

CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING & POLICY COUNCIL

Breaking the cycle of homelessness in Linn County

Individual & Family Needs Survey Results

July 28, 2010

**Participating Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Facilities, Treatment Facilities
and Supportive Services Include:**

Emergency Shelters

Mission of Hope
Waypoint Madge Phillips
Willis Dady

Transitional Housing Facilities

ASAC- The Way Home
Foundation 2 Transitional Living
HACAP-Inn Circle

Supportive Services

ASAC- Heart of Iowa
ASAC- Halfway House
Neighborhood Meal and Enrichment Program: Imago Christi and St. Paul's Feeding Sites
Green Square Meals
Salvation Army
Waypoint Daytime Resource Center
Linn Community Care
Iowa Legal Aid
First Presbyterian
CCIA- Community Homeless Offenders Stabilization Efforts (CHOOSE)

The Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Council administered the Individual & Family Needs Survey at local emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and homeless supportive services programs on July 28, 2010. The survey consisted of 20 questions that related to demographic and homeless issues. The majority of questions had check boxes for the respondents to select their answers. Additional space was provided in case respondents chose to write in their own answers. The following information reflects the compiled data from the survey.

- A total of 275 surveys were completed and returned. Based on the definitions provided below, 89 survey respondents could be considered “homeless,” 174 as “near-homeless,” with 12 individuals whose status could not be determined.

Definitions

Homeless – are respondents who are currently living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, motel/hotel, or on the street.

Near-Homeless – are respondents who reported currently living in their own place or someone else’s place.

N = total sample.

n = sub-sample of total.

Note: Figures do not always equal 100% due to “no responses” or items where respondents could choose more than one answer.

Demographics and Background Information

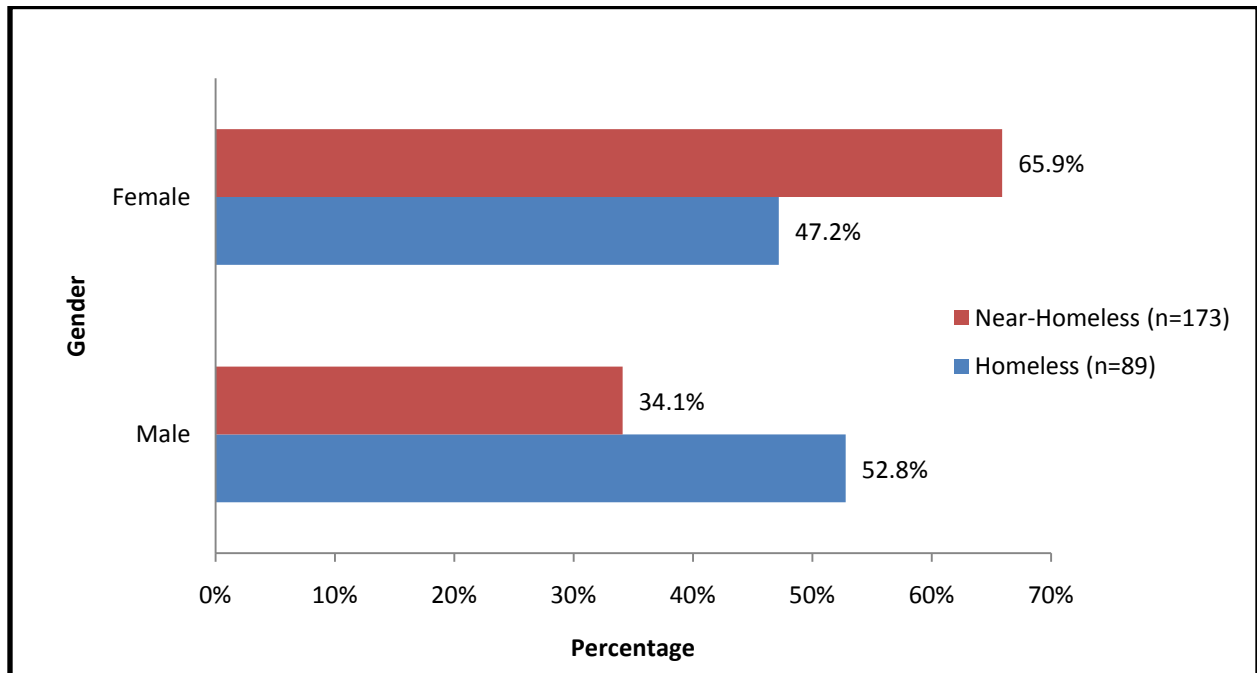
A series of questions were asked of respondents to capture their demographics and background information.

FIGURE 1: Age

	Homeless (n=82)	Near-Homeless (n=164)
Average Age	31	42
Average Range	13-61	16-91

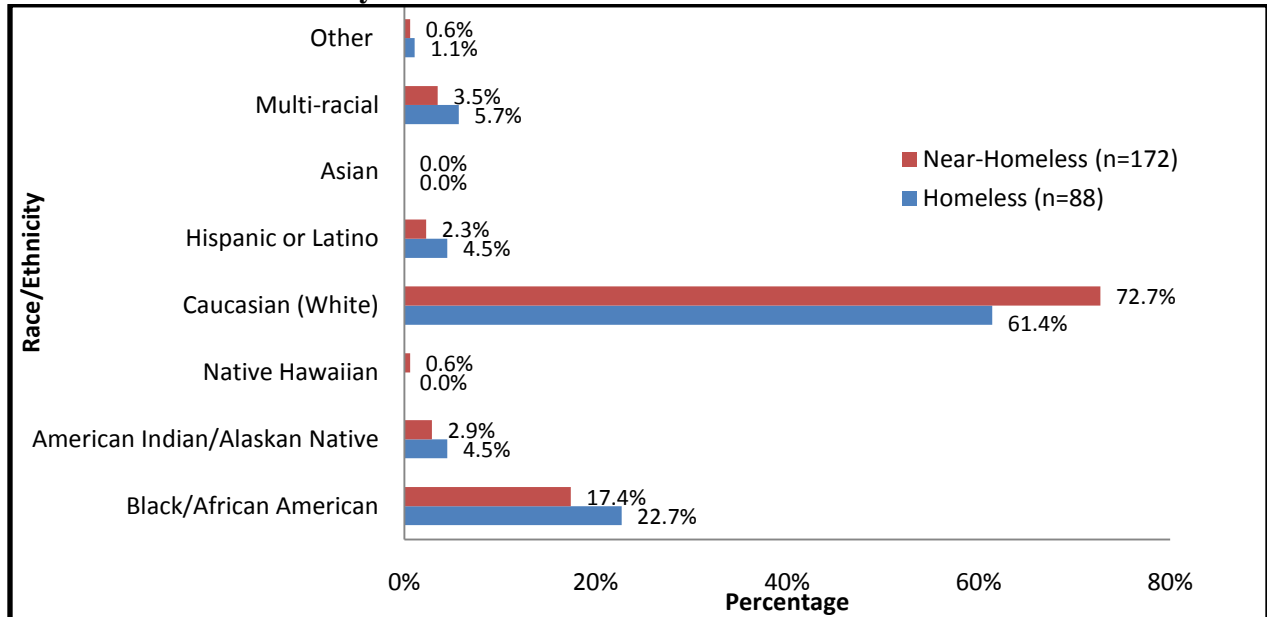
- The average age of all respondents was approximately 38 years.
- 130 or **49.4%** homeless and near-homeless participants reported people under the age of 18 living in their household.
- 201 or **76.4%** homeless and near-homeless participants reported people over the age of 18 living in their household.

FIGURE 2: Gender



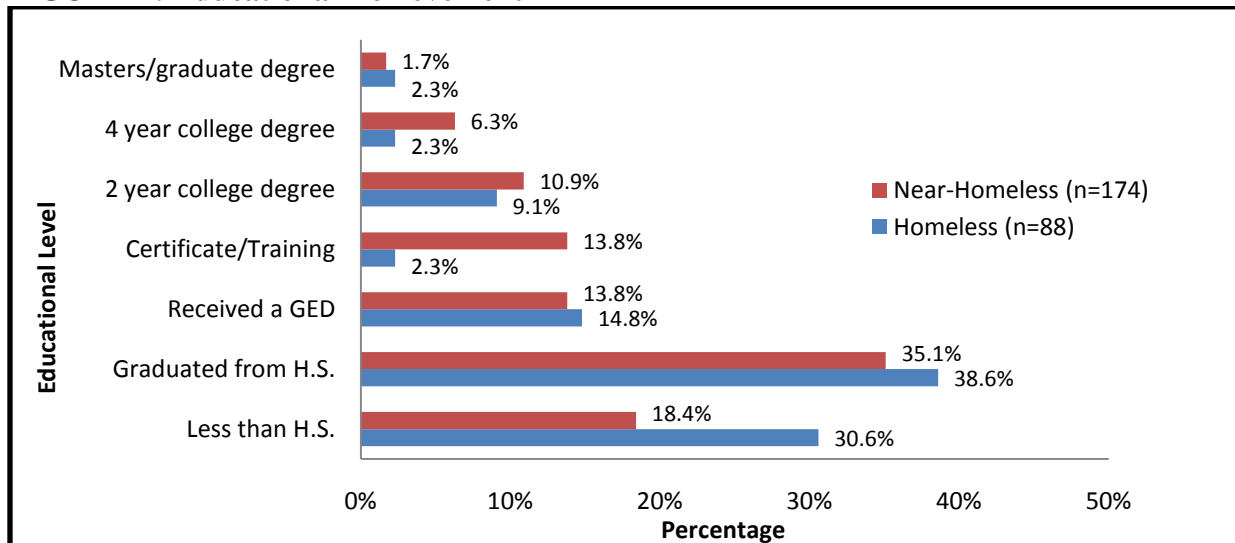
- A greater percentage of men were homeless rather than near-homeless.
- Contrary to that, a greater percentage of women were near-homeless rather than homeless.

