

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2022
8:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions – Aaron Geyer facilitating

- a. Topic: Remote Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee
Time: Jul 21, 2022 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/83427209675?pwd=K255bmRyQ3JROFJMQ1BqUStENzcyZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 2720 9675

Passcode: 418457

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

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- b. Approval of Minutes

2. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

- a. June Statistics

3. Dignity Pilot Presentation and Discussion – Jim Devine and Jon Bradley

- a. Dignity Pilot
- 4. **Cumberland County Service Hub Update – Matthew Jarrell**
- 5. **Federal, State, and Local Legislation Update (Cullen Ryan, others)**
- 6. **Other items, Updates, and Announcements**

Next Meeting

August 18, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Remote Meeting

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2022

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Dan Coyne	United Way
Terence Miller	Preble Street	Anne Marie Brown	United Way
Bill Higgins	HA4All	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Johnathan Sarbeck	District Attorney	Mike Guthrie	CoP Family Shelter
Sarah Michniewicz	BNA	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Ginny Dill	Office of Behavioral Health	Mathew Jarrell	HUB coordinator
Vickey Rand	CHOM	Jim Divine	HVJ
Rachel Ohm	Portland Press Herald	Isabel McDevit	America Works
Taylor Cray	Preble Street	Mike Merrill	Volunteers for America
George Rheault	Bayside Resident		

Meeting Summary

The May statistics saw a sharp increase in single asylum seekers presenting to OSS at 65. The Warming Center slide returned due to the self-directed GA housing search policy change; the FS explains GA and gives clients landlord forms and MIRC has been assisting finding hotel rooms. Finding hotel rooms for ERA placements is difficult with the rate reduction intended to keep ERA running through October; there will an increase to the rate in July which may help secure rooms. The City of Portland is unable to move forward with the space identified for congregate shelter due to required costs and time delays to meet building requirements; the City of Portland is meeting with South Portland to see what can be done be able to keep people sheltered in South Portland hotels. Our HUB Coordinator explained the goal getting quality data to inform a comprehensive By-Name List (BNL) of people experiencing homelessness in Cumberland County, both sheltered and unsheltered as well as the Built for Zero Quality Data Score Card being used to assess our data. The group to add ESAC to the list of groups thanking Senator

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Collins for signing on as an original cosponsor of the LIFELINE Act. The meeting ended with a discussion on overdose instances and fatalities, that there is a disconnect with what we are observing anecdotally and public perception/reporting.

- **May Meeting Minutes**

- Jim moved to approve the minutes, Taylor seconded and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

- **May Statistics**

- OSS intake: 63 out-of-state clients and 2 unknown reported coming to shelter for “refugee services” and are likely asylum seekers.
- Added warming center slide back.
 - Policy change in May to self-directed housing search for GA.
 - No one has had to sleep outside.
 - Warming Center is a misnomer; it should have an asterisk or be renamed to describe that it is family shelter overflow.
 - Noted: “The Warming Center is an overflow space in the City of Portland Family Shelter used year round as needed.”

- **Community Emergency Shelter Capacity for Families and ERA Changes Update and Discussion**

- Family Shelter clients have had difficulty finding ERA hotel placements due to the lesser rate.
 - Suresh has been taking the \$109 to help shelter families.
- On June first the ERA rate went to the federal guideline of \$109 which will go up to \$170 in July for Portland; they differ by location.
 - It changed because the money was running out fast would help last through the October.
- Maine Immigration Rights Coalition (MIRC) is assisting with hotel placements.
- The City of Portland and
- 59 households in South Portland will be affected with more in surrounding communities.
- City of Portland is making up the difference between ERA rates in Portland but other communities haven’t chosen to do that.

- **Imminent Hotel Closures and Congregate Space Planning Update and Discussion**

- The congregate shelter location the City was looking will not work.
- The City of Portland is meeting with South Portland to work out the supports and infrastructure needed to keep the hotels open in South Portland and not displace people at the end of the month.

- **Cumberland County Service Hub update**

- Mathew Jarrell, mjerrell@UWSM.org, Cumberland County HUB Coordinator
- Looking to get quality data by the end of the year.
 - A by name list of everyone experiencing homelessness in the county.
 - Capturing people who are unsheltered.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- The list is a means to an end, not the goal.
- Cumberland County HUB is working with the Built for Zero Initiative to help define and get to quality data.
- Quality Data Score Card assesses our data quality.
 - Outreach:
 - Where teams go and who they come into contact with.
 - Coordinated to avoid duplication.
 - Documented outreach.
 - Reach 90% of the unsheltered population and documented to the best of our ability on the by-name list (BNL).
 - BNL Participation
 - Covers all subpopulations.
 - Inactivity
 - Policy on defining and documenting inactivity.
 - Consent
 - Find a way to track who does not want to participate.
- Data team convened by the end of the month. (Formerly outreach team)
 - Draft policy for next ESAC meeting.
- **Federal, State, and Local Legislation Update**
 - **Federal**
 - FEMA hotels funding stops July 1, 2022.
 - Some hotels did not renew their contracts at the end of May outside of the Portland area.
 - Housing Supply Action Plan
 - Affects many ways to increase the production of housing but they would require bills from Congress.
 - LIFELINE Act put forth in Senate to make it easier for Coronavirus State Recovery Funds be used to increase the supply of affordable housing.
 - Statewide Homeless Council sent a letter of thanks to Susan Collins.
 - Add ESAC to the list of groups collectively thanking her.
 - Norm MOVED to add ESAC to the list of groups thanking Senator Collins for signing on as an original cosponsor of the LIFELINE Act; Jenny Seconded. The MOTION was approved with none opposed.
 - The Eviction Crisis Act
 - A diversion bill to prevent people falling into homelessness.
 - Coordinating Substance Use and Homelessness Act of 2022
 - Flexibility in Addressing Rural Homelessness
 - Gets MC-Kinney Vento funds into rural areas.
- **State**
 - Legislature adjourned.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- LD2003 went through which made changes to land use and zoning restrictions with will make it easier to build affordable housing.
- \$20 MaineHousing plan to expand rural housing development.
- **Other Items, Updates, and Announcements**
 - Longest Day of Homelessness: Friday, June 17th at Tommy's Park
 - 8:00 AM to 5:00PM.
 - Open forum including people with lived experience, political, and community groups.
 - Homelessness is an emergency anytime of the year; heat is deadly too.
 - HVJ Newsletter has started again.
 - Rachel Talbot Ross Bill to investigate discrimination based on housing status by the Maine Human Rights Commission outreach is underway.
 - Leading to a Homeless Bill of Rights.
 - Overdose fatalities.
 - Several recent deaths in the community: in Bayside and heard there was an overdose in Deering Oaks.
 - Is there an uptick in fatalities?
 - Not aware of a spike of fatal overdoses, but we have anecdotally seen an increase in overdoses since May. This could be due to fentanyl in heroin.
 - PPD has put out alerts when there are abnormal spikes observed in OD Mapping but can only see what gets documented.
 - There is an OD spike alert text system.
 - It hasn't been going off recently.
 - This was a topic at the Statewide Homeless Council.
 - 2 overdoses at id Maine Homeless Shelter.
 - The number of Maine overdose deaths are similar to Maine's Covid deaths.
 - Director of Opioid Response Gordon Smith will be at the next meeting.
 - It isn't reported or in the public consciousness as much as it should be.
 - Overdoses versus overdose deaths are conflated an imprecise.
 - The Health & Human and Public Safety Committee have taken up overdose as a priority and reviews needle exchange and overdoes statistics.
 - Overdose data is lacking for many reason including nondisclosure.
 - There is a disconnect between what we are observing and the data we can collect.

