Testimony to Support

HB 1198:

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs – Discharge of Patients and Referral Services – Standards

March 14, 2023

My name is Rozina Adhanom, and I work for Montgomery County, MD, Department of Health and Human Services in the Services to End and Prevent homelessness division. One of the challenges our Continuum of Care faces is inappropriate discharges to emergency shelters from higher-level treatment programs. Our emergency shelters are neither intended to be a step-down psychiatric or treatment program nor can provide the level of care patients would receive at halfway houses or other appropriate recovery residences. Effective discharge planning can improve recovery rates and reduce relapse, especially for individuals admitted to congregated homeless shelters who would live with others that may be actively using, making it easy for people to fall back into those destructive habits.

This bill supports establishing targeted, contextually flexible interventions and specific policies and practices around discharge planning that meet the needs of people's path to recovery. Also, this bill helps to address the lack of discharge policies, identifiable processes, or plans specifically tailored to the homeless population, as it is currently a healthcare and policy gap.

Sincerely,

Rozina Adhanom,
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Below are recent data gathered by subpopulations based on prior living situations before entering the shelter system in Montgomery County, MD.

Prior Living Situation

Prior Living Situation - Adult Only Households

Singles

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Instituition
- Place not meant for habitation
- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

39.6% Place not meant for habitation

28.4% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter

10.0% Rental by client, no ongoing housing

1.5%

2.3%

0.9%

4.6%

3.8% Client

19.8% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house

2.0%

6.5% Hospital or other

2.2%

0.8%

6.5% Jail, prison or juvenile

1.1%

6.1% Hotel or motel

4.0% Substance

18.1% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house

5.6% Psychiatric

2.3%

Prior Living Situation - Adult/Child Households (Families)

Families

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Instituition
- Place not meant for habitation
- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

- 19.4% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house
- 32.1% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house
- 50.2% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter
- 10.3% Place not meant for
- 5.7% Hotel or
- 6.8%
- 1.7%
- 1.4%
- 2.2%
- 4.6% Rental by
- 2.8%
- 1.9%
- 20.4% Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy

Youth 18-24

Prior Living Situation - Youth 18-24

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Instituition
- Place not meant for habitation
- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

9.4% Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy

4.2% Hotel or

1.3%

3.6% Psychiatric

1.3%

1.3%

9.4%

1.3%

20.1% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter

1.9%

1.0%

4.2% Hospital or

17.8% Place not meant for habitation

1.0%

2.6% Jail,

1.3%

25.2% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house

24.9% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house

Seniors (62+)

Prior Living Situation - Seniors 62+

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Instituiion
- Place not meant for habitation
- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

13.1% Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy

1.6%

1.9%

8.6% Hospital or other

2.5%

36.9% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter

6.4% Hotel or

2.2%

2.8%

3.9% Client

4.5% Jail, prison

15.5% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or

1.9%

2.2%

1.6%

3.6%

3.9%

41.8% Place not meant for habitation

2.5%

16.3% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house

Prior Living Situation - Vulnerable Single Adults

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Institution
- Place not meant for habitation
- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

- 44.2% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter
- 1.9%
- 24.9% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house
- 12.6% Hospital or other residential
- 58.2% Place not meant for habitation
- 3.9%
- 2.1%
- 4.1%
- 1.4%
- 2.6%
- 7.7% Hotel or
- 10.8% Rental by client, no ongoing
- 11.1% Psychiatric hospital or other
- 12.5% Jail, prison or juvenile
- 2.6%
- 3.6%
- 8.0% Substance
- 22.4% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house
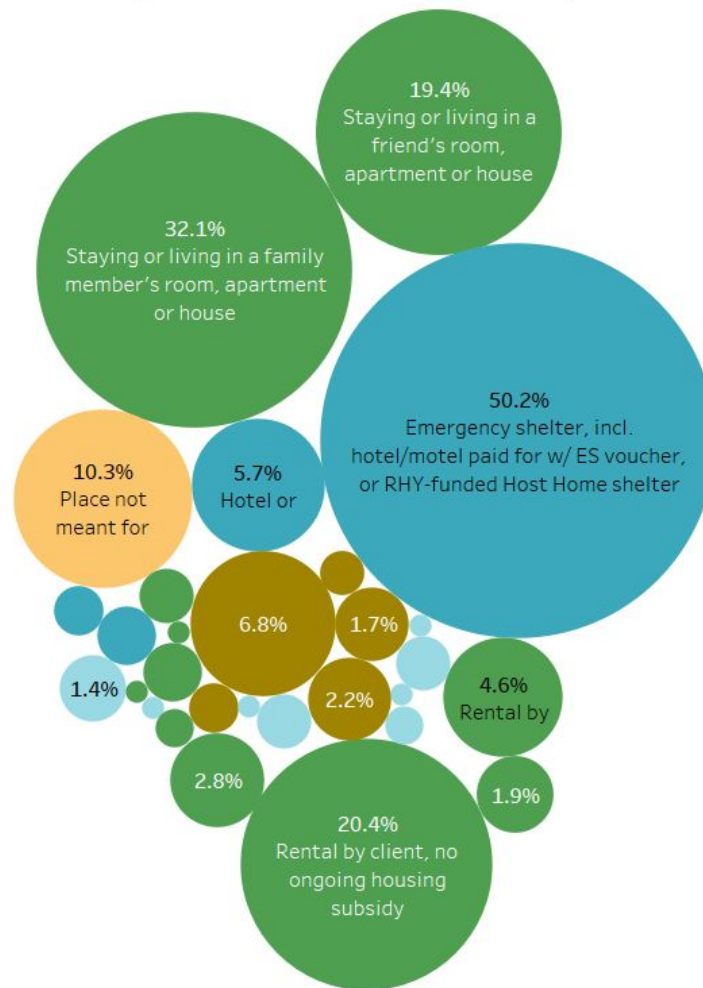
Vulnerable Individuals

