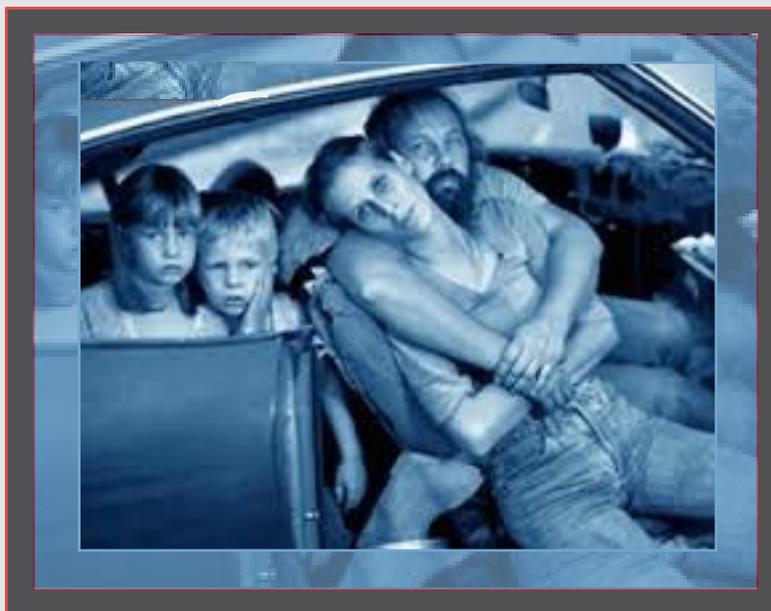




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Ohio Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness: PATH Program Report: Q4 – FFY 2014



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PROJECT SUMMARY

This survey was developed to track Ohio's Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program services, utilization and outcomes over the last quarter of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014. Data were collected over two weeks at the end of the quarter on the 12 participating provider organizations. PATH workers provided outreach services to 1,484 persons during the fourth quarter. Of those outreached, 47% ($n = 726$) became enrolled in PATH. Including carryover enrollees from previous quarters, PATH provided services to a total of 1,885 individuals statewide during the 4th quarter. The largest number of participants came from Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and Franklin Counties. PATH workers made contact with enrollees an average of two times, and provided four services to each enrollee during the quarter. A total of two referrals to services were made for each PATH client. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the PATH participants had a co-occurring substance use disorder. Of those outreached for services, 28% reported being homeless at time of first contact; another 22% of participants were unstably housed and at risk of losing their current residence. At time of enrollment more than 47% were living in emergency short-term shelters at first contact. The average County PATH allotment was \$38,953 with the largest average allotments going to Franklin and Cuyahoga Counties. Statewide, the program on average supported 5.8 employees, with 3.35 of those employees being full-time per site. The most frequent services offered were Outreach (37%), Case Management (24%), and Housing Technical Assistance (12%). The least provided services were One-Time Rent for Eviction Prevention (<1%) and Residential Support Services (<1%). Average cost per client across all programs was \$618 (high = \$1,388, low = \$233). In terms of areas of focus, there is a need for PATH providers to secure housing status information for those that are outreached, focus outreach efforts on those truly homeless, and increase successful referrals to community mental health services.

PURPOSE

An evaluation of PATH is conducted quarterly by the Bureau of Research and Evaluation to gather service and referral information regarding the SAMHSA-funded PATH program administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). The goal of the survey is to gather and disseminate information to the field in a timely manner to ensure that participating provider organizations and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards have information to guide program and policy development and quality improvement efforts. This report summarizes the fourth quarter of FFY 2014.

