



## Hypothermia FY15 Debrief – Families

Prepared for the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness

April 22, 2015

### Virginia Williams Family Resource Center

A total of **1,942 families** applied for services at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) during Hypothermia '15 (November 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015). These families made **2,195 applications** for services, with **11 percent** (or 221 of 1,942) of families applying for services more than once during the season.

**Of the 221 families** that made more than one application during the season:

- **192 families or 87 percent** applied twice during the season
- **26 families or 12 percent** applied three times during the season
- **3 families or 1 percent** applied four times during the season

**Table A.** below details the results of all of the 2,195 applications. Note that for the 221 families that made more than one application, each application and its result is counted here.

Table A. VWFRC Applications by Result, Hypothermia '15 (n=2,195)								
Family Determined Priority 1/Offered Shelter Placement	Priority 2	Priority 3	Case Closed, denial	Case closed, docs not received	Case closed, withdrawn by family	Case Closed, family obtained housing	Case closed, no contact with worker	Family Referred to ERAP
1,143	242	172	350	130	97	5	12	44
52.1%	11.0%	7.8%	15.9%	5.9%	4.4%	0.2%	0.5%	2.0%

**Fifty-two (52) percent** (or 1,143 of 2,195) of applications resulted in the family being offered a shelter placement. An offer of a shelter placement was made when it was determined by VWFRC staff that a family was of Priority 1 status, meaning that they were without a safe place to stay at the time of their application. As will be mentioned again later in the report, **1,007 families** accepted those offers for placement over the course of the season, spending at least one night in shelter.

**Seventy-seven (77) percent** (or 1,690 of 2,195) of the families that applied for services at Virginia Williams reported that they were living with family or friends at the time of their application. This is fairly consistent with the Hypothermia '14 figure of 81.2 percent. Although most families that were offered a shelter placement were living with family or friends at the time of their application, they were offered placement because they reported that they could *no longer* stay with their friend or relative. **Table B.** on the following page details the sites at which families were living when they made their application(s) for services at VWFRC.

Table B. Site Living at When Applying for Services at VWFRC, Hypo. FY '15 (n=2,195)	
Unsheltered	2.0%
Transitional Housing	1.3%
Supportive/Subsidized Housing	5.4%
Living With Family or Friends	77.0%
Institutional Setting	0.4%
Housing on their own	4.1%
Other	7.5%
Refused to disclose	2.3%

#### *Repeated Applications for Services*

**Forty-seven (47) percent** (or 917 of 1,942) of families making applications for services at VWFRC have done so more than once, *either* during the Hypothermia '15 season *or* at some point prior to the season. Note that while the previous page made reference the number of families that made more than one application during the course of the Hypothermia '15, the following information provides details on the number of families applying this season who have made multiple applications over time.<sup>1</sup>

**Of the 917 families** that applied for services at least once this season *and* at least once in the past:

- o **731 families or 80 percent** applied 1-2 times
- o **160 families or 17 percent** applied 3-4 times
- o **26 families or 3 percent** applied 5 or more times

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) records for these families show that for families that applied 1-2 times, an average of **613 days** (1.7 years) passed between applications. The average number of days between applications for families with 3-4 applications was **484 days** (1.3 years), and the average number of days between applications for families with 5 or more applications was **387 days** (1.1 years). **Table C.** on the following page shows the mean (average), median, and mode time between applications (in days) and **Table D.**, also on the following page, charts the distribution of the amount of days elapsed between applications for families with 1-2, 3-4, or 5+ applications during or prior to Hypothermia FY 15.

#### *Returning from CoC programs:*

**Twenty-seven (27) percent** (or 248 of 917) of the families that applied more than once were returning to Virginia Williams after exiting a Continuum of Care program. **Of the 248 families** returning to VWFRC after exiting CoC programs:

- o **179 families or 72 percent** returned after exiting Emergency Shelters
- o **27 families or 11 percent** returned after exiting Transitional Housing
- o **20 families or 8 percent** returned after receiving assistance through HPRP
- o **3 families or 1 percent** were returning after receiving assistance through STEAP

<sup>1</sup> Data was reviewed back to 2003 when publicly funded programs, including Virginia Williams, began entering client level data in to the HMIS.

- **0 families** were returning after receiving assistance through SSVF
- **11 families or 4 percent** were returning after receiving assistance through FRSP
- **8 families or 3 percent** were returning after receiving assistance through Permanent Supportive Housing

Table C.

	Number of Families (n=)	Mean Number of (Average) Days between Applications	Median Number of Days between Applications	Mode Number of Days between Applications
Applied 1-2 times	731	613	343	168
Applied 3-4 times	160	484	213	126
Applied 5+ times	26	387	172	70

Table D.

