

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

**Thursday, September 16, 2021
8:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Introductions

- a. Zoom Meeting Information:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87352265081?pwd=VWFuUURoczUrV0NPMnVNcDEyZm1BUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 5226 5081

Passcode: 402579

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,87352265081#,,,,*402579# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 873 5226 5081

Passcode: 402579

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87352265081?pwd=VWFuUURoczUrV0NPMnVNcDEyZm1BUT09>

- b. Review and Approval of August Meeting Minutes.

2. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

- a. August Statistics

3. Summary of Maine Housing Funding

4. Discussion on Community Preparedness for the Oncoming Cold Season

5. Homeless Services Center Update

6. City Ordinance and Referendum Discussion

Next Meeting
October 21, 2021
8:30 AM

Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, August 19, 2021

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Ben Martineau	HVJ
Jim Devine	HVJ	Ben Strick	Spurwink
Bill Higgins	Ha4aLL	Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Deb Ibonwa	MEJP
Anna Brewer	Preble Street/HVJ	Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Vickey Rand	CHOM	Lauren Bustard	MaineHousing
Sara Fleurant	City of Portland Oxford Street Shelter	Mary Cook	TOA
Terence Miller	Preble Street	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Kelly Walsh	City of Portland	Marybeth Twomey	TOA PATH
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Suzanne Randall	Ha4aLL
Joe McNally	Milestone Recovery		

Meeting Summary

Lauren Bustard, Senior Director of Programs at MaineHousing provided several updates including funding that will be available towards the end of October: \$10 million for existing shelters and \$1.5 million for a 2-year pilot for housing navigators around the state. While two hotels will depopulate, there is unconfirmed news that FEMA hotel funding is extended through December. ERA funding is available but can't be used on staffing and unspent RRH funding can be used until exhausted while new RRH funding is sought. We had discussion on the City Council deciding next Monday whether to add questions to the referendum question limiting shelters to 50 beds, asking if voters prefer the referendum question, their own question (s) which would limit beds to 300 within a one-mile area, or neither. The group moved for ESAC to send a message to the City Council in support of adding alternative referendum questions to the ballot.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- **July Meeting Minutes**
 - Anna moved to approve the minutes and Jim seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.
- **In-Person Meeting**
 - We talked about returning to in-person meetings for September at the last meeting but the Executive Committee reconsidered given the Delta variant.
 - In-person meetings are missed.
 - Agencies have conflicting policies on in-person meetings.
 - We will continue to suspend in-person meetings until CDC provides new guidance.
- **MaineHousing Guest: Lauren Bustard, Senior Director of Programs**
 - Recovery funds for state and local governments
 - Two pots of money
 - \$10 million for existing shelters:
 - Operations
 - Maintenance
 - Capital improvements
 - Could this be used for setting up telehealth equipment?
 - Probably, it is fairly open.
 - Cannot be used for new construction and is only for existing shelters.
 - Can administer these funds anywhere in the state.
 - Available towards the end of October.
 - \$1.5 million for a two-year pilot for housing navigators around the state. This came out of a Victoria Morales bill.
 - Redesigned Homeless Response System in the state.
 - 9 service hubs implemented over the next year and one housing navigator will be in each of the hubs.
 - Will create an RFP to determine which agency gets the navigator.
 - Money to be available towards the end of October.
 - In Portland, Cumberland County is the service hub but some service hubs are more than one county.
 - Service hubs were determined by the Statewide Homeless Council.
 - Community Solutions is helping getting groups together in the service hubs as part of their Built for Zero effort in reducing homelessness.
 - Emergency Rental Assistance Funding
 - Folks are in hotels around the state and we want to get them into housing.
 - We had RRH from Covid money and other incentives for landlords above other vouchers.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- We currently have contracts with hotels for room rates and service providers for staff; for ERA funding would only pay for hotel rooms and no staffing.
 - Need to work with hotel owners.
 - Clients will need to be eligible for the program: need happened during pandemic.
 - Someone experiencing homelessness before March of last year would not be eligible for ERA.
 - This is different than the contract for a slate of rooms that we currently have.
- As hotels depopulate, can ERA pay for those folks?
 - Some other cities after a certain date, aren't accepting new intakes.
 - The City of Portland doesn't turn people away.
 - We are pushing to get as many people housed from the Fairfield Inn and those folks will be shifted to a different hotel.
- Which are the agencies for casework?
 - MaineHousing doesn't fund services and works for DHHS on that piece. MaineHousing does work with housing navigators in the shelter; housing navigation is different from case management but does help connect clients to case management.
 - TOA has a two case management programs:
 - Behavioral Health Home, a section 92 MaineCare program, that has a long waitlist due to the difficulty hiring staff.
 - PATH program covers Cumberland County (three workers) and York County (one worker)
 - Unable to take people in hotels, only unsheltered.
 - Helps providers get mental health diagnoses.
 - 2/100 PATH clients are able to use ERA to stay in hotels.
 - Spurwink is also down several positions in their programs which also have waitlists.
- End of Rapid Rehousing funding
 - Preble Street, the City of Portland and Amistad administered RRH with Covid money and have been given no cost extensions to use the funds that remain until exhausted.
 - Provides a sign on bonus to landlords.
 - Looking for funding to continue the programs.
- Closure of FEMA shelters and loss of FEMA funds
 - FEMA funding will be extended through December.
 - We are waiting to confirm this from FEMA.
 - The hotel in Lewiston and the Fairfield in are depopulating to other shelters/hotels.
- Corporation for Supportive Housing Report

