

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

**Thursday, October 21, 2021
8:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Introductions

a. Zoom Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81854447271?pwd=S1lYdy9lVENjVXVqUG9mZlJkSHQ2QT09>

Meeting ID: 818 5444 7271

Passcode: 482121

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81854447271#,,, *482121# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,81854447271#,,, *482121# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 818 5444 7271

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81854447271?pwd=S1lYdy9lVENjVXVqUG9mZlJkSHQ2QT09>

b. Review and Approval of September 16, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes

2. Shelter Referendum Discussion

a. November 2021 Ballot

3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

a. September, 2021 Statistics

4. Federal, State and Local Legislation

5. Other Business

Next Meeting

November 18, 2021

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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Adam Harr
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Social Services Division
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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 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	Deb Ibonwa	MEJP
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Anna Brewer	Preble Street/HVJ	Sarah Michniewicz	
Vickey Rand	CHOM	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Sara Fleurant	City of Portland Oxford Street Shelter	Oliver Bradeen	Milestone
Terence Miller	Preble Street	Ginny Dill	DHHS
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown		

Meeting Summary

The statistics showed high first-time homeless numbers and intakes from Maine towns outside of greater Portland prompted a conversation on the need for prevention and diversion resources outside of 211 and the need for advocacy and education on General Assistance. FEMA Hotels are extended through December 31st with MaineHousing working on a solution beyond that date. A subcommittee to prepare for the cold season was made of the following volunteers: Ben Strick, Aaron Geyer/Sara Fleurant, Brian Townsend, Terence Miller, Bill Higgins, and Norm Maze. The Homeless Services Center plan to replace OSS was approved by the planning board. The ballot question language will be shared for ESAC to be able to vote and take a position on the questions at the October meeting, ahead of the November election.

- **August Meeting Minutes**

- o Brian moved to approve the minutes and Oliver seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- **August Statistics.**

- Total number of people is up compared to last year.
- Shelters are staying at current capacity due to Delta.
- Housing placements are looking close to last year.
 - Housing Placements are high in Portland due to GA.
- First time homelessness continues to be high and may increase with the end of the eviction moratorium.
- CTOs are trending downward.
- GA hotels are increasing slightly and doing outreach to get folks to accept GA hotels.
- MaineHousing working with the OSS contracted hotel to extend through the end of December.
- Family numbers in hotels continue to rise: 94 families for 303 individuals.
- Florence House had an outbreak at the end of the month and worked with Fairfield to transfer there. It will be a couple more weeks to get past a 14-day period.
- First time homeless concerns; in the redesign there is an emphasis on diversion; MaineHousing will leverage HOME funds to pay for organizing the 9 hubs.
- Intakes are not from the usual places: Clinton, Gray, Warren, etc. The large number of people from municipalities that aren't from Greater Portland is new.
 - Education needed on GA; it's uneven use around the state is likely contributing.
 - Using GA outside of Portland is a struggle when trying to divert people.
 - What advocacy can this group do?
 - Maine Shelter Network has invited Sara Denson, General Assistance Program Manager, and Tony Pelotte, Director of the Office for Family Independence to advocate for GA to be administered uniformly across the state.
 - Are there are no repercussions if towns don't do GA?
 - There are statutes and mechanisms in place. GA is never really about a budget number. Every municipality does their best to project what you will spend but not having enough money budgeted is never a reason to deny a client.
 - In terms of repercussions, PTLA can help contest decisions.
 - There is a clause that municipalities that assist a client from another town can bill the municipality of responsibility.
 - Sending to Portland and billing other municipalities has had limited success.
 - Towns in York County denying because they don't have a budget.
 - Individual GA offices can be hard to access making self-advocacy hard.
 - GA Bill this legislative session was carried over; it is the time to advocate.
 - There aren't any resources going into diversion except for 211. We need more resources going to diversion and housing.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o 27 OSS intakes were out of state. Is this normal and trending up or down?
- **MaineHousing Funding**
 - o FEMA hotel funding is extended through the end of December.
 - This includes PUI and respite.
 - o Is there will to extend hotel placements beyond the end of December?
 - They have made a huge difference for unsheltered people and the population served by PATH.
 - MaineHousing is in talks with TOA to use ERA funds and one specific hotel owner to try and extend beyond December 31st.
 - A bill was approved in the house to extend ERA from 18 to 24 months and allows for prepayment.
 - It appears to be extended on a quarterly basis but this is speculation.
- **Discussion on Community Preparedness for the Oncoming Cold Season**
 - o City Winter plan focusing on hypothermia. Courtney from GPH to share resources. She has a model from other cities.
 - Subcommittee or invite her to next month's ESAC?
 - Subcommittee as we are getting into hypothermia season.
 - Ben moved to create an ESAC sub-group to draft a comprehensive winter plan. Jim seconded. Motion Passes with none opposed.
 - Volunteers: Ben Strick, Aaron Geyer/Sarah Fleurant, Brian Townsend., Terence Miller, Bill Higgins, and Norm Maze.
 - Will there be a PIT this year?
 - Yes; in the preparation stage.
 - Looking for leads in communities around Maine. MaineHousing and Catholic Charities meeting with Shalom to find the organizations they can reach out to in rural areas.
 - PIT crew leads will be relied on to put the word out to volunteers.
 - Veterans groups have good participation.
 - o Winter supplies are desperately needed. The city will start a social media campaign seeking warm winter clothes.
- **Homeless Services Center**
 - o Planning board approved the HSC application.
 - o Will the HSC be a place where people can use the bathroom during the day; yes.
 - o The letter from the representatives from the greater Portland Area that were opposed to the plan; will have conversations with them as there appears to be conversations round the CSH report.
 - The delegation letter seems to be misinformed around the CSH report.
 - The statewide homeless council is writing an op ed to explain the report is to advocate for resources to divert, not for a reduction in shelter beds; we need to house people first. The redesign is about getting resources needed.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- The delegation letter seemed uncurious given that nearly all of the agencies working on homeless support the HSC and that did not give them pause. There was no outreach from the delegation to discuss the plan.
- The testimony was against the shelter, not the merits of the plan.
- With the HSC not coming online for some time, will the City issue another day space RFP for this Winter?
 - City is working to try and find a solution to day space.
 - The extension of hotels beyond December 31st will help, especially if extended to 24 months.
- The design evolved and really respects clients.
 - There are offices for multiple organizations to wrap around assistance to clients.
- **Federal, State and Local**
 - **Federal**
 - Eviction moratorium lifted.
 - \$1 trillion package
 - \$3.5 trillion package includes homelessness.
 - Spread over ten years.
 - HUD budget restored
 - Funding the government; hopefully by the end of the month.
 - Increase in S+C.
 - Increase in HCV.
 - DASH Act
 - Housing and homelessness.
 - Moving through Congress.
 - Everyone who needs an HCV will get an HCV.
 - Improves affordable housing development.
 - Housing Trust fund for permanent supportive housing.
 - Regional and Statewide Homeless Councils are sending thank you letters to our delegation.
 - Norm moved ESAC send a thank you letter to Senator King and Collins in support. Bill Seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.
 - Expediting Assistance Act.
 - Maxine Waters: solves slowness of ERA and provides tenant protections and extends the length of assistance from 15 to 24 months.
 - **State**
 - LD1733 is a catch all for using state recovery funds.
 - \$6 million to increase pay for health workers.
 - \$50 million for labor agreements.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- \$10 million one-time funds for shelters: operations and capital improvements.
 - \$1.5 million for housing navigators.
 - Carry over bills include GA bill.
 - 18-24-month ERA extension: is this the Maxine waters bill?
 - ERA as written is 15 plus 3 to get 18 and the Maxine waters bill is 24 plus.
- **City Ordinance and Referendum Discussion**
 - It is a good idea for ESAC to take a position. It would sound good to the general population to promote smaller shelters but that doesn't mean it will occur.
 - The City sent out an RFP for day shelter with no takers.
 - It was hard for Preble Street to create a shelter with their own space.
 - Capping beds at 50 and deciding the size of shelter doesn't help create shelter.
 - Shelters larger than 50 may be needed.
 - Shelters would be sited with the path of least resistance.
 - There is an alternate proposal as well as none of the above on the ballot.
 - We voted and sent a letter in support of alternate language as a de facto position.
 - We voted for alternate language before the Councilor Ray's amendment was released.
 - We did not have the draft language but the stakes were so high with the potential damage of the referendum that we voted to support an alternative.
 - The motion was more for multiple questions, not supporting the content of the questions.
 - We have the actual language now.
 - Referendums are terrible ways to decide public policy on complex issues.
 - We don't think matters pertaining to homelessness should be decided through referendum and we should take the position "none of the above."
 - Do we have enough information and discussion to make a decision?
 - How do we get the information we need to take a position?
 - At this point United Way would abstain and the City would abstain.
 - Community input: the advantage of the City's amendment is that it creates a mechanism for increases in capacity to happen.
 - Concern that were this to pass, it would be extraordinarily detrimental to multiple providers, limiting the ability to provide service.
 - We should vote next month with the needed background info.
 - The referendum may still impact the HSC as there is debate on retro activeness.
 - What materials are needed in advance for a vote next month?