FIGURE 3: Race/Ethnicity



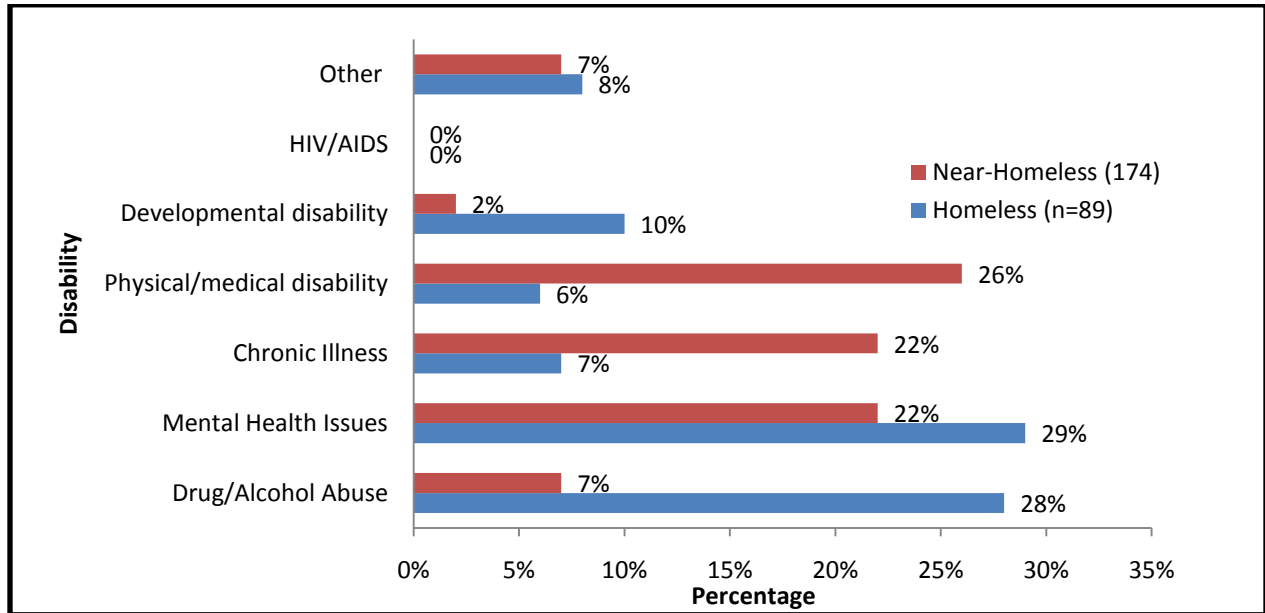
- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**61.4%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**72.7%**) are Caucasian.
- The percentage of **homeless** respondents (**22.7%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**17.4%**) that are African American is disproportionately high considering the percentage of the African American population for Linn County (**3.3%**).
Source: 2009 American Community Survey

FIGURE 4: Educational Achievement



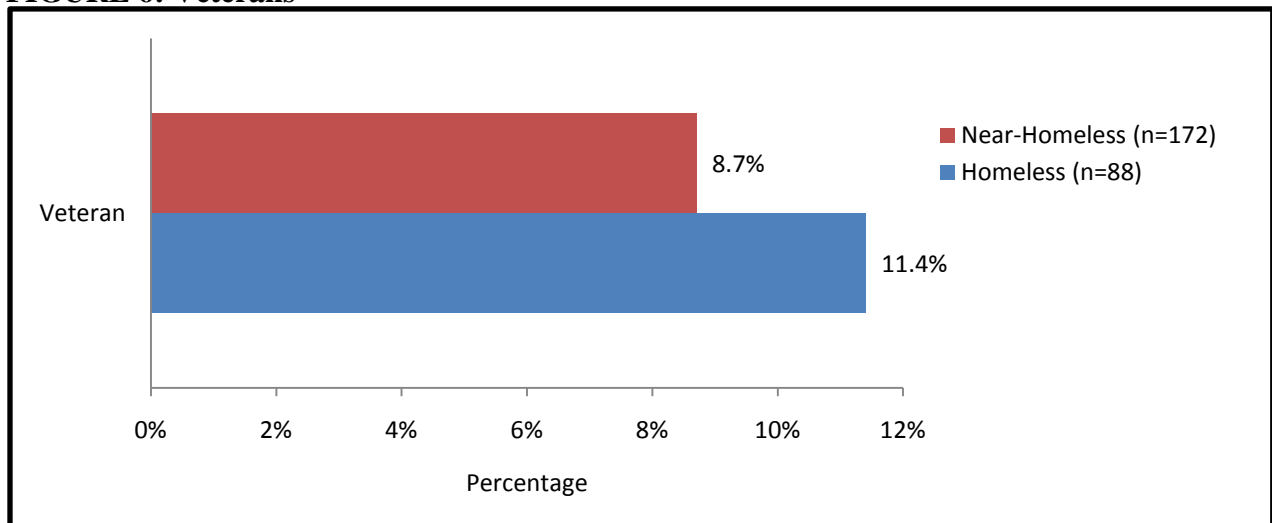
- **84%** of **homeless** individuals have not obtained an education beyond a high school diploma or GED.
- More **near-homeless** individuals (**32.7%**) have earned a Certificate/training or a college diploma than **homeless** individuals (**16%**).

FIGURE 5: Disabilities/Health Issues



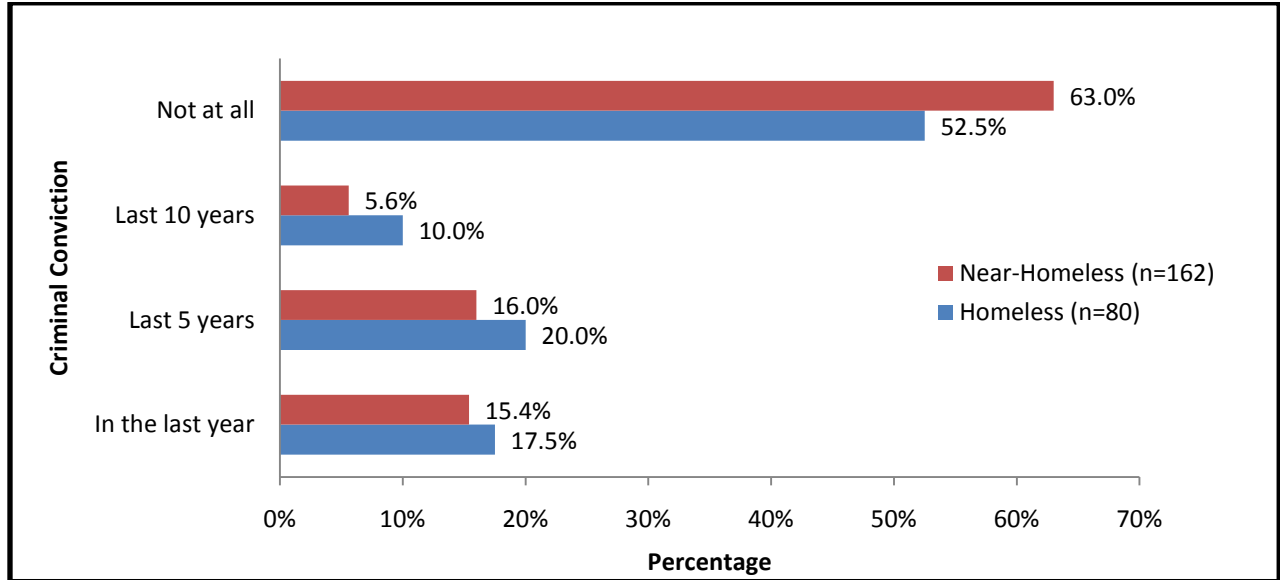
- **58.1%** of homeless and near-homeless individuals reported having a disability or health issue.
 - The most prominent issues identified by the **homeless** population were mental health issues (**29%**) and drug/alcohol issues (**28%**).
 - The most prominent issues identified by the **near-homeless** population were physical/medical disabilities (**26%**) and mental health issues and/or chronic illness (**22%**).

FIGURE 6: Veterans



- Veterans represent **9.1%** of all reported homeless and near-homeless individuals.
 - **11.4%** of the **homeless** population reported being a Veteran.
 - **8.7%** of the **near-homeless** population reported being a Veteran.

FIGURE 7: Criminal Conviction

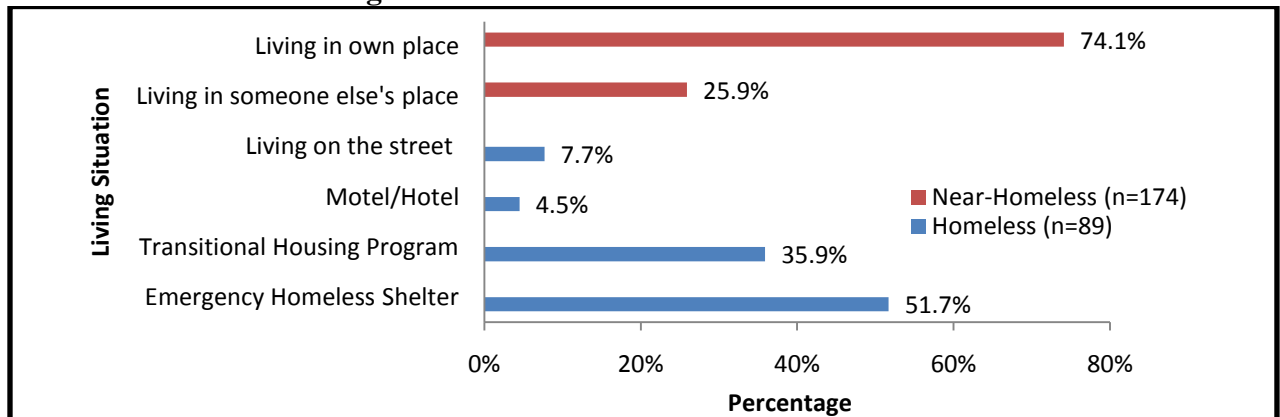


- The majority of both homeless and near-homeless individuals have not been criminally convicted.