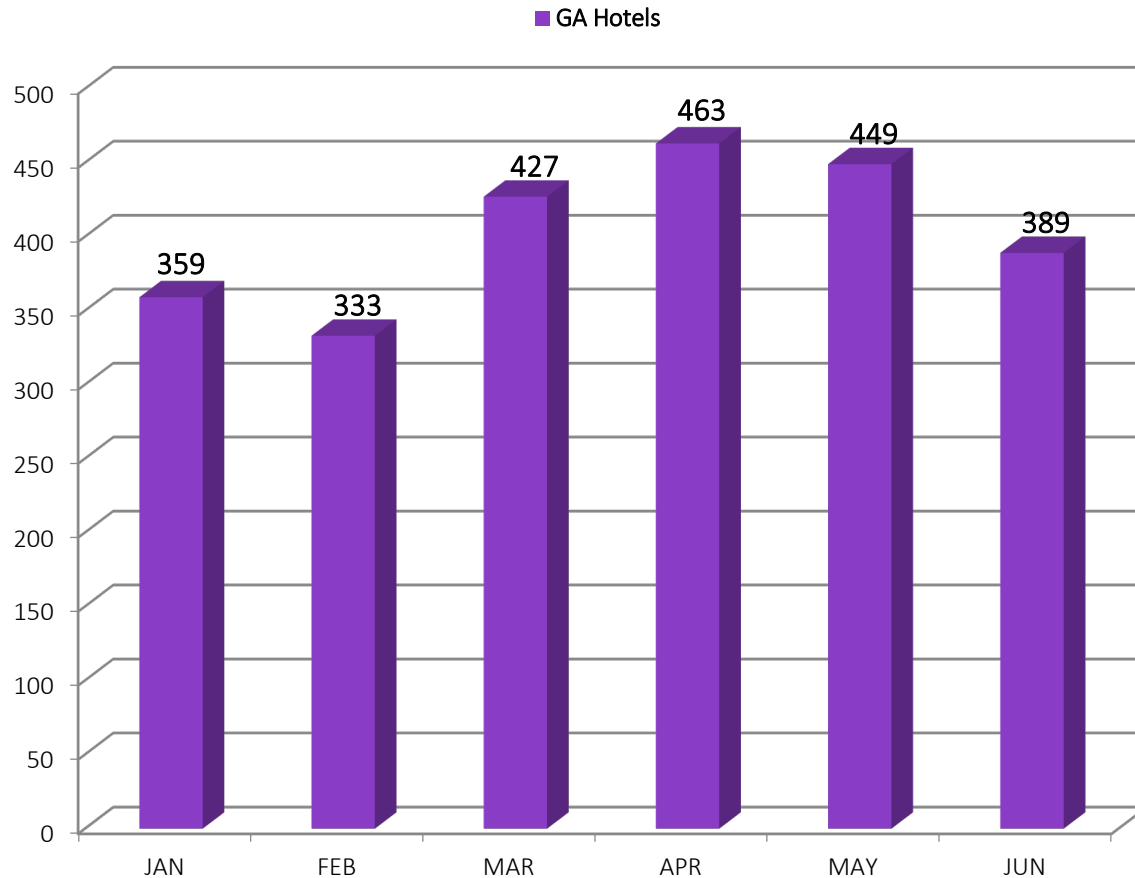
PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

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

	June 2021	June 2022
ADOLESCENTS	15 Individuals	22 Individuals
FAMILIES	108 Individuals 38 Average Families	102 Individuals 37 Average Families
ADULTS	234 Individuals	334 Individuals
Total	357 Individuals	451 Individuals

*GA hotels are on the next slide.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JUNE, 2022 General Assistance Hotels



	Month*	Total
Unduplicated GA Hotels	389	2,853

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.

