

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

**Thursday, January 16, 2020
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
 - a. Review and approval of December 19, 2019 meeting minutes.
- 2. HVJ Update**
- 3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics & New Slides**
 - a. December, 2019 Shelter Statistics
- 4. LTS Update**
- 5. Federal, State and Local Legislation**
- 6. Meeting Length and Time**
- 7. Other Business**

Next Meeting

February 20, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, December 19, 2019

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
George Rheault	Bayside Resident	Marybeth Sullivan	City of Portland
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Dan Coyne	United Way	Josh Ruitto	City of Portland
Leah Bruns	Portland Housing Authority	Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street
Jim Divine	HVJ	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland	Ben Strick	Spurwink
Brian Townsend	Amistad	Liz Remillard	Spurwink
Jon Bradley	Atlantic Charitable Fund	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Emma Halas-O'Connor	MEJP
Donna Yellen	Preble Street	Henry Tarlow	City of Portland
Christine Grant	Atlantic Charitable Fund	Amanda Menthott	City of Portland - HCD

- Introductions
 - o Minutes were approved.
- HVJ
 - o Don't hide us committee is meeting and tomorrow HVJ is meeting on the Homeless Dignity Bill.
 - o Anne Bruher is the new HVJ organizer.

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- Jim noted the new Mayor is not present.
- December 10th HVJ went to August for the International Human Rights Day.
- The Homeless Memorial Vigil is tomorrow, December 20th. Starting at Preble Street Resource Center at 4:30 PM.
- Monthly Statistics.
 - Asylum Seeking Families
 - Preble Street has been very helpful with sittings for families including a sitting delayed by 15 minutes for a smoother transition for the YMCA.
 - Day space and staffing for day space is an issue.
 - Issue in the girl's academy over the summer for shelter; potential for day space.
 - No update on who else may be on the way.
 - Community absorbs families for a few days then go to family shelter or continue on to Canada.
 - Flu clinic at FS was very well attended.
 - Some agencies have offered space but staffing is needed; there is a lack of per diem staff.
 - Social work students at USM could be a resource for day space.
 - They will contact Jon Bradley then contact Aaron Geyer.
 - During the Day
 - People are going to appointments
 - Could be at the library
 - Could be at friends' or family's places
 - 30-40 stay in the day space during the week and more over the weekend in GA.
 - Currently there are no shower options.
 - Encouraging people to shower at friends' places.
 - Two parents households can have on parent watch kids while the other showers at Preble Street then flip (no kids going to shower at Preble Street)
 - Speaking with Andrew Bove about showering at Preble Street in the afternoon but logistics are difficult.
 - Hygiene is important for staying warm.
 - Not able to shower at the YMCA.
 - Councilor Chong said USM is offering temporary GYM facilities with showers, ESL and other services.
 - No cost to the City and on the bus line.
 - No update yet but there was a conference call yesterday between the City Manager and USM.
 - Laundry is difficult.
 - George mentioned the Federal Policy not letting anyone in at the Southern Border.
 - George said it appears the shelter system can handle a steady drip better and that the Federal government is intentionally creating difficult

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

waves of people; federal immigration policies are creating large cohorts released at their convenience.

- People aren't being processed properly making it difficult to get benefits when they arrive in Maine.
- Donna asked Aaron if there is communication with the federal representatives: There was over the summer but to his knowledge not with the current influx.
- There is resentment within the local homeless community about the immigrant population.
- Councilor Chong spoke about the asylum seekers worker group finding that people with means will transport themselves to seek asylum because the refugee process is slower and harder to navigate.
 - Social media allows for a sense of how many people are coming and from where.
 - Planning for integrating people: resettlement and case management.
 - No vacancy rates to absorb people, must prepare other communities on how to do this.
 - Registering children for school.
 - Law enforcement education
 - Social services coordination.
 - Opportunity for the City to tell the governor this is a regional issue as surrounding towns will see continued influxes.
 - Advocating for strategic planning.
 - GPCOG is on board
 - Wants to see Family Promise and Catholic Charities at ESAC.
 - Is staff and ESAC willing to do this strategic planning with other towns?
 - A sub group or committee? Some groups don't focus on homelessness or families so it may make sense to target providers who should be at the table.
 - Providers have cultural competency and translation.
 - United Way is looking to participate more in ESAC and wonders what the scope of ESAC should be?
 - ESAC launched a committee to respond to the early surge in families 2 years ago. And there were about three meetings then the crisis subsided a bit and the energy towards it waned and the meetings dropped off. If there was a more deliberative process the lull could have been used for planning. Could this group be fully formed with more stakeholders?
 - Emma from MEJP has started working with Asylum Seekers that moved from the Expo to Lewiston.
 - Some families were placed in housing in Lewiston that are not being evicted because the housing wasn't safe including children getting lead poisoning.

