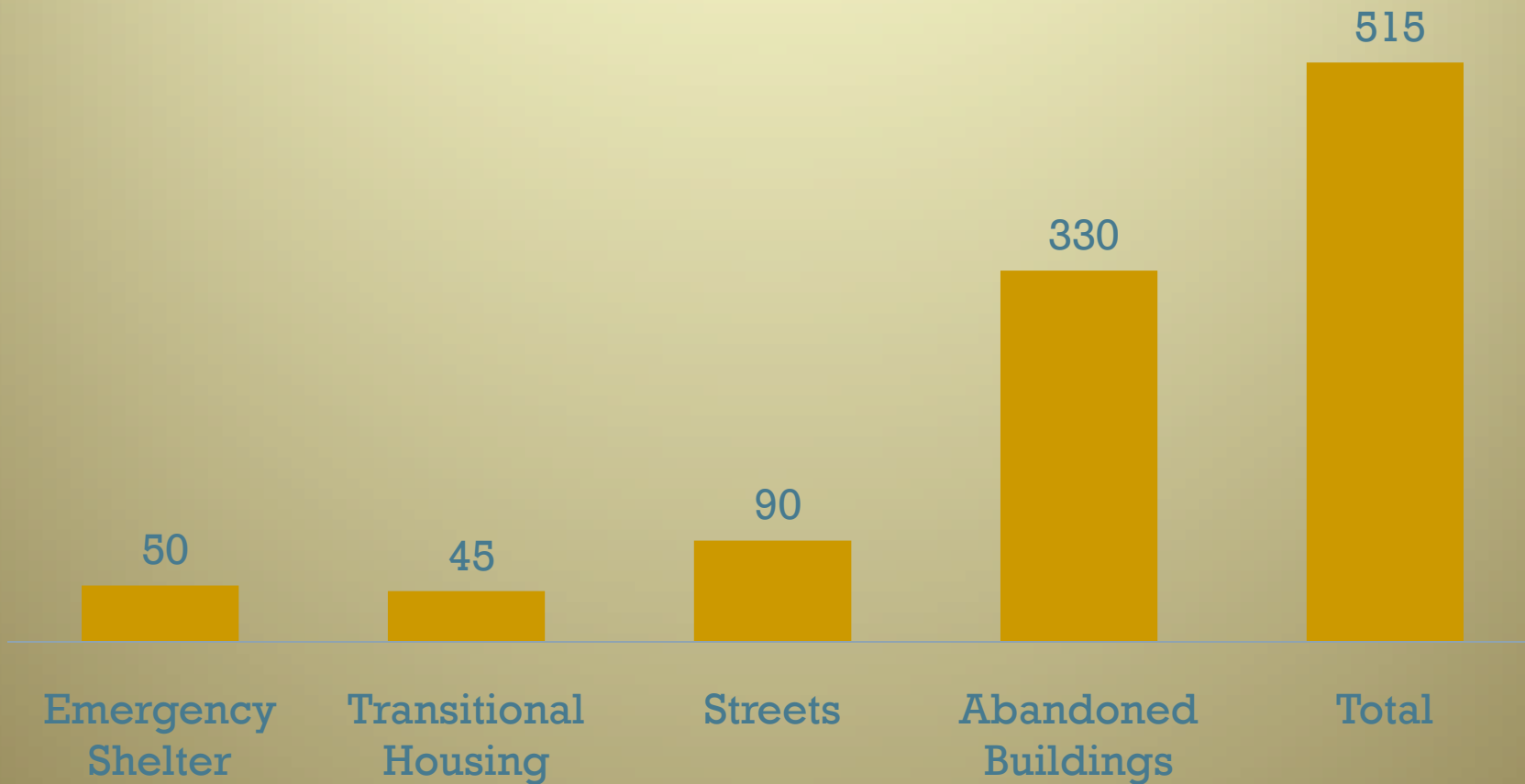


2011 Point in Time Count Data

Disability by Location

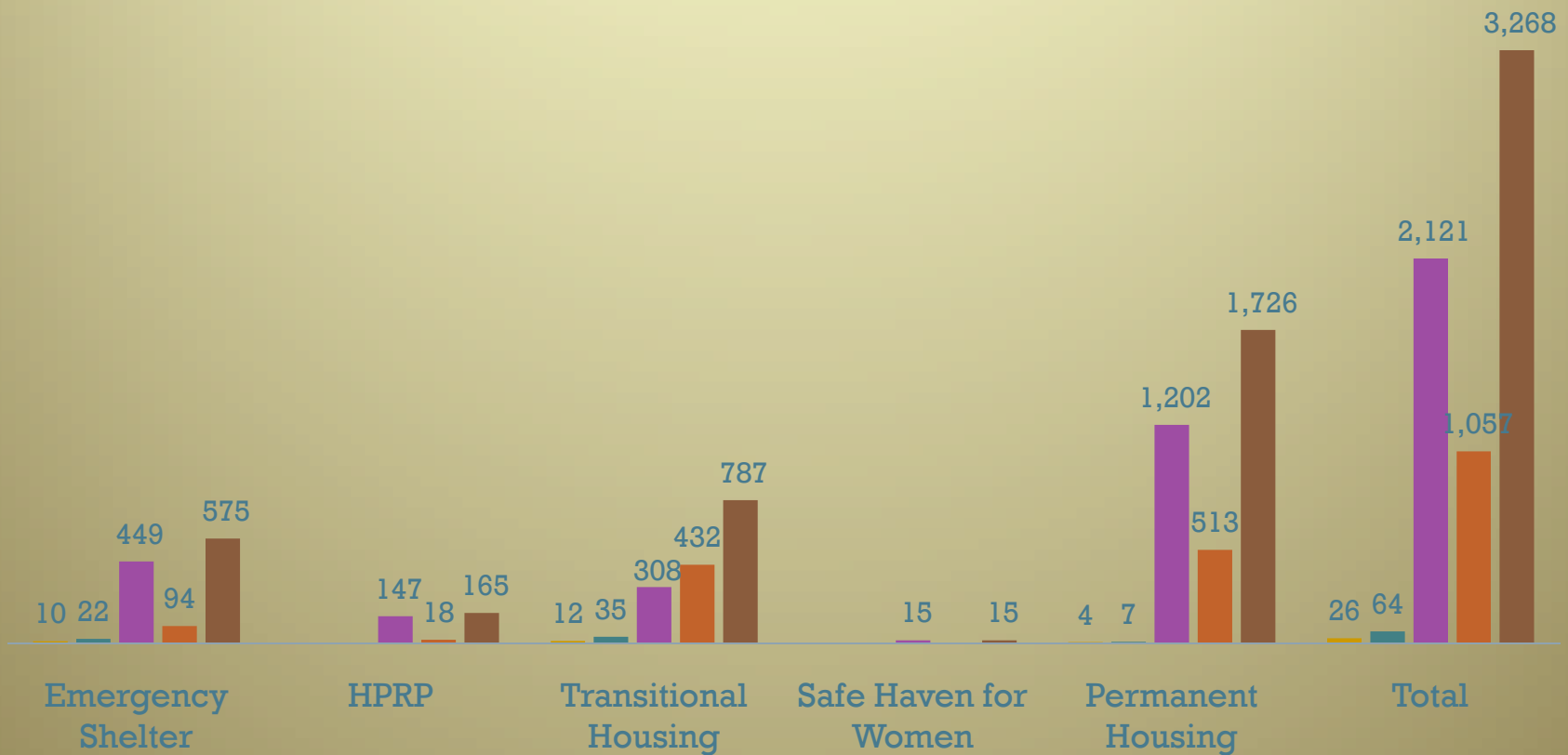


2011 Point in Time Count Data Homeless Veterans



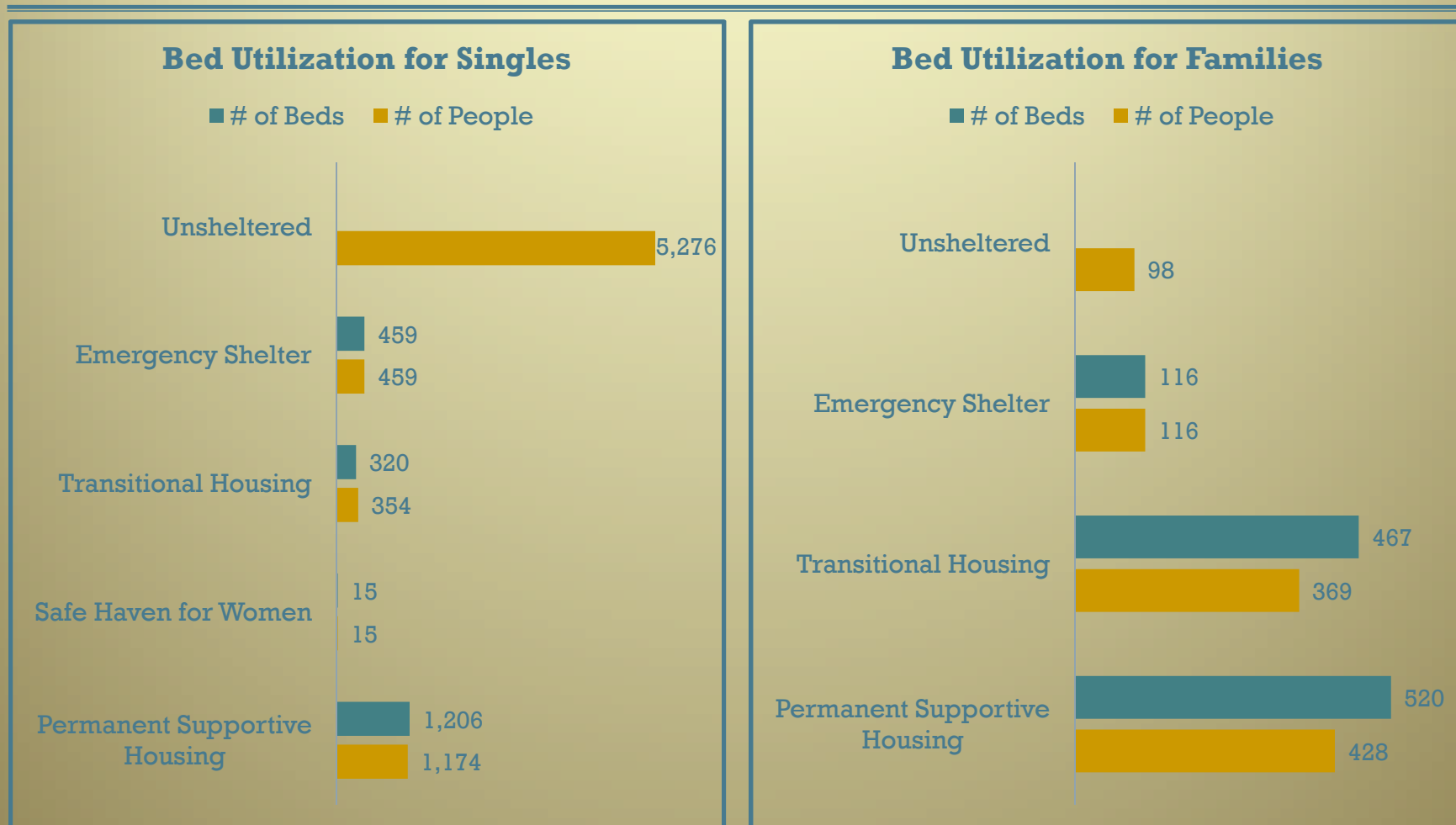
Current Housing Resources

■ Youth Singles ■ Youth Families ■ Singles ■ Families ■ Total



Homeless Bed Utilization Feb. 2011