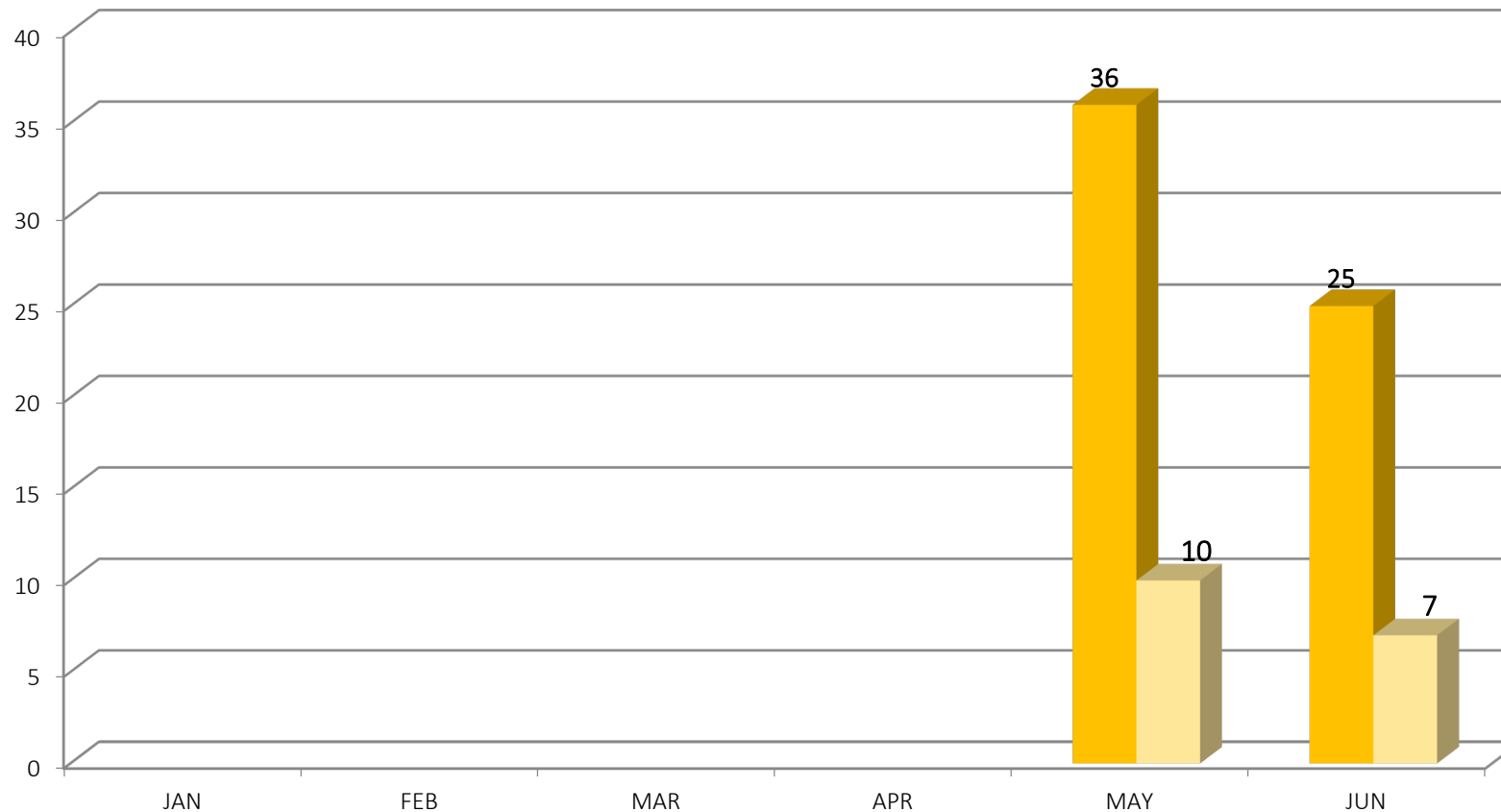
*Started referral partnership with South Portland Schools in December, 2020.

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE JUNE 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.

Monthly Average

■ Individuals ■ Families



Date	Families	Individuals
1	0	0
2	2	8
3	5	19
4	6	22
5	6	22
6	10	39
7	6	28
8	5	26
9	5	20
10	5	16
11	7	16
12	8	22
13	9	24
14	11	31
15	10	30
16	11	32
17	10	31
18	10	31
19	10	31
20	10	31
21	10	33
22	9	30
23	8	28
24	8	28
25	8	29
26	9	32
27	9	32
28	5	20
29	4	15
30	4	15