Current Situation of Survey Respondents

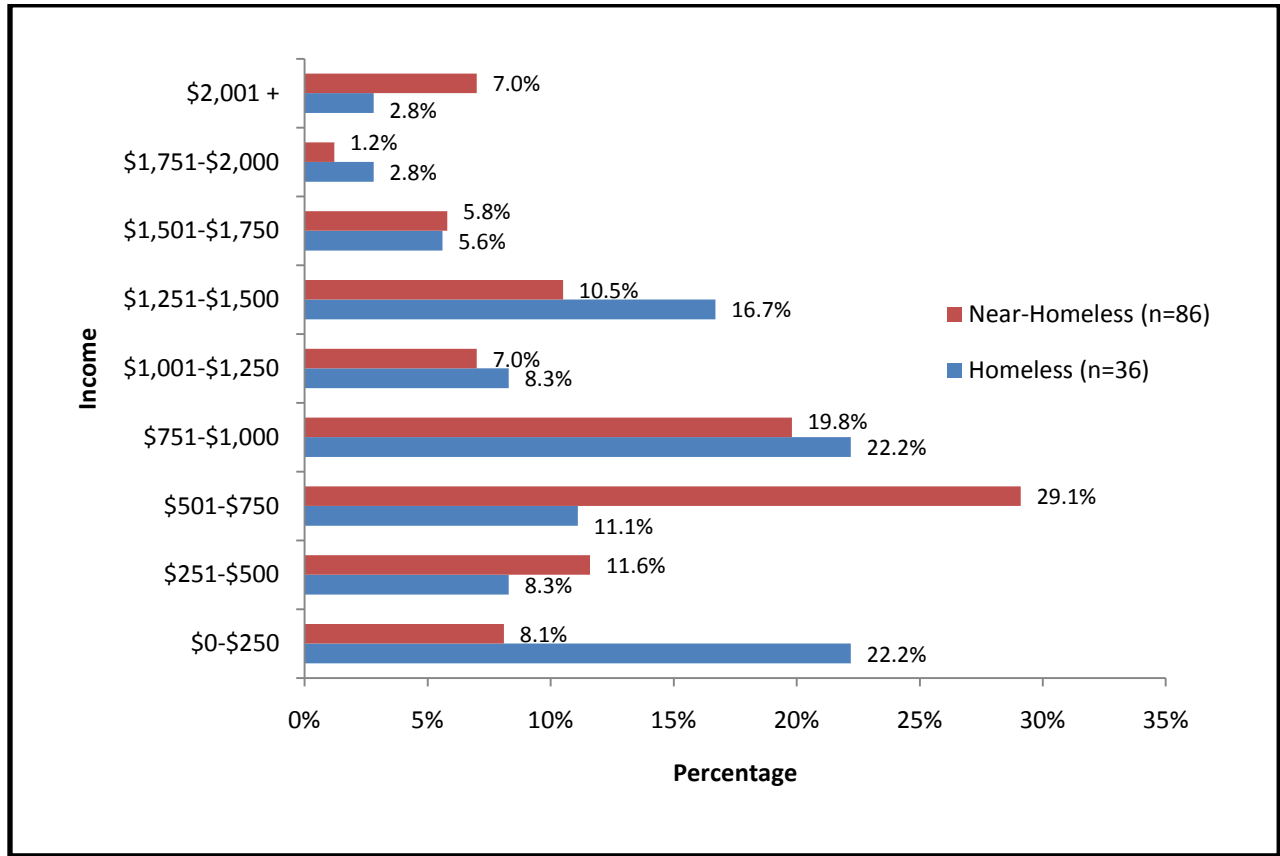
A series of questions were asked of respondents to capture their current living situation, income sources and greatest needs.

FIGURE 8: Current Living Situation



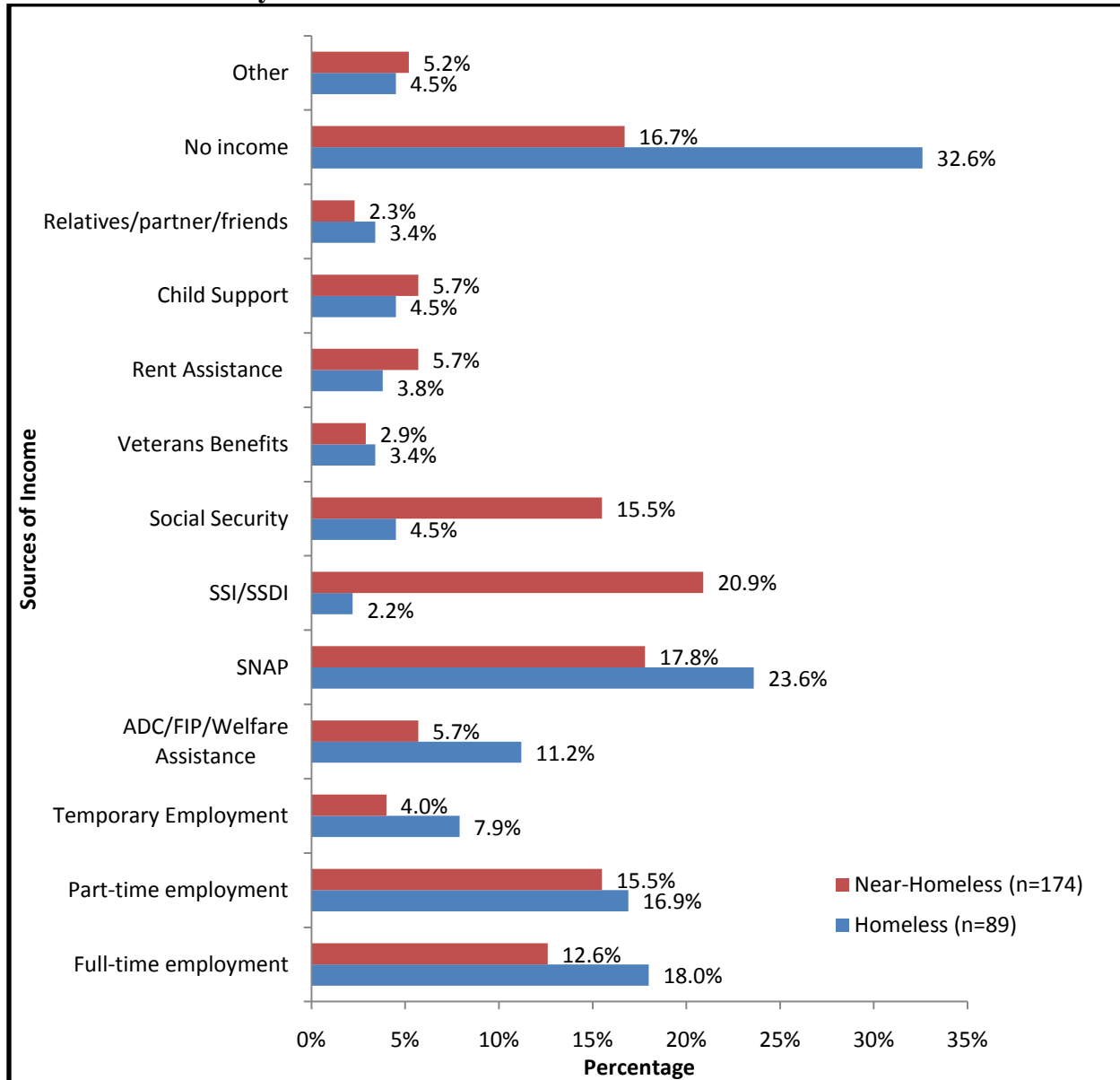
- The current living situation for most **homeless** respondents (**87.6%**) is an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Most **near-homeless** respondents (**74.1%**) indicated that they live in their own place.