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- MaineHousing emphasized that when the report talks about drastically reducing shelter beds, there would be years of other interventions working well before reducing beds.
 - Intervention and diversion program: a basic program has started but would need to ramp up.
 - We are now getting data from the diversion program in Bangor which indicate the need for new PSH units.
 - RRH would be needed.
 - Main takeaways
 - Need a more regionalized response including a holistic group of stakeholders including more than just homeless providers including emergency rooms, police, etc.
 - Coordinated Entry will be part of this and should be up and running next year.
 - We need a strong diversion program across the state.
 - We need more RRH.
 - We need to push for funding for more units.
 - Not focusing on the numbers so much as the main takeaways.
 - Noted: 32.1 % of our intakes are first time homeless and could be diverted them from homelessness.
- **July Statistics**
 - Adam Harr of the City of Portland Social Services Division presented the July statistics.
 - Adam will change how the proportion of first-time homelessness is labeled.
 - **Homeless Services Center**
 - Planning board workshop on Tuesday the 24th
 - Sent the management plan to MaineHousing and the Police department.
 - Held a second neighborhood meeting.
 - They City thanked the service providers and agencies that provided detail on how they would collaborate with the HSC which was added to the management plan.
 - **Shelter Referendum Discussion**
 - The City Council will provide a ballot question that competes with the referendum question that would emergency shelter beds to 50.
 - Should we discuss since we don't have the competing question verbiage?
 - City Council instructed the ballot will ask for choosing the 50-bed cap, their paraphrased referendum below, or neither.
 - Can't have more than 300 people in emergency shelters within a mile of each other.
 - The referendum question limiting shelters to 50 beds locks in the status quo at Oxford Street.
 - The City has worked hard to create a an internally facing homeless services center with 9 agencies on board to provide a one-stop shop.
 - The ballot initiative would sabotage this project.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- It won't be feasible for agencies to collaborate across the 5 shelters needed to replace OSS.
- o Want to weigh in on the referendum as it seeks to sabotage our work.
- o It was suggested to wait until after Monday and Tuesday's City Council and Planning Board meetings.
 - Page 513 of the City Council packet has the referendum information.
 - The City Council is voting on Monday if they will add their own question.
 - If we wait to weigh in it will be too late.
- o Ben stick moved that ESAC send a letter of support for the City Council saying that we support the addition of a second initiative question. Cullen suggested a friendly emended to make if questions plural and ben accepted the amendment; norm seconded the amendment.
 - Discussion:
 - Referendum is misleading and this will help.
 - Support is much more of a rejection of the first question; the harm of the referendum question is so acute that supporting an alternative question without seeing it is a better option.
 - ESAC send a letter to the City Council supporting the alternative referendum questions on the ballot. Roll call vote
 - Amistad - Yes
 - City of Portland - Abstain
 - Community Housing of Maine - Yes
 - Greater Portland Health – Absent
 - Homeless Advocacy for All - No
 - Homeless Voices for Justice – Yes
 - Maine Equal Justice - Yes
 - Milestone Recovery - Absent
 - People's Housing Coalition - Absent
 - Portland Downtown - Yes
 - Preble Street - Yes
 - Shalom House Inc. - Yes
 - Spurwink - Yes
 - The Opportunity Alliance/PATH - Yes
 - Through these Doors – Yes
 - United Way of Greater Portland – Absent
 - Motion passed as amended.
- **Announcements**
 - o HVJ is working on outreach on the Discrimination Against Homelessness Pilot Program being conducted by the Maine Human Rights Commission. Reach out to HVJ for more information on that.
 - o World Homeless Day is October 10th. Could there be a rally at Monument Square to communicate to the community about homelessness and what we do.

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	August 2020	August 2021
ADOLESCENTS	11 Individuals	15 Individuals
FAMILIES	141 Individuals 52 Average Families	108 Individuals 39 Average Families
ADULTS	154 Individuals	242 Individuals
Total	306 Individuals	365 Individuals

