

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

**Thursday, September 15, 2022
8:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions – Norman Maze facilitating

a. Zoom Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/82855899624?pwd=aUhpZlVvRXhxbmVpZlYrQ2svOU9iZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 5589 9624

Passcode: 194008

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,82855899624#,,, *194008# US

+13126266799,,82855899624#,,, *194008# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 828 5589 9624

Passcode: 194008

Find your local number: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/koYQscRUA>

b. Approval of minutes (5 minutes)

2. Cumberland County Service Hub update – Matthew Jarrell (10 minutes)

3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics (15 Minutes)

- a. August Statistics
- 4. **Winter planning discussion – Group conversation (20 minutes)**
- 5. **Region I update – Norman Maze, others (10 minutes)**
- 6. **Federal, State, and Local Legislation update (Cullen Ryan, others) – (20 minutes)**
- 7. **Other items, updates, and announcements – (10 minutes)**
 - a. HVJ: You Don't Need a Home to Vote effort
 - b. Preble Street: Elena's Way announcement and update

Next Meeting

October 20, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

Aaron Geyer
Health & Human Services Department
Social Services Division
(207) 482-5131
aeg@portlandmaine.gov

Adam Harr
Health & Human Services Department
Social Services Division
(207) 482-5144
ash@portlandmaine.gov

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2022

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Terence Miller	Preble Street	Anne Marie Brown	United Way
Sarah Michniewicz	BNA	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Ginny Dill	Office of Behavioral Health	Mike Guthrie	CoP Family Shelter
Taylor Cray	Preble Street	Brian Townsend	Amistad
George Rheault	Bayside Resident	Mathew Jarrell	HUB coordinator
K. Scott Morrison	Bayside Resident	Jim Divine	HVJ
Leah Bruns	PHA	Lauren Chan	City of Portland
Mary Cook	TOA	Hannah Brier	UWSM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Ben Martineau	HVJ
Bill Higgins	HA4All	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Suzanne Randall	HA4All	Heather Zimmerman	Portland Resident