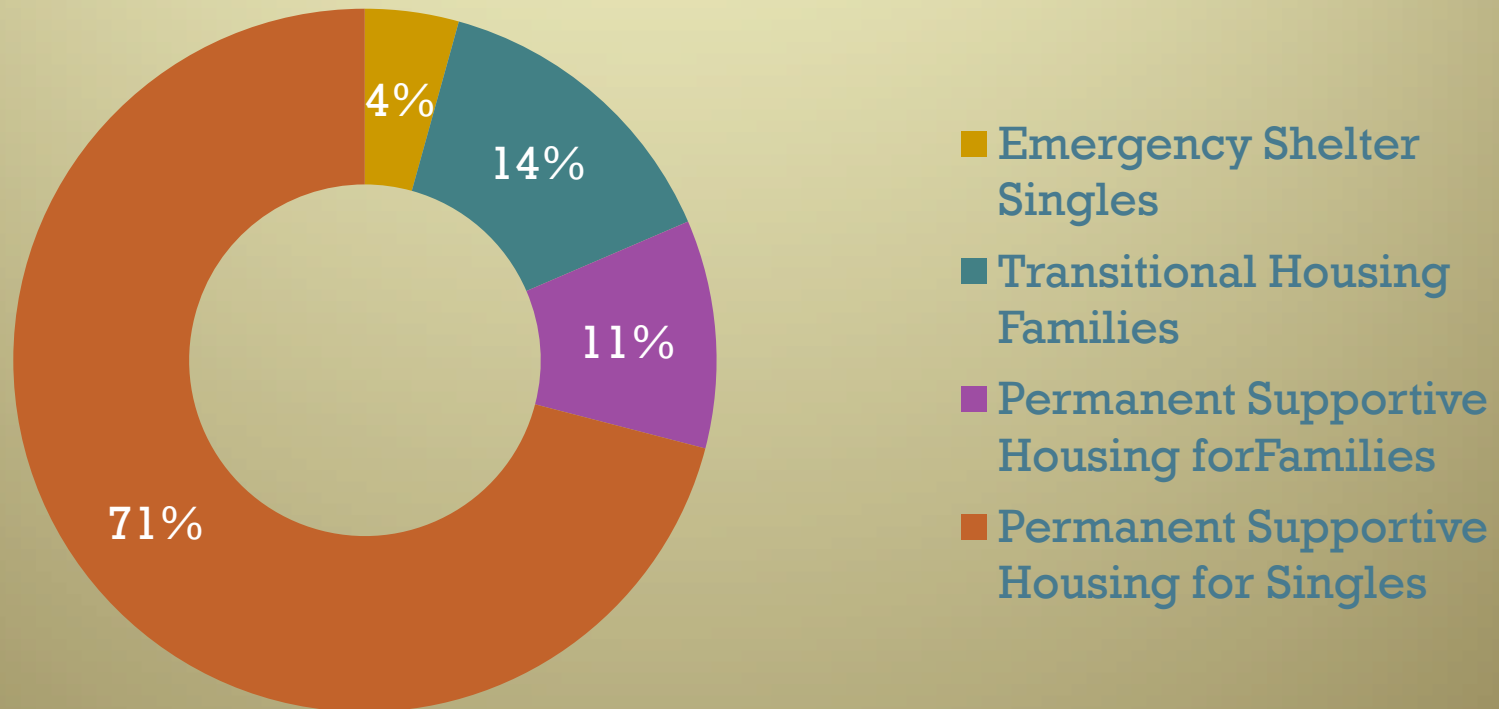
The CoC's bed utilization rate is 94%



New Homeless Beds Under Development

Expected to be available by 1/31/12

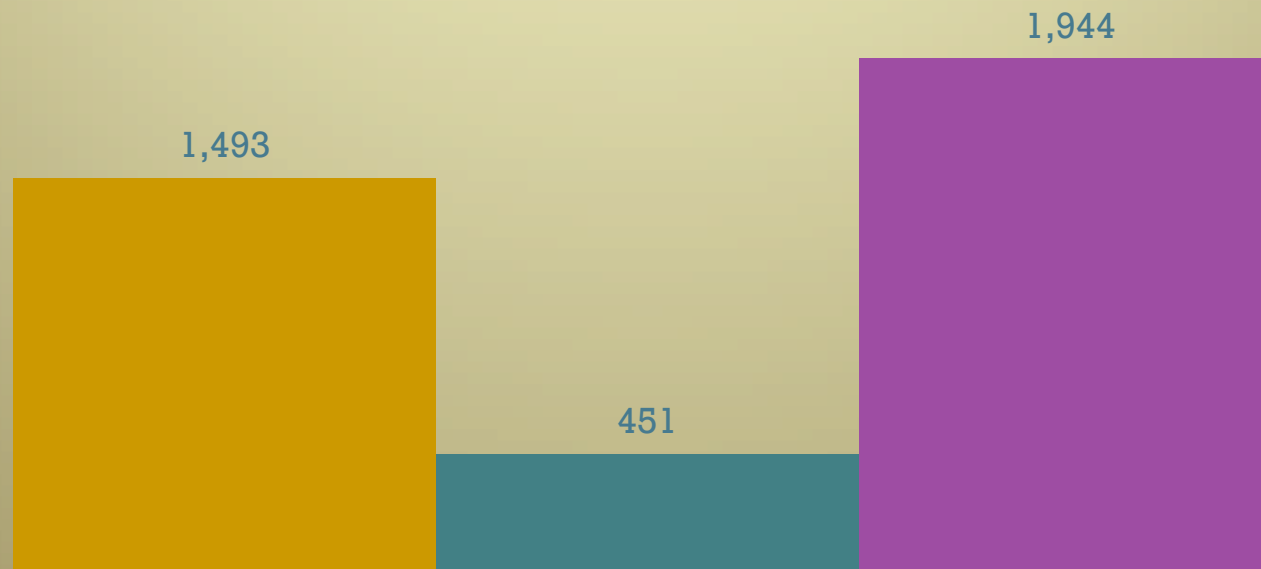
A total of 372 homeless beds will be added to current housing resources



Impact of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing

Households served by HPRP Resources since December 2009

■ Homeless Prevention ■ Rapid Rehousing ■ Total



HUD Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program



Solutions to Homelessness

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** affordable rental apartments linked to on-site case management services – PSH is proven to end homelessness for people with disabilities living on the street or in emergency shelters. The best practice is to target the most vulnerable with the greatest need for housing. PSH is cost-effective compared to high cost of keeping people homeless with resultant overuse of emergency rooms, hospitalizations, and jails.
- **Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention:** short-term rent assistance and short-term case management services end and prevent homelessness for families and individuals who do not have serious disabilities, or serve as a bridge to Permanent Supportive Housing for those who do have disabilities. The City currently implements a national pilot program of Rapid Rehousing for unsheltered youth.



