



Hypothermia FY 20 Debrief – Families Prepared for the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness May 2020

Families Accessing Virginia Williams During Hypothermia '20

A total of **1835 unique households** sought services at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) during Hypothermia '20 (November 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020). This is an **11 percent** increase in households seeking services at VWFRC compared to Hypothermia '19. All told, these households made **2439 visits¹** to the VWFRC during the Hypothermia season, a **13 percent** increase in total visits from the previous season.

Site Living at When First Visiting Virginia Williams

Some **66 percent** of households seeking services reported that they were living with family or friends at the time of their visit during the season, and an additional **17 percent** were staying in their own housing (subsidized or unsubsidized). **Six (6) percent** of households indicated that they were staying in a place not meant for human habitation (i.e. a car) during their first visit to VWFRC during Hypothermia '20. The full listing of sites families reported living at the time of their visit is in the table below.

<i>Site Living at When First Visiting VWFRC During Hypothermia '20 (n=1835)</i>	
<i>Housing Situations</i>	
Rental or Owned by Client, No On-Going Subsidy	13%
Rental or Owned by Client, With On-Going Subsidy	4%
Staying or Living with Family Members or Friends	66%
<i>Experiencing Homelessness</i>	
Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing	5%
Place Not Meant for Habitation	6%
<i>Institutional Settings</i>	
Incarceration; Hospital/Nursing Home/Psychiatric/"Detox" Facilities; Foster Care/Group Home	1%
<i>Other</i>	
Other Place	3%
Not Reported	2%

¹The DC Department of Human Services (DHS) documents all visits to Virginia Williams in the DC Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). DHS gives each family an HMIS program entry at each visit, which captures services received, referrals, and outcomes of the visit.

Thirty (30) percent of households seeking assistance at VWFRC cited conflicts with family or friends being the primary reason for their first visit during Hypothermia '20. Financial Issues accounted for **21 percent** of first visits and evictions or foreclosures **15 percent**. Additionally, **ten (10) percent** of households listed domestic violence as the primary reason they sought assistance.

<i>Primary Reasons for First Visit to VWFRC Hypothermia '20 (n=1835)</i>	
Aged out of Foster Care	1%
Death/Illness/Disability of Primary Person or Household Member	3%
Domestic Violence	10%
Eviction or Foreclosure	15%
Conflict with Family or Friends	30%
Financial Issues (Loss of job, no or low-income, etc.)	21%
Lack of Access to Housing (Moved for work, cannot find affordable housing, victim of housing discrimination, etc.)	6%
Released from an Institutional Setting	>1%
Conflict/Discrimination due to Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity	>1%
Previous Housing was Unsafe, Overcrowded, or Uninhabitable	8%
Not Reported	5%

Family Shelter Entries and Exits

On November 1, 2019, there were **529 families** in Emergency Shelter for families; this included:

- o **269 families** in motels operated by either DHS or The Community Partnership;
- o **184 families** in Short Term Family Housing sites; and
- o **76 families** in Temporary/Apartment-style shelter.

There were **421 placements²** into family Emergency Shelter during the season. However, **411 unique families** received placements as **10 families** either were placed more than once during the season or were in shelter at the beginning of the season, exited, and returned to shelter during the season.

Hypothermia '20 began with 45 fewer families in shelter than Hypothermia '19, though 20 more families were placed in shelter in this season than last season.

There were **402 exits** from the emergency shelter system over the course of the season, with **548 families** remaining in shelter on March 31, 2020. For comparison, there were 435 family shelter exits in Hypothermia '19, which left 540 families in shelter at the end of last season.

Hypothermia '20 shelter entries, exits and the destinations of the families exiting are shown in the tables on the following page.

² Placement made either via referral from Virginia Williams or on an emergency basis as needed.

Emergency Shelter Exits and Entries During Hypothermia '20	
Families in ES on November 1, 2019	529
Family Placements in ES During Hypothermia '20	421
Family Exits ES During Hypothermia '20	402
Families Remaining in ES on March 31, 2020	548

Destinations of Families Exiting Emergency Shelter, Hypothermia '20 (n=402)		
	#	%
Transitional Housing	20	5%
Rapid Rehousing	254	63%
PSH & Other Permanent Housing w/ Subsidy	33	8%
Unsubsidized, rented or owned	5	1%
With Family or Friends	41	10%
Other	11	3%
Transfer to another ES but did not accept placement	7	2%
Destination Not Reported	31	8%

Length of Stay

The families served in Emergency Shelter at any point during Hypothermia '20 spent, on average, **183 days** in shelter with a median of **119 days**.³ The table below details the mean (average), median, and mode length of stay in shelter (in days) for the families served during Hypothermia '20 broken down by whether or not they exited shelter during the season.⁴

Length of Stay (LOS) of Families Served in ES, Hypothermia '20				
	# of Families	Mean LOS	Median LOS	Mode LOS
Exited ES During Hypothermia '20	402	171	109	57
Still in ES at End of Hypothermia '20	548	192	126	84

The table on the following page details the average length of stay cross-referenced with destinations for the 402 families exiting the emergency shelter level of the Continuum of Care during Hypothermia '20.

³ Length of Stay refers to the number of continuous nights a family spent (collectively) in motels, Short-Term Family Housing programs, and/or Temporary/Apartment-style shelter in an episode of homelessness that occurred at least in part during Hypothermia FY 20.

⁴ Exits from shelter displayed in tables on this page do not include those families that exited one emergency shelter site for another shelter site, i.e. moving from a motel to apartment-style housing. Rather, these "exits" are counted as a continuous stay in family ES.

Length of Stay (LOS) of Families Exiting ES During Hypothermia '20

	# of Families	Mean LOS in Days
Transitional Housing	20	129
Rapid Rehousing	254	178
PSH & Other Permanent Housing with Subsidy, including VASH	33	397
Unsubsidized Housing, Rented or Owned	5	62
Living with Family or Friends	41	64
Other	11	111
Transfer to another ES but did not accept placement	7	41
Destination Not Reported	31	106

Returns to Emergency Shelter After a Previous Episode of Homelessness

Of the 411 unique families placed in shelter during Hypothermia '20, **266 families** were seeking housing or shelter resources in District's CoC for the first time, while **145 families** were CoC-involved at some point the past.

Among families returning to the CoC, **35 percent** were last served in emergency shelter, **58 percent** were last in a rapid rehousing, **4 percent** were last in transitional housing, and **3 percent** were in a permanent supportive housing program.

Although 84 families returned to the CoC after receiving rapid rehousing assistance to exit shelter previously, it is important to consider that figure relative to the size of the family rapid rehousing inventory in the District – there are more than 1500 families in District- and federally-funded rapid rehousing programs at a given time – and most families returning to shelter after receiving rapid rehousing do not do so for more than a year after their subsidy ends.

Most Recent CoC Program Type of Those Returning (n=145)

Emergency Shelter	35%
Rapid Rehousing	58%
Transitional Housing	4%
Permanent Supportive Housing	3%

Time Between Exit and Return to CoC (n=145)

1 to 6 months	46
7 to 12 months	18
13 to 18 months	14
19 to 24 months	7
25 to 36 months	27
37 to 48 months	10
49 to 60 months	7
60+ months	16