Meeting Summary

We continue to see a large increase in single asylum seekers. The four hotels are able to continue provide emergency shelter in South Portland with the Comfort Inn and Days Inn needing to stop taking agency placements by March, 2023. The conditions placed on hotels include providing outreach, shuttle services, and services for asylum seekers due to the increase of singles. The encampment policy follows best practices around the country, checking if there is access to shelters before clearing camps but those that are CTO'd from area shelters would still be subject to the policy. The policy does not cover DOT land. Coordinated Entry is close to a statewide rollout with 2 of the 9 hubs planning to hold a formal pilot of CE. Now is a good time to outreach to candidates as 1/3 of the legislature is turning over.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- **July Meeting Minutes**
 - Jim moved to approve the July 21, 2022 minutes, Ben seconded and the minutes were approved with none opposed.
- **July Statistics**
 - Asylum seekers are reporting the states they came here from so it is hard to tell based on intakes, but 46 indicated “refugee Services” for their reason for seeking shelter at OSS intake and are likely asylum seekers. We continue to see an increase in asylum seeking singles.
 - 12 housing placements in July, 2022.
 - 76 of the 157 intakes reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.
 - Restrictions aren’t tracked the same way as restrictions because restrictions have so much variation, ranging from a 30 minute walk, 1 day/night, to 30 days.
 - The shelter director or two assistant directors approve CTOs at OSS.
 - The Assistant directors are Josh Ruitto and Jason Chan.
 - We look forward to Sara’s return.
 - Portland GA or Maine Housing is paying for clients in hotels in other communities.
 - 1/3 of shelter stayers in Portland are from other Maine towns.
- **South Portland hotel/ERA update and discussion – Aaron Geyer, Mary Cook**
 - Haven’t met since South Portland Hotel Licensing Meeting August second. Days Inn and Comfort Inn will incur a fine if continuing to operate with placed individuals past March 1st.
 - Days Inn:
 - OSS overflow shelter
 - Harder conditions with defined end date.
 - Comfort Inn:
 - MSHA singles;
 - Harder conditions with defined end date.
 - Howard Johnson: 115-120 families
 - Almost all families: 115-120 families
 - TOA hiring 2 onsite outreach managers for the hotels.
 - Casco Bay Hotel: mix of singles and families
 - Mix of families and singles.
 - ERA and Prosperity ME.
 - Stopping working with ERA but still has 14 households to relocate as they are able to.
 - Many conditions involve services with the providers at this meeting:
 - Outreach
 - Shuttle services
 - Services for asylum seekers due to the increase of singles.
 - How much time each outreach team are spending at hotels? Someone indicated it was an afternoon a week which sounds small.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- That is currently accurate today, but organizations are contracting with Maine Housing to use \$22 million available to hire up staffing.
 - South Portland meeting was originally scheduled for mid-august, not the second, so organizations had to expedite contracts and hiring.
- Are there communication issues with asylum seekers?
 - Both hotels have translation.
 - Howard Johnsons has a present from the City of Portland Resettlement Program and Community organizations.
 - Prosperity ME and ILAP will provide services at the hotels, including the singles.
- When singles come in large numbers, does it indicate anything?
 - The large number of singles is new, so we do not have any pattern to indicate a trend.
 - Families were indicators: saw 22 families in the first 18 days of families and then 77 families at the end of that month.
 - We see people at shelter but we hear from MERC of many singles in the community who will need services.
- **Intersection of City Encampment Policy with Dept. of Transportation enforcement-update and discussion**
 - City policy does not extend to DOT land (the other side of the fence at the highway).
 - These camps are outside of the City's jurisdiction.
 - What happens when someone is CTO'd from shelter.
 - Work with each individual to find a shelter who can take them.
 - CTOs limit options where people can go.
 - Is there any plan for people with animals
 - Is there any plan for a sanctioned camp site?
 - For the people currently CTO'd, they have no place to go?
 - Not necessarily, someone be CTO'd from one shelter but not others.
 - Causing a CTO may be considered giving up a resource in GA statute calls into question their GA eligibility.
 - What happens if people are CTO'd from all shelters; are they at risk of enforcement if they are camping?
 - Yes.
 - What happens to restricted people?
 - We don't track restrictions because we do progressive discipline, such as 30 minute walks to a 30 day restriction. A restriction will always be reconsidered when individuals request to talk to shelter management.
 - Would people restricted from all shelters be at risk of camping enforcement?
 - Yes.
 - Does the City track CTOs between singles and families?
 - Yes, but there are no CTOs at Family Shelter.
 - Who would people speak to restrictions in Sara's absence at OSS?
 - Either Josh Ruitto or Jason Chan, the assistant directors.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Are there categories of restrictions that determine length?
 - It is case by case.
 - If people think they are restricted, give the assistant shelter directors or Aaron a call.
- CTOs happen at all homeless shelters and it is a problem for everyone when clients get violent.
- The conversation around sanctioned encampments feels important now.
 - 374 individuals of 60 families are reaching the end of their ERA; there isn't a plan for where they go to next.
 - It feels inevitable that there will be more established encampments.
 - Encourage the municipalities to shelter through their GA obligations.
- The encampment policy follows best practices around the country, checking if there is access to shelters before clearing camps.
 - Coordinates efforts among outreach workers.
 - The missing link is that it is very difficult to access housing; we will not shelter our way out of homelessness.
 - What can we do to support people who have been CTO'd from all shelters?
- Less than 10% of total population lives in Portland serves 50% of the total homeless population in the state.
 - We seem unable to enforce the law that requires Maine towns to serve their homeless population.
 - People don't do well when they leave their families and supports.
 - Hoping with new structure in place, we will be able to address this in people's communities.
- Statewide homeless counsel has a 6-month strategy looking at having inflow but no outflow.
 - We don't have a higher number of people experiencing homelessness, just they are staying so we see them all at once.
 - Diversion is a key component.
 - Resources needed to pay back bills.
 - Rapid Re-Housing.
 - People: flexible outreach workers and case managers.
 - Landlord engagement: incentivize landlords.
 - Help all shelters lower barriers.
 - Higher barrier shelters ejecting people for minimal mental illness or substance use issues.
 - Asked the governor's office to fund the strategy.
- What are the best agencies to refer people with continuing behavioral issues who do not have caseworkers?
 - Amistad does a great work with people exhibiting psychotic features.
 - Psychotic symptoms are exacerbated by stress; homelessness is stressful and when people are housed, they are much less likely to be symptomatic.
 - TCM funding has been pulled over the years exacerbating the issue.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- How does healthcare for the homeless and people with animals work?
- Safe parking lot for people to park safely without harassment.
- **Cumberland County Service Hub Update**
 - Mathew Jarrell, mjerrell@UWSM.org, Cumberland County HUB Coordinator
 - Coordinated Entry referral process to CoC funded programs.
 - Close to statewide rollout.
 - Assessment tool has been built out and tested.
 - Recommended to roll out.
 - 2 of the 9 hubs will hold a formal pilot of CE; more info next month.
 - Collecting personal info for the county wide by-name list.
 - Focusing on unsheltered as sheltered folks are already documented in HMIS by shelters, GA, and ERA.
 - Meeting weekly to discuss process to submit unsheltered.
 - Making sure they have consent
 - Verbal\Signed release.
 - Use existing processes for getting consent.
 - How can we keep the list updated?
- **Federal, State, and Local Legislation Update**
 - **Federal**
 - Reconciliation bill does not have the housing resources as Build Back Better with only \$1 billion for public housing but not shelters.
 - THUD budgets have increases in both senate and house.
 - Funds allow for affordable housing.
 - **State**
 - Starting a biennial session with a third of the lawmakers turning over.
 - Now is a good time to outreach to candidates.
- **Other items, updates, and announcements**
 - Capitol Hill Day coming up.
 - Special NOFO is focusing on rural homelessness.
 - Regular NOFO was given 60 days to respond.