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

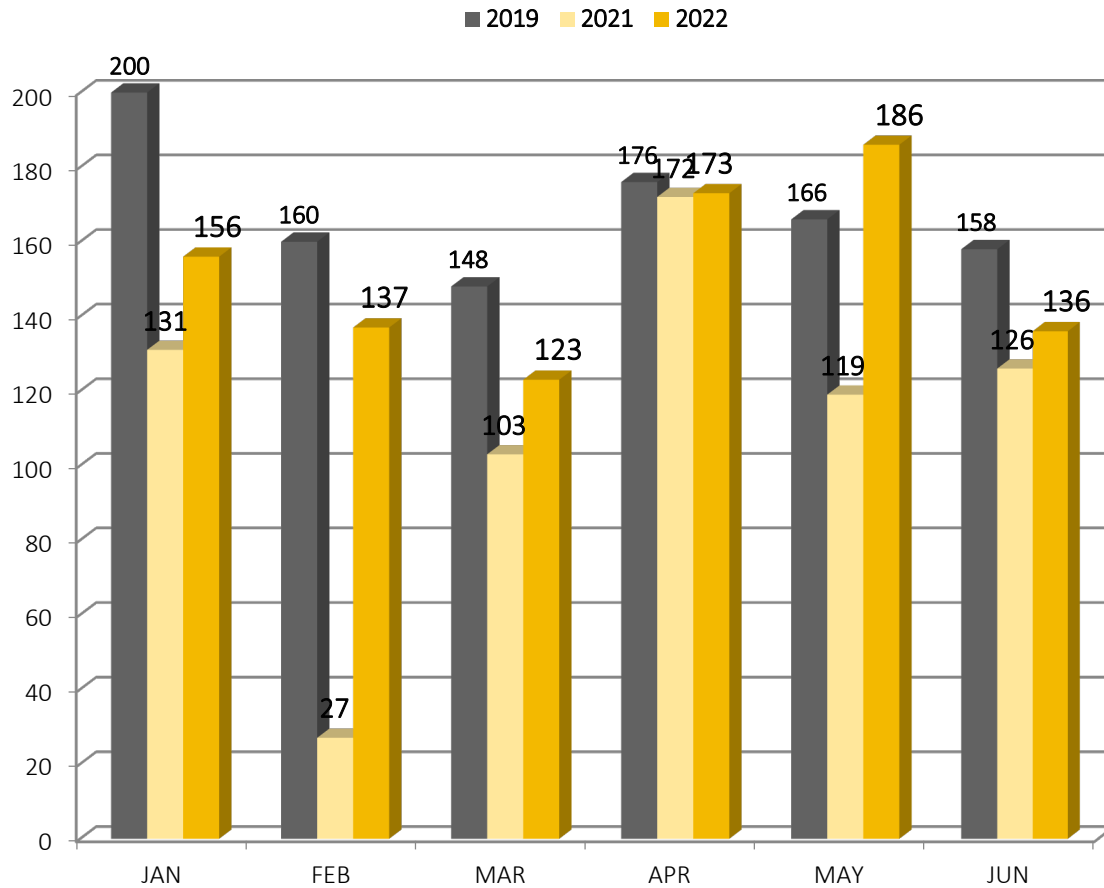
JUNE, 2022

Intakes by Residency

*34 out-of-state and 2 Maine town clients reported coming to shelter for “refugee services” and are likely asylum seekers.

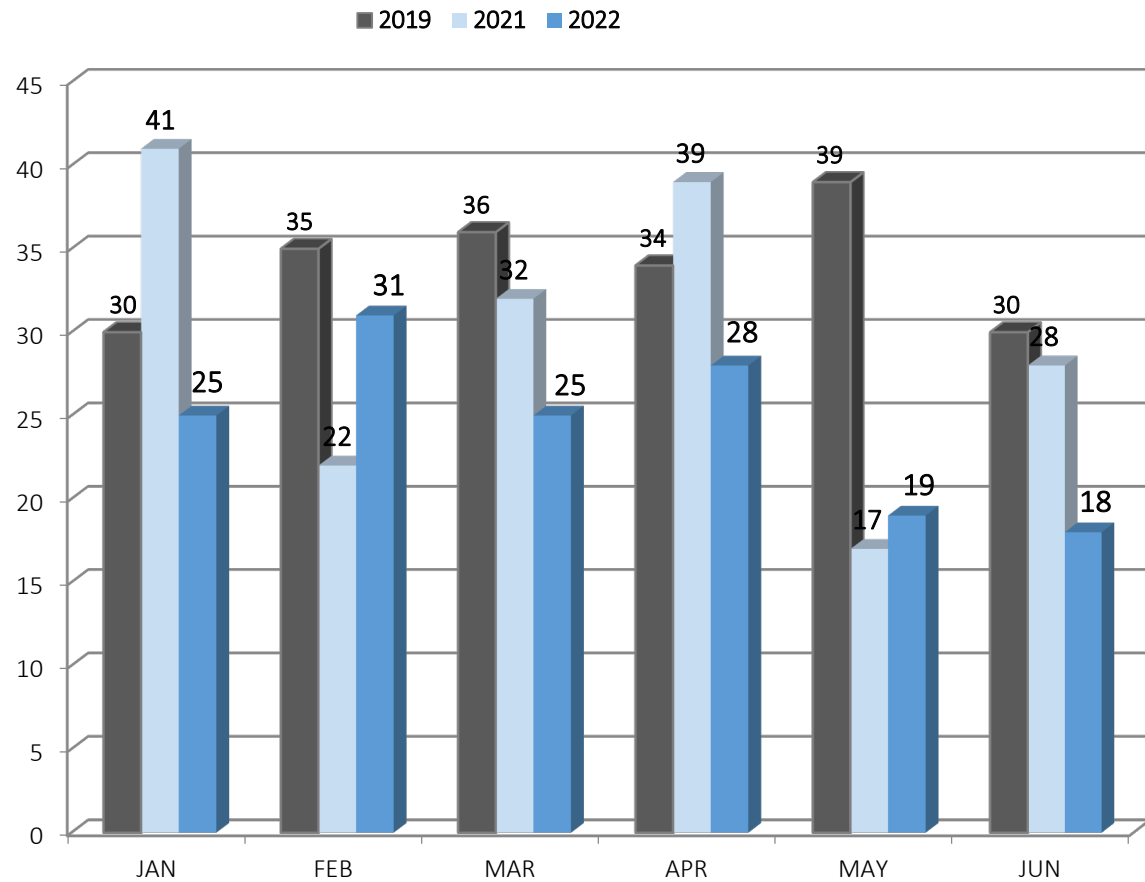
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE						OUT-OF-COUNTRY*					
Alfred	1	Houlton	1	Topsham	1	AZ	7	NH	2			DRC	2				
Auburn	1	Kittery	1	Waterville	2	CA	2	NJ	1								
Augusta	2	Lewiston	2	Westbrook	2	CO	1	NY	5								
Bangor	1	Limington	1			CT	1	PA	1								
Biddeford	2	Mattawamkeag	1			DC	4	SC	2								
Bridgton	1	Naples	2			FL	7	TX	9								
Brunswick	1	Old Orchard Beach	1			GA	2										
Damariscotta	1	Saco	1			IL	1										
Freeport	1	Sanford	1			KY	1										
Gardiner	1	Scarborough	1			MA	2										
Gray	1	South Portland	4			MS	1										
MAINE TOWN:		34	OUT-OF-STATE:		49	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:		2	PORTLAND:		16	Unknown:		9	TOTAL:		110