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

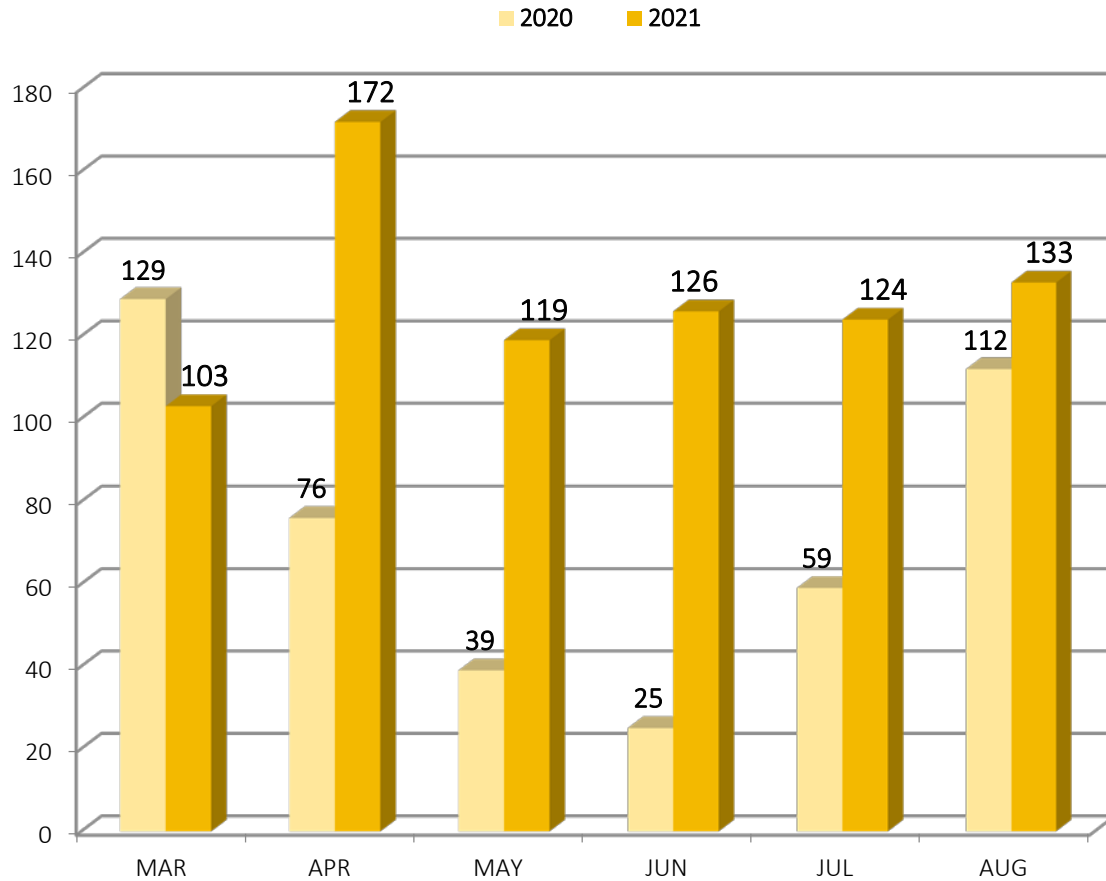
AUGUST 2021

Intakes by Residency

MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Acton	1	Hollis	1	Westbrook	1	GA	1	TX	4			Angola	1
Alfred	1	Lewiston	4	Windham	3	IA	1	VA	1			DRC	1
Bangor	1	North Berwick	1	Winslow		ID	1	VT	1				
Biddeford	3	OOB	1			IN	1						
Boothbay Harbor	2	Parsonfield	1			MA	6						
Bradford	1	Rumford	1			NC	1						
Bridgeton	1	Saco	1			NJ	3						
Brunswick	1	Sanford	1			NV	1						
Clinton	1	Scarborough	1			NY	3						
Cumberland	1	South Portland	6			PA	1						
Ellsworth	1	Warren	2			PR	1						
Gray	2	Waterville	1			TN	1						

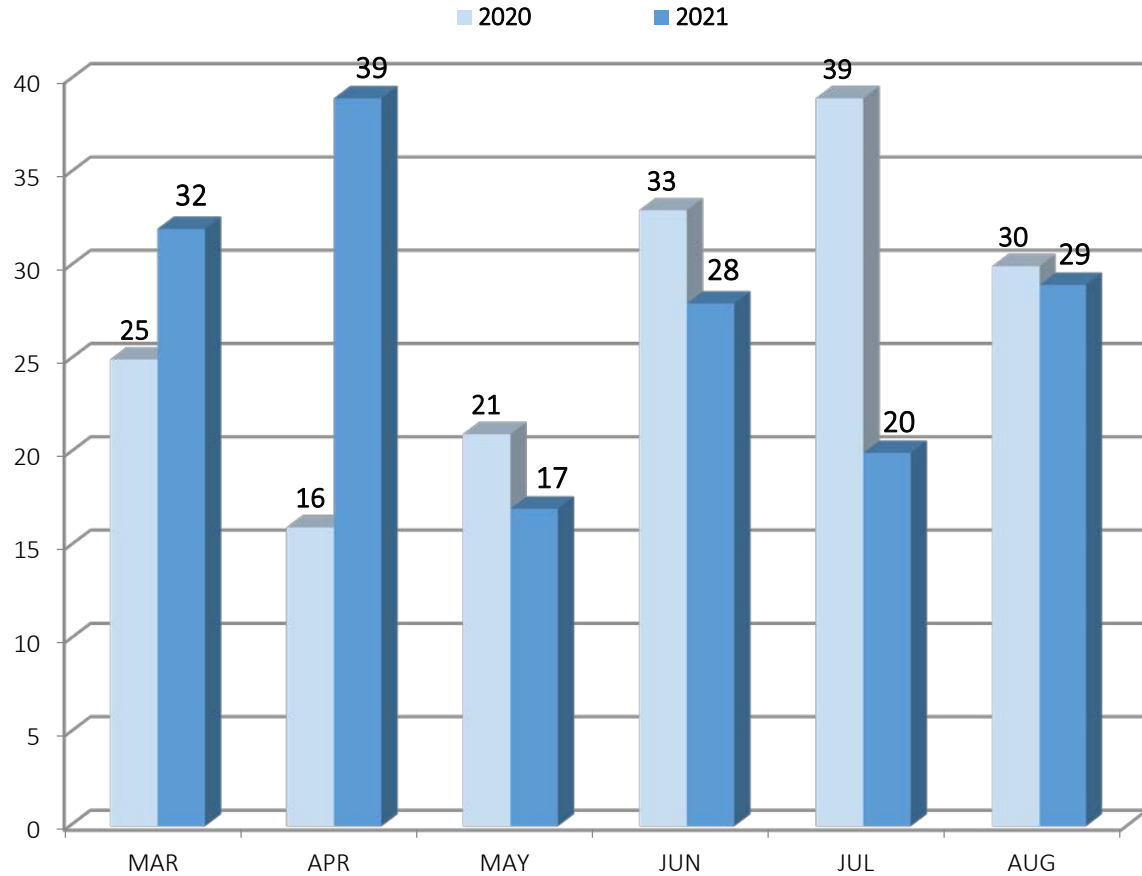
MAINE TOWN:	42	OUT-OF-STATE:	27	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	2	PORTLAND:	22	Unknown:		TOTAL:	93
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PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	5/7	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	8	146	136
Joe Kreisler	8	24	24
Milestone	13	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	77	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	75 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	16		
Florence House	6	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	133	496	474+