FIGURE 9: Total Income Per Month



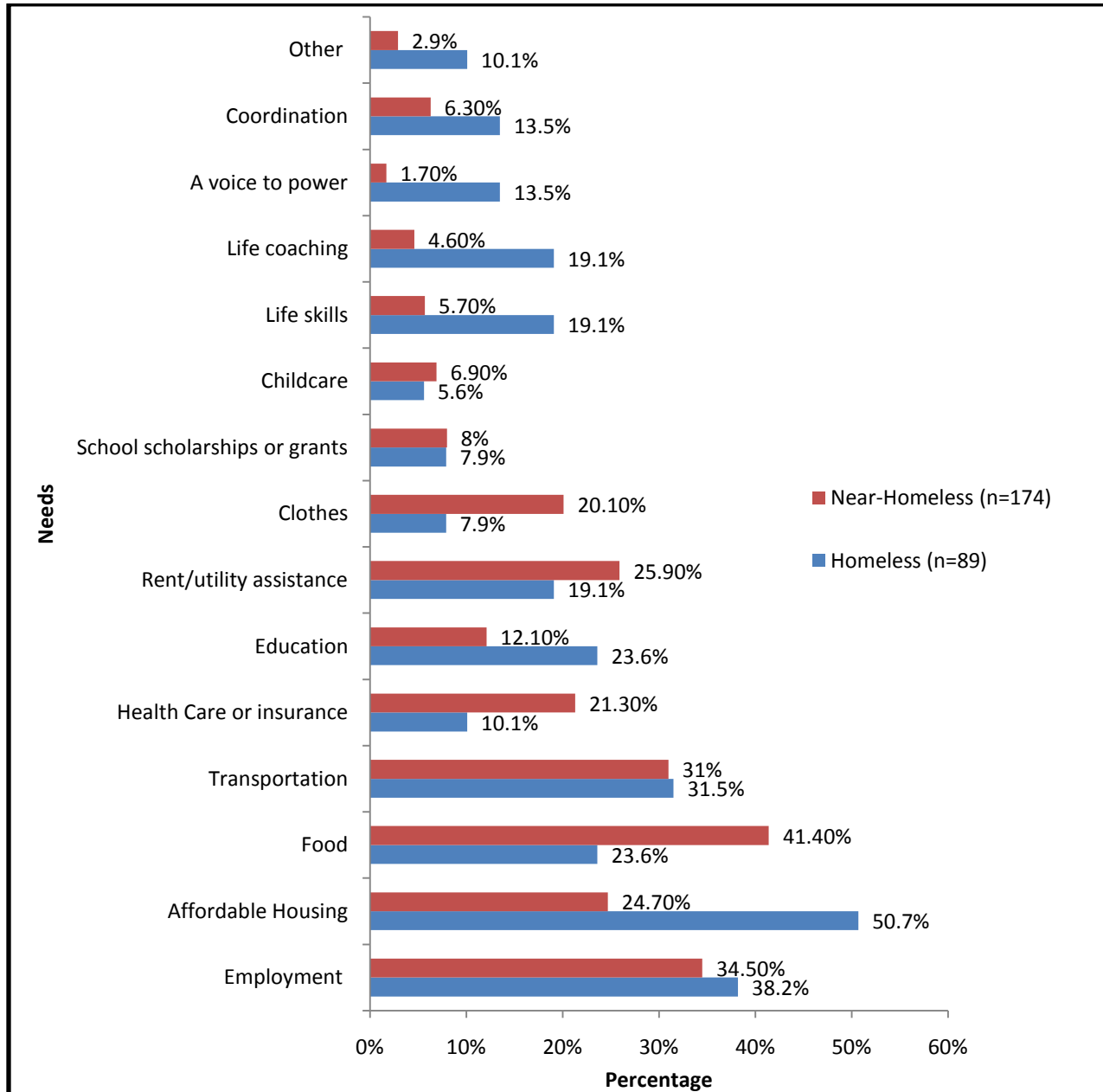
- Of the **homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **88.8%** have a total income of \$1,500 or less.
- Of the **near-homeless** population who reported their total monthly income, **86.1%** have a total income of \$1,500 or less.

FIGURE 10: Primary Sources of Income



- Of **homeless** respondents, **42.8%** worked full-time, part-time, or in a temporary position. **32.6%** reported no income and **23.6%** of homeless respondents reported utilizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Of **near-homeless** respondents, **32.1%** worked full-time, part-time, or in a temporary position. In addition **20.9%** of near-homeless respondents reported receiving SSI/SSDI and **17.8%** reported receiving SNAP.

FIGURE 11: Greatest Needs

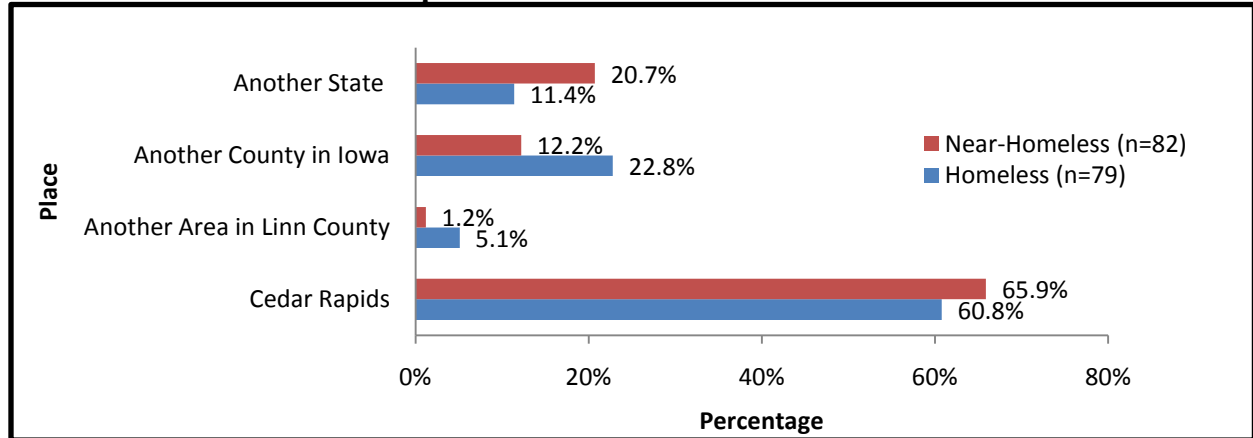


- The four greatest needs of **homeless** respondents include 1) affordable housing (50.7%), 2) employment (38.2%), 3) transportation (31.5%) and 4) food (23.6%).
- The four greatest needs of the **near-homeless** respondents include 1) food (41.4%), 2) employment (34.5%), 3) transportation (31%) and 4) rent/utility assistance (25.9%).
- **Employment, food and transportation** are consistent primary needs among the homeless and near-homeless population.

First Episode of Homelessness

All respondents were asked to share information on their **first experience** being homeless, regardless of their current living situation. They were asked to share the year, city, state and cause. 161 individuals shared where they became homeless, 155 respondents provided the year and 164 shared the cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 12: Place Where Respondent Became Homeless



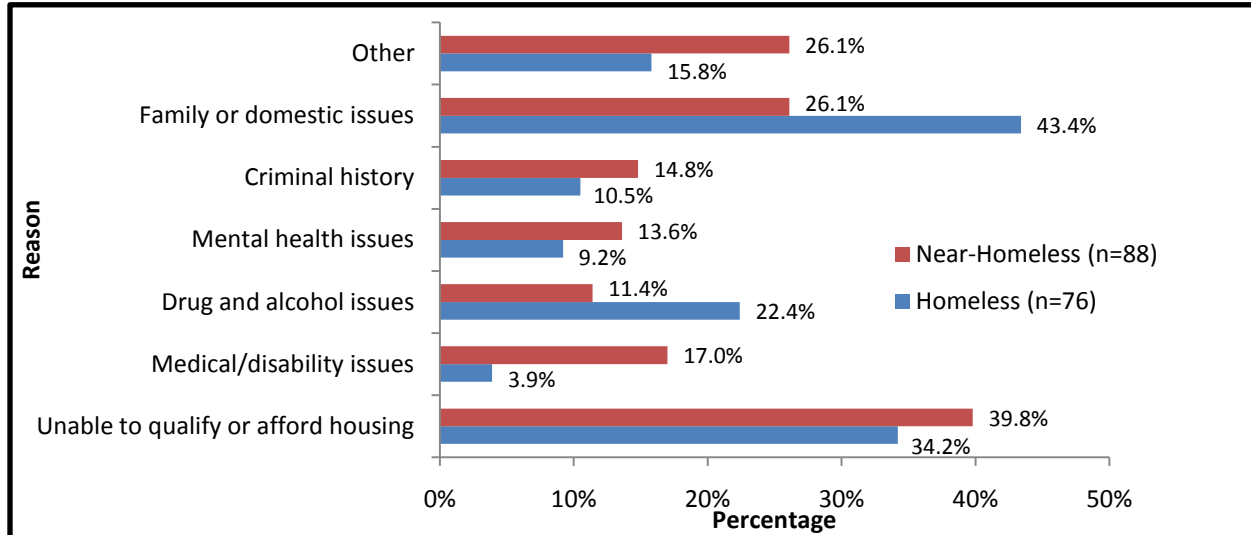
- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**60.8%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**65.9%**) became homeless while in Cedar Rapids.
- **88.7%** of **homeless** respondents became homeless in Iowa.
- **79.3%** of **near-homeless** respondents became homeless in Iowa.

FIGURE 13: Year When Respondent Became Homeless

Year	Percentage
2008-2010	51%
1998-2007	33.5%
1988-1997	11%
1982-1987	4.5%

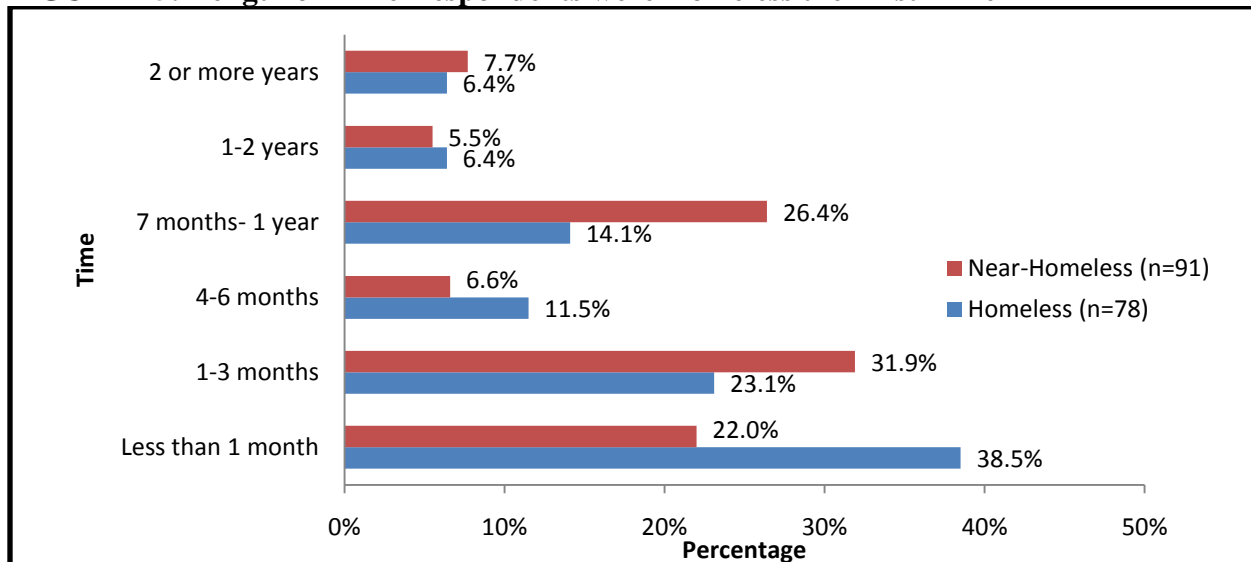
- **84.5%** of respondents reported becoming homeless for the first time within the last 12 years.
- Out of the 155 respondents who reported the year, **51%** became homeless between 2008 and 2010.