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



	INTAKES	Pre-COVID Bed Capacity	Current Bed Capacity
Through These Doors	2/2	16	16+ at shelter and hotel overflow
Family Shelter	1/3	146	146
Joe Kreisler	9	24	24
Milestone	8	41	34
Oxford Street (Men)	77	154 at OSS, 75 at PSRC overflow	154 at OSS, 149 at contracted hotel
Oxford Street (Women)	33		
Florence House	6	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven	25 at Shelter, 15 at Safe Haven
TOTAL	136/138	496	474+

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



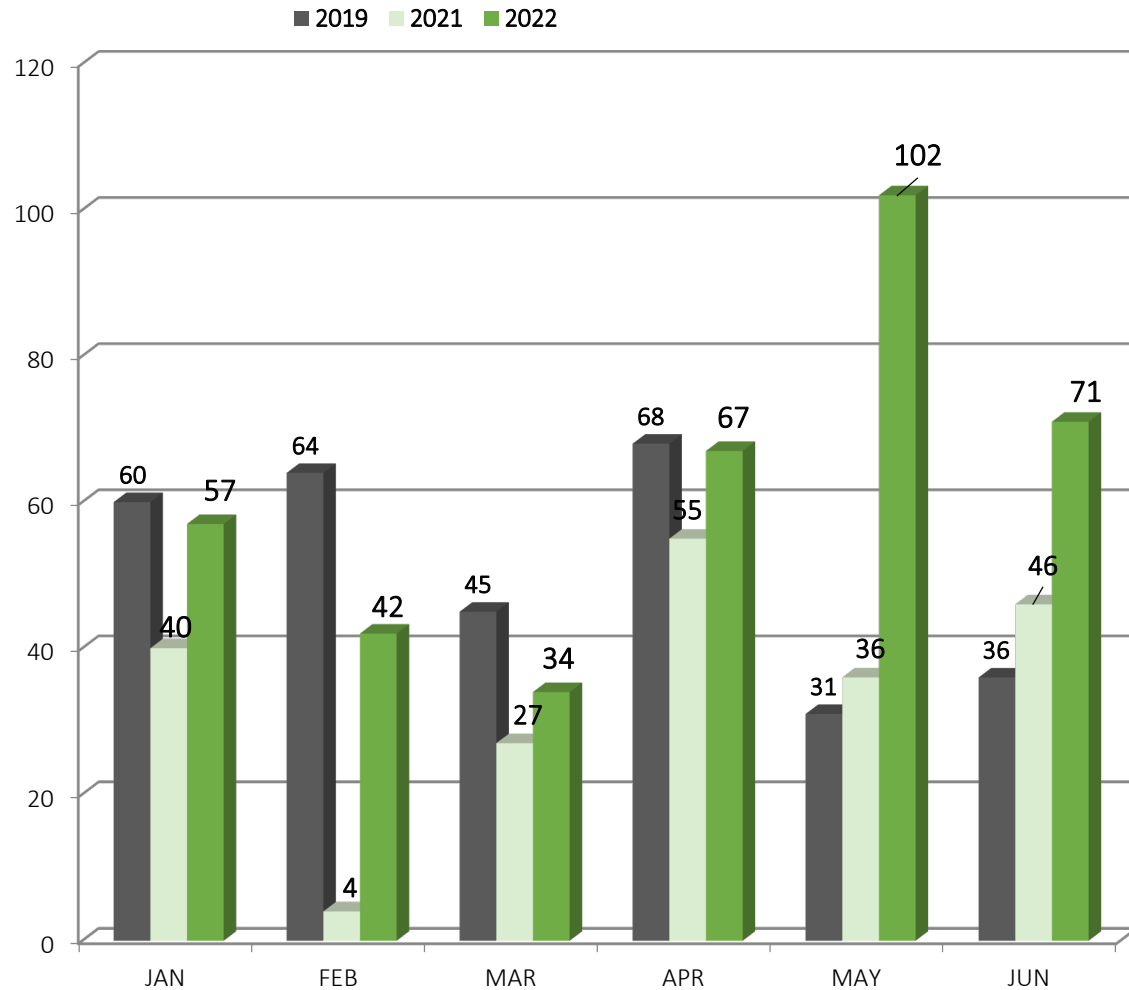
*Starting October, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	BED NIGHTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	2/2	30	1	1
Family Shelter	3/6	1,530		3/6
Joe Kreisler	7	177	1	6
Milestone	2	237		2
Oxford Street (Men)	4	1,086		4
Oxford Street (Women)	0			
Florence House	0			
TOTAL	18/21	3,060	2	16/19