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



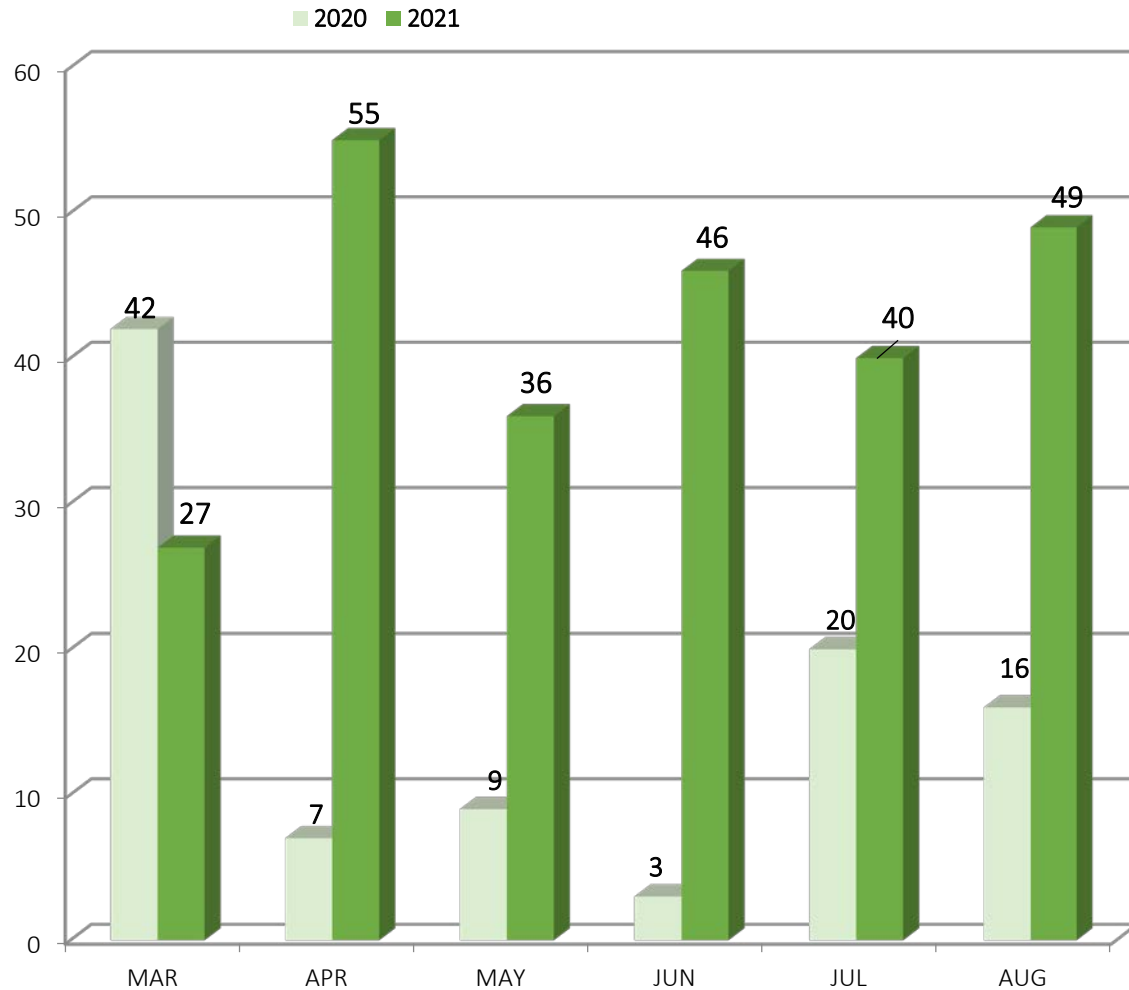
*Starting August, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	4	1	3
Family Shelter	6/20		6/20
Joe Kreisler	6	1	5
Milestone	2		2
Oxford Street (Men)	4		4
Oxford Street (Women)	3		3
Florence House	4		4
TOTAL	29	2	27