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- o Cullen applauded the proactive approach Councilor Chong is advocating for and went back to George's point that concentrating people and sending them to Sanctuary Cities is not helpful.
 - Donna asked moved that Cullen on behalf of ESAC write a letter to our federal representatives on the issue of people being concentrated. It was seconded and approved.
 - Donna asked about the regional response and if we should ask the governor to get involved.
- o Councilor Chong wants the governor involved including the creation of an Office of human capital for resettling to cities that need people.
 - Creating value for people to move to communities
 - Multilingual and safe for people to move there.
 - Portland could be Maine's Ellis Island and then people move to cities who can welcome them.
 - Portland has a history and capacity for welcoming people but other communities need to be able to do so.
- o Donna said the Governor did step up over the summer and that the community needs her again.
- o Leah Bruns mentioned that the City of Portland has recognized that surrounding towns have needed to be a part of the solution for a long time and that this is a General Assistance issue made difficult from local control.
- o There are three regional homeless councils including a statewide that could contribute to a regional approach.
- o Donna asked if someone wants to draft a letter of concern to the governor.
 - Should there be a meeting that brings in immigrant community leaders who are on the ground to be a part of that letter?
 - That discussion is happening at the asylum seekers providers meeting.
 - These have a large coalition that could broaden the scope of such a letter.
 - Persuasiveness: poll the population of those most impacted by this to be a part of the message.
 - There are organizations that do both case management for this population and housing for this population; include the agencies doing the most work for this population without getting too big such as hope gateway.
 - Councilor Chong echoed that Hoe Gateway is a good partner to add as their Executive Director is Somali and they have acted as welcome Center.
 - Someone would need to step into the role of organizing all of the players.
 - Jon Bradley volunteered to list who needs to be at the table.
 - Donna asked if Councilor Chong could give the invitation and ESAC be a guest with the other providers?
 - Councilor Chong will ask Councilor Belinda Ray who is the Chair of the Health and Human Services & Public Safety Committee meetings and is involved with GPCOG.
- o George said we need to recognize GPCOG has limited resources.

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- Donna went back to the scope of ESAC:
 - What is the governance and agenda setting?
 - Should there be a sub group that looks at governance and the mission at ESAC?
 - Norm said a subgroup limited to governance would be a good approach.
 - The tri-chair by default has gone to the City for the past few years and what is most effective?
 - Dan would help coordinate.
 - Norm made a motion for a subcommittee to look at governance and Donna seconded; the motion passed.
- Restricted Stats:
 - Types of restrictions counted
 - Total restrictions
 - Medical restrictions
 - Restrictions in the month.
 - Clarified that the restrictions are for only people who would otherwise be eligible for shelter (Not counting people who are housed, or men at a women's shelter).
 - Shelters will get stats to Adam before the second Friday of the month at the very latest.
- Homeless Services Center
 - HSC was moved above LTS and legislative update.
 - Jim said the resolve for shelter policy is postponed. Noted: moved to February after a Council Work Shop in January.
 - Unsheltered Count
 - ESAC with City staff abstaining wrote a letter for the City Council to wait for ESAC partners to do an analysis of unsheltered numbers.
 - Christina is sick and will send stats to Adam to send to the group.
 - Atlantic Charitable Fund is working with providers around the state and Jon noted over the past few years the number of unsheltered seems to be increasing for various reasons; shelter population more dangerous and people feeling less safe due to substance use and the perception trespasses increasing.
 - There isn't a clear way to understanding who the people sleeping outside are with a lot of anecdotal information.
 - Who is the population and how big is the population; what is the effect of being unsheltered?
 - Since meeting about this that group:
 - Recommends adding unsheltered questions to the PIT.
 - Jon is working with Tom McLaughlin and Reuben Otto on research.
 - Jon sent out a draft of the questions he proposes adding on to the PIT.
 - He asked for feedback.
 - He wants to know if these should be added to the PIT count.