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
PORTLAND, MAINE
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

Referendum Question:

Do you favor one of the two (2) city ordinances summarized below: 'A' as proposed by citizen petition; 'B' as enacted by the city council; or should both be rejected as provided in 'C'?

To vote, complete the oval ☐ to the right of your choice, like this: ☒

A: This proposed amendment requires all new emergency shelters to be opened 24 hours per day and, except for family and domestic violence shelters, provide shelter to no more than 50 individuals at a time. It adds a requirement for shelter management plans to include a Criminal Trespass Order policy and appeals process for residents. It also removes the requirements for shelters to: provide adequate space for security searches and other assessments; include plans for on-site surveillance and controls for resident behavior and noise levels; provide adequate access to and from METRO service; implement strategies to help guests utilize transit. ☐

B: This proposed amendment requires all new emergency shelters to be opened 24 hours per day and to have adequate indoor space to provide day shelter for all guests. It adds a requirement for shelter management plans to include a clear policy regarding Criminal Trespass Orders. It requires all emergency shelters to provide access to and from METRO service and to implement strategies to help guests use public transit. It requires individual emergency shelters to be located at least 1000 feet from one another, limits the size of individual shelters to a maximum of 150 beds except in situations when a shelter capacity emergency is declared, and limits the total number of individual shelter beds within a 1-mile radius to a maximum of 300. Domestic violence shelters which don't disclose their locations for safety reasons are exempt from both provisions. The proposed consolidation of the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter and the Preble Street Teen Center into one facility at 343 Cumberland Avenue is also exempt from the buffer and density provisions. ☐

C: Neither of the two (2) proposed Amendments to the Portland City Code above. ☐

THIS IS A TWO SIDED BALLOT

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	September 2020	September 2021
ADOLESCENTS	13 Individuals	13 Individuals
FAMILIES	249 Individuals 59 Average Families	120 Individuals 44 Average Families
ADULTS	162 Individuals	256 Individuals
Total	424 Individuals	389 Individuals