METHOD

Participating Counties

The survey was completed by 12 provider organizations representing Ohio's major

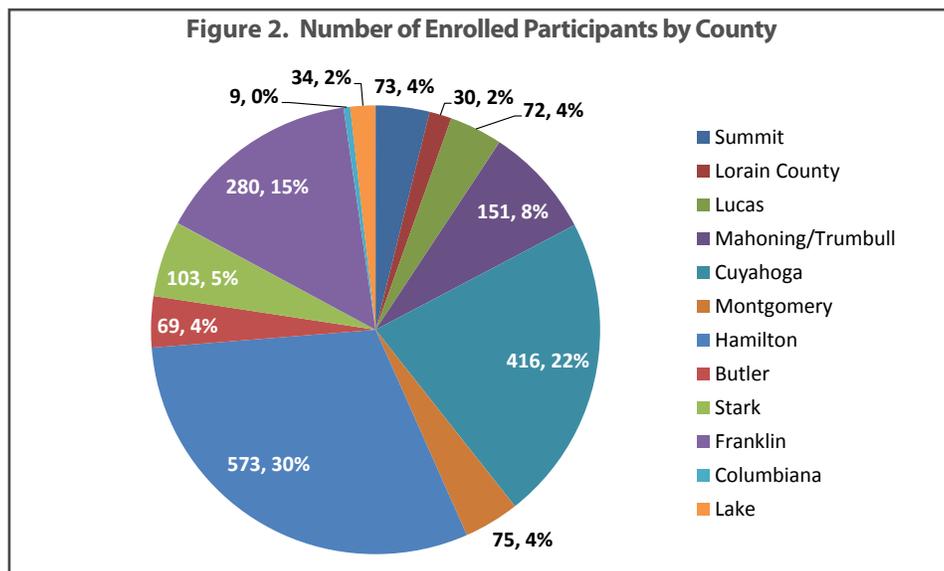


Figure 1. Participating PATH Counties Highlighted in Blue

metropolitan areas. Ohio's PATH-funded counties currently include Summit, Butler, Cuyahoga, Lucas, Hamilton, Montgomery, Mahoning/Trumbull, Stark, Franklin, Columbiana, Lake, and Lorain (see Figure 1). Eighty-three percent (83%) of the organizations are community mental health centers.

PATH PARTICIPANTS

Figure 2 shows there were 1,885 participants including (by county): 416 (22%) from Cuyahoga, 573 (31%) from Hamilton, 280 (15%) from Franklin, 69 (4%) from Butler, 72 (4%) from Lucas, 151 (8%) from Mahoning, 75 (4%) from Montgomery, 103 (5%) from Stark, 73 (<4%) from Summit, 30 (1%) from Lorain, 34 (2%) from Lake, and 9 (<1%) from Columbiana. Of those enrolled in PATH, the modal age was 31-50 (50%), with 64% male (36% female), 52% Caucasian, 45% African American, 2% Hispanic, <.01% Asian, and 1% Mixed. 28% of PATH participants had a co-occurring substance use disorder. Veterans accounted for 6% or 120 of the total PATH participants.



As evidenced in Table 1, at time of enrollment the largest number of participants were living in Short Term Shelter (520, 46%), followed by places not meant for habitation (28%). The median number of days living Outdoors or in a Short Term Shelter at time of first contact was two to 30 days (32% percent of enrollees) (see Figure 2). This was followed by 31-90 days (20%). Eleven percent (11%) of the PATH participants were living in short term shelter or outdoors for over 1 year at time of first contact. In terms of housing status, 28% ($n = 1,280$) of the participants were "literally homeless" at time of outreach contact. Another 11% ($n = 454$) were considered to be in danger of imminently losing their housing, while 11% ($n = 523$) were unstably housed and at risk of losing their housing. A surprisingly large percentage of participants (37%) did not know their housing status at time of outreach.

Table 1. Numbers Housed and Types of Housing (at time of enrollment)	Number	%
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher (Short Term Shelter & including Homeless Youth Shelter)	520	47%
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	28	3%
Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons (such as SHP, S+C, or SRO Mod Rehab)	10	1%
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	8	0%
Substance use treatment facility or detox center	40	4%
Hospital (non-psychiatric) or physical rehabilitation facility	3	0%
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	13	1%
Long term care facility (e.g. boarding or nursing home)	0	0%
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	45	4%
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	43	4%
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	10	1%
Foster care home or foster care group home	0	0%
Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus, train, subway station, airport or anywhere outside); including of "non-housing service site (outreach programs only)	320	28%
Other Safe Haven	4	0%
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy	0	0%
Rental by client, with other (non-VASH) ongoing housing subsidy	4	0%
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	0	0%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	24	2%
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	9	1%
Don't Know	38	3%
Refused	15	1%
Total	1,134	100%

PROCEDURES

Data were collected by a questionnaire for two weeks at the end of the quarter. The survey was administered using an MS Excel spreadsheet. All PATH provider organizations were asked to submit quarterly data on their PATH program activities. Data were collected on both eligible and non-eligible participants. All participating organizations were made aware that OhioMHAS will use this data for quality improvement and future funding determinations. Questions about the survey were fielded by the OhioMHAS Bureau of Research and Evaluation.