FIGURE 14: Reason for Homelessness



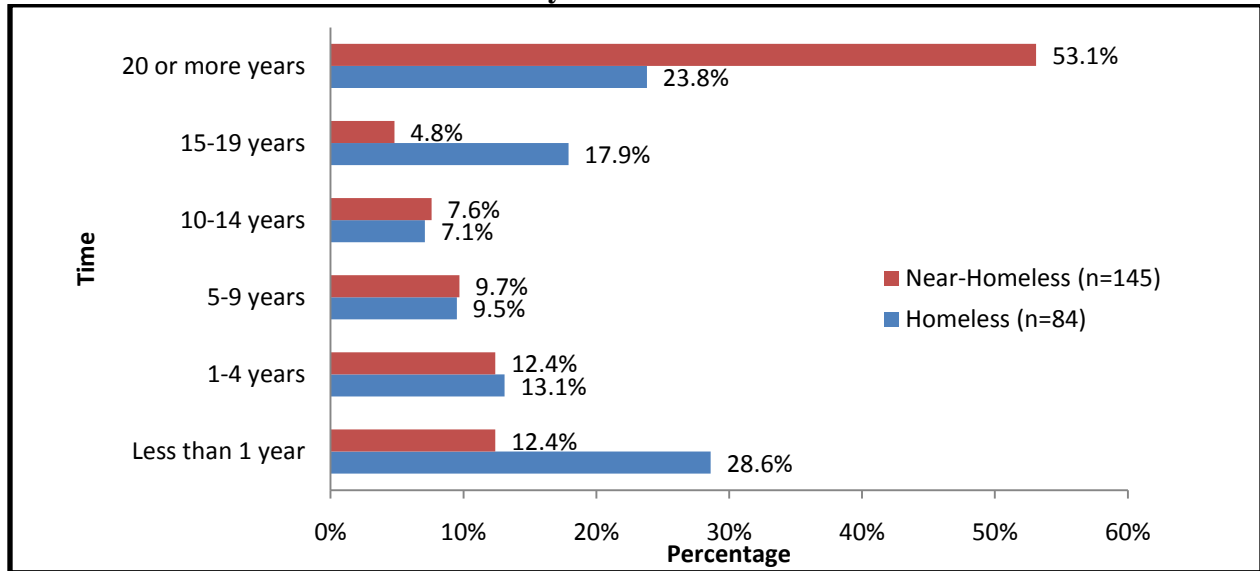
- The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **homeless** respondents was family or domestic abuse (**43.4%**), followed by being unable to qualify or afford housing (**34.2%**).
- The most prominent cause/reason for homelessness among the **near-homeless** respondents was not being able to qualify or afford housing (**39.8%**), followed by family or domestic abuse (**26.1%**) and “other” (**26.1%**).

FIGURE 15: Length of Time Respondents were Homeless the First Time



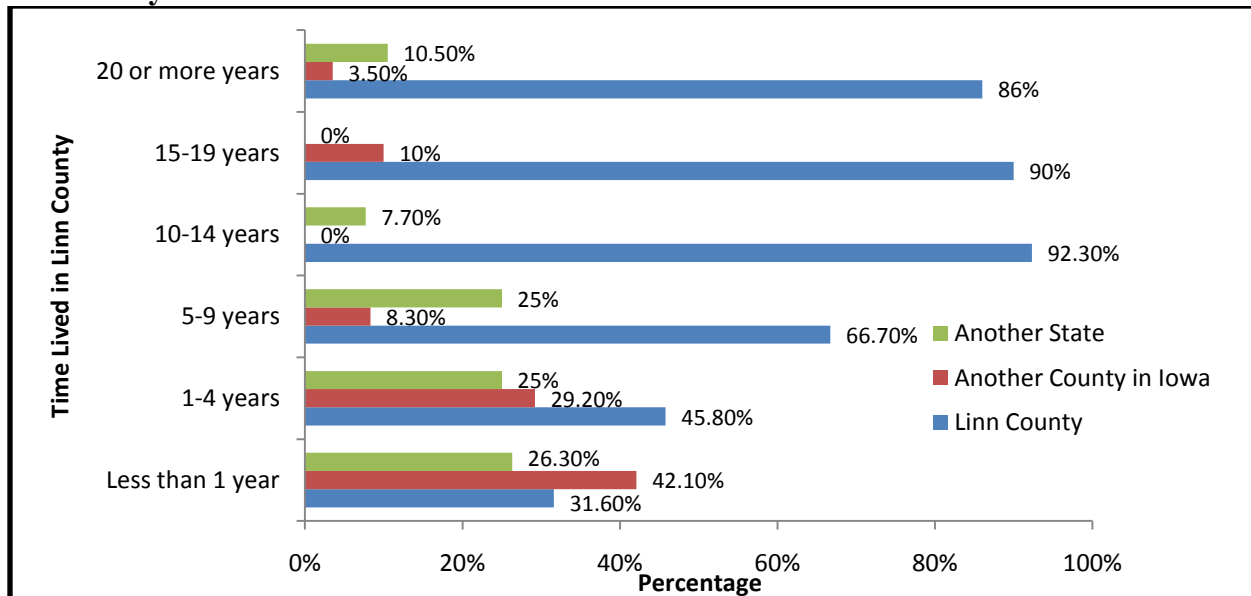
- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**38.5%**) reported being homeless for less than 1 month.
- The majority of **near-homeless** respondents (**31.9%**) reported being displaced for 1-3 months.

FIGURE 16: Time Lived in Linn County



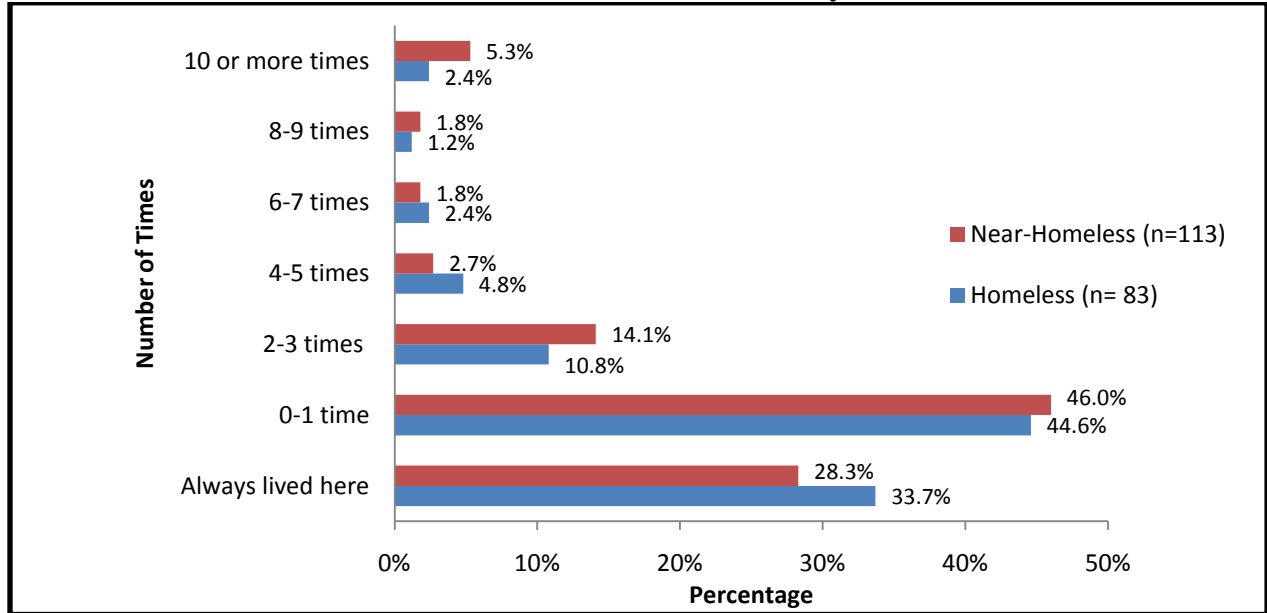
- **71.4%** of **homeless** respondents have lived in Linn County for more than a year while **23.8%** have lived in Linn County for more than 20 years.
- **87.6%** of **near-homeless** respondents have lived in Linn County for more than a year while **53.1%** have lived in Linn County for more than 20 years.