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- If this group thinks it doesn't belong in the PIT count it wouldn't be asked at CoC.
- This may be repeated in Spring or Summer.
- Jon is concerned that if there is a large population sleeping outside that the population would remain in Bayside when the shelter moves.
- Jon asked if it makes sense paying for responses.
- Donna said it makes sense to add it to the PIT count and sooner makes sense as ESAC wrote the letter said we would get data.
 - The Council did not respond to the letter.
- Initially the group tried to do this in December before the PIT.
- Vickey proposed adding it to the pit to not duplicate efforts but opposed the inclusion of a tool that is intrusive that was added to the questionnaire and would still recommend adding to the PIT were the tool removed. She wants to get at the specific needs of this population to get them housed.
- Jon spoke about the measurements in the scale looking at health and mental health; if this scale feels like too much it can be changed.
- Maine Housing was concerned about the potential to have two counts with different numbers would send competing messages to funders.
- If it is not being done on the night of the PIT in needs more than a month on either side.
- Christine of ACF asked for more
- Councilor Chong requested two data points to help him make a decision
 - When DHHS moved to South Portland, did they see less clients because it is harder to get to?
 - Tedford is in town in Brunswick and Arundel is out of town: does seasonality affect the population in relation to accessibility of location
 - These are not comparable because the shelters are so different.
 - One of the shelter isn't on the bus line.
- All shelters aren't walkable in big cities; Jon clarified the issue is transportation.
- Donna asked what ESAC needs to do for the ACF to move forward?
 - Jon clarified he needs to know if ESAC wants it included with the PIT count.
 - If it is to be included the PIT crew of the CoC needs to OK it.
 - Norm doesn't see great support for it with the national requirement and a local interest. If other agencies want to take this on in service days is fine, but it seems too burdensome to ask them on the night of.
 - Make it clear between night of and service days
 - It adds five minute
 - There would be funding to staff to bolster service days.
 - Jon advocates for paying people to answer questions such as gift cards.
 - Norm doesn't want to turn off any volunteers from organizations that disagree with the questions.

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- Criminal Trespasses questions are not the primary focus but Jon wants to know how big of a factor is that in being unsheltered.
- Portland is unique that we are small enough to have the capacity for greater understanding.
- Donna asked for a vote.
 - Does ESAC want to do this during the PIT count service days?
 - Have ACF conduct this questionnaire
- Amistad has not been in favor of this work.
 - The opinion is that when someone hears full systems analysis people hear an intent to grind progress to a halt.
 - It is cold outside; deal with the crisis at hand ahead of planning.
 - Amistad doesn't want to get in the way and will abstain.
 - Brian clarified for Donna that the optics of a lengthy process can diminish the collaborative energy with the potential to halt or harm the creation of the new homeless services center.
 - Jon said we have gaps now and forget the new shelter.
 - When milestone closed and had renovations it was the only time we had a task force form the emergency rooms as there was a lack of beds.
- Councilor Chong said that he needs models on town many shelter beds may be needed.
 - Jon said he wants to get the number of people who would not engage in shelter and Councilor Chong would like that data too.
 - Councilor Chong needs the data help inform his decisions and is not in support of a cap.
- Dan said that if it is the only way to get the data is to collect during the PIT then the group should agree.
- Vickey with the perspective as someone who has gone to every meeting, the why as not been clear.
 - Understanding the needs of people outside of the shelter.
 - Is it for data to give to the Council?
 - It has become less clear in those meetings.
- Speaking as a resident of Portland and not for his agency, Benjamin has concerns on the numbers that have been put out toward capping the shelter.
 - Who are the people sleeping out and need to be served?
- Does ESAC want to go back to Dan's offer to organize the data collection with the data coming back to ESAC first then deciding what to do with it?
 - What are people's comfort level taking a vote?
 - Have ACF be able to work with the CoC to complement the PIT service days collecting data during the service days to bring back that data to ESAC to then decide how to use that data.
 - Amended to clarify service days.
 - Seconded, and passed with the City of Portland, Amistad, CHOM, and through These Doors abstaining.

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- Action Items
 - Reassess time at the next meeting.