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

JUNE, 2022

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



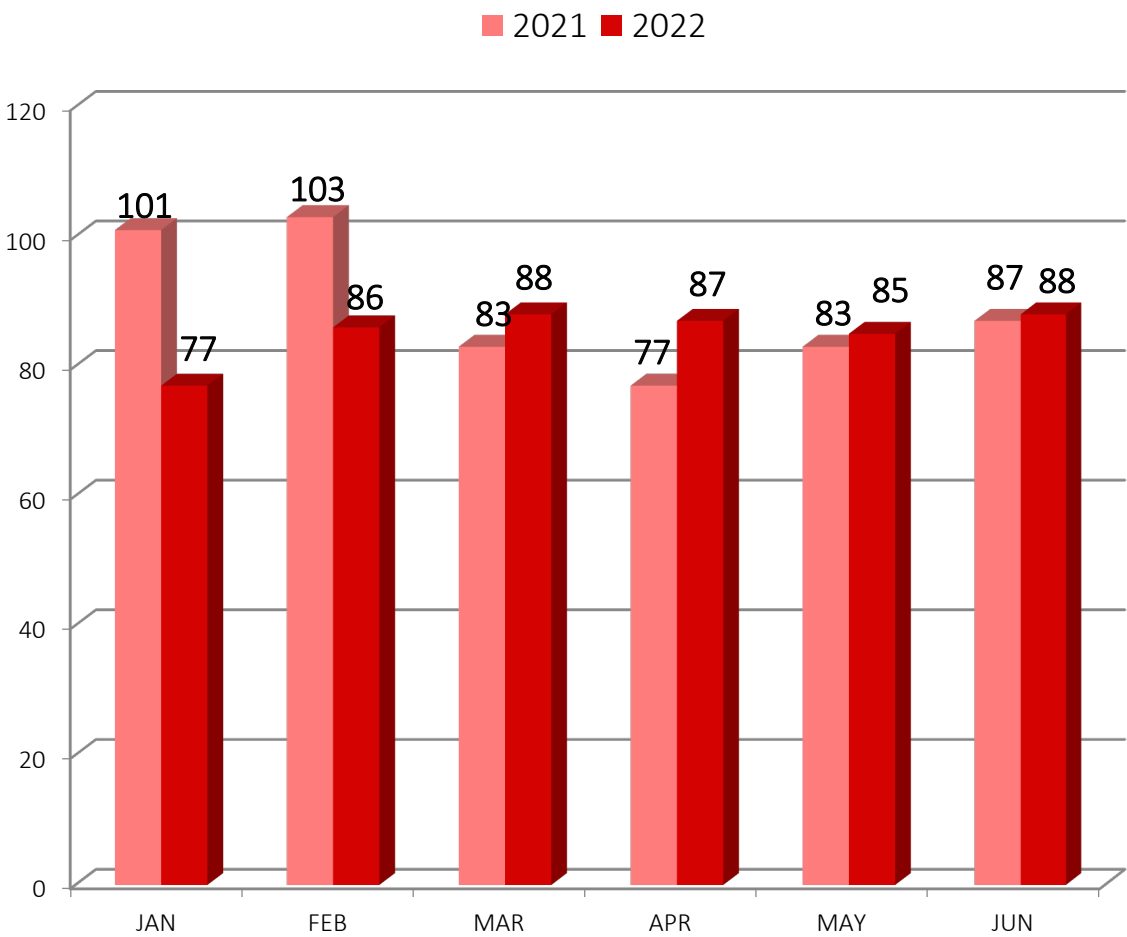
1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS	All Intakes	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of the Shelter's Intakes	% of All Intake	% of Portland First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	2/2	1/1	50%	0.7%	1.4%
Family Shelter	1/3	1/3	100%	0.7%	1.4%
Joe Kreisler	9	7	77.7%	5.1%	9.8%
Milestone	8	5	62.5%	3.6%	7%
Oxford Street (Men)	77	39	50.6%	28.7%	54.9%
Oxford Street (Women)	33	18	54.5%	13.2%	25.4%
Florence House	6	0			
TOTAL	136/138	71/73		52.2%	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

JUNE, 2022

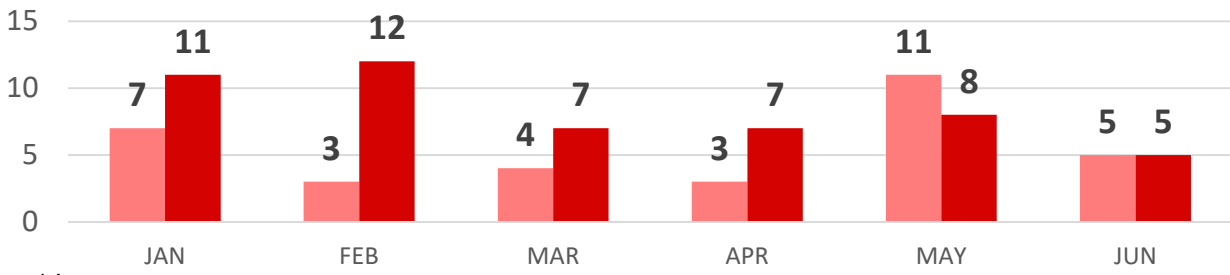
CTOs FROM SHELTER

Total Current CTOs



CTO STATISTICS	CTOs in the Month	Medical Restrictions in Month	Current CTOs
Family Shelter	0	0	0
Joe Kreisler	0	0	2
Milestone	0	0	18
Oxford Street Shelter	5	0	66
Florence House	0	0	2
TOTAL	5	0	88

CTOs Issued in the Month



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

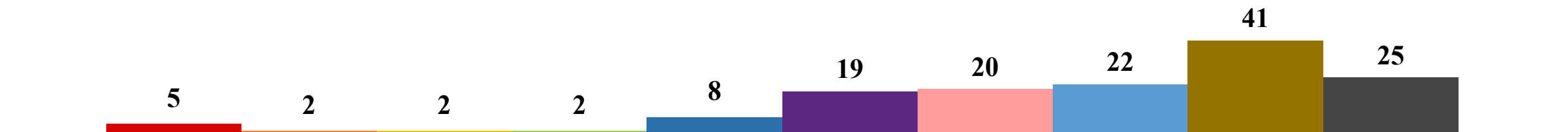
	S+C	BRAP	Recovery Home	Public Housing	STEP	Family Reunification	Sect. 8/ HCV	OTHER	GA	No Subsidy
Through These Doors						1				1
Family Shelter									3	
Joe Kreisler						1		3*	3	
Milestone							1			1
Oxford Street (Men)	1	1*					1		1	
Oxford Street (Women)										
Florence House										
TOTAL	1	1				2	2	3	7	2