FIGURE 17: Comparison of How Long the Respondent has Lived in Linn County to Where they First Became Homeless



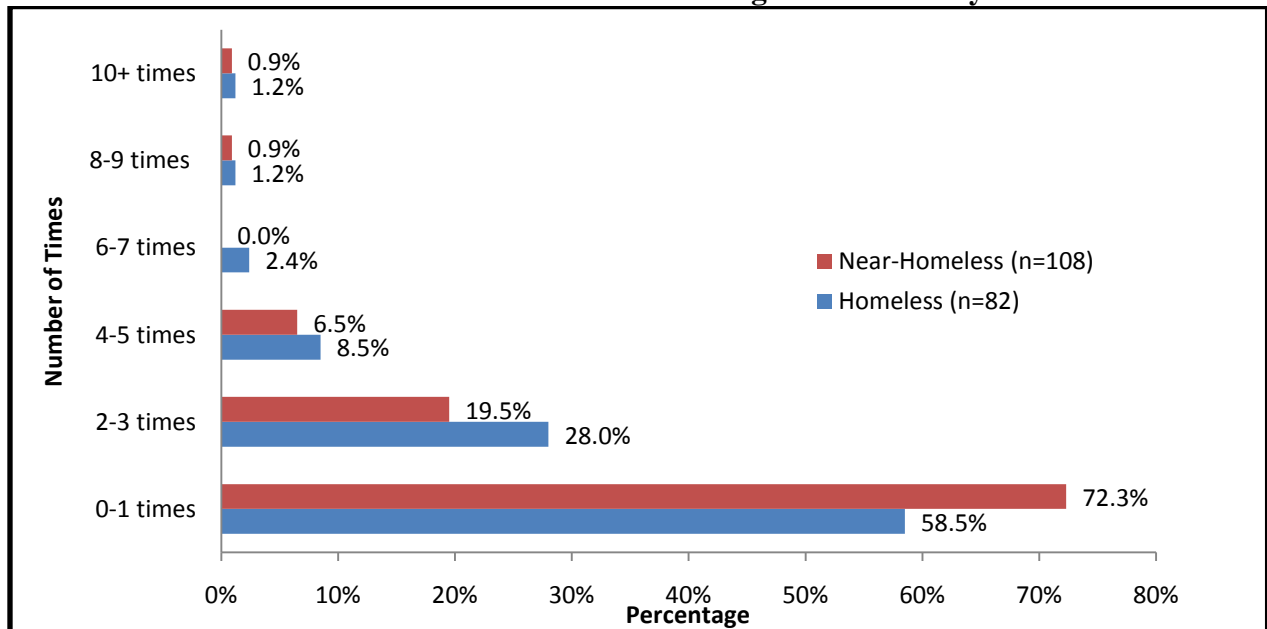
- **86%** of individuals who have lived in Linn County for 20 or more years became homeless for the first time in Linn County, IA.
- **26.3%** of individuals who have lived in Linn County for less than one year became homeless for the first time in another state.

FIGURE 18: Number of Times Homeless before Linn County



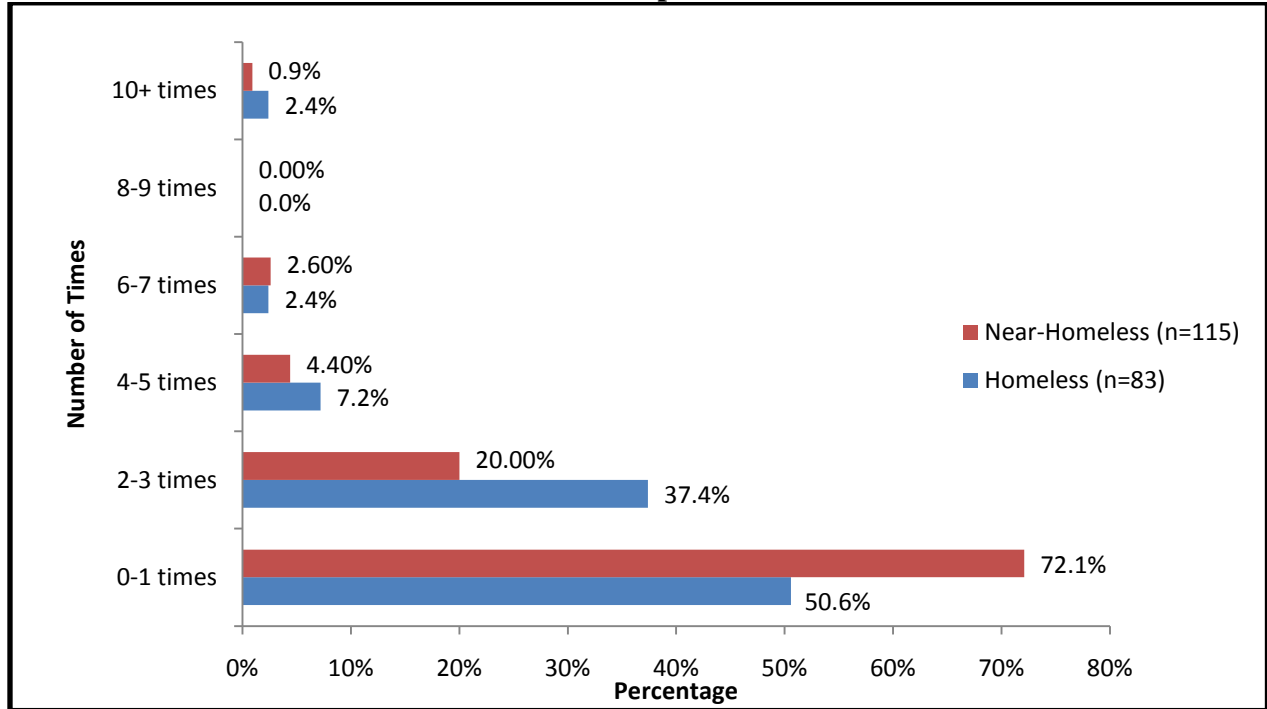
- Most **homeless** respondents (**46%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**44.6%**) reported being homeless 0 or 1 time before arriving in Linn County.

FIGURE 19: Number of Times Homeless after Arriving in Linn County



- Most **homeless** respondents (**58.8%**) and **near-homeless** respondents (**72.3%**) reported being homeless 0 or 1 time after arriving in Linn County.

FIGURE 20: Number of Times Homeless or Displaced in the Past Three Years

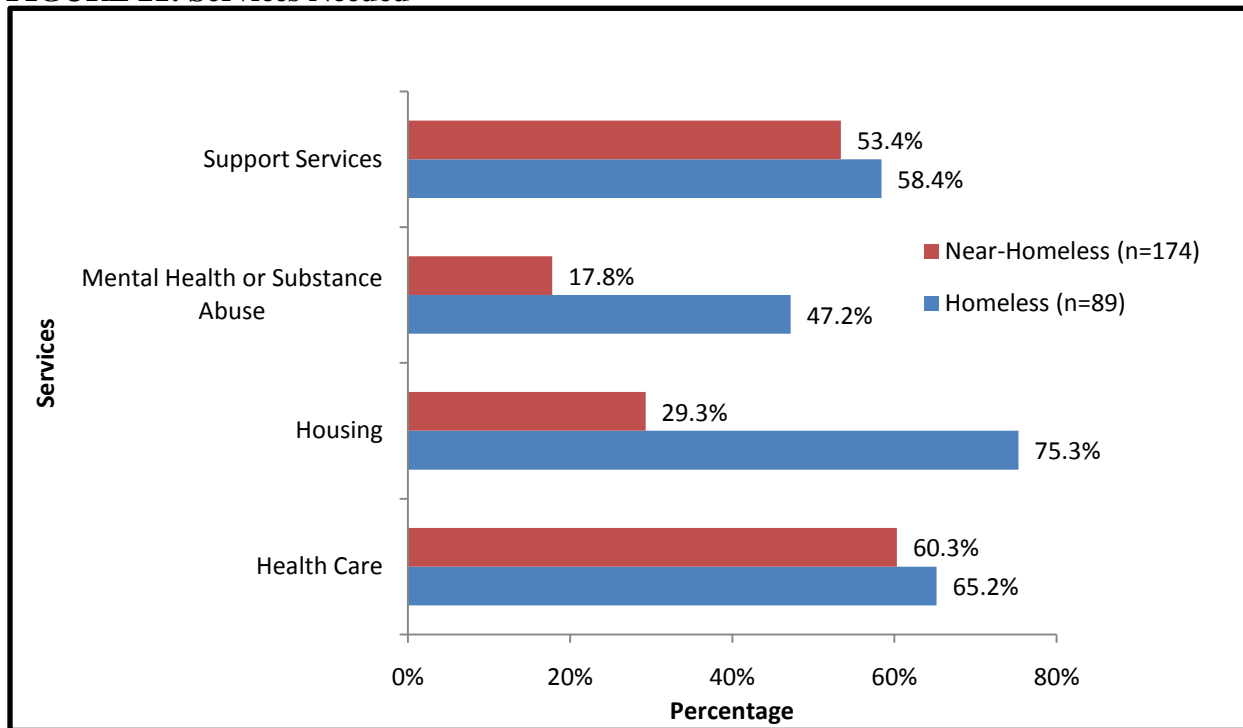


- The majority of **homeless** respondents (**50.6%**) have been homeless or displaced 0-1 time in the past three years.
- The majority of **near-homeless** respondents (**72.1%**) have been homeless or displaced 0-1 time in the past three years.

Services Received and Services Needed

The respondents were asked to identify if they needed support services, mental health or substance abuse services, housing services or health care services in the last month. If the respondents indicated that they needed one of these services, they were asked to further specify what type and if they received the service. Figures 21-29 illustrate the specific services needed and received by homeless and near-homeless respondents.

FIGURE 21: Services Needed



- Health Care is a prominent issue for the near-homeless population, followed closely by other support services, including “food pantries and hot meals.” In fact, **33.9%** of the **near-homeless** respondents indicated that they needed food pantries or hot meals, while only **28.2%** said they received this service.
- The **homeless** population has a consistent need in each of these four areas.