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

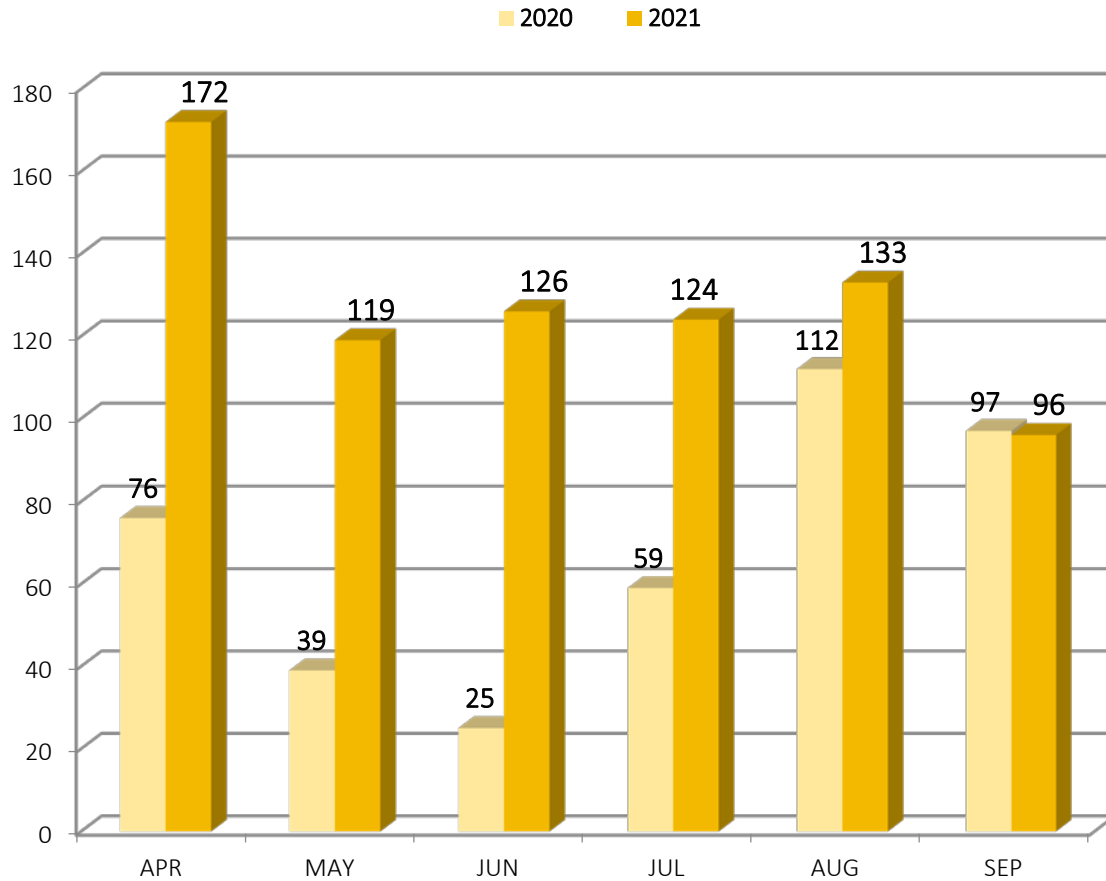
SEPTEMBER 2021

Intakes by Residency

MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Alfred	1	Hollis	1			AL	1						
Auburn	2	Naples	1			CA	1						
Augusta	1	Presque Isle	1			IN	1						
Bangor	1	Rumford	1			KY	1						
Biddeford	2	South Portland	2			MA	3						
Bridgton	1	Standish	1			MI	1						
Brunswick	2	Waterville	1			MS	1						
Charleston	1	Westbrook	2			NH	1						
Dexter	1					NJ	1						
Falmouth	1					TX	3						
Gorham	1					VA	1						
Gray	1					WI	1						