		Applied 1-2 times	Applied 3-4 times	Applied 5+ times
		n=731	n=160	n=26
Time between VWFRC Applications	1 - 30 days	1%	1%	4%
	31 - 90 days	6%	13%	15%
	91 - 180 days	18%	28%	23%
	181 -365 days	25%	36%	31%
	1 - 2 years	24%	10%	12%
	2 - 3 years	11%	3%	11%
	3 - 4 years	6%	2%	0%
	4 - 5 years	1%	1%	0%
	5+ years	8%	6%	4%

### Emergency Shelter for Families

On November 1, 2014 there were **283 families** in Emergency Shelter<sup>2</sup> for families. The families in shelter on that date included:

- **50 families** in motels that were placed during the previous Hypothermia season
- **131 families** in DC General and the associated properties (the Short Term Lease and Community Based Units)
- **102 families** in Temporary/Apartment-style shelter

<sup>2</sup> "Emergency Shelter" includes DC General, Temporary/Apartment-style shelter (Girard Street, Naylor Road, Park Road, and Spring Road) and motel room placements. Numbers presented here should not be compared to last year's debrief report which did not include Temporary/Apartment-style placements.

### Shelter Entries

Over the course of Hypothermia '15, a total of **1,007 shelter placements** were made bringing the total number of families served during the season to **1,290**, including those already in shelter on November 1, 2014. As previously mentioned, a total of 1,143 shelter placements were offered over the course of the season but 1,007 families accepted the shelter placement.

### Shelter Exits

A total of **411 families** exited the Emergency Shelter level of the Continuum of Care over the course of the Hypothermia '15, leaving **879 families** in Emergency Shelter as of the end of the season. **Table E.** below shows the number of families in Emergency Shelter at the start of the season, the number entering and exiting throughout the season, and the number in Emergency Shelter as of the official end of the season (March 31, 2015).

**Table E.**

<b>a</b>	<b>Families in Emergency Shelter, Nov. 1, 2014</b>	283
<b>b</b>	<b>Families Entering Emergency Shelter, Hypo. '15</b>	1,007
<b>c</b>	<b>TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED IN EMERGENCY SHELTER (a+ b)</b>	1,290
<b>d</b>	<b>Families Exiting Emergency Shelter, Hypo. '15</b>	411
<b>e</b>	<b>Families in Emergency Shelter, Mar. 31, 2014 (c - d)</b>	879

Of the **411 families exiting**, **130** were families that were in Emergency Shelter prior to the beginning of the season, with **281** both entering and exiting Emergency Shelter during the season. Of the **879 families that did not exit** Emergency Shelter by the end of the season, **153** had been in shelter since before the beginning of the Hypothermia season and **726** entered during the season. This is detailed in **Table F.** below.

**Table F.**

	<b>Exited Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '15</b>	<b>Did Not Exit Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '15</b>
<b>Entered Emergency Shelter Prior to Hypo. '15</b>	130	153
<b>Entered Emergency Shelter During Hypo. '15</b>	281	726

**Table G.** on the following page charts the number of exits per month, and the destination to which each family was exiting. Some **62 percent** (or 255 of 411) of exits from the Emergency Shelter level of the Continuum of Care were to Permanent or Permanent Supportive Housing destinations, most commonly through the DHS funded Rapid Rehousing Program, Family Rehousing & Stabilization Program (FRSP).

Note that the information presented in the table below includes the instances in which families moved from one Emergency Shelter site to another (typically from overflow to DC General) as well as the instances in which families moved *from* the Emergency Shelter level of the Continuum of Care. **One hundred (100)** moves between Emergency Shelter sites occurred during the season.

	Nov.	%	Dec.	%	Jan.	%	Feb.	%	Mar.	%
<b>Between ES Sites</b>	20	<b>33.9%</b>	12	<b>19.4%</b>	18	<b>18.4%</b>	13	<b>13.4%</b>	37	<b>19.0%</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	5	<b>8.5%</b>	4	<b>6.5%</b>	13	<b>13.3%</b>	3	<b>3.1%</b>	6	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>Permanent Housing/PSH</b>	28	<b>47.5%</b>	27	<b>43.5%</b>	36	<b>36.7%</b>	54	<b>55.7%</b>	110	<b>56.4%</b>
<b>With Family/Friends</b>	3	<b>5.1%</b>	5	<b>8.1%</b>	4	<b>4.1%</b>	4	<b>4.1%</b>	3	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Refused/Other</b>	3	<b>5.1%</b>	14	<b>22.6%</b>	27	<b>27.6%</b>	23	<b>23.7%</b>	39	<b>20.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>62</b>		<b>98</b>		<b>97</b>		<b>195</b>	

