

HOMELESS COALITION
LINCOLN'S CONTINUUM OF CARE

Homeless Incidence and Duration of Homeless

Assessment of HMIS Data in Preparation for HEARTH Act
CoC Community Performance Measures

UNL - Center on Children, Families, and the Law
December 2010

Homeless entry – exit profiles were created based upon the type of housing or shelter persons entered and exited during the time period examined. The data reported here does not include homeless duration or incidence of homeless persons while they are unsheltered, e.g. living on the street or other place not intended for human habitation. Domestic violence shelter and domestic violence transitional housing data is not included in this report.

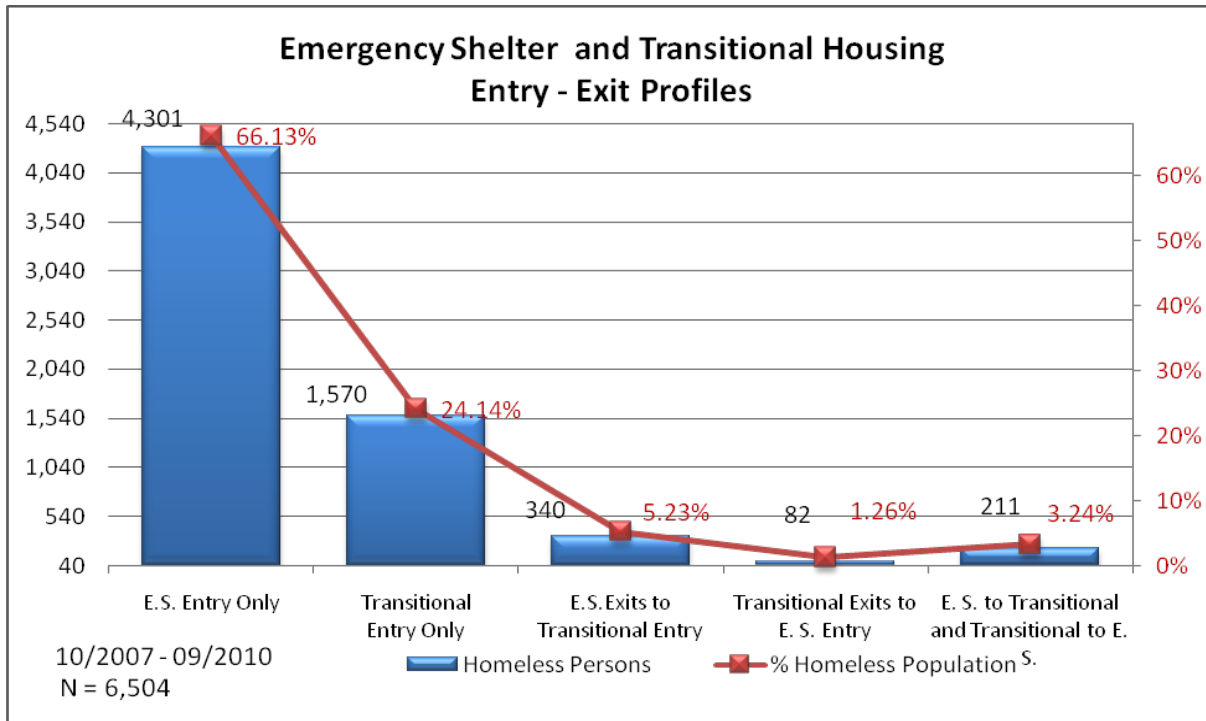
For the time period from October 2007 through September 2010, 6,504 unduplicated persons were homeless for some period of time and were entered into either an emergency shelter or a transitional housing program. Persons that were homeless that remained unsheltered during the entire time period are not included in this count.

Five entry-exit shelter/housing profiles of homeless persons in Lincoln are examined:

- 1) Emergency Shelter Entry Only
- 2) Transitional Housing Entry Only
- 3) Emergency Shelter Entry/Exit with Entry to Transitional Housing
- 4) Transitional Housing Entry/Exit with Entry to Emergency Shelter
- 5) Emergency Shelter Entry/Exit with Transitional Housing Entry & Transitional Housing Entry/Exit with Emergency Shelter Entry

The distribution of homeless persons in Lincoln during the time period from October 2007 through September 2010 by Entry – Exit profile is shown in Figure. The majority of homeless persons, 66.1%, were emergency shelter entry/exits only.