DRAFT

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	December 2018	December 2019
ADOLESCENTS	12 Individuals	18 Individuals
FAMILIES	219 Individuals 66 Average Families	149 Individuals 94 Average Families
ADULTS	306 Individuals	219* Individuals
Total	537 Individuals	386* Individuals

** This number will change when all shelters have submitted their data.

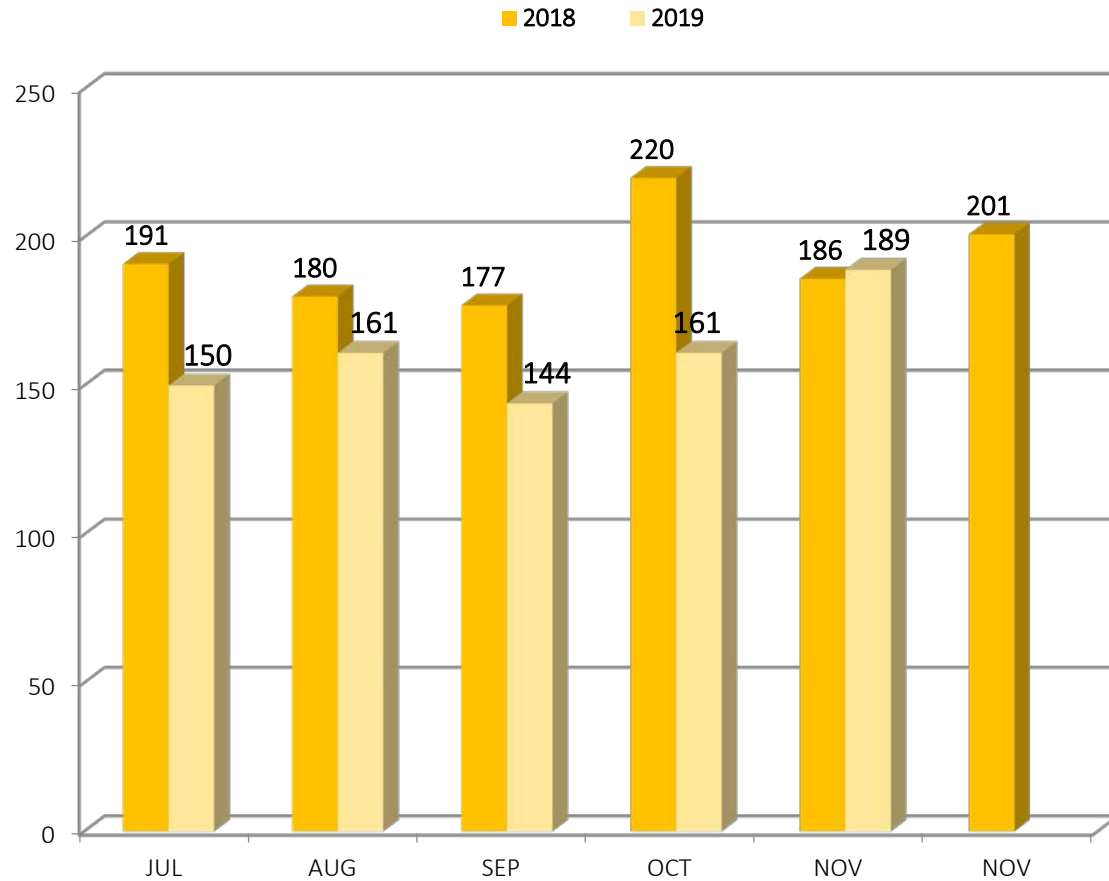
OXFORD STREET SHELTER

DECEMBER 2019

Intakes by Residency

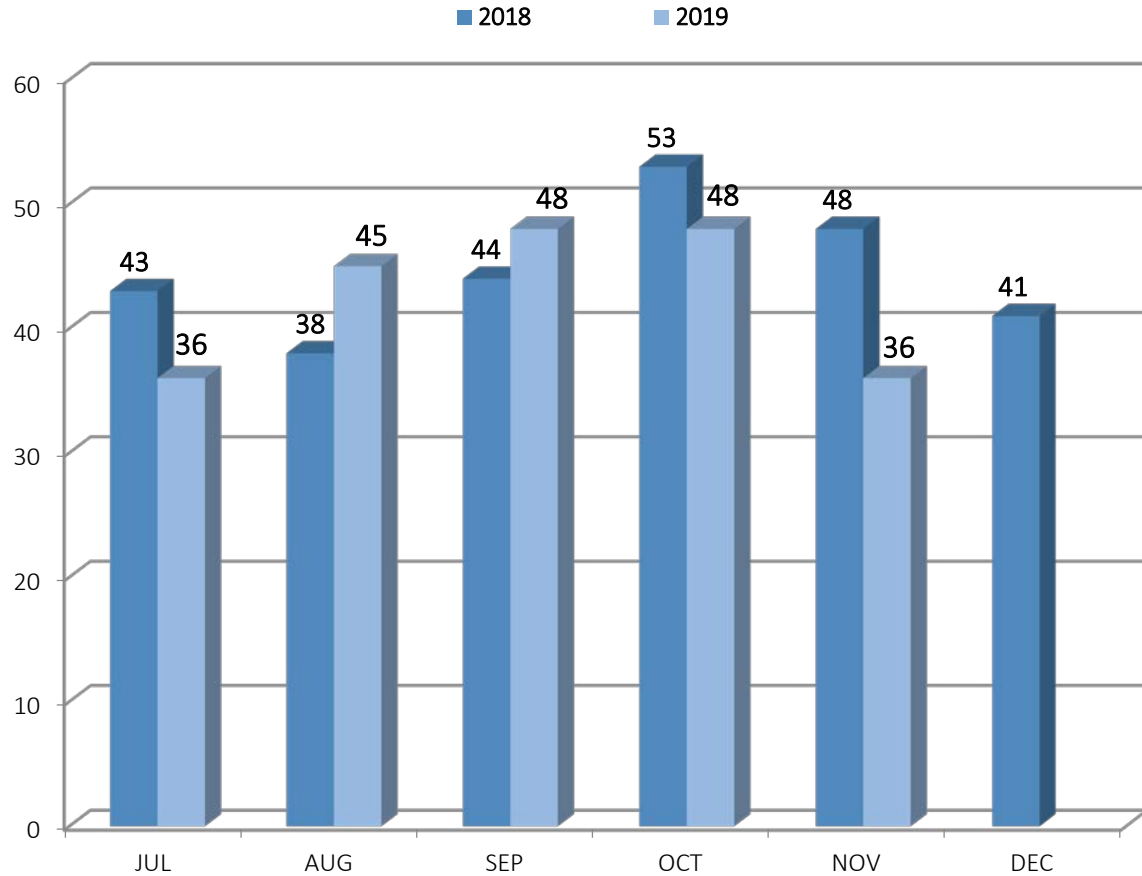
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Auburn	1	Gray	2	South Portland	5	AZ	1					Angola	1
Augusta	2	Jay	1	Springvale	1	CA	2					DRC	1
Bangor	2	Lewiston	3	Tenants Harbor	1	FL	3						
Bath	1	Lyman	2	Wells	1	GA	1						
Benton	1	Madawaska	1	West Bath	1	IL	2						
Biddeford	3	New Gloucester	1	Westbrook	4	MA	2						
Brunswick	1	OOB	1	York	1	MD	1						
Camden	1	Parsonsfield	1			MN	2						
Charleston	1	Rumford	1			NH	4						
Dresden	1	Saco	3			TX	2						
Farmington	1	Sanford	4			UT	1						
Gorham	1	Scarborough	3										
MAINE TOWN:	54	OUT-OF-STATE:	21	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	2	PORTLAND:	31	Unknown:		TOTAL:	108		

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER 2019 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES
Through These Doors	4/6
Family Shelter	25/81
Joe Kreisler	8
Milestone	17
Oxford Street (Men)	82
Oxford Street (Women)	26
Florence House	
TOTAL	