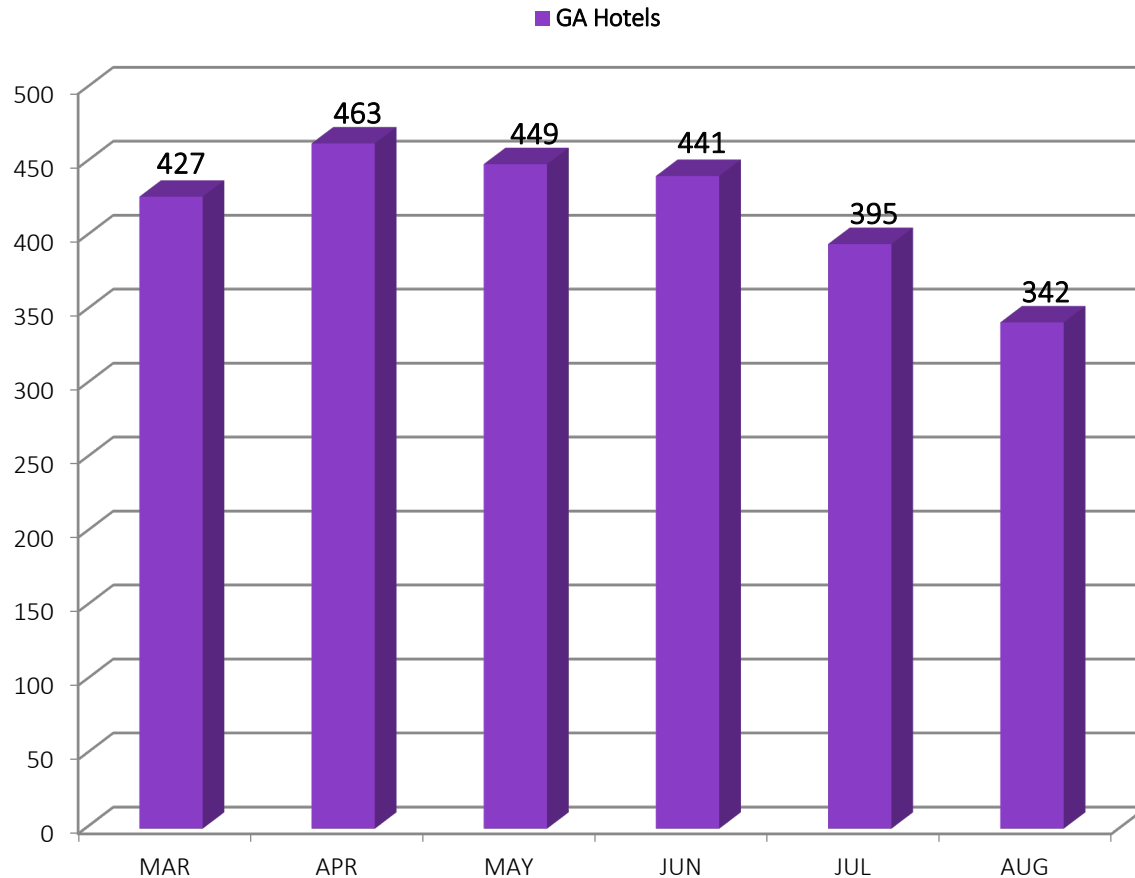
PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters* per Night:

	August 2021	August 2022
ADOLESCENTS	15 Individuals	24 Individuals
FAMILIES	108 Individuals 39 Average Families	75 Individuals 31 Average Families
ADULTS	242 Individuals	356 Individuals
Total	365 Individuals	455 Individuals

*GA hotels are on the next slide.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Unduplicated GA Hotels	342	2,893

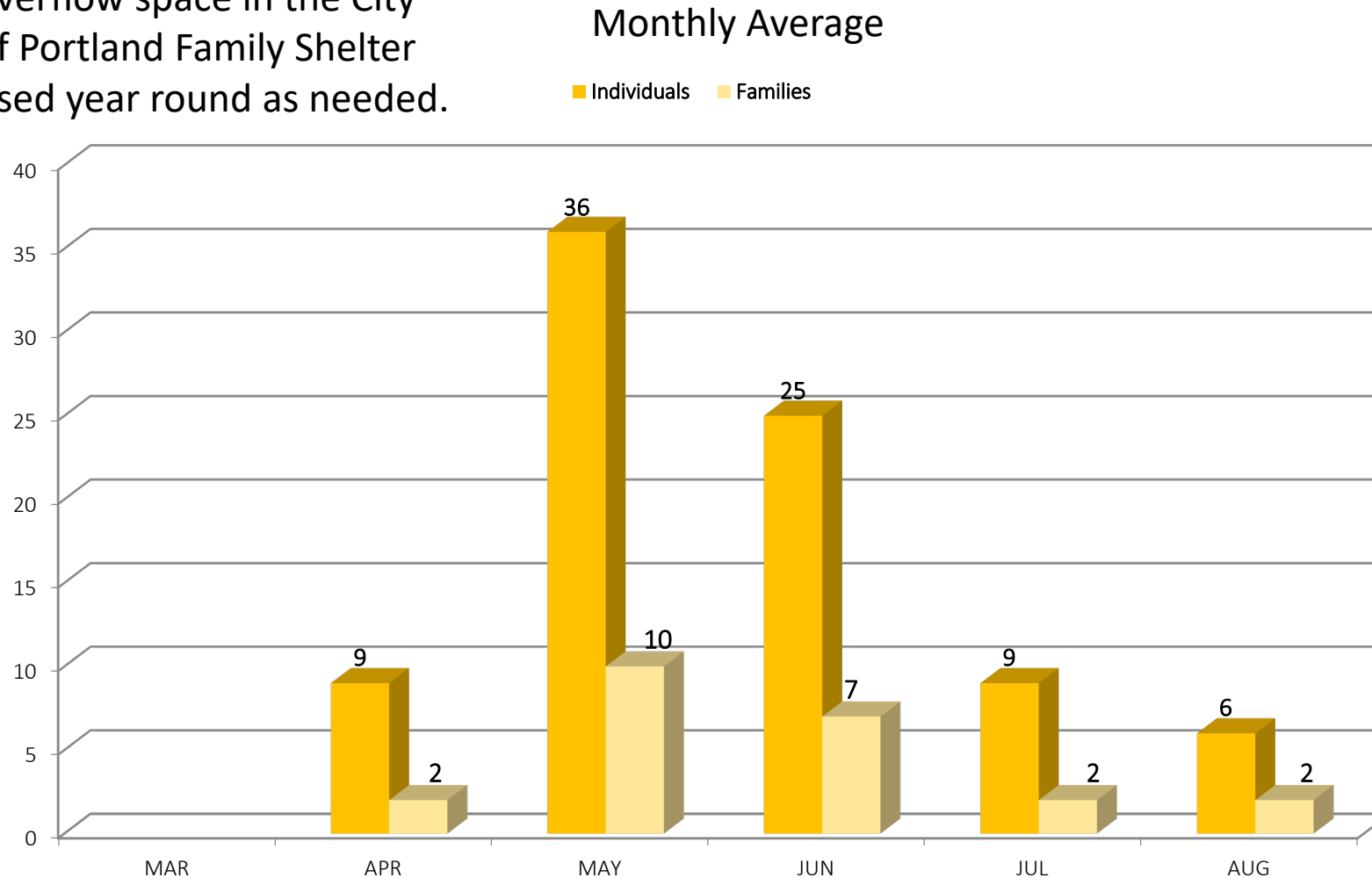
Total Unduplicated GA Hotels are the cases granted General Assistance hotel rooms from June, 2020 through the end of the month being reported.