FIGURE 22: Health Care Services Needed by Participants

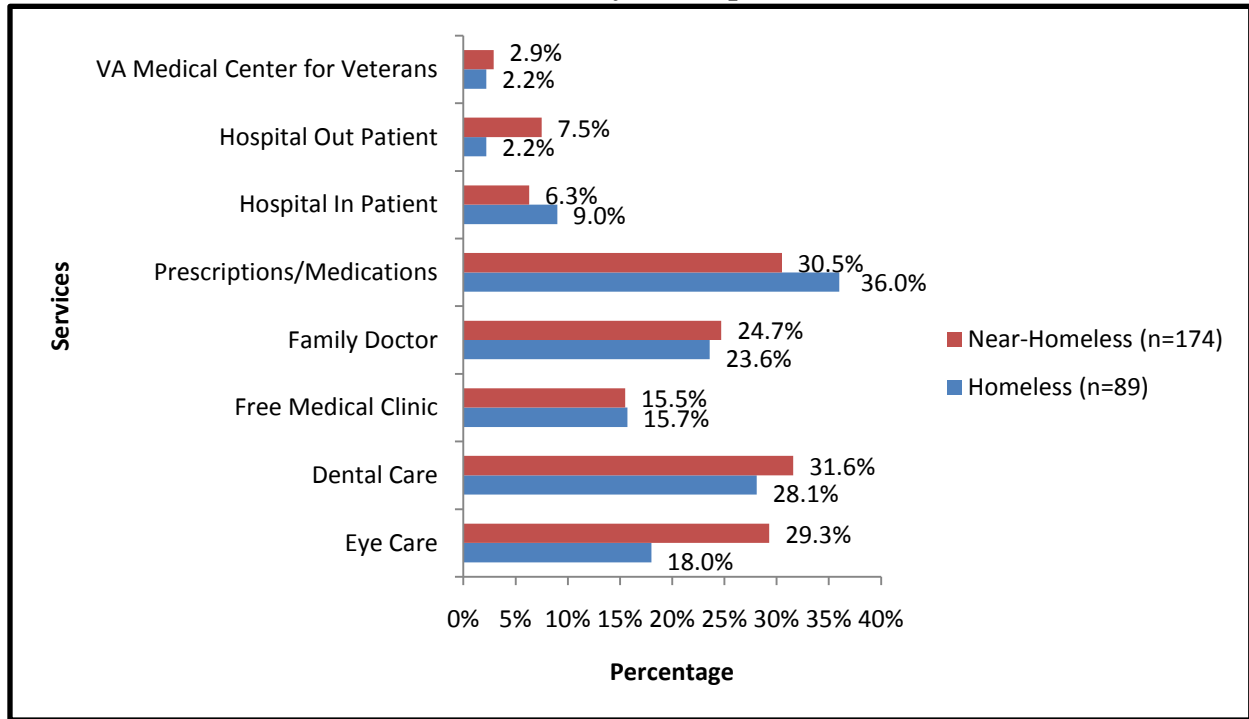


FIGURE 23: Health Care Services Received by Participants

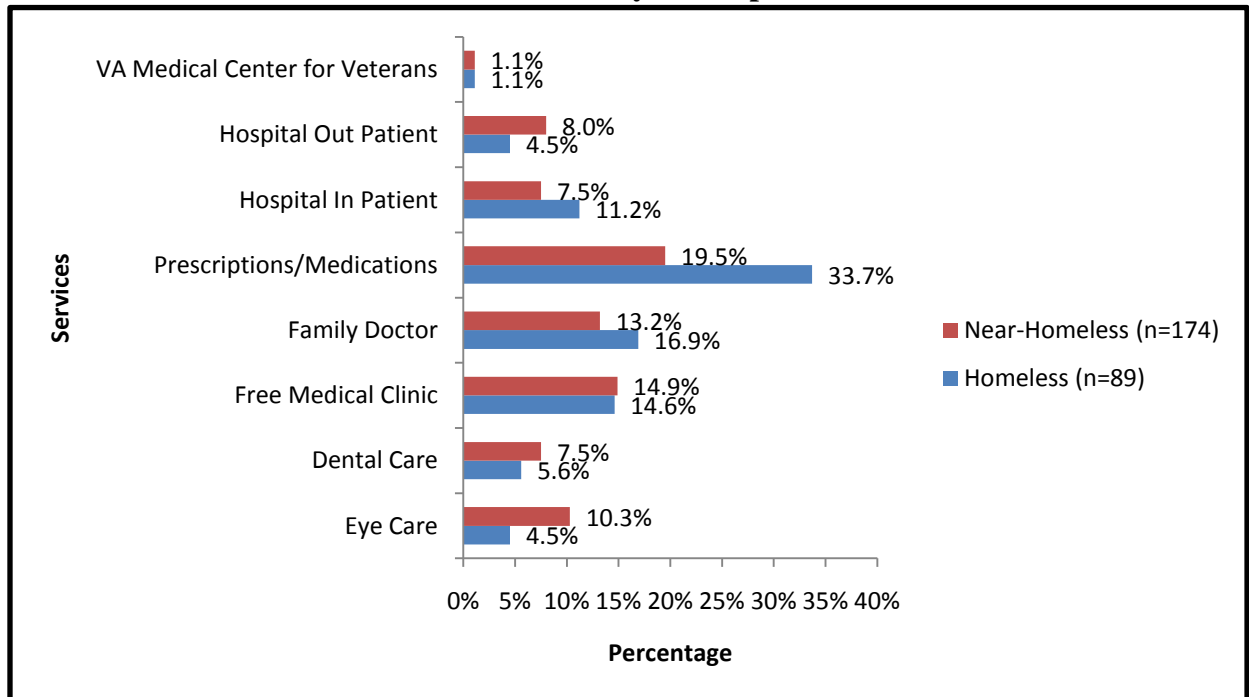


FIGURE 24: Housing Services Needed by Participants

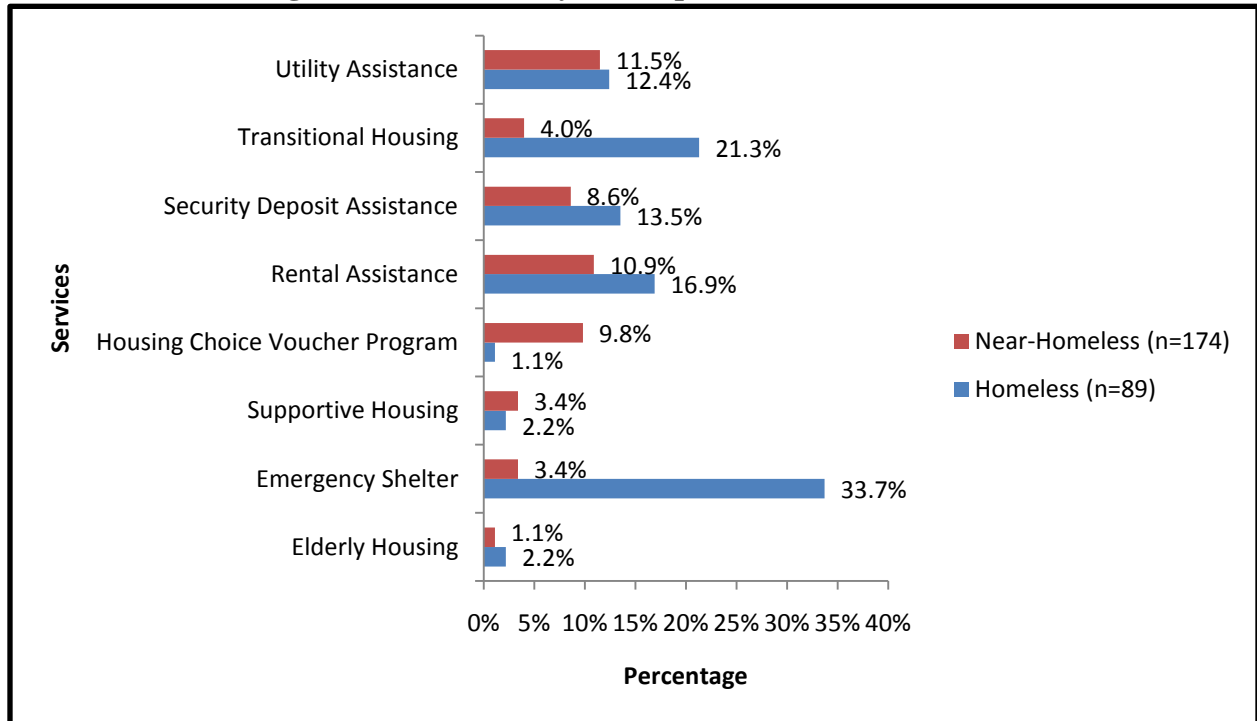


FIGURE 25: Housing Services Received by Participants

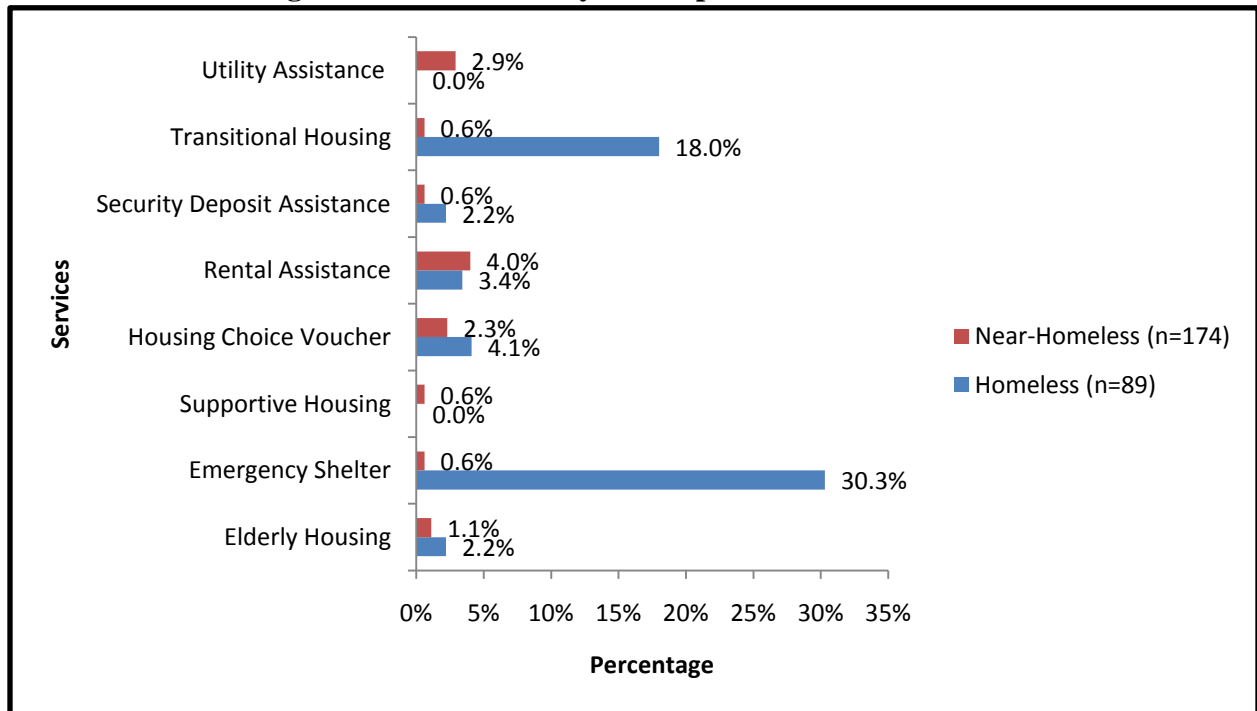


FIGURE 26: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services **Needed by Participants**