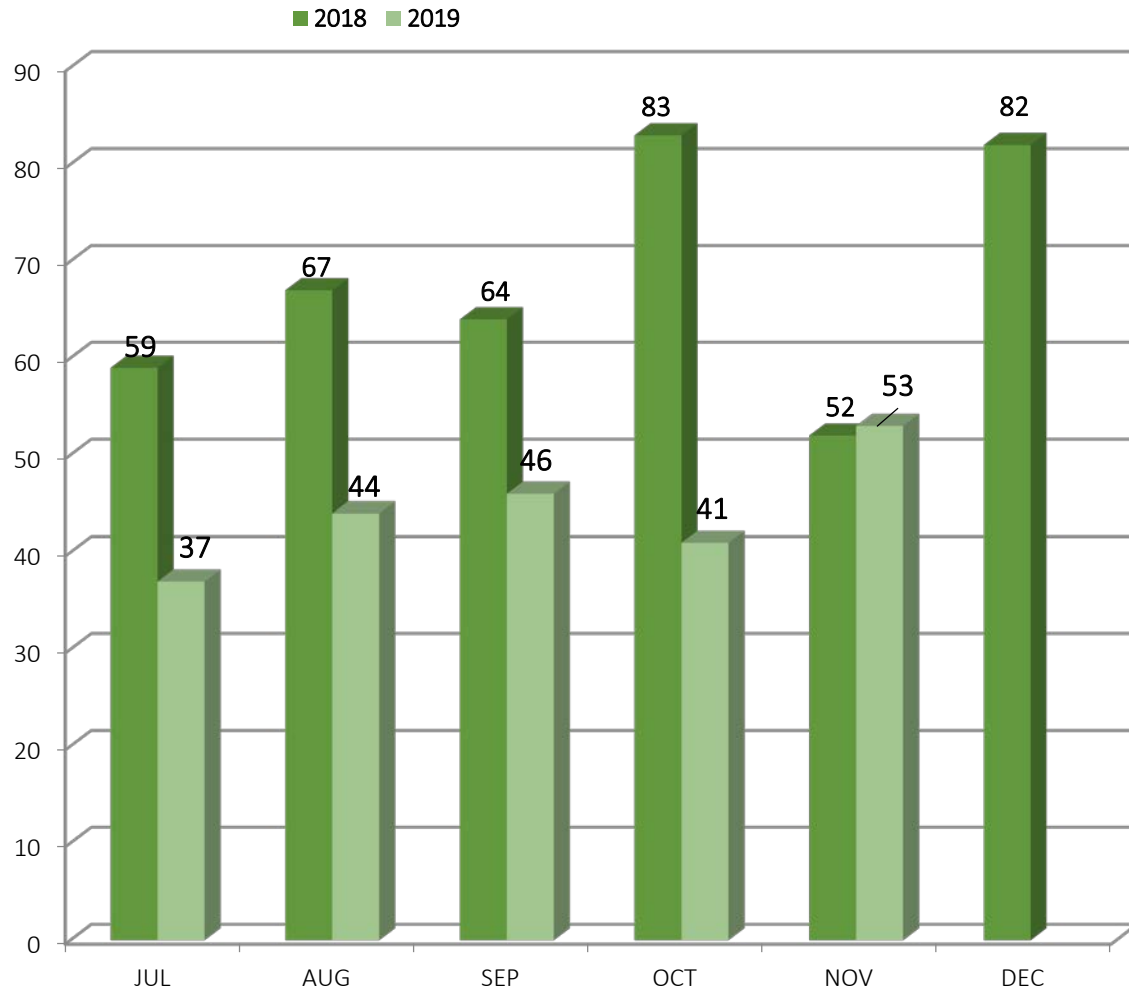
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



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

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TRANSITIONAL	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	3/5		3/5
Family Shelter	17/49		17/49
Joe Kreisler	2	2	
Milestone	3		3
Oxford Street (Men)	8		8
Oxford Street (Women)	2		2
Florence House			
TOTAL			

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER 2019 1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)

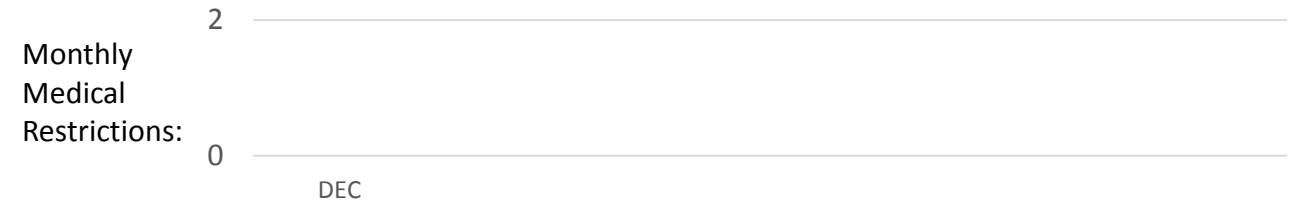


1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of Total Intake	% of Total First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	1/1		
Family Shelter	20/63	%	%
Joe Kreisler	7	%	%
Milestone	9	%	%
Oxford Street (Men)	11	%	%
Oxford Street (Women)	3	%	%
Florence House		%	%
TOTAL		%	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER 2019 CTOs FROM SHELTER



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions by Month	Current Total CTOs
Through These Doors	NA	0	NA
Family Shelter	1/3	0	1/3
Joe Kreisler	2 CTO 4 other	0	4
Milestone			
Oxford Street Shelter	4	133	133
Florence House			
TOTAL			



PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE DECEMBER 2019 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On December :

