

SINGLE ADULT HOMELESSNESS

INTEGRATED DATA REPORT

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**MECKLENBURG COUNTY COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Single adults comprise the largest share of all people who experience homelessness in communities across the United States, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg [See references 1-2, pg. 27]. As of July 2020, there were 1,779 known single adults actively experiencing homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Most single adults experience homelessness as a single, brief episode that can last between a few days to several months. However, there is a small number of single adults who experience chronic homelessness, characterized by one or more episodes that, together, last a year or longer. The Single Adult Homelessness Integrated Data Report examines the population characteristics and service & system utilization patterns of over 11,000 single adults who experienced brief or chronic homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg between January 2014 and December 2018. The key findings from this report include:

Most single adults experiencing homelessness are Black or African American (75%) and male (62%). Black or African American single adults, particularly Black men, experience a higher rate of homelessness when compared to other races and ethnicities in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

More than one-third (38%) of single adults are 50 years or over. Older adults (age 50 or older) experience disabling conditions associated with aging at younger ages than housed older adults who live in permanent housing; and have lower life expectancies than the general population.[3-4] Nearly two-thirds (64%) of older adults experiencing homelessness reported having a disabling condition.

Most single adults have a disabling condition. Fifty-four percent of single adults experiencing homelessness reported a

disabling condition, compared with 10% of all adults in the general Mecklenburg County population. Disabling conditions were present among both single adults experiencing brief and chronic homeless episodes.

Housing instability and homelessness are linked. Twenty percent of single adults who had experienced homelessness during the study period used homelessness prevention services (rent and/or utility assistance) from Crisis Assistance Ministry either before or after their homeless episode. Black or African American, female, and single adults who had experienced chronic homelessness were most likely to use prevention assistance services.

Food and nutrition services help single adults experiencing homelessness meet daily basic needs. Sixty-three percent of single adults received at least one month's worth of grocery benefits through the Department of Social Services' Food and Nutrition Services program.

Criminal records can be a cause and consequence of homelessness. Criminal records can be used to keep some prospective renters who are currently homeless from being considered for a unit, thereby reducing the number of affordable housing options available to them and prolonging their experience of homelessness. At the same time, the experience of homelessness, itself, increase a person's risk of being arrested for crimes related to their homeless episode. Arrests related to homelessness, which are referred to as "Local Ordinance Arrests" in this report, include panhandling and urinating in public. Local Ordinance Arrests were most common among single adults who experienced chronic homelessness.