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

AUGUST 2021

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

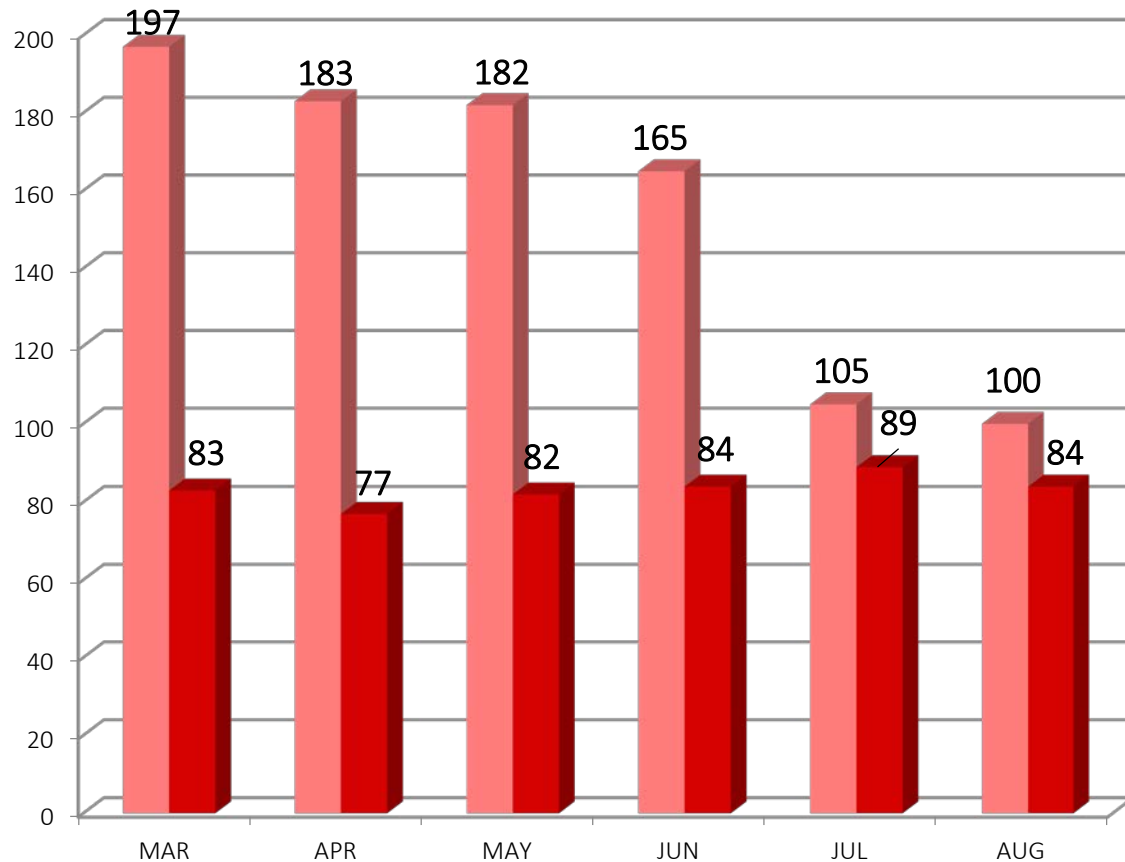


1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	4/6	80%	3%	8%
Family Shelter	6/17	75%	5%	12%
Joe Kreisler	8	100%	6%	16%
Milestone	4	31%	3%	8%
Oxford Street (Men)	25	32%	19%	51%
Oxford Street (Women)	1	6%	1%	2%
Florence House	1	17%	1%	2%
TOTAL	49		37%	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 CTOs FROM SHELTER