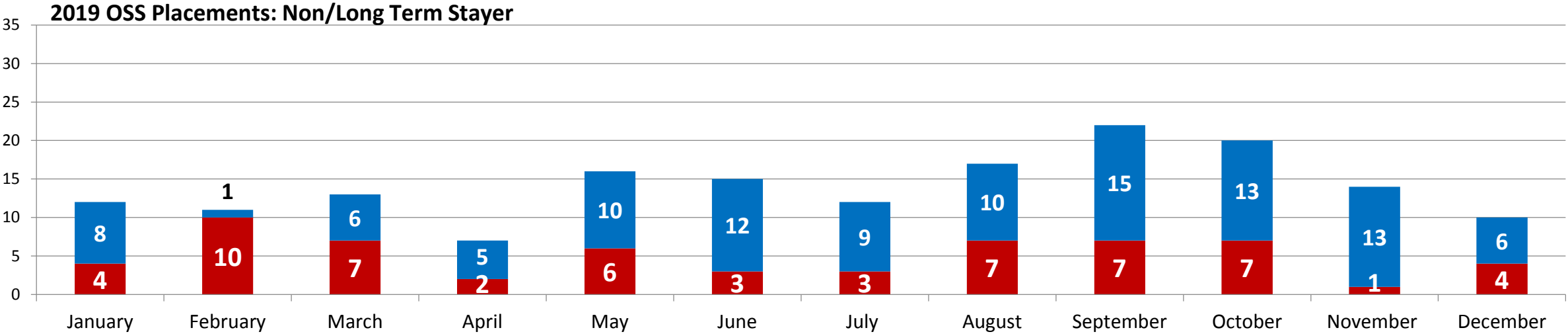
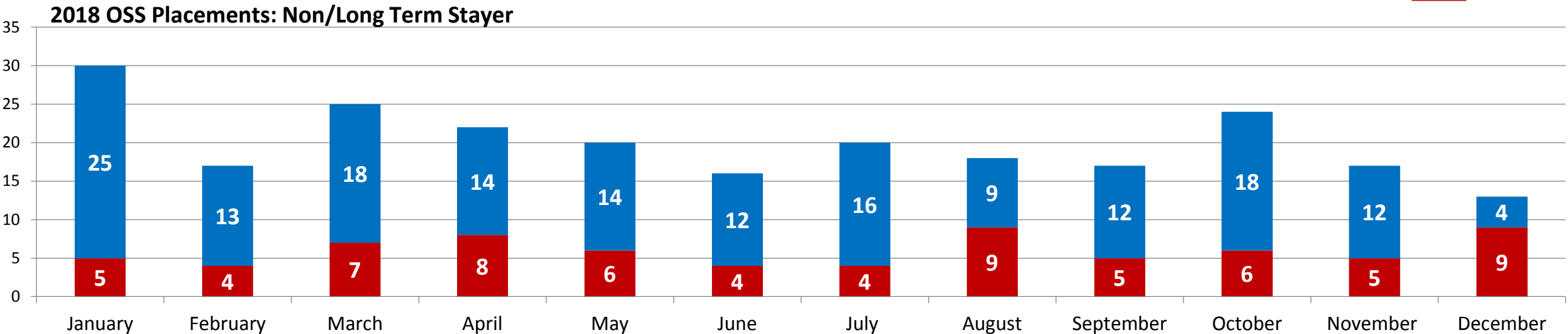
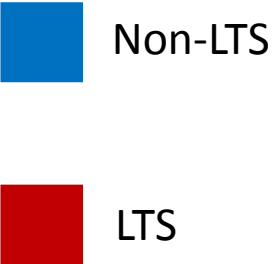
individuals

(including families)

