



**End Homelessness Vermont**

[www.endhomelessnessvt.org](http://www.endhomelessnessvt.org)

Contact: Brenda Siegel with questions

## **Preliminary Data On Where People Come From and How They Became Homeless:**

Please note that this data is not yet released and there may be minor changes when it is ready for release. This is the 2nd data set of three. Data set 1 is not included in these numbers and 3 is not complete and will not be until the spring of 2025. This set includes 200 participants with data collected from September of 2023 to February of 2024. This is also only one section of the data collected, the full report will be released in the coming weeks.

### **Methods:**

End Homelessness Vermont conducted interviews with participants of the General Assistance Emergency Housing program (GA) to understand the demographics, experiences, and needs of people utilizing emergency housing in Vermont. Interviews will take place in a total of three phases. Interviews were conducted by staff and volunteers of End Homelessness Vermont using a standard questionnaire. All interviews were held in a private location of the motel or by phone, interviews were completely voluntary and participants could discontinue at any point, identifying data was only viewable by select staff at End Homelessness Vermont. An estimated total of 79 participants were interviewed in Phase 1, 200 participants were interviewed in Phase 2 and Phase 3 will begin in the fall of 2024. Data from Phase 2, lasting from September 2023-February 2024. Data from previous and subsequent phases will be analyzed and reported separately.

### **Phase 2 Interviews:**

A total of 200 staying in 15 hotels or entering GA were interviewed as part of Phase 2, lasting from September 2023-February 2024. Interviews were held in hotels and by phone, spanning 9 towns and 5 counties in Vermont. Interview participants ranged from 18-82.5 years of age. No children were interviewed as part of the process.

## **Data Highlights:**

- 81.3% of interview participants have lived in Vermont for more than 5 years
- 96% of interview participants were last housed in Vermont
- Vast majority lost permanent housing due to reasons beyond their control and entered into homelessness following losing housing.
- 96% of all interview participants were last housed and entered into homelessness in Vermont. Only 8 of 200 came to Vermont from other states. None of these 8 interview participants reported coming to Vermont for housing or other benefits.

## **Findings**

### **How Long Have You Lived In Vermont?**

198 Responses

Lifelong Vermonters: 102

Since Childhood: 12

10 Years or more: 33

5 Years or more: 14

### **State Last Housed:**

**96% Last housed in Vermont.**

- This represents long-term or non-shelter housing. This is the last known as taken from data on how and where the individual became homeless.

Became Homeless

In Vermont: 192

Not Vermont: 8

### **Reason for Moving To Vermont For “Not Vermont” Category: 8 TOTAL**

- 5 out of 8 came to Vermont for a specific reason, 3 were unknown. Reasons for moving to Vermont included the following: Reuniting with family, entering recovery, fleeing domestic violence, moving into an apartment that fell through.
- None of the interview participants in this phase said that they moved to Vermont for benefits.

Unknown: 3

Came To Vermont To Reconnect With Son: 1

Were Already Saving To Move To Vermont, Plan Before They Became Homeless: 1

Fleeing Domestic Violence: 1

Prevent Relapse: 1

Had Somewhere To Live, Fell Through: 1

## **Cause Of Loss Of Housing**

No Cause Eviction: 41  
Condemned Housing: 20  
Couldn't Afford Rent: 20  
Fleeing Violence: 19  
Eviction Non Specific: 16  
Family Eviction: 11  
Non Payment Of Rent: 10  
Retaliatory Eviction: 5  
Foreclosure 7  
Health & Safety Issue Unaddressed: 8 (left for safety)  
Flood or Fire: 6

Interview participants also reported:

- Evictions due to disability
- Family member died
- Exited foster care into homelessness
- Homeless since 18
- Exited an institution into homelessness
- Separation or divorce a
- Overcrowding

## **Evictions Break Down:**

### **84 Evictions Total:**

Participants who reported losing housing due to no cause evictions described the following experiences:

Among the 41 evictions that were no cause:

An overwhelming number were not allowed to have their child or parent live there on the lease, several had reported health and safety issues, several landlords wanted to raise rent or renovate, Several lost their Section 8 voucher due to eviction even though it was no cause.

Among 20 where housing was condemned:

There were several where the landlord would not repair the property and others where the landlord could not afford the repairs. Most were unknown as to why the property was not fixed.

Among the 18 who couldn't afford rent and 10 evicted for non-payment of rent:

All but a few had a catastrophic event that led to not being able to pay rent: Examples:  
Most reported catastrophic illness or new major disability took them out of the workforce  
Death of a family member

**Health Issue In Housing:**

In 47 Cases where people lost housing, regardless of how or why they left, they were living in a house with significant health issues in their housing.