Portland GA no longer makes McKinney Vento referrals as of the May 5, 2022 policy change.

*Started referral partnership with South Portland Schools in December, 2020.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2022 WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH

The Warming Center is an overflow space in the City of Portland Family Shelter used year round as needed.



Date	Families	Individuals
1	0	0
2	3	16
3	2	9
4	2	8
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	3	6
11	2	6
12	0	0
13	1	8
14	2	11
15	3	13
16	2	7
17	2	7
18	1	3
19	3	8
20	2	5
21	2	5
22	1	2
23	2	5
24	2	5
25	2	5
26	3	12
27	4	15
28	3	12
29	1	5
30	2	7
31	0	0

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

AUGUST, 2022

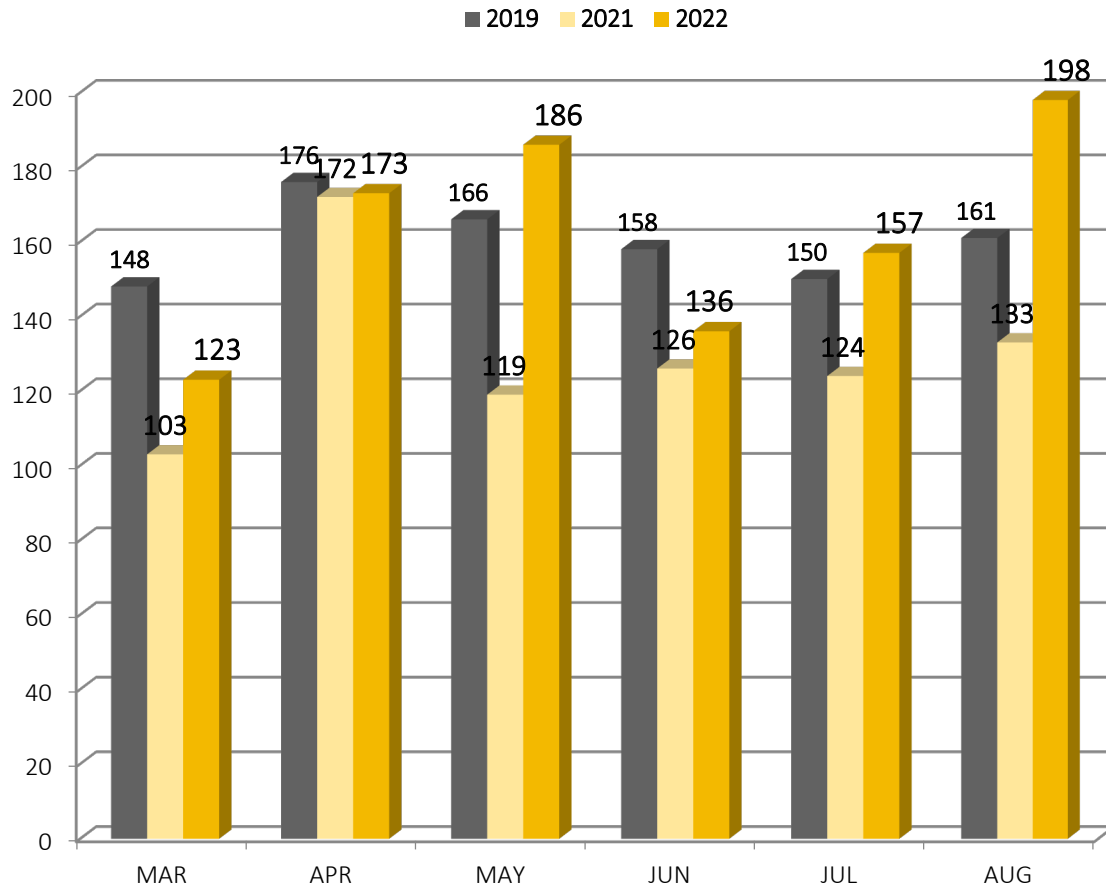
Intakes by Residency

63 people indicated refugee services for reason at intake and are likely asylum seekers.

MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY*	
Auburn	1	Peaks Island	1	York	1	AL	1	KY	1	SC	1	Angola	1
Bangor	2	Ripley	1			AR	1	MA	2	TX	13	DRC	1
Bath	1	Rumford	2			AZ	3	MD	1	VT	1	Senegal	1
Blue Hill	1	Saco	2			CA	21	MI	2	WA	1		
Buxton	1	Sanford	2			CO	1	MS	2				
Casco	1	South Casco	1			CT	2	NC	1				
Fairfield	1	South Portland	8			FL	4	ND	1				
Falmouth	1	Sweden	1			GA	1	NH	6				
Greene	1	Wells	1			ID	1	NJ	1				
Lewiston	2	Westbrook	4			IN	2	NY	2				
Limerick	1	Windham	1			KS	1	PA	2				