MEASUREMENTS

A survey was developed for the Ohio PATH program in FFY 2011 to track program outcomes in a more efficient manner. The questionnaire was designed to provide OhioMHAS and the provider organizations with programmatically-informative information about how PATH funds are being utilized to provide services, increase housing options and decrease homelessness in 12 Ohio Counties. The elements of the questionnaire included demographics, funds allocated, services provided and program outcomes. Specific services reported were outreach, screening and diagnostic services, habilitation and rehabilitation, community mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, staff training, case management, a variety of housing services. The number of people enrolled in PATH that obtained housing was the chosen Outcome indicator. Demographic variables were categorized.

ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics included totals, percentages, means, medians, mode, and standard deviations were calculated.

RESULTS

Funds Allocated and Staffing

Overall, there was an average of \$467,437 of federal PATH funds distributed to partnering provider organizations over the fourth quarter of FFY 2014, with a mean county allotment of \$38,953. The largest percentage of the funds went to Hamilton county (14%), followed by Montgomery (13%) and Lucas (11%) counties. On average there were 5.8 personnel (both full- and part-time) supported by PATH funds across all counties, with a high of 12 employees in Cuyahoga county and a low of 3 employees in Lake county.

County	Total FY Funds	Percentage of Total PATH Funds	Average Quarterly Funds	Average Per Person Cost	Average Per Contact Cost	Average Cost Per Service Delivered
Butler	\$94,365	5%	\$23,591	\$341	\$190	\$190
Columbiana	\$50,000	3%	\$12,500	\$1,388	\$208	\$100
Cuyahoga	\$393,664	21%	\$98,416	\$236	\$227	\$50
Franklin	\$326,542	17%	\$81,635	\$291	\$111	\$57
Hamilton	\$237,544	11%	\$52,287	\$103	\$81	\$112
Lake	\$50,000	3%	\$12,500	\$367	\$320	\$138
Lorain	\$83,500	4%	\$20,876	\$695	\$55	\$130
Lucas	\$165,000	9%	\$41,250	\$572	\$235	\$153
Mahoning/Trumbull	\$145,795	8%	\$35,266	\$241	\$293	\$116
Montgomery	\$176,268	7%	\$32,592	\$587	\$370	\$60
Stark	\$96,250	5%	\$24,063	\$233	\$111	\$117
Summit	\$129,845	7%	\$32,461	504	Nd	61
Totals	\$1,948,773	100%	\$467,437	\$618	\$146	\$111

Note: Nd = No data provided

Numbers Served and Cost of PATH Services

During the fourth quarter, there were 1,484 persons outreached for PATH services. Of the total, 726 (48%) were determined eligible and enrolled in PATH services. Butler county enrolled the largest percentage of those screened (95%), followed by Cuyahoga (90%) and Lucas (74%). Lake County had the lowest enrollment (17%)(see Figure 3 for County specific details). In terms of cost, the mean cost per participant for all PATH services was \$618. The highest cost per client was Columbiana County with \$1,388 per participant; the lowest was Stark County with \$233 per client. The average cost per contact with a participant was \$146, with the highest being Montgomery at \$370, and the lowest being Lorain at \$55. The average cost per service delivered was \$111. The highest cost per service was in Butler County at \$190, and the lowest in Cuyahoga at \$50. Costs per client served vary greatly by county due to the number of services offered to each client by the county PATH program. Therefore, counties that have a high per-client cost may actually have a lower per service cost. For example, Columbiana County had the highest per-client cost at \$1,388, yet their per service cost was \$100, which is the third-lowest per-service cost when compared to all other PATH providers.