Figure 1.



Homeless incidence was calculated based upon a 30 day interval between exiting a shelter or housing program and re-entering a shelter or housing program.¹

Recidivism is the return into homeless (shelter or housing entry) after at least 30 days exit from a shelter or housing program. Twenty-one percent (21%) of persons identified as homeless exited a shelter or housing program and returned to a shelter or housing program after a 30 day interval, Figure 2.

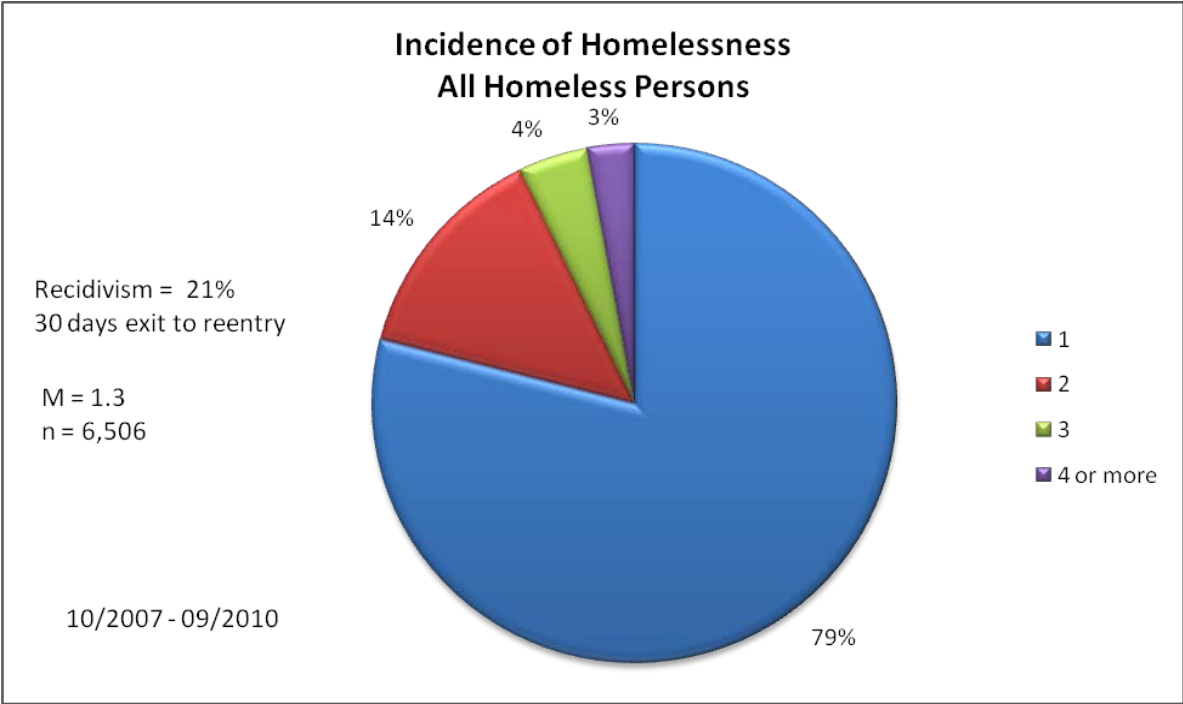
Figure 2.

¹ The 30 day interval to define "incidence" of homeless is taken from information presented at the HEARTH Conference in Denver CO as a possible HUD definition of homeless incidence.