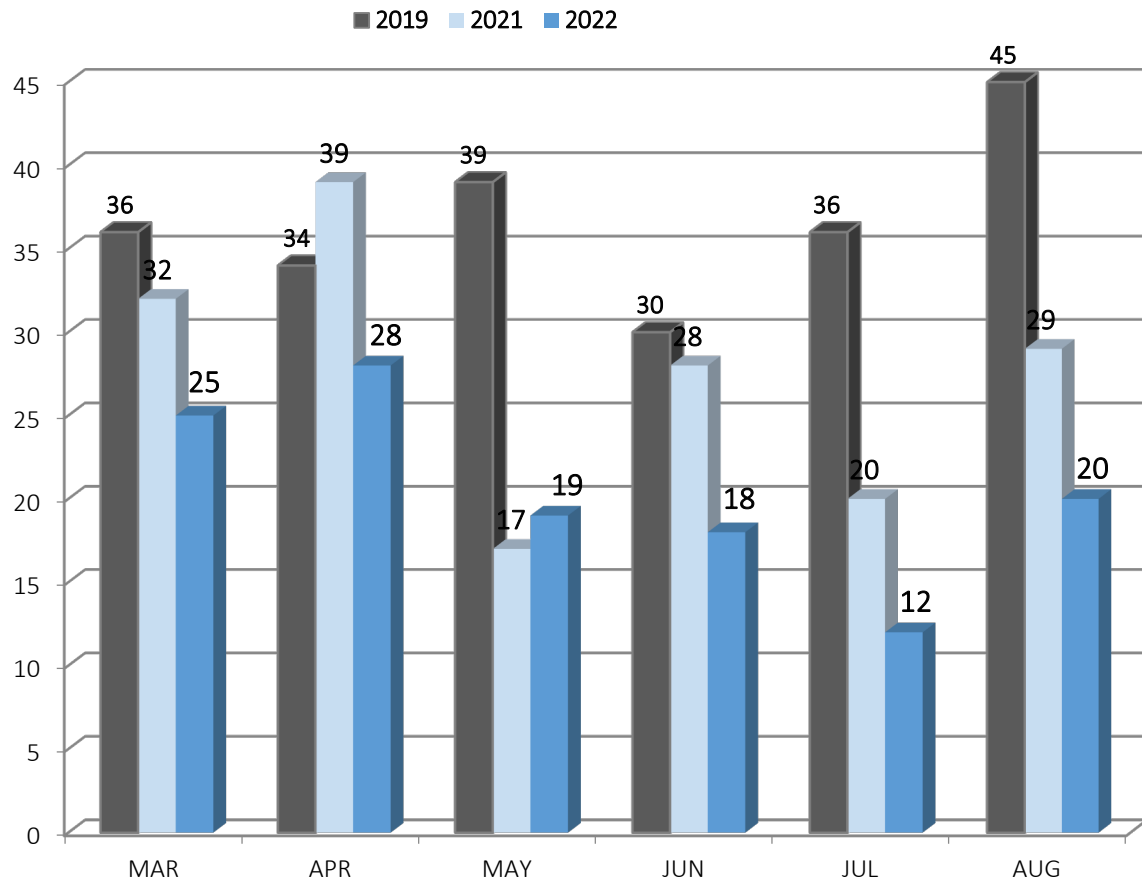
MAINE TOWN:	39	OUT-OF-STATE:	75	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	3	PORTLAND:	20	Unknown:	25	TOTAL:	162
-------------	----	---------------	----	-----------------	---	-----------	----	----------	----	--------	-----

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	7/11	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	5/17	146	146
Joe Kreisler	5	24	24
Milestone	7	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	117	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	154 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	45		
Florence House	12	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	198	496	474+

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



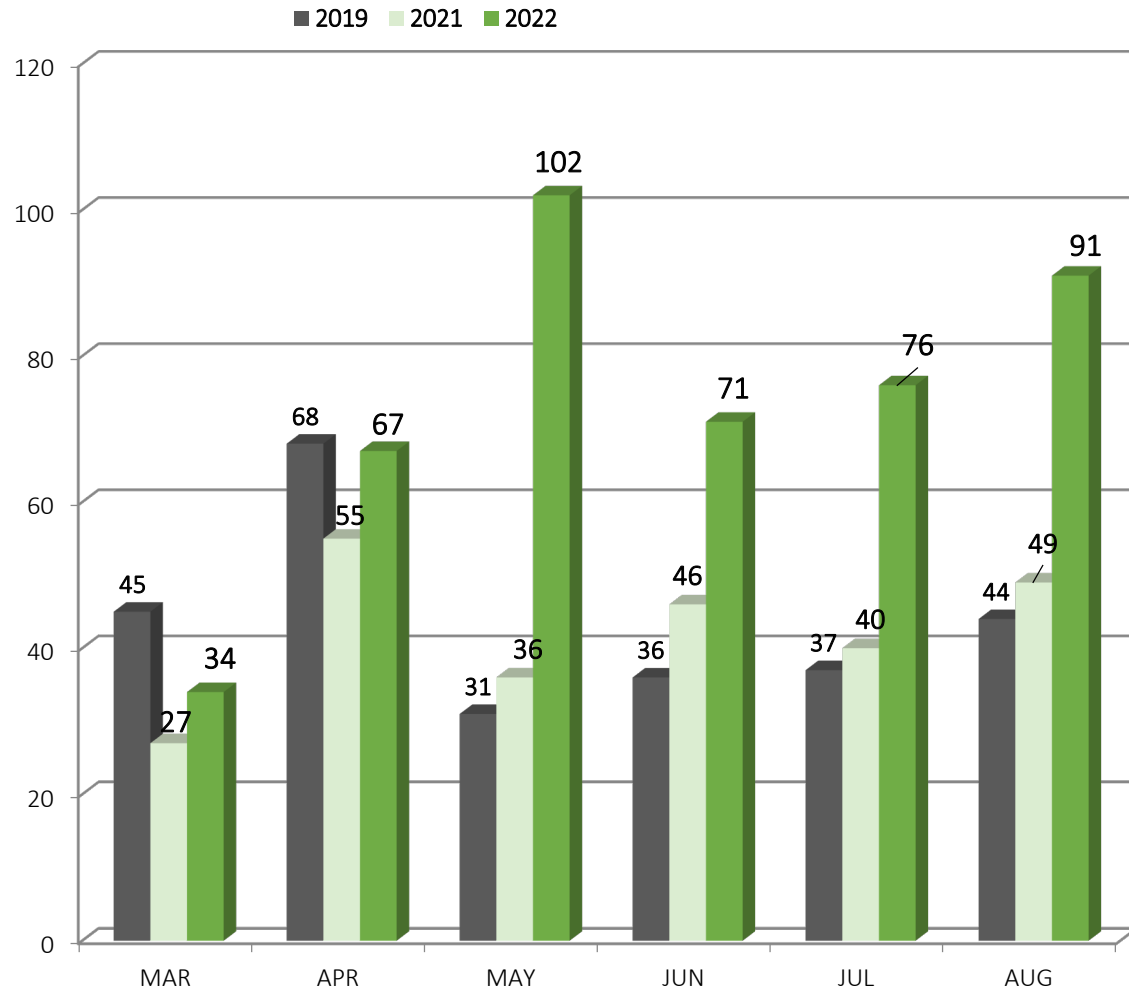
*Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	4/8	744		4/8
Family Shelter	3/10	1,378		3
Joe Kreisler	4	802		4
Milestone	0			
Oxford Street (Men)	4	318		4
Oxford Street (Women)	4	412		4
Florence House	1	165		
TOTAL	20	3,819		20