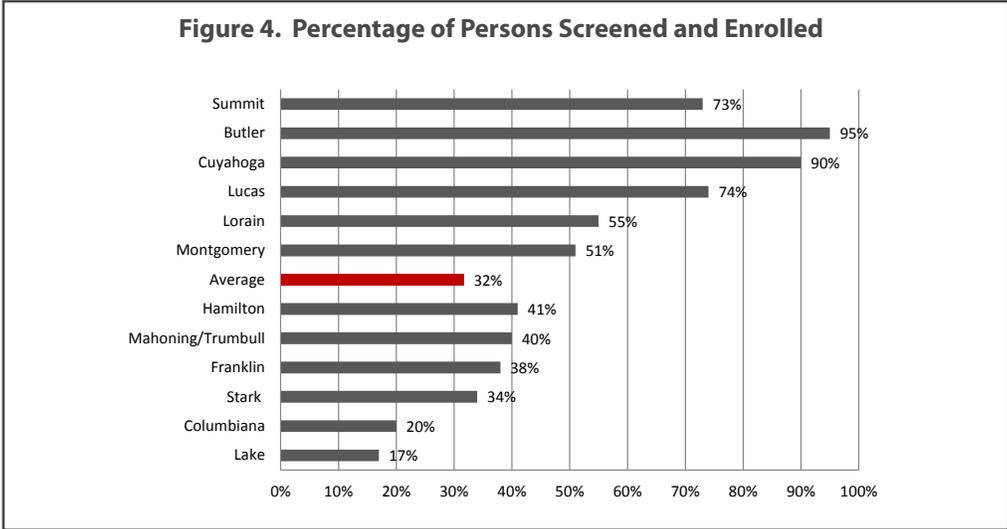
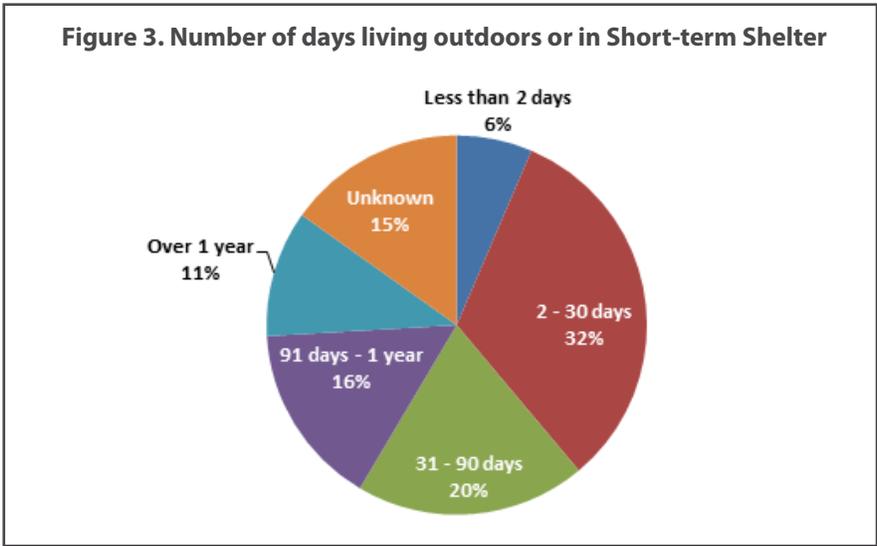
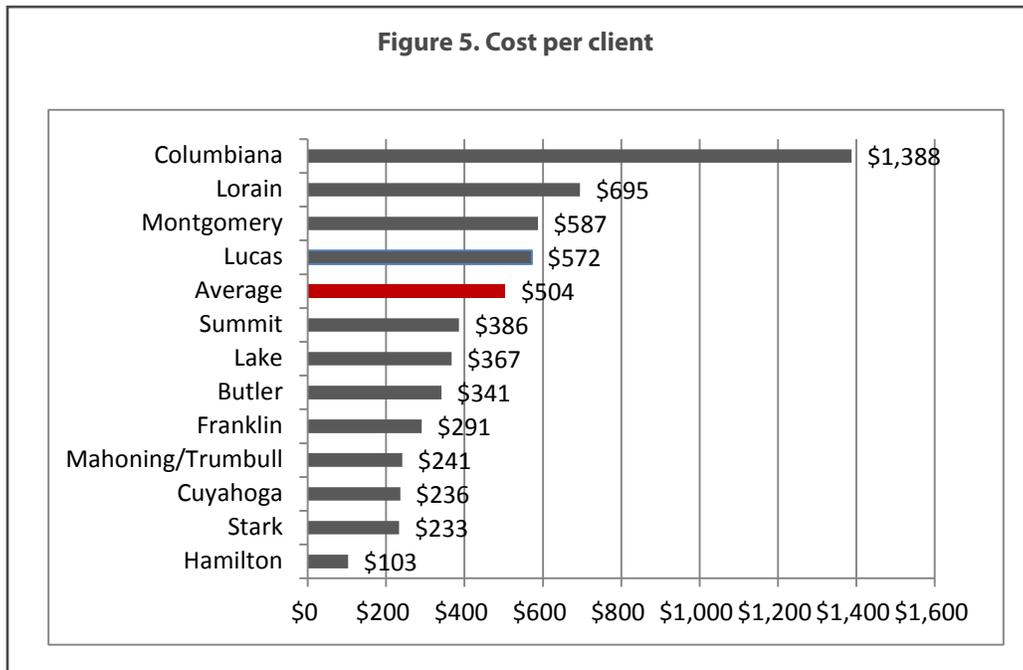