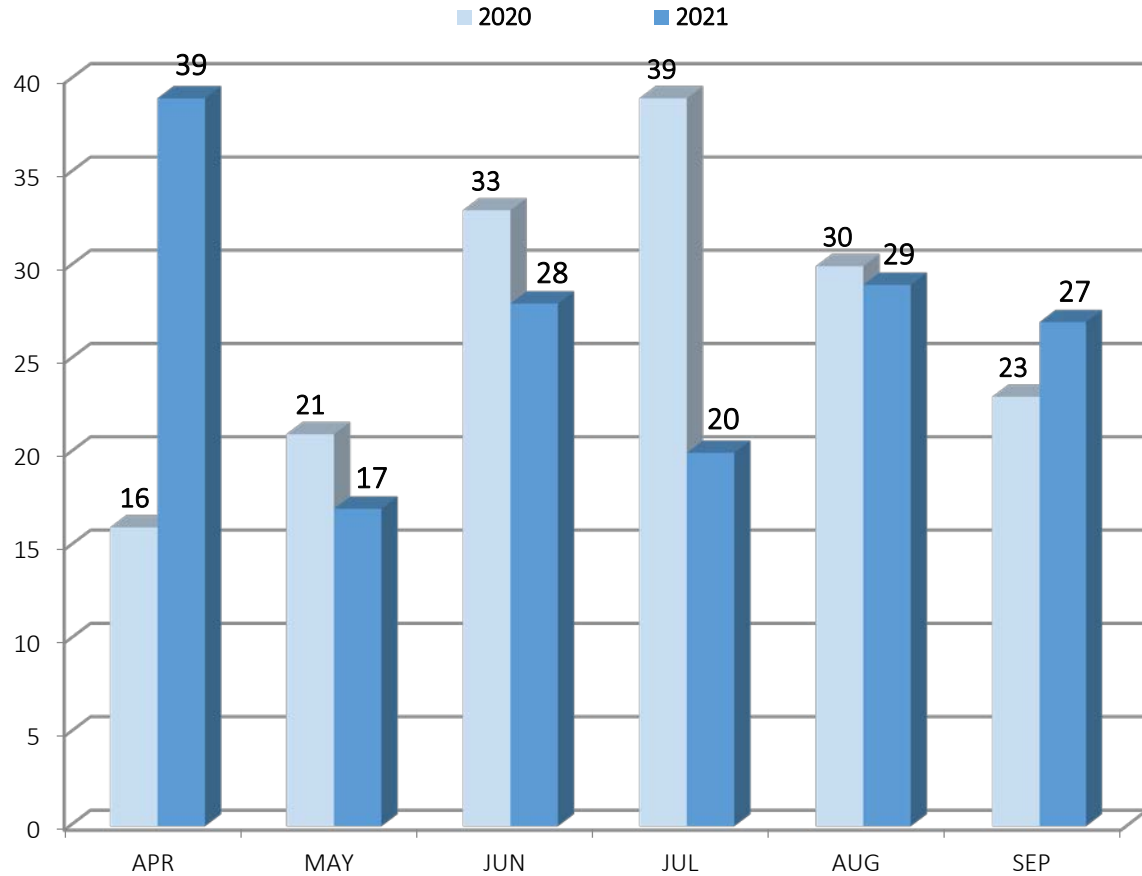
MAINE TOWN:	25	OUT-OF-STATE:	17	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	0	PORTLAND:	13	Unknown:	5	TOTAL:	57
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PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE SEPTEMBER 2021 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	4/10	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	5/13	146	136
Joe Kreisler	8	24	24
Milestone	16	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	42	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	75 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	15		
Florence House	6	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	96	496	474+

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE SEPTEMBER 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



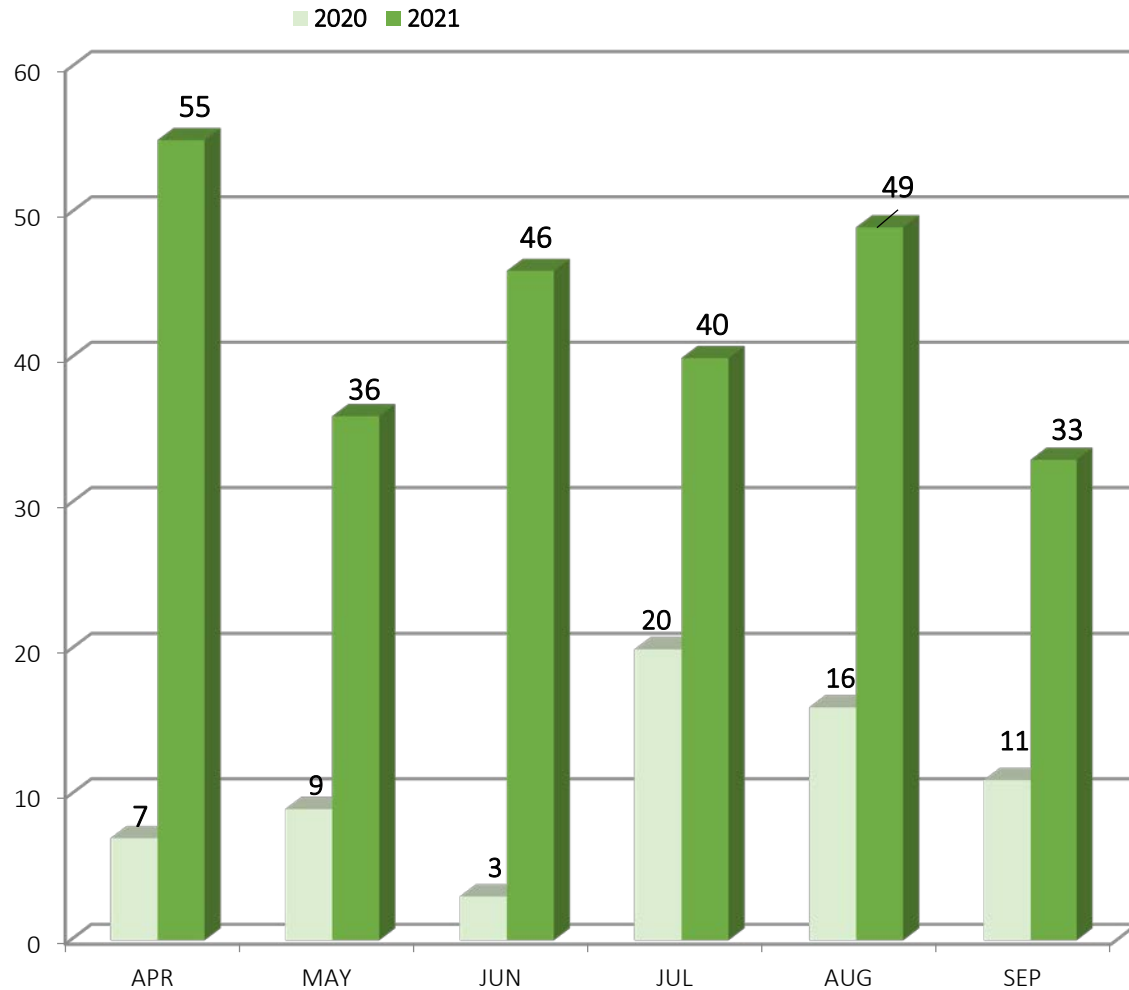
*Starting September, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	6	1/4	5/14
Family Shelter	2/7		2/7
Joe Kreisler	8		8
Milestone	2		2
Oxford Street (Men)	9		9
Oxford Street (Women)	0		0
Florence House	0		
TOTAL	27	1	26