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

AUGUST, 2022

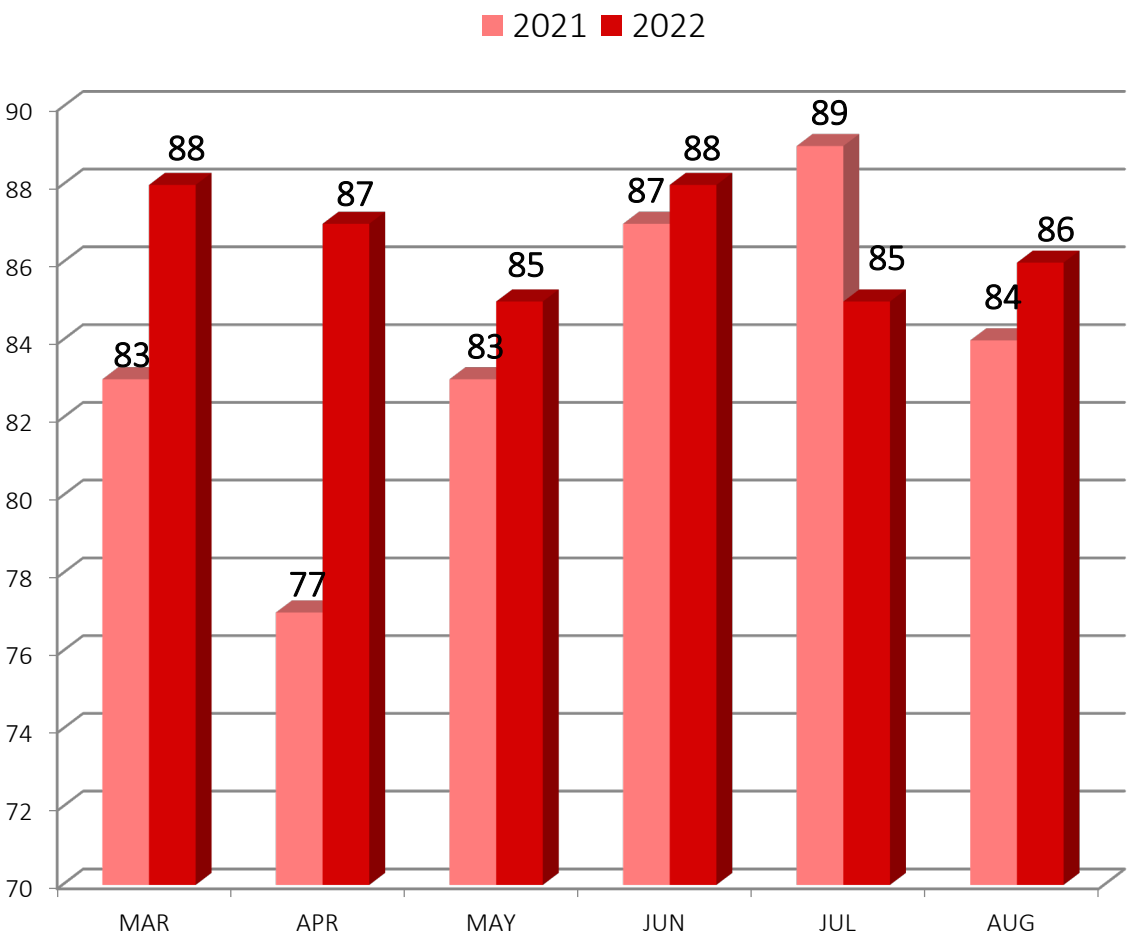
1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	All Intakes	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	7/11	1/1	14%	1%	1%
Family Shelter	5/17	4/14	80%	2%	4%
Joe Kreisler	5	3	60%	2%	3%
Milestone	7	1	14%	1%	1%
Oxford Street (Men)	117	58	50%	29%	64%
Oxford Street (Women)	45	23	51%	12%	25%
Florence House	12	1	8%	1%	1%
TOTAL	198	91		46%	100%