Figure 5. Cost per client



SERVICES

PATH consumers were provided an array of 12 treatment and support services. Importantly, not all PATH participating counties provided all 12 services. Table 3 shows the number of services provided in each county. The most frequently provided services included Outreach, Case Management, and Screening. The least provided service was One-Time Rent for Eviction. Columbiana and Franklin counties provided the largest array of services (9 and 8 respectively) followed by Stark and Mahoning (both providing 7 services). Butler and Hamilton Counties provided the least number of services (1 service: Outreach). The modal number of services provided across all Ohio sites was 2. Table 4 shows the total number of persons served. Persons receiving PATH services could receive more than one service and may be counted multiple times.

Outreach. All counties provided Outreach services. A total of 920 (37%) of all clients received this service during the quarter.

Screening and Diagnosis. Eight Counties (66%) provided Screening and Diagnosis Services. A total of 309 (8%) of all clients received this service. All but two counties (Hamilton and Butler) provided clients screening and diagnostic services.

Habilitation. Five counties (Summit, Lorain, Stark, Franklin, and Columbiana) offered Habilitation and Rehabilitation services to participants. Sixty-four participants (i.e., 2% of all PATH clients) received the service over the first quarter.

Community Mental Health. Seven counties (58%) provided Community Mental Health Services (CMH). A total of 206 (9%) of all clients received this PATH service.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services. Four counties (33%) provided Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services (AOD). A total of 22 (1%) of PATH clients received this service.

Table 3. Number of times PATH Services were Provided by County and Service

	Outreach	Screening	Habilitation	CMH	AOD	Case Management	Support Services	Housing Minor Renovations	Housing Moving Assistance	Housing Technical Assistance	Security Deposits	Rental Payment	TOTAL Number of Services Offered
Summit	105	7	0	72	2	264	5	0	9	63	1	0	9
Lorain	34	26	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lucas	40	41	0	0	0	168	0	0	0	20	0	0	4
Mahoning/Trumbull	170	30	0	47	3	64	0	0	0	51	0	5	7
Cuyahoga	650	260	0	231	55	168	0	0	0	455	0	0	6
Montgomery	19	70	0	0	0	375	0	0	62	0	0	1	5
Hamilton	528	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Butler	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stark	68	13	37	0	0	49	0	0	0	16	2	1	7
Franklin	326	22	0	147	5	295	10	0	2	1	0	0	8
Columbiana	60	9	2	11	5	4	0	0	7	20	6	0	9
Lake	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	5	0	3
TOTAL N	2,094	478	139	508	70	1,387	15	0	80	686	14	7	---

Table 4. Services		
	Total Served N	Percentage
Outreach	920	37
Screening	309	8
Habilitation	64	2
CMH	206	9
AOD	22	1
Case Management	387	24
Support Services	11	<1
Minor Renovation	0	0
Housing Moving Assistance	47	1
Housing Technical Assistance	185	12
Security Deposits	14	<1
One-Time Rental Payment	7	<1
TOTAL N	2,172	---

Case Management. Six counties (50%) provided Case Management Services (CM). A total of 387 (24%) PATH clients received this service.