If EntryEntryDate.2 <= 30 days from EntryExitDate.1 then "incidence of homelessness" is single incidence (CountIncidence = 1) and "AggStay.1" = StayLength.1 and StayLength.2

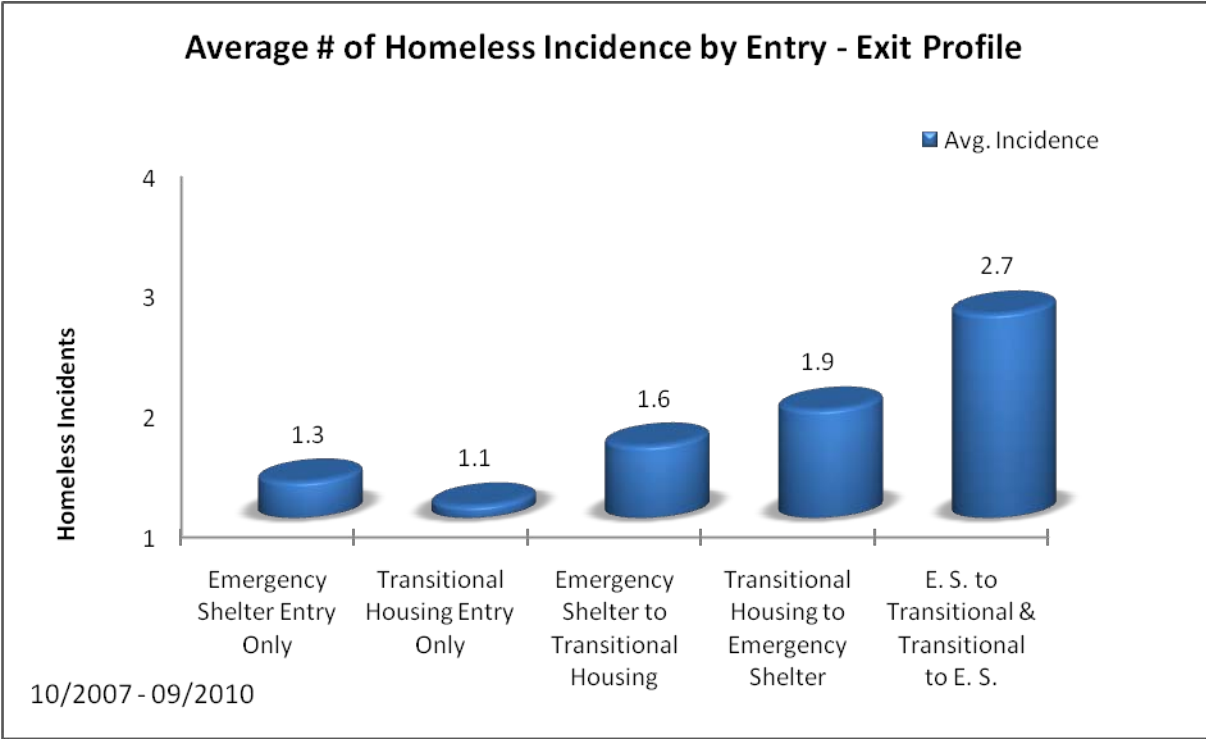
In EntryEntryDate.2 > 30 days from EntryExitDate.1 then "incidence of homelessness" is another "incidence" (CountIncidence = 2) and AggStay.1 = Staylength.1; AggStay.2 = Staylength.2

Continue through number of entry/exits per record.



The average number of homeless incidents (recidivism) during this time period by entry exit profile is presented in Figure 3, following page.

Figure 3.



The incidence and recidivism of the homeless during the time period by entry / exit profile are presented in Figures 4 through 8.

Figure 4.