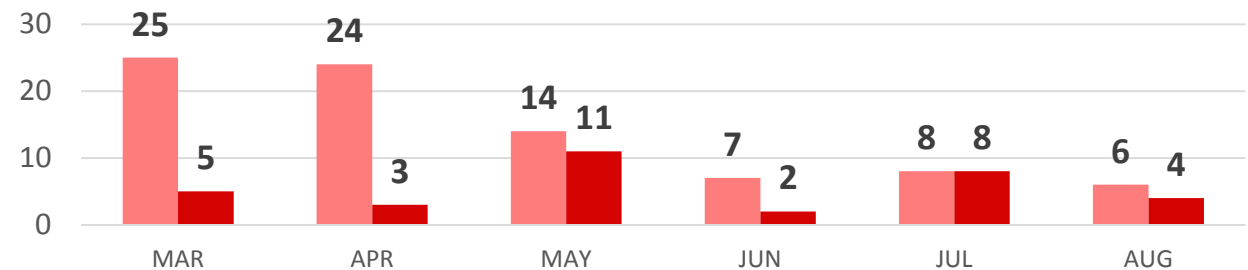
Total Current CTOs

2020 2021

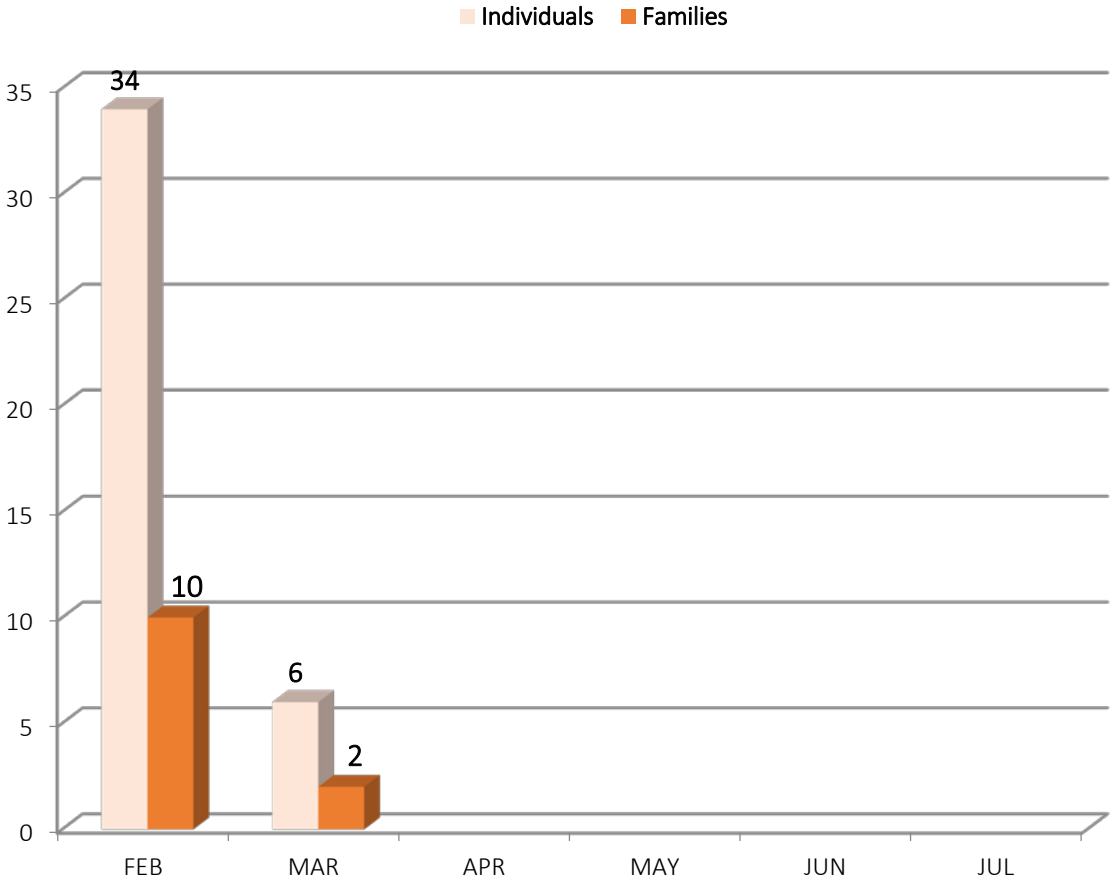


CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	0	0	1
Milestone	2	0	16
Oxford Street Shelter	2	0	64
Florence House	0	0	3
TOTAL	4	0	84

CTOs Issued in the Month



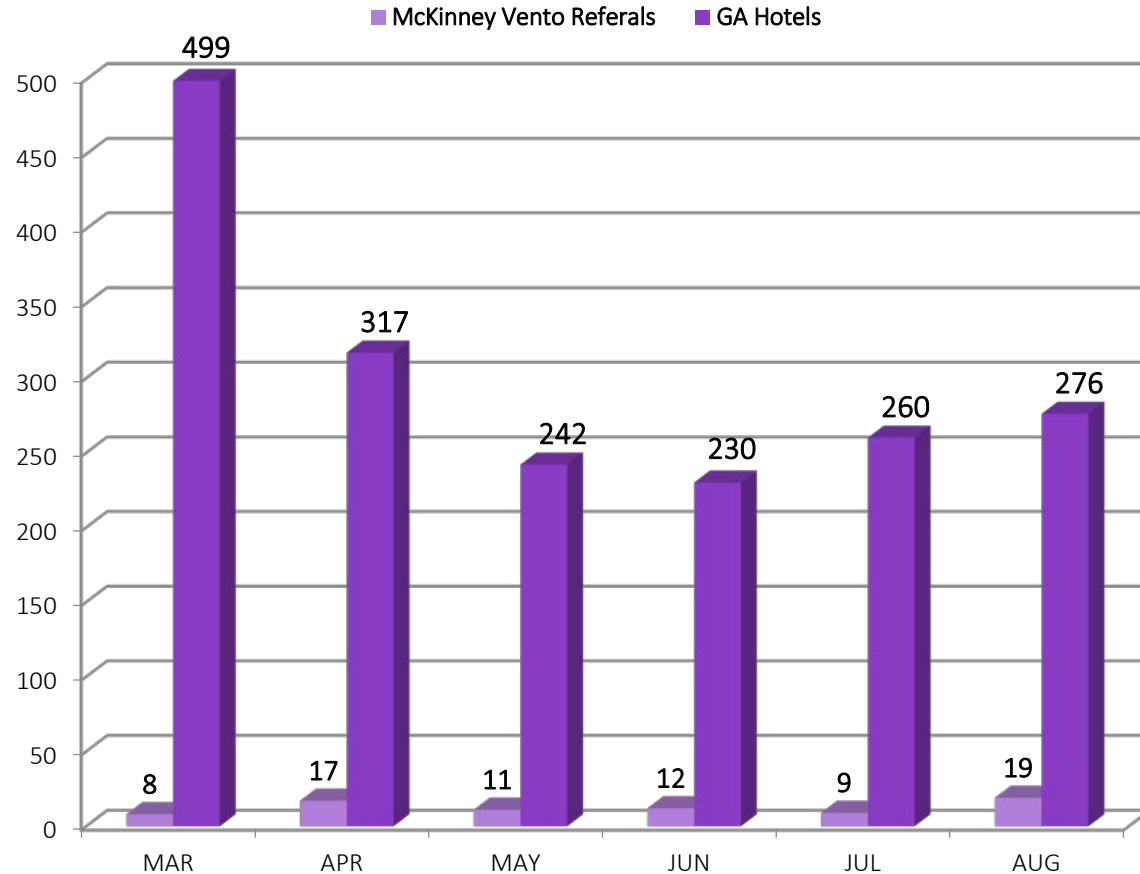
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE
AUGUST 2021
WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH



Warming Center	
Intakes	0
Housing Placements	
Family Promise	

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

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Families with School Aged Children	19	104
Unduplicated GA Hotels	276	1,810

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

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

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

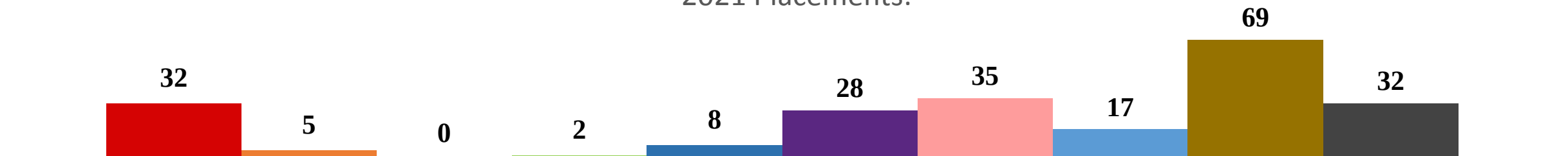
	S+C	BRAP	Sober House	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors							1			3
Family Shelter	1	1							4	
Joe Kreisler						2		1*	3	
Milestone				1			1			
Oxford Street (Men)									4	
Oxford Street (Women)	1*					1			1	
Florence House	2					1				1
TOTAL	4	1		1		4	2	1	12	4

*Avesta (OSSW S+C), College Dorm

Distribution of Placements in the Month:



2021 Placements:

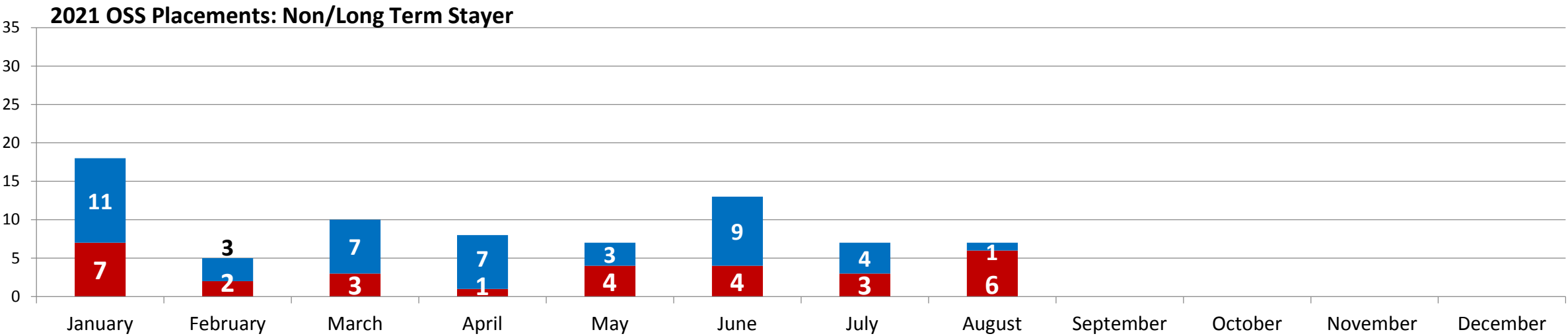
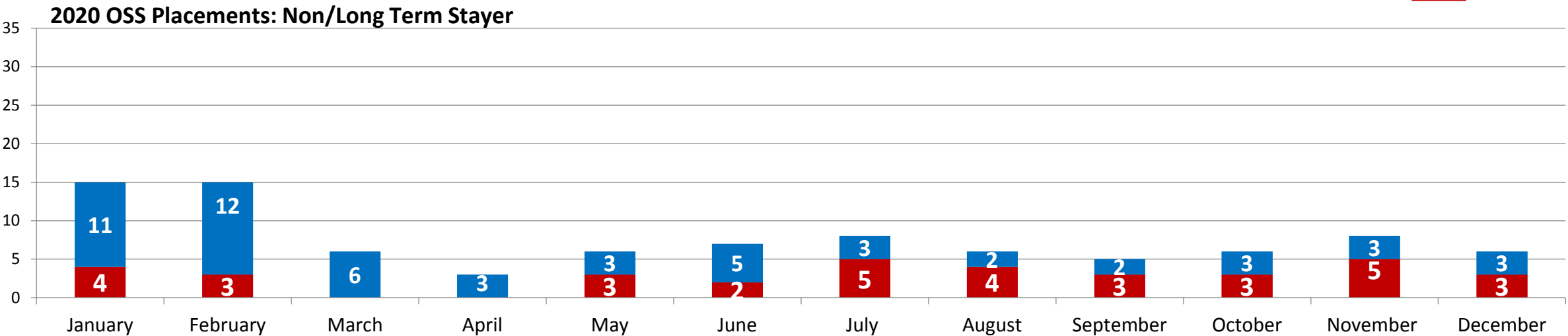
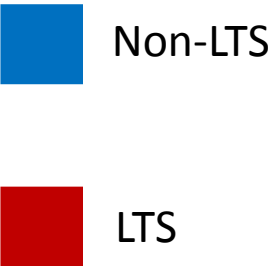


PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE AUGUST 2021 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