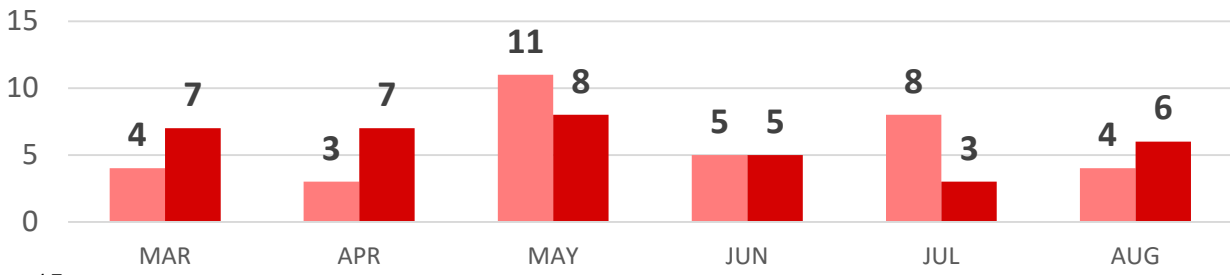
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 CTOs FROM SHELTER

Total Current CTOs



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	0	0	1
Milestone	0	0	18
Oxford Street Shelter	6	0	67
Florence House	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	0	86

CTOs Issued in the Month



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

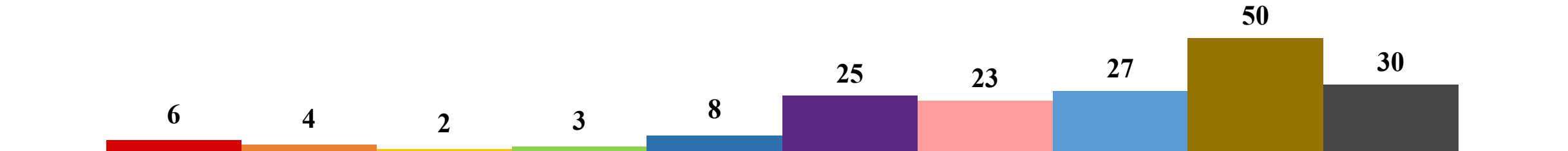
	S+C	BRAP	Recovery Home	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/ HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors							2	2*		
Family Shelter									3	
Joe Kreisler						1		1*	2	
Milestone										
Oxford Street (Men)						2	1			1
Oxford Street (Women)						3			1	
Florence House								1*		
TOTAL						6	3	4	6	1

*RRH, Group Home, Housing First apartment

Distribution of Placements in the Month: 20



2022 Placements: 178

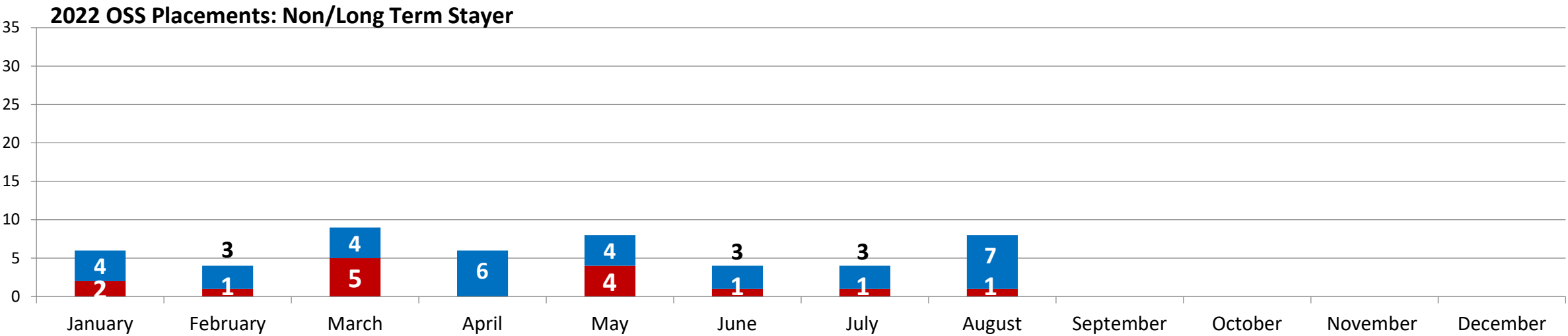
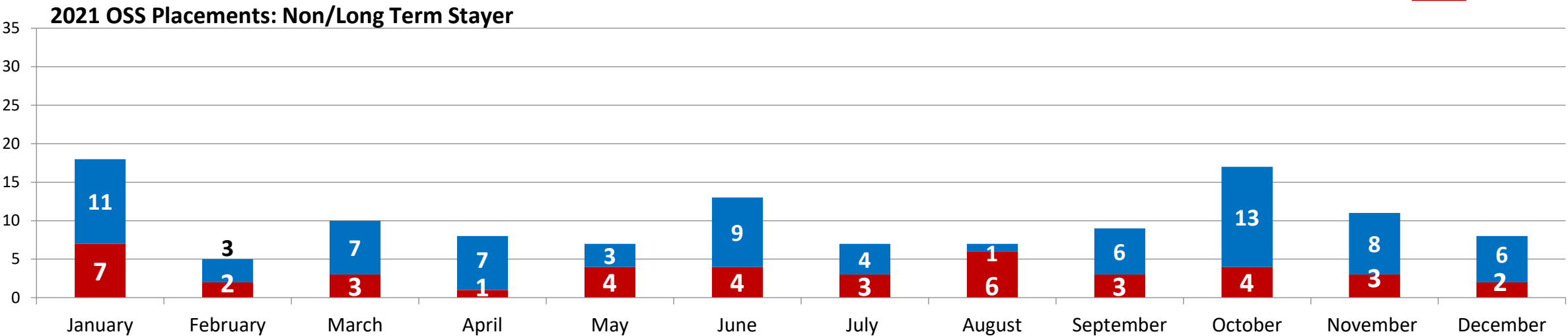
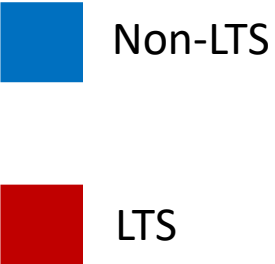


PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST, 2022 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

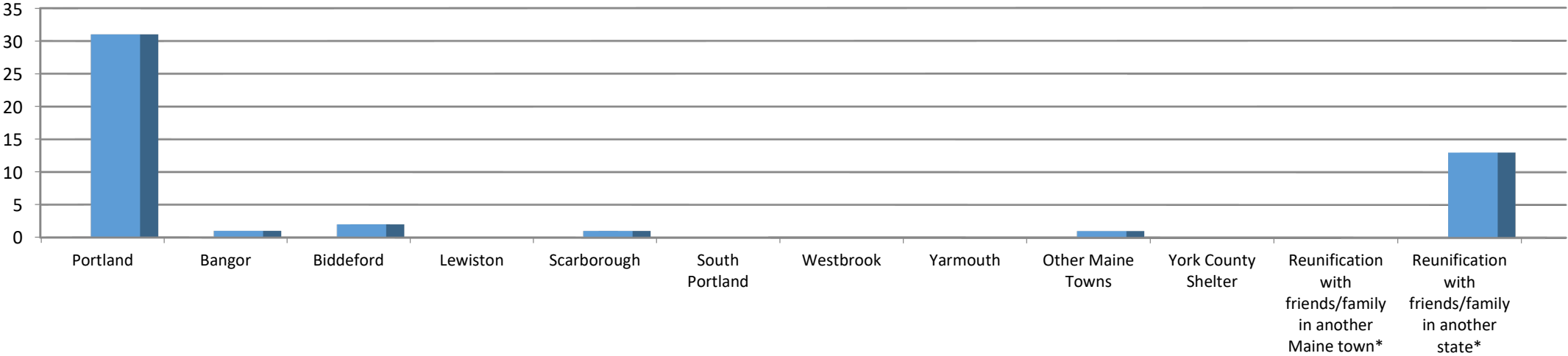
On August: 30
477 individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	FS Warming Center	Total Bed Nights
1	16	53	36	25	34	267	0	431
2	17	53	35	27	33	286	16	467
3	17	53	36	24	38	279	9	456
4	17	51	38	25	32	283	8	454
5	16	51	38	23	37	271	0	436
6	16	51	37	25	34	280	0	443
7	16	51	39	25	39	279	0	449
8	16	45	37	25	31	296	0	450
9	16	47	36	23	40	200	0	362
10	16	47	35	23	38	285	6	450
11	17	47	37	24	33	289	6	453
12	17	47	38	21	34	294	0	451
13	18	47	35	18	29	293	8	448
14	17	47	38	20	37	286	11	456
15	17	47	39	22	38	291	13	467
16	18	47	38	25	37	284	7	456
17	18	47	35	23	39	283	7	452
18	18	51	38	25	34	289	3	458
19	18	51	39	22	33	291	8	462
20	18	51	39	22	33	289	5	457
21	18	51	35	23	38	286	5	456
22	19	51	37	25	40	286	2	460
23	19	53	39	23	39	287	5	465
24	18	56	37	24	36	280	5	456
25	18	56	40	25	30	286	5	460
26	19	56	38	26	36	286	12	473
27	19	56	37	20	34	277	15	458
28	19	56	39	23	35	288	12	472
29	18	56	40	23	35	293	5	470
30	18	60	36	25	35	296	7	477
31	19	60	37	26	38	292	0	472
Total	543	1,595	1,158	730	1,099	8,772	180	14,077
Avg/night	18	51	37	24	35	283	6	454
Highest	19	60	40	27	40	296	16	477
Lowest	16	45	35	18	29	200	0	362

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



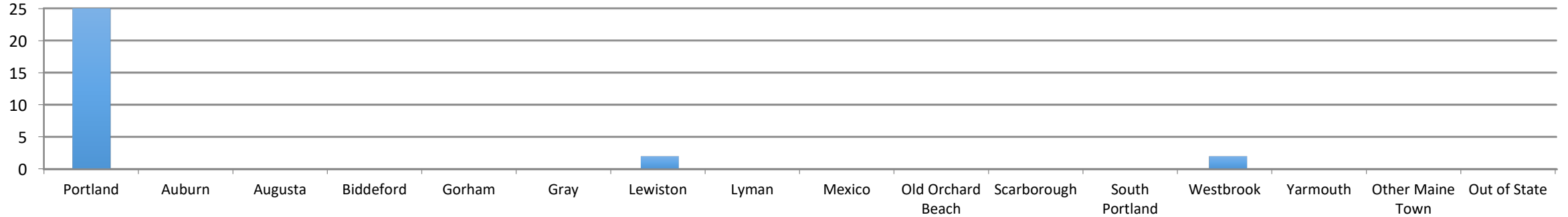
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	4	9	6	8	4	4	8					49	100%
Portland	5	4	4	2	7	3	3	3					31	63.3%
Bangor			1										1	2.0%
Biddeford			1				1						2	4.1%
Lewiston														0.0%
Scarborough				1									1	2.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook														0.0%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Towns						1							1	2.0%
York County Shelter														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another														

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2022



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	3	10	3	3	3	3	1	3					29	
Portland	3	9	3	3	3	2		2					25	86.2%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Gorham														0.0%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston						1	1						2	6.9%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Scarborough														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook		1						1					2	6.9%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State														0.0%