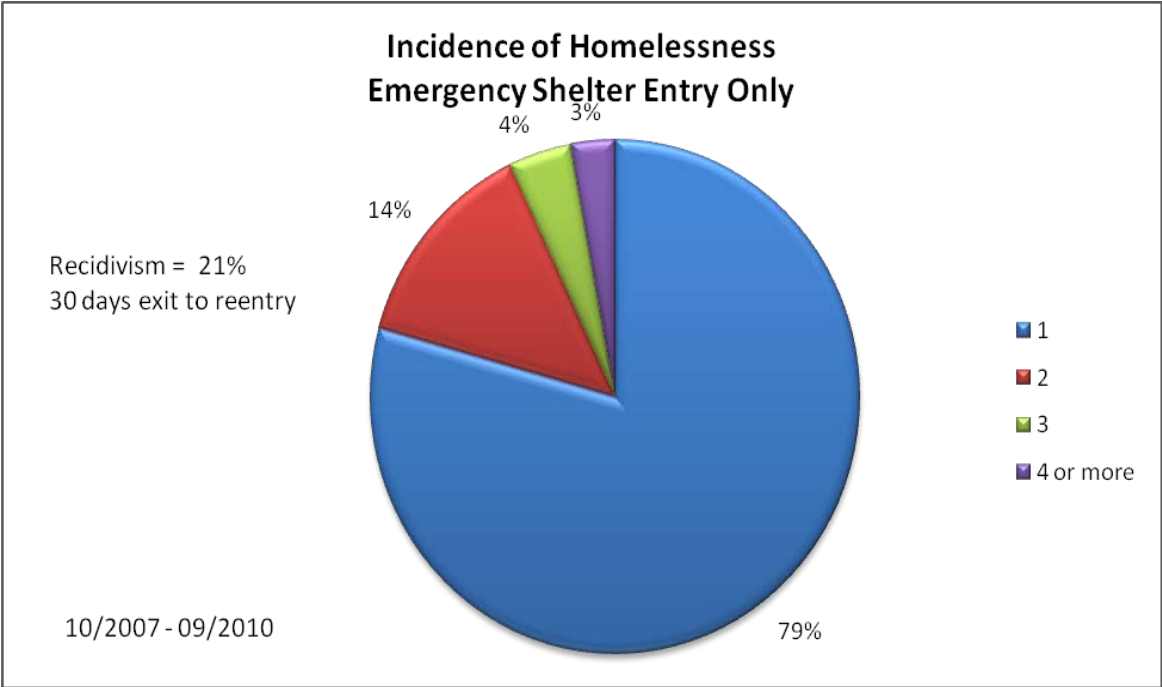


Figure 5.

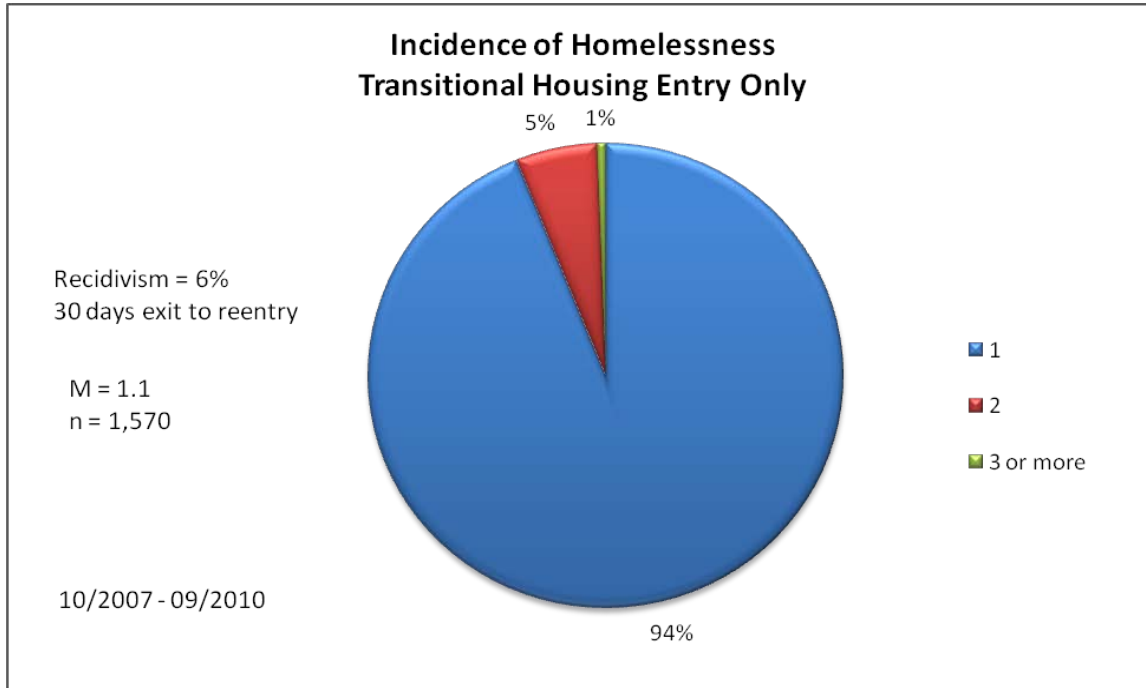


Figure 6.