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

SEPTEMBER 2021

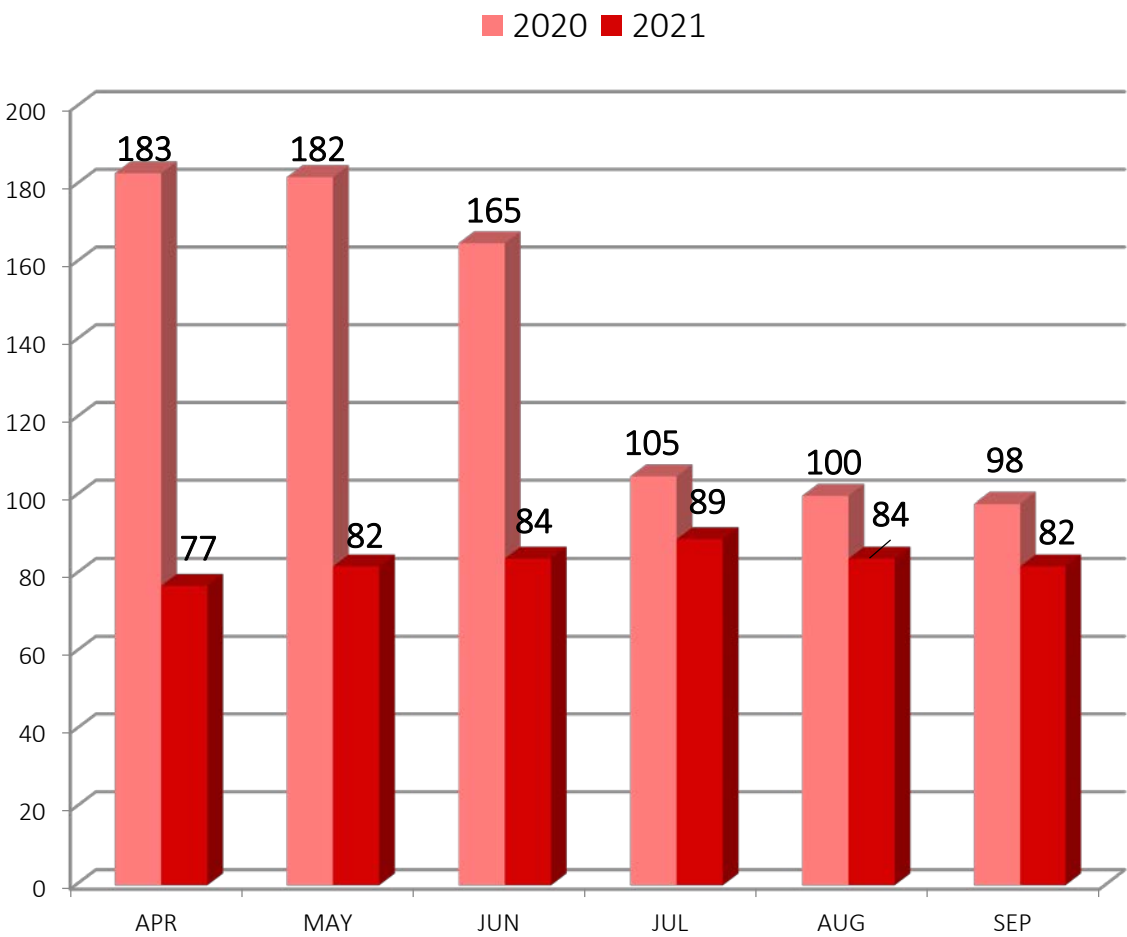
1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



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	1/2	25%	1%	3%
Family Shelter	5/13	100%	5%	15%
Joe Kreisler	5	63%	5%	15%
Milestone	6	38%	6%	18%
Oxford Street (Men)	10	24%	10%	30%
Oxford Street (Women)	5	33%	5%	15%
Florence House	1	17%	1%	3%
TOTAL	33		34%	100%

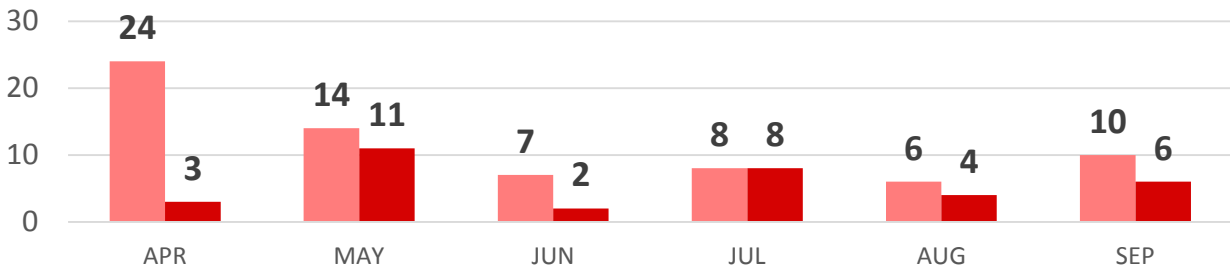
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE SEPTEMBER 2021 CTOs FROM SHELTER