*2 Foster Care, 1 DOC TLP, 1 BRAP was also an Avesta placement,

Distribution of Placements in the Month: 18



2022 Placements: 146



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

On June: 21 & 23

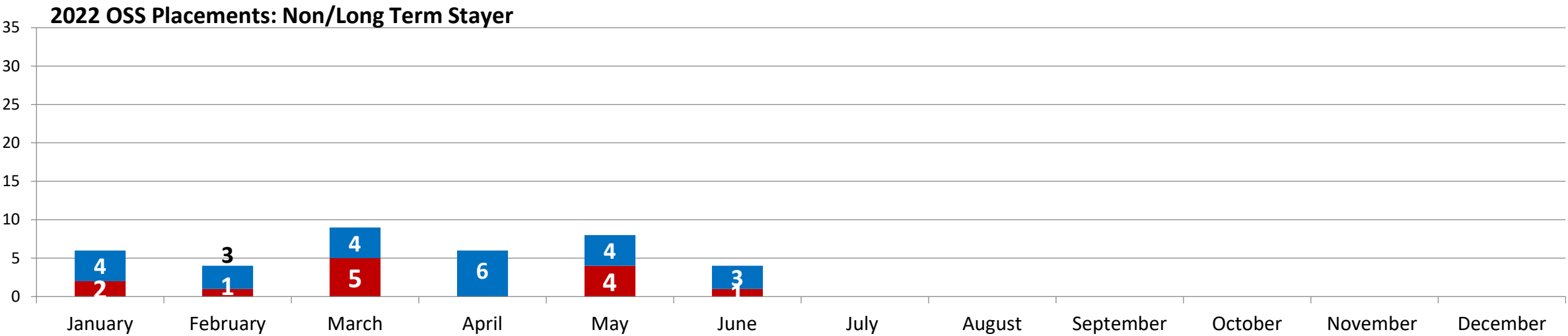
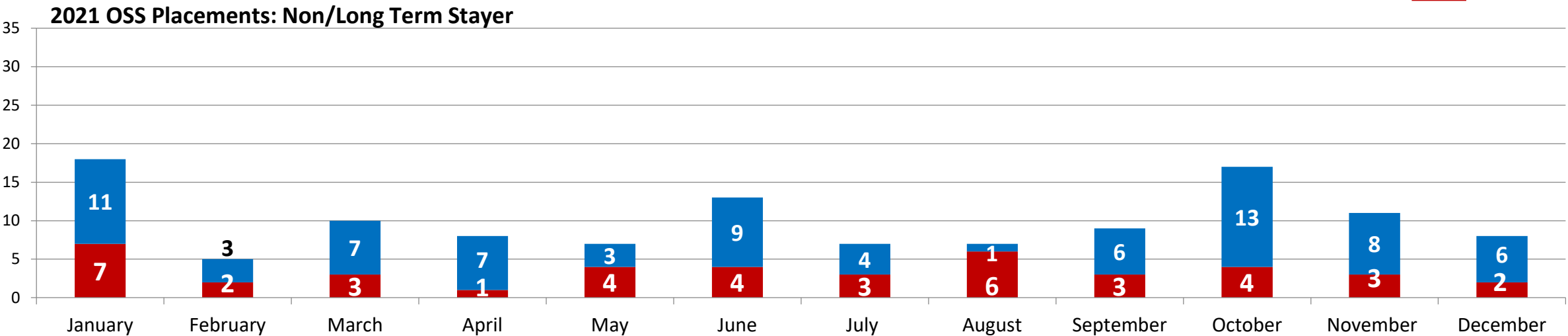
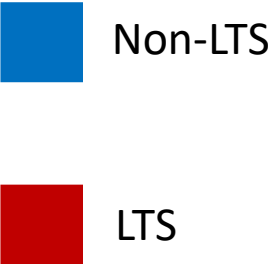
452 individuals

(including families)

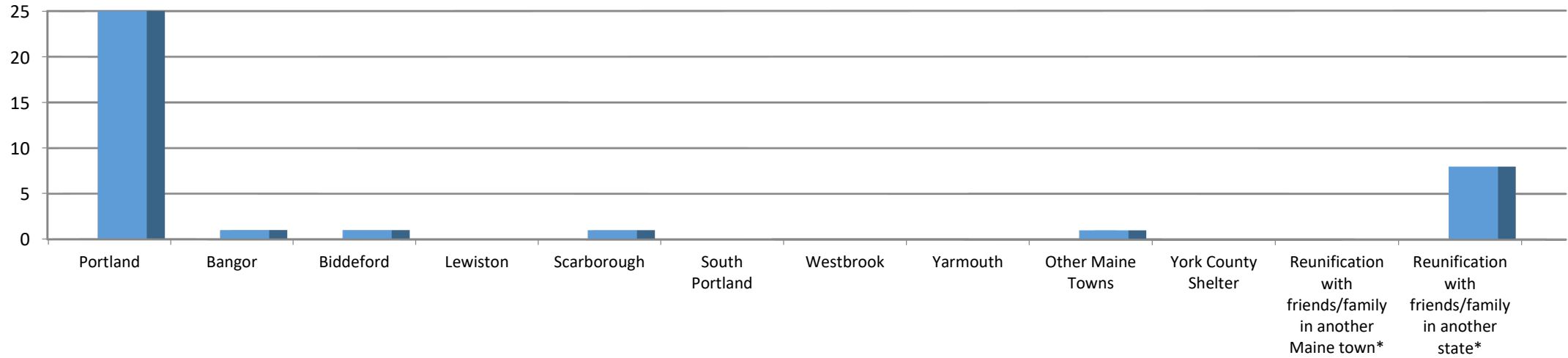
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	16	65	35	24	38	243	0	421
2	16	65	35	24	29	257	0	426
3	16	65	37	24	29	263	0	434
4	16	65	39	19	30	254	0	423
5	16	65	36	23	35	248	0	423
6	16	65	36	24	33	270	0	444
7	16	63	36	23	34	263	0	435
8	14	63	39	25	39	262	0	442
9	15	61	40	25	38	272	0	451
10	16	61	40	21	33	265	0	436
11	16	61	39	21	33	251	0	421
12	16	61	36	18	36	266	0	433
13	16	61	40	25	38	271	0	451
14	16	61	36	23	38	263	0	437
15	16	61	39	23	38	270	0	447
16	16	61	40	20	36	277	0	450
17	16	61	39	18	36	274	0	444
18	16	61	39	19	33	272	0	440
19	16	61	39	22	38	275	0	451
20	16	61	40	22	33	277	0	449
21	16	61	39	24	34	278	0	452
22	16	61	39	20	30	285	0	451
23	16	61	40	22	37	276	0	452
24	16	61	38	20	28	260	0	423
25	16	61	35	15	35	248	0	410
26	16	61	37	21	38	255	0	428
27	16	59	39	19	38	254	0	425
28	16	59	35	20	35	248	0	413
29	16	59	36	23	32	230	0	396
30	16	62	37	19	33	232	0	399
Total	477	1,853	1,135	646	1,037	7,859	0	13,007
Avg/night	16	62	38	22	35	262	0	434
Highest	16	65	40	25	39	285	0	452
Lowest	14	59	35	15	28	230	0	396