Prior Living Situation - Veterans

Legend:
- All Housed Living Situation
- Hospital or Instituition
- Place not meant for habitation
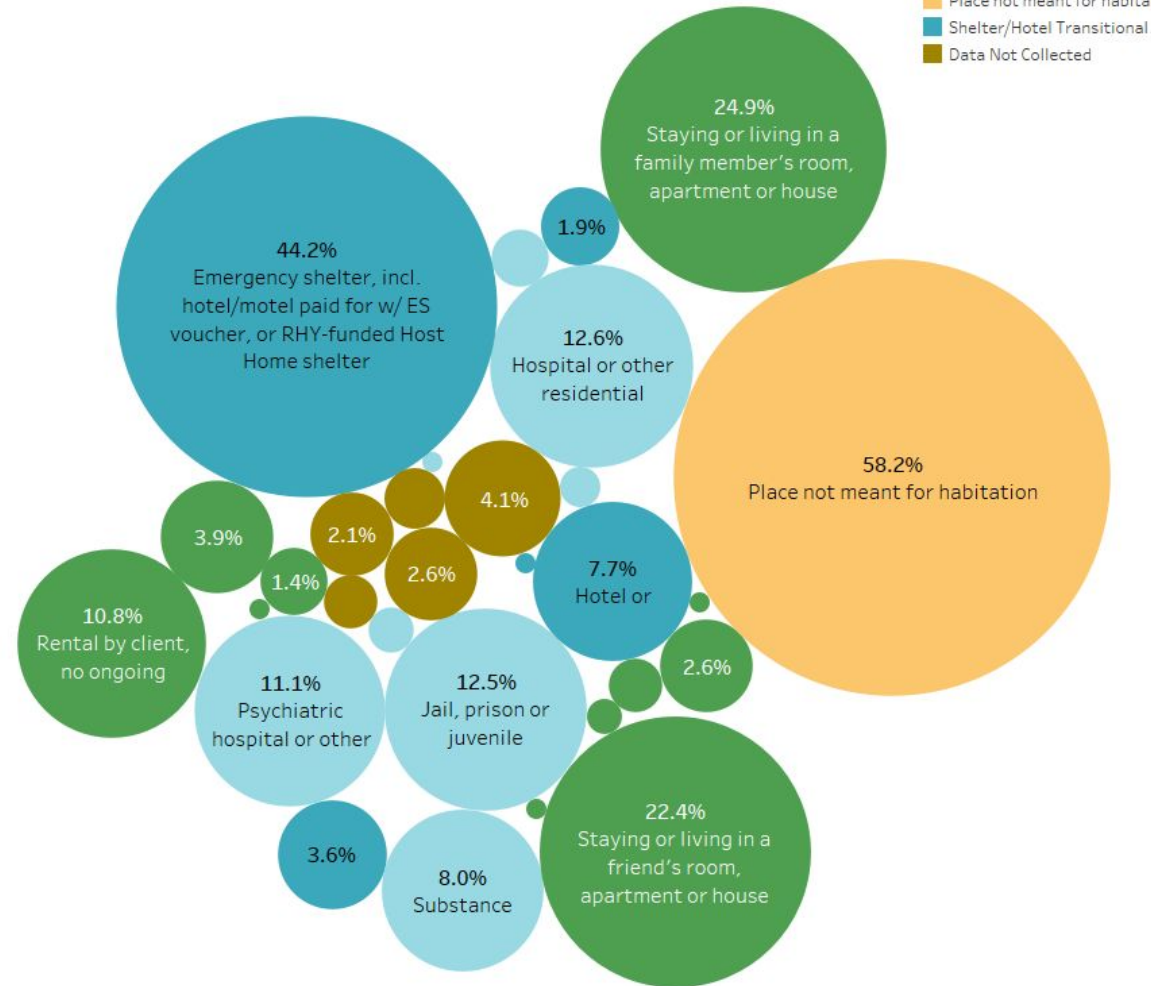- Shelter/Hotel Transitional
- Data Not Collected

- 2.1%
- 4.2% Substance
- 4.7% Psychiatric
- 2.6% Rental by
- 11.5% Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house
- 7.9% Hospital or other residential
- 6.8% Hotel or motel paid for without
- 5.2% Safe Haven
- 14.1% Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house
- 2.1%
- 2.6%
- 3.7% Client
- 3.1% Permanent
- 25.7% Emergency shelter, incl. hotel/motel paid for w/ ES voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter
- 5.2% Jail, prison or juvenile
- 36.1% Place not meant for habitation
- 11.5% Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy

Veterans