Solutions to Homelessness

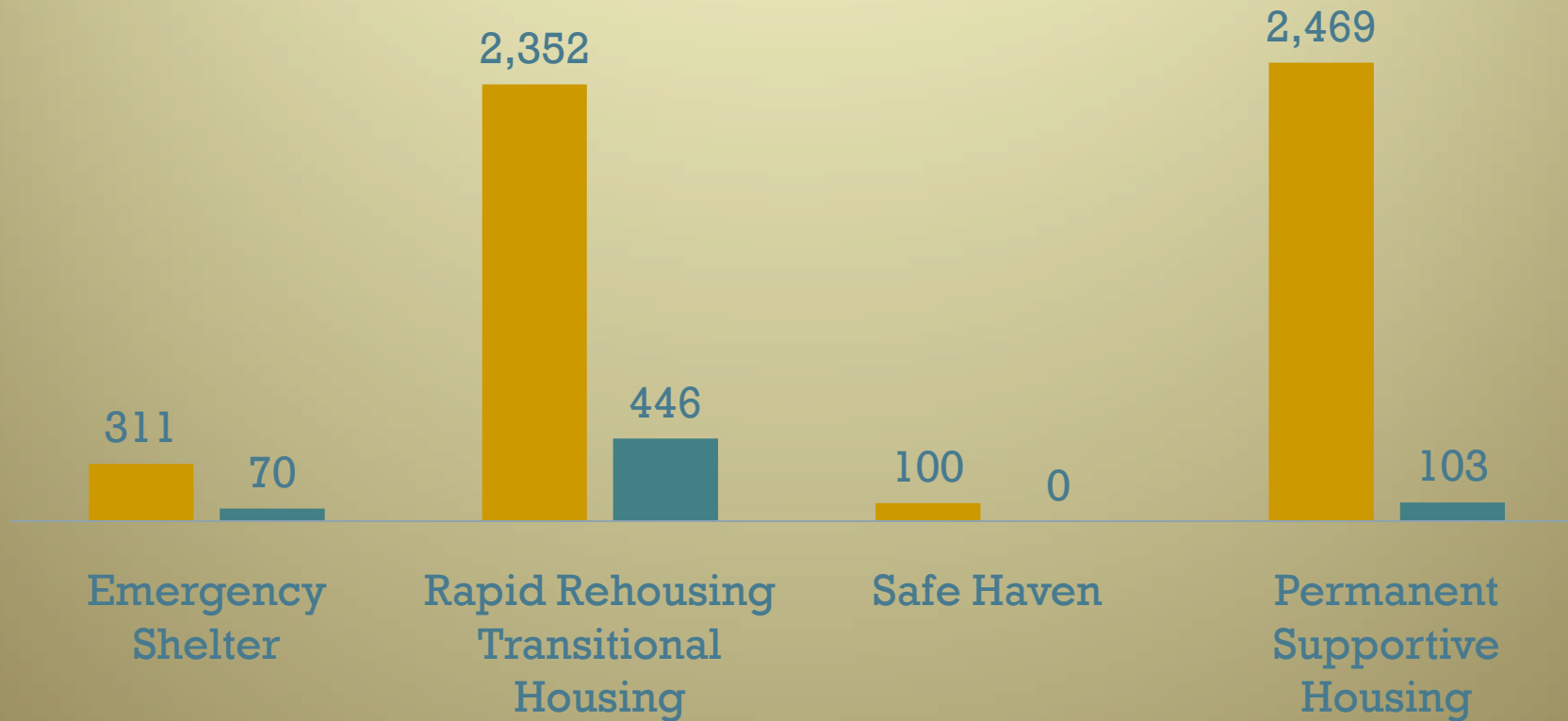
- **Low-Barrier Emergency Shelters** with triage and case management services designed to produce permanent housing outcomes.
- **Safe Haven for Men:** small (20 person) no-barriers shelters with semi-private accommodations and intensive services designed for unsheltered mentally ill persons with co-occurring disorders who are resistant to traditional shelter. New Orleans has a Safe Haven for Women, but needs several more for men and women.
- **Street and Abandoned Building Outreach** linked to Permanent Housing.



Additional Homeless Beds Needed:

Continuum of Care Assessment of Unmet Housing Needs, May 2011

■ Beds needed for Individuals ■ Beds needed for Persons in Families



Contact Information

Martha J. Kegel

Executive Director

mkegel@unitygno.org

(504) 821-4496, Ext. 109

www.unitygno.org

www.unityhousinglink.org

www.facebook.com/unitygno.org

For more information about available resources in the UNITY Homeless CoC, contact 211 anytime or UNITY's Director of Information & Referral at (504) 821-4496 (Mon-Thurs, 9 – 11 am & Friday, 1-3pm).