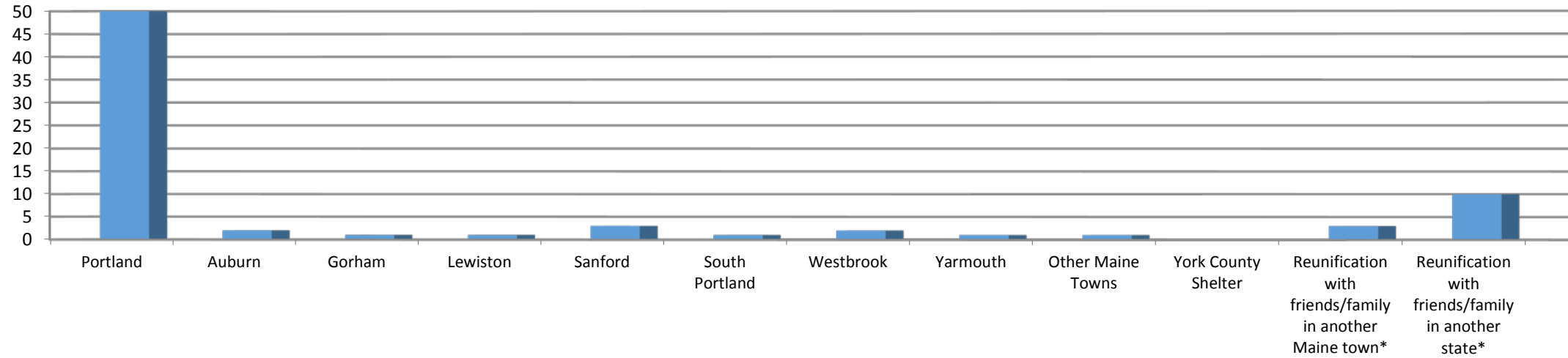
On August: 22nd
393 individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	34	73	36	15	30	172	0	360
2	34	74	36	18	29	148	0	339
3	34	73	33	20	28	154	0	342
4	34	65	35	20	29	164	0	347
5	34	67	35	17	31	170	0	354
6	33	67	33	14	31	173	0	351
7	33	67	35	11	30	165	0	341
8	31	67	35	16	33	175	0	357
9	31	67	36	17	35	176	0	362
10	31	69	39	16	33	171	0	359
11	31	69	35	19	28	170	0	352
12	32	72	37	22	39	182	0	384
13	32	72	37	20	33	173	0	367
14	32	72	37	15	34	182	0	372
15	32	72	38	16	32	184	0	374
16	32	72	36	16	31	195	0	382
17	32	72	37	13	32	181	0	367
18	32	76	35	16	30	183	0	372
19	35	79	37	16	32	189	0	388
20	35	82	34	13	30	180	0	374
21	35	82	34	15	30	183	0	379
22	36	82	30	12	39	194	0	393
23	36	82	31	12	33	193	0	387
24	36	82	14	15	29	203	0	379
25	36	79	10	14	28	197	0	364
26	36	76	9	17	35	198	0	371
27	35	76	8	11	31	194	0	355
28	34	76	8	14	31	190	0	353
29	34	76	8	13	31	199	0	361
30	35	76	8	15	34	196	0	364
31	36	79	8	11	36	191	0	361
Total	1,043	2,293	884	479	987	5,625	0	11,311
Avg/night	34	74	29	15	32	181	0	365
Highest	36	82	39	22	39	203	0	393
Lowest	31	65	8	11	28	148	0	339

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



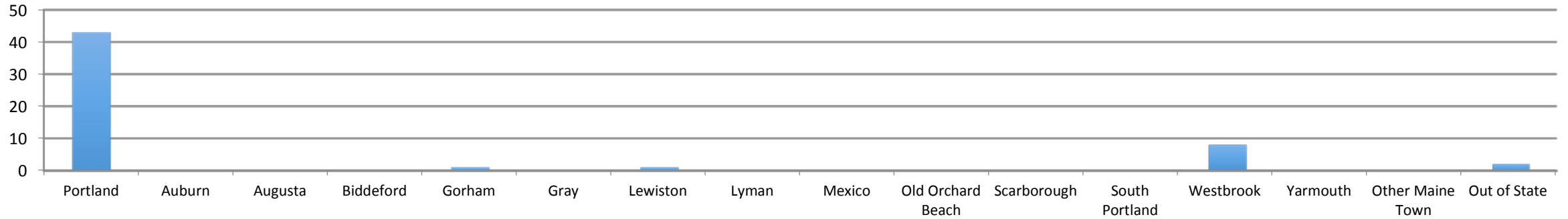
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	18	5	10	8	7	13	7	7					75	100%
Portland	12	4	9	4	2	8	5	6					44	66.7%
Auburn				1	1								2	2.7%
Gorham	1												1	1.3%
Lewiston	1												1	1.3%
Sanford						3							3	4.0%
South Portland				1									1	1.3%
Westbrook	1							1					1	2.7%
Yarmouth			1										1	1.3%
Other Maine Towns					1								1	1.3%
York County Shelter														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*					2		1						3	4.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	3	1		2	1	2	1						10	13.3%

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	August	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	5	9	13	5	4	7	6					55	
Portland	2	5	8	12	5	2	6	3					43	78.2%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Gorham	1												1	1.8%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston							1						1	1.8%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Scarborough														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook	1		1	1		2		3					8	14.5%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State	2												2	3.6%