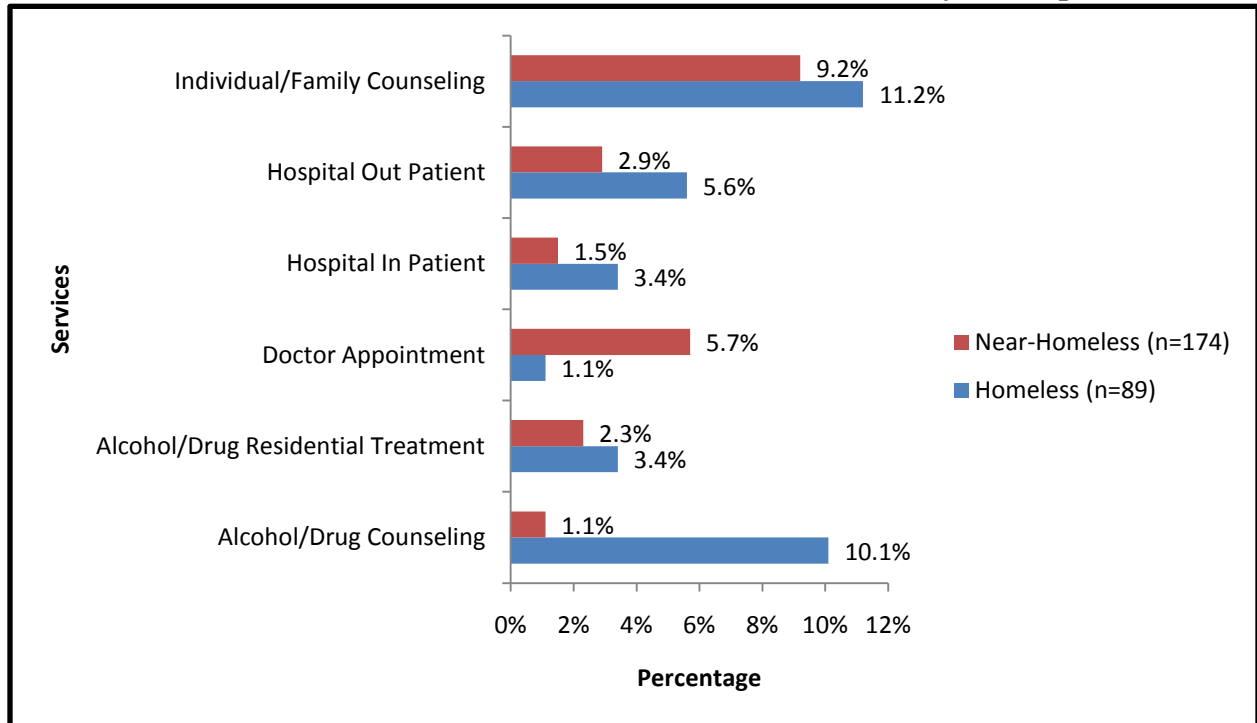


FIGURE 27: Mental Health or Substance Abuse Services **Received by Participants**

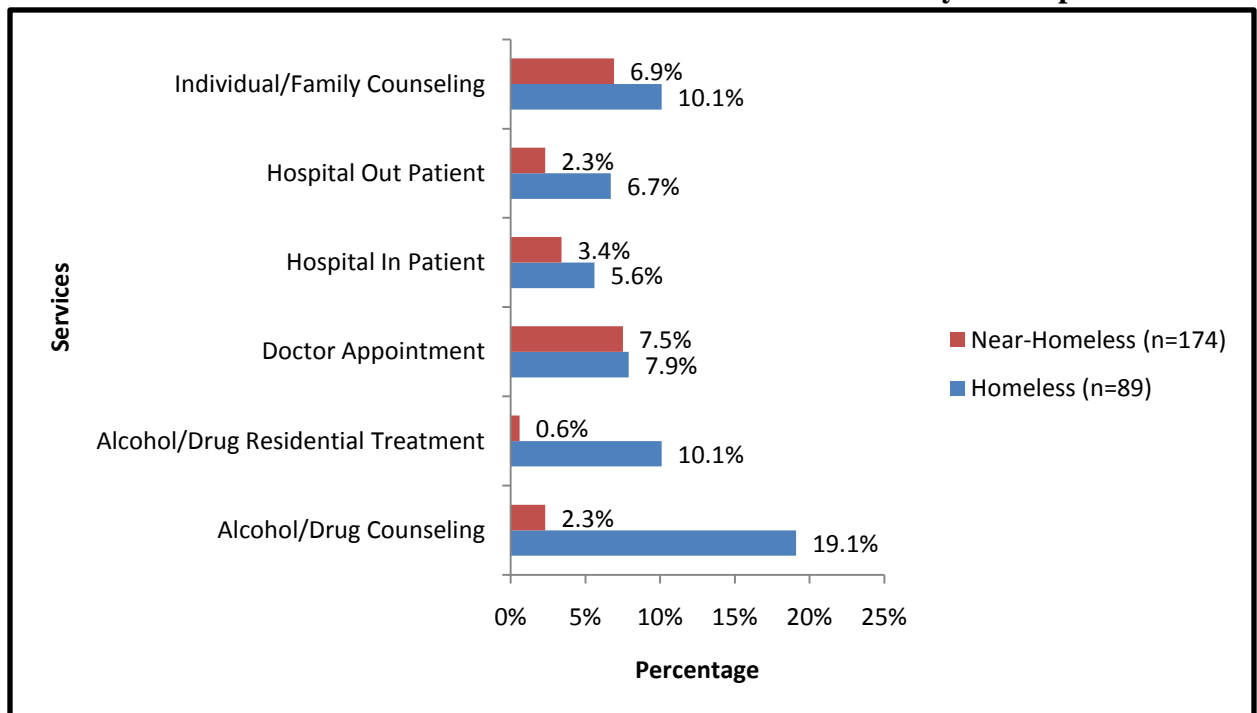


FIGURE 28: Support Services Needed by Participants

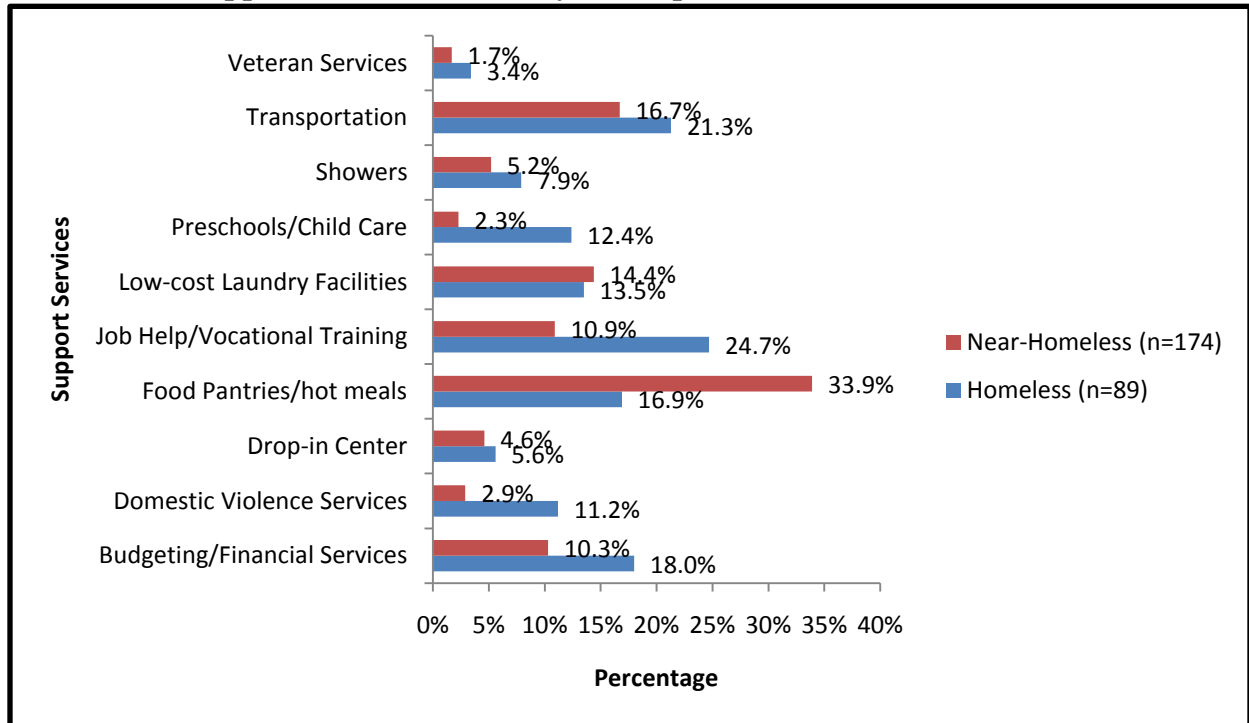


FIGURE 29: Support Services Received by Participants