Total Current CTOs

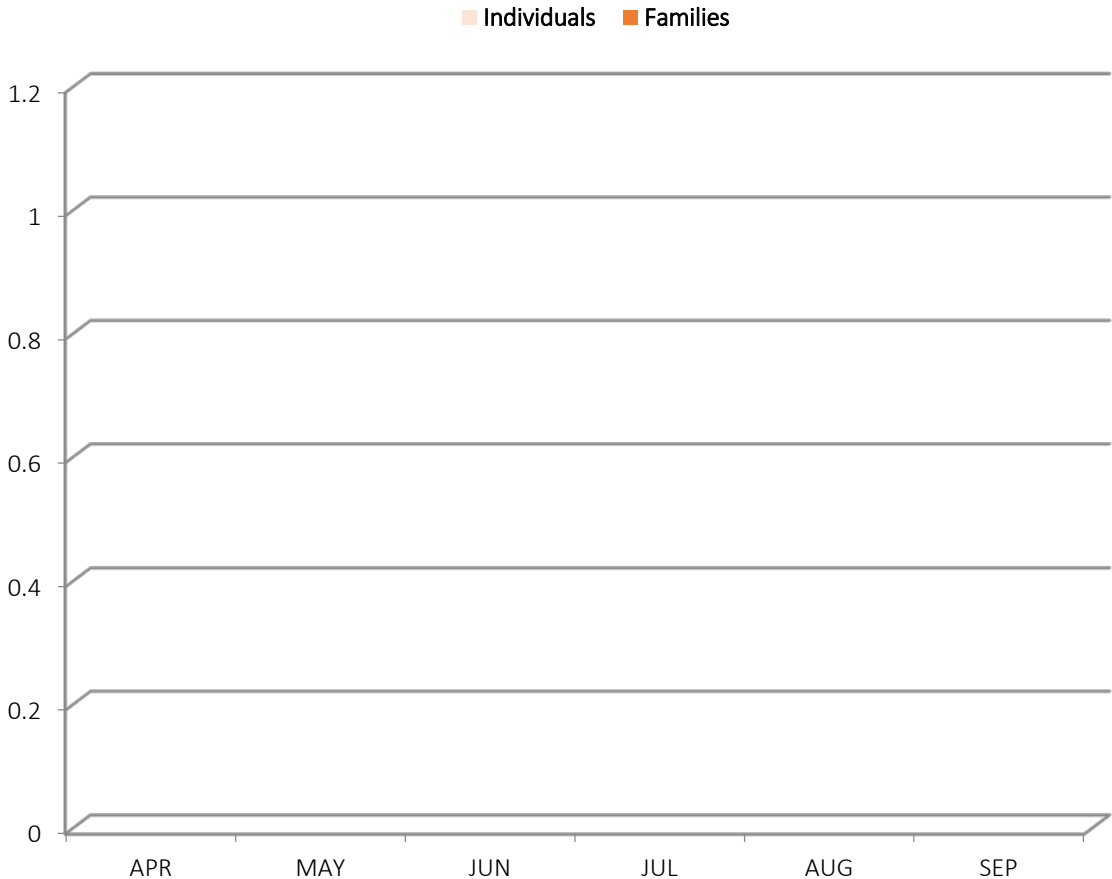


CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	0	0	1
Milestone	1	0	16
Oxford Street Shelter	5	0	62
Florence House	0	0	3
TOTAL	6	0	82

CTOs Issued in the Month



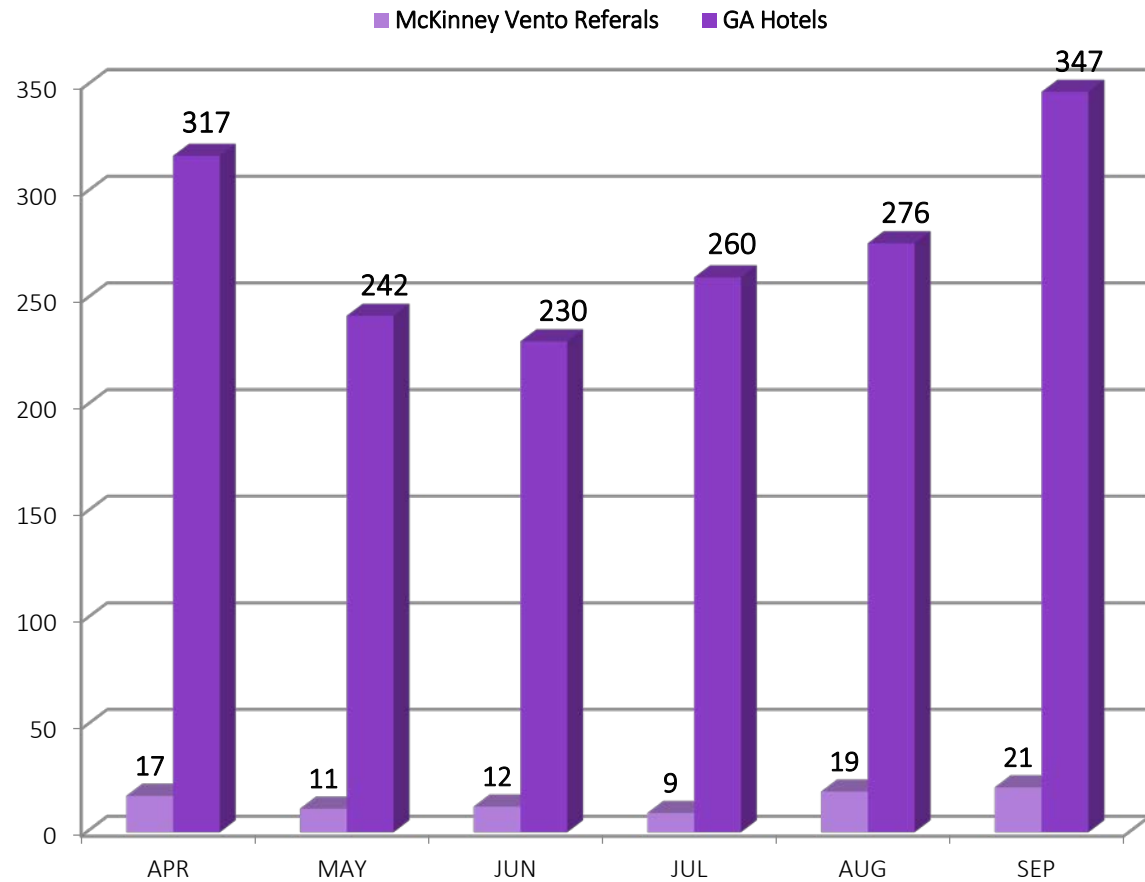
PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE
SEPTEMBER 2021
WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH



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 SEPTEMBER 2021 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Families with School Aged Children	21	125
Unduplicated GA Hotels	347	1,923

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 SEPTEMBER 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY TYPE

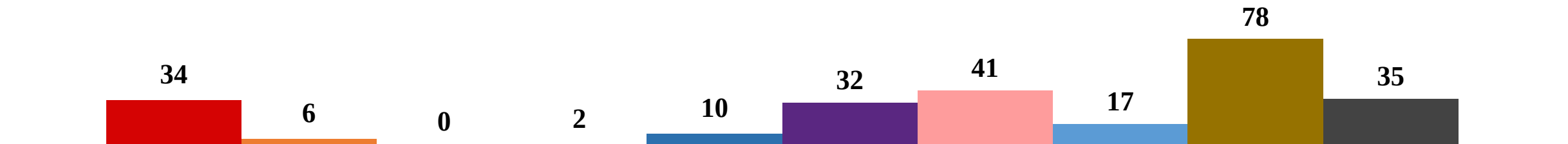
	S+C	BRAP	Sober House	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/ HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors					1	3				2
Family Shelter									2	
Joe Kreisler					1		5		2	
Milestone	1									1
Oxford Street (Men)	1	1				1	1		5	
Oxford Street (Women)										
Florence House										
TOTAL	2	1			2	4	6		9	3

*

Distribution of Placements in the Month:



2021 Placements:

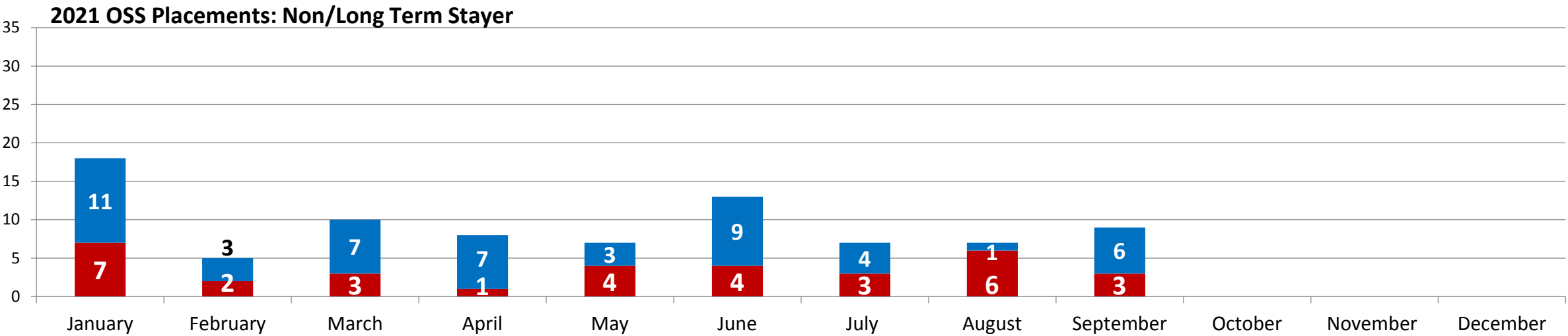
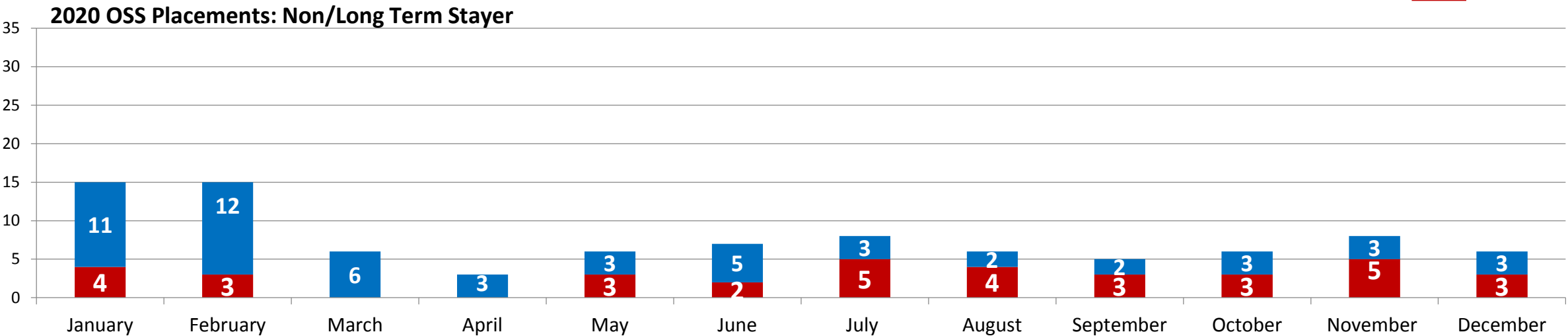
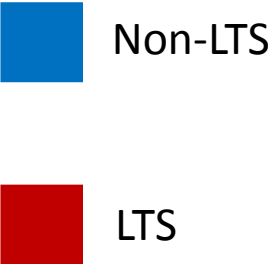


PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE SEPTEMBER 2021 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

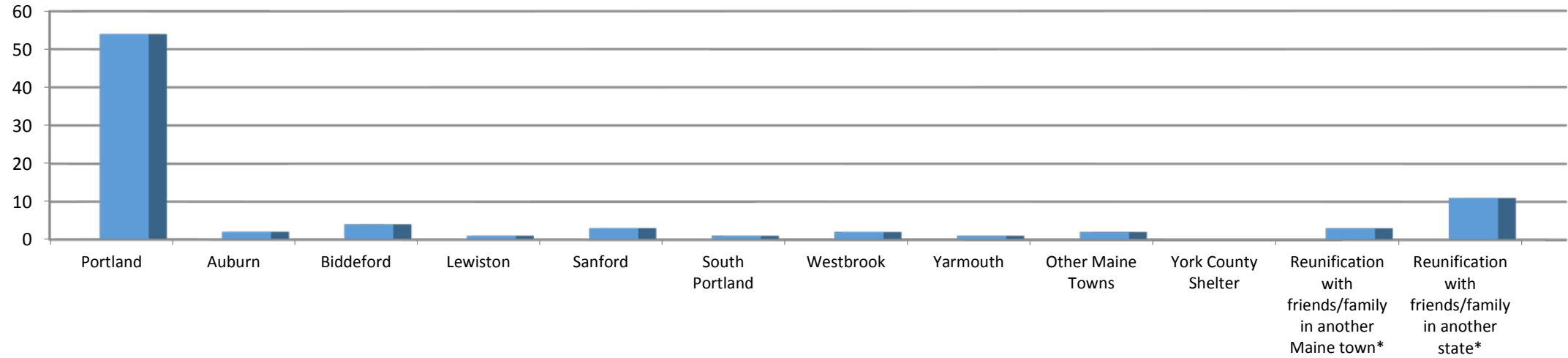
On September: 29th
422 individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	35	79	8	12	34	189	0	357
2	35	79	12	14	31	190	0	361
3	35	81	22	11	30	186	0	365
4	35	81	30	10	30	182	0	368
5	35	81	29	15	31	193	0	384
6	35	81	29	11	32	198	0	386
7	35	81	27	15	35	183	0	376
8	31	81	28	16	38	184	0	378
9	38	81	27	10	33	188	0	377
10	37	81	27	11	33	195	0	384
11	37	81	23	13	28	187	0	369
12	37	81	26	12	27	188	0	371
13	37	81	24	13	29	184	0	368
14	37	81	23	13	39	178	0	371
15	33	81	27	12	38	190	0	381
16	33	85	27	13	30	190	0	378
17	33	85	31	15	28	196	0	388
18	39	85	32	12	30	198	0	396
19	37	85	33	15	34	200	0	404
20	39	88	34	12	31	202	0	406
21	36	88	35	14	33	196	0	402
22	36	90	37	12	32	193	0	400
23	36	90	36	13	34	200	0	409
24	36	87	37	13	35	207	0	415
25	36	87	34	13	32	195	0	397
26	36	87	37	14	37	192	0	403
27	36	89	35	14	37	197	0	408
28	36	89	38	12	40	202	0	417
29	36	89	37	13	38	209	0	422
30	44	85	39	16	30	201	0	415
Total	1,081	2,520	884	389	989	5,793	0	11,656
Avg/night	36	84	29	13	33	193	0	389
Highest	44	90	39	16	40	209	0	422
Lowest	31	79	8	10	27	178	0	357

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



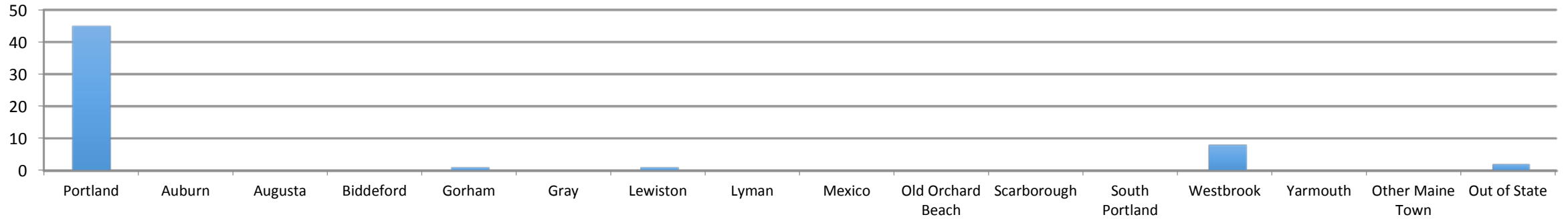
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2021 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	18	5	10	8	7	13	7	7	9				84	100%
Portland	12	4	9	4	2	8	5	6	4				54	64.3%
Auburn				1	1								2	2.4%
Biddeford									4				4	4.8%
Lewiston	1												1	1.2%
Sanford						3							3	3.6%
South Portland				1									1	1.2%
Westbrook	1							1					2	2.4%
Yarmouth			1										1	1.2%
Other Maine Towns	1				1								2	2.4%
York County Shelter														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*					2		1						3	3.6%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	3	1		2	1	2	1		1				11	13.1%

FAMILY SHELTER PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

■ 2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	September	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	100%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	5	9	13	5	4	7	6	2				57	
Portland	2	5	8	12	5	2	6	3	2				45	78.9%
Auburn														0.0%
September														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	14.0%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State	2												2	3.5%