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



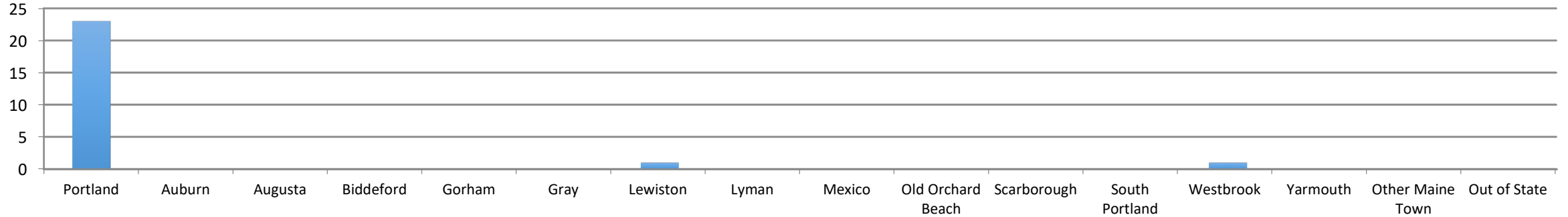
OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2022 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	6	4	9	6	8	4							37	100%
Portland	5	4	4	2	7	3							25	67.6%
Bangor			1										1	2.7%
Biddeford			1										1	2.7%
Lewiston														0.0%
Scarborough				1									1	2.7%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook														0.0%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Towns						1							1	2.7%
York County Shelter														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*														0.0%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	1		3	3									8	21.6%

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							25	
Portland	3	9	3	3	3	2							23	92.0%
Auburn														0.0%
Augusta														0.0%
Biddeford														0.0%
Gorham														0.0%
Gray														0.0%
Lewiston						1							1	4.0%
Lyman														0.0%
Mexico														0.0%
Old Orchard Beach														0.0%
Scarborough														0.0%
South Portland														0.0%
Westbrook		1											1	4.0%
Yarmouth														0.0%
Other Maine Town														0.0%
Out of State														0.0%



Have you faced discrimination based on your housing status?

Report it! 

The Dignity Pilot is an **opportunity to end discrimination against people experiencing homelessness and an anonymous way for unhoused individuals to report discrimination.** The data collected from these reports will be presented to the Maine Legislature and used to **support the need for a Homeless Bill of Rights.**

If you have been denied housing, employment, or services because you are homeless or do not have an address, report it to the Maine Human Rights Commission at maine.gov/mhrc/pilot.

For questions or help filing a report contact:

**Maine Human Rights Commission
(207) 624-8728 or project@mhrc.maine.gov**

**Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ)
(207) 775-0026 (ask for Advocacy or HVJ)**

Report Discrimination Based on Housing Status!

What is the Dignity Pilot (LD1294)?

- An opportunity to end discrimination against people experiencing homelessness
- An anonymous way for people experiencing homelessness to report discrimination in housing, jobs, and services to the Maine Human Rights Commission

Why is the Dignity Pilot important?

- To bring the discrimination of unhoused people to light
- To collect data to demonstrate that people experiencing homelessness need additional protections and support need for a Homeless Bill of Rights

What is discrimination?

- Unfair or unequal treatment of an individual or group based on certain characteristics, in this case, lack of housing
- For the Dignity Pilot: being denied housing, employment, or services because you are homeless or do not have an address
 - Examples include being told that an address is needed for opening a bank account, renting storage, filling out applications for housing or services.

How can unhoused people report discrimination?

- Fill out an intake form at maine.gov/mhrc/pilot or have a person they trust fill it out on their behalf
- Contact the Maine Human Rights Commission at (207) 624-8728 or project@mhrc.maine.gov if you need assistance filling out the form
- Or contact Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) for assistance at (207) 775-0026. (Ask to speak to HVJ or the Advocacy team)

What happens to reports?

- MHRC reviews all complaints. Reports are kept anonymous
- Results of the Dignity Pilot are reported to the Maine Legislature

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can individuals be rejected for housing, work, or services, due to using a P.O. Box or shelter address?

Yes, but this is exactly what the Dignity Pilot intends to bring to light: using a seemingly neutral policy that negatively impacts people experiencing homelessness.

Is there any money/payment/compensation for reporting discrimination against people experiencing homelessness?

No, but reporting will help make the case that discrimination against unhoused persons exists and could eventually support the need for a Homeless Bill of Rights.

What if there is discrimination but not around homelessness?

If the report involves discrimination that does not pertain to the Dignity Pilot, the MHRC might take action on the discrimination discovered.

Can a person in recovery from substance use (including people in MAT/Medication Assisted Treatment) be rejected for housing or employment?

It is recommended people report discrimination against anyone in recovery or in a substance use treatment program because under the Maine Human Rights Act, a person who used drugs illegally *may* be considered to have a disability if they meet certain criteria.

Can misdemeanors or criminal history be used to reject unhoused individuals from employment or housing?

Employment law requires that applicants cannot be rejected based on criminal history before they have an interview, but current laws do not protect people with a criminal history from housing discrimination.

If an unhoused person is required to provide funds or information not required by housed persons (e.g. additional security deposit or a co-signer), is that discrimination?

This could be discrimination and should be reported to MHRC to show the experience of unhoused people.

Can past mental health related behavior be used to reject candidates for housing or work?

This is complex and must be reviewed on an individual basis. If the incident appears biased or unfair, report it.