Supportive Services in Residential Settings. One county (8%) provided Supportive Services (SSR). A total of 11 (<1%) PATH clients received this service.

Costs Associated with Matching Eligible Homeless with Housing Situations. There were three (3) participating counties providing the costs associated with matching eligible homeless persons with housing. A total of 47 (1%) PATH clients received this service.

Improving TA for Housing Assistance. Seven (58%) participating counties provided TA for Housing Assistance. A total of 185 (12%) PATH clients received this service.

Security Deposits. Three (25%) participating counties provided assistance with Security Deposits. A total of 14 (>1%) PATH clients received this service.

One Time Rental Payments. Three (25%) participating counties provided Rental Assistance (Lorain and Stark). A total of 7 (>1%) PATH clients received this service.

Referrals

Providing referrals is a main function of the PATH program. The PATH program communities track the number of times assistance with a referral is provided and whether or not the individual that received the assistance actually secured the service. During the fourth quarter, the service that required the most assistance across all PATH sites was Substance Use Treatment (92% of those referred needed assistance with the referral), followed by job training (90%) and income assistance (86%). The services most likely to be attained with the assistance of a PATH worker were Housing Placement Assistance (68%), Community Mental Health (46%), and Substance Use Treatment (46%).

Table 5.

Referral Type	Number of Persons Receiving Assistance	Percentage of Persons where assistance was provided	Number of Persons that Attained Referral	Percentage of Persons that Received Assistance where Referral was Attained
Community Mental Health	767	74%	360	46%
Substance Use Treatment	147	92%	69	46%
Primary Health Services	206	81%	94	45%
Job Training	38	90%	8	21%
Education Services	11	78%	0	0%
Relevant Housing Services	332	57%	61	16%
Housing Placement Assistance	202	77%	129	68%
Income Assistance	153	86%	38	23%
Employment Assistance	90	79%	17	19%
Medical Assistance	138	65%	14	34%

The lowest number of referrals were for education services (n = 11) and job training (n = 38) (see Table 4 for a complete list of fourth quarter referrals).

CONCLUSION

This analysis examined the PATH program for the fourth quarter of FY 2014. To summarize the main results presented above, there were 1,885 participants in the PATH program over the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. The largest number of participants came from Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and Franklin Counties. At time of enrollment more than 32% were living in short term shelters. Twenty-eight (28) percent of the participants were living in Short Term Shelter or Outdoors for more than one year at time of first contact. The median county allotment was \$38,953, with the largest allotments going to Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties. Statewide, the program on average supported 5.8 employees per site. The most frequent services offered were Outreach (37%), Case Management (24%), and Housing Technical Assistance (12%). The least provided services were One-Time Rent for Eviction Prevention (<1%) and Residential Support Services (<1%). Average cost per client across all programs was \$618 (high = \$1,388, low = \$233). In terms of referrals made, the most frequent referral made was for Community Mental Health Services (n=755) followed by Relevant Housing Services (n = 324).

Recommendations

Three areas warrant further attention: 1) the housing status of those outreached, 2) the place where initial contact is made with the potential PATH participant, and 3) the referral rate to community mental health services. Forty-one percent (41%) of those outreached in the PATH program do not have a housing status identified. Additionally, only 28% of the persons outreached and served came from a "place not meant for habitation", which is supposed to be the main source of referral for the SAMHSA PATH program. Finally, only 46% of those referred for Community Mental Health (CMH) services are actually attaining the referral. As CMH services are a main purpose for the PATH program, this warrants further examination.



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