### Length of Stay

The families served in Emergency Shelter during Hypothermia '15 have spent, on average, **148 days** in shelter.<sup>3</sup> The average length of stay for those who entered Emergency Shelter prior to the beginning of the Hypothermia season was much higher. Among families entering before the season and exiting during the season, the average time in shelter was **379 days** (1.1 years). For families that entered before the season but that did not exit by the end of the season, the average time in shelter was **499 days** (1.4 years) as of the end of the season. **Table H.** below provides the mean (or average), median, and mode length of stay in shelter (in days) for the families served during Hypothermia '15. **Table I.** details the average length of stay by of families, broken down by their destination (where they moved to upon exit from Emergency Shelter) and month in which the exit occurred.

	Number of Families (n=)	Families' Mean Length of Stay	Families' Median Length of Stay	Families' Mode Length of Stay
<b>Entered Shelter Prior to Hypo '15/ Exited During Hypo '15</b>	<b>130</b>	379	322	N/A
<b>Entered Shelter During Hypo '15/ Exited During Hypo '15</b>	<b>281</b>	48	41	43
<b>Entered Shelter Prior to Hypo '15/ DID NOT EXIT</b>	<b>153</b>	499	361	151
<b>Entered Shelter During Hypo '15/ DID NOT EXIT</b>	<b>726</b>	70	69	64
<b>All Families Served Hypo '15</b>	<b>1,290</b>	148	77	64

**Table I.**

	Nov.	Avg. LOS	Dec.	Avg. LOS	Jan.	Avg. LOS	Feb.	Avg. LOS	Mar.	Avg. LOS
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	5	<b>758</b>	4	<b>428</b>	13	<b>112</b>	3	<b>94</b>	6	<b>165</b>
<b>Permanent Housing/PSH</b>	28	<b>367</b>	27	<b>391</b>	36	<b>185</b>	54	<b>141</b>	110	<b>125</b>
<b>With Family/Friends</b>	3	<b>167</b>	5	<b>34</b>	4	<b>11</b>	4	<b>23</b>	3	<b>83</b>
<b>Refused/Other</b>	3	<b>194</b>	14	<b>82</b>	27	<b>50</b>	23	<b>31</b>	39	<b>82</b>

<sup>3</sup> This refers to the number of days 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 15.

## **Families Served**

### *Family Size*

**75 percent** (or 966 of 1,290) of the households served during Hypothermia '15 were single-parent; **24 percent** (or 305 of 1,290) were two-adult/two-parent households. **Nineteen (19) placements** (or 1 percent) were offered for women who were pregnant but had no other children at the time of placement. Among the 1,271 households with children served, **73 percent** (or 928) of the families had 1-2 children, **20 percent** (or 254) had 3-4 children, and **7 percent** (or 89) had 5 or more children in the household.

### *Age of Head of Household*

The **median age** among the heads of households served in Hypothermia '15 was **25 years**, with **39 percent** (or 505 of 1,291) of heads of household being between the ages of 18 and 24 at the time of their shelter entry. This is consistent with figures reported for the last few Hypothermia seasons. The age distribution for the heads of households served during Hypothermia '15 is detailed in **Table J.** below.

Age Group	Percentage
Under 18	0.0%
Age 18 - 24	39.2%
Age 25 - 30	27.8%
Age 31 - 40	19.8%
Age 41 - 50	8.6%
Age 51 - 60	3.2%
Over age 60	0.2%
HoH did not disclose age/date of birth	1.2%

### *Other demographic information*

**Table K.** 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 28, 2015). 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 homeless among families is driven by economic factors such as the lack of affordable housing and access to employment.

History of Substance Abuse	1.5%	U.S. Military Veteran	0.9%
History of Mental Illness	9.5%	History of Domestic Violence	21.2%
Physical Disability	3.5%	Limited English Proficiency	1.7%
Chronic Health Issue	2.1%	Ever resided in an Institutional Setting	6.4%
Chronically Homeless	8.6%	Ever resided in foster care	5.2%

### *Income and employment*

According to information collected during the annual Point in Time enumeration, **12 percent** (or 92 of 768) of heads of household served reported that they have no income of any kind. Among the 676 heads of household with at least one income source, **25 percent** (or 169) report that their primary source of income is employment. **Fifty-two (52) percent** (or 352) report that their primary income source is TANF<sup>4</sup>, and **23 percent** (or 155) report that Social Security/Disability related income or other public assistance is their primary source of income.

<sup>4</sup> Note that 93 percent of families with income receive TANF though in many cases it is not the family's primary income source.