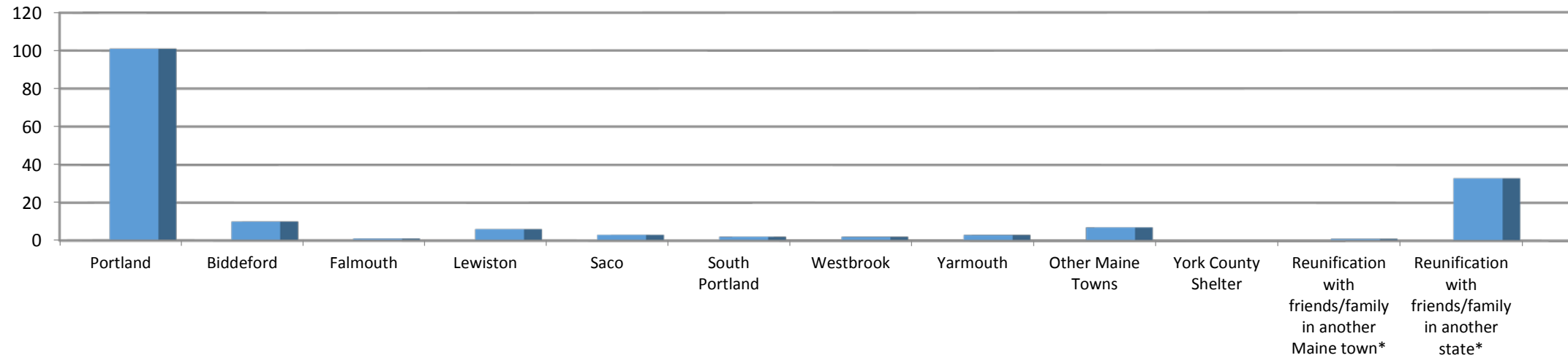
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	14	135		23	35	178		385
2	15	135		21	45	182		398
3	15	136		18	40	172		381
4	15	131		21	36	175		378
5	15	117		24	49	168		373
6	15	132		20	42	174		383
7	15	132		22	44	173		386
8	15	132		22	37	174		380
9	15	132		20	45	173		385
10	11	134		20	47	163		375
11	11	137		20	42	177		387
12	12	137		17	36	184		386
13	13	135		19	38	178		383
14	13	136		16	37	177		379
15	13	136		17	38	183		387
16	13	136		18	40	188		395
17	13	135		16	46	185		395
18	16	130		17	43	203		409
19	16	131		14	41	200		402
20	16	137		14	42	190		399
21	16	137		14	34	185		386
22	16	137		18	42	184		397
23	16	135		17	45	182		395
24	16	138		19	41	166		380
25	16	138		21	38	155		368
26	16	138		15	44	176		389
27	16	138		17	40	179		390
28	16	138		18	42	179		393
29	16	136		10	39	181		382
30	16	134		15	39	183		387
31	16	133		13	36	170		368
Total*	457	4,168		556	1,263	5,537	0	11,981
Avg/night*	15	134		18	41	179	0	386
Highest*	16	138		24	49	203	0	409
Lowest*	11	117		10	34	155	0	368

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



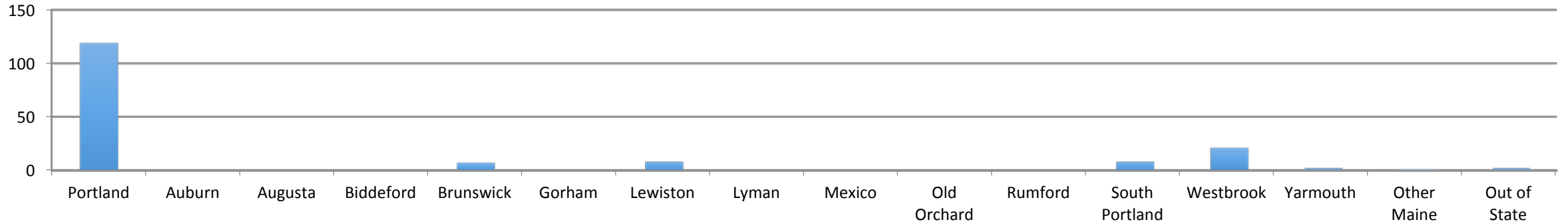
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	12	11	13	7	16	15	12	17	22	19	14	10	158	100%
Portland	8	8	10	3	10	11	7	12	11	10	7	4	101	59.8%
Biddeford	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	10	5.9%
Falmouth	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.6%
Lewiston	0	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	6	3.6%
Saco	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	1.8%
South Portland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1.2%
Westbrook	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.2%
Yarmouth	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	1.8%
Other Maine Towns	0	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	7	4.1%
York County Shelter	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	0.6%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	2	-	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	33	19.5%

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2019



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	13	13	14	15	10	9	12	18	20	16	11	17	168	
Portland	10	8	13	12	7	9	8	10	13	8	10	11	119	70.83%
Auburn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Augusta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Biddeford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	-	-	7	4.167%
Gorham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Lewiston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	8	4.762%
Lyman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Old Orchard Beach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Rumford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
South Portland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	8	4.762%
Westbrook	2	5	1	3	2	-	2	-	2	2	1	1	21	12.5%
Yarmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1.19%
Other Maine Town	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	0.595%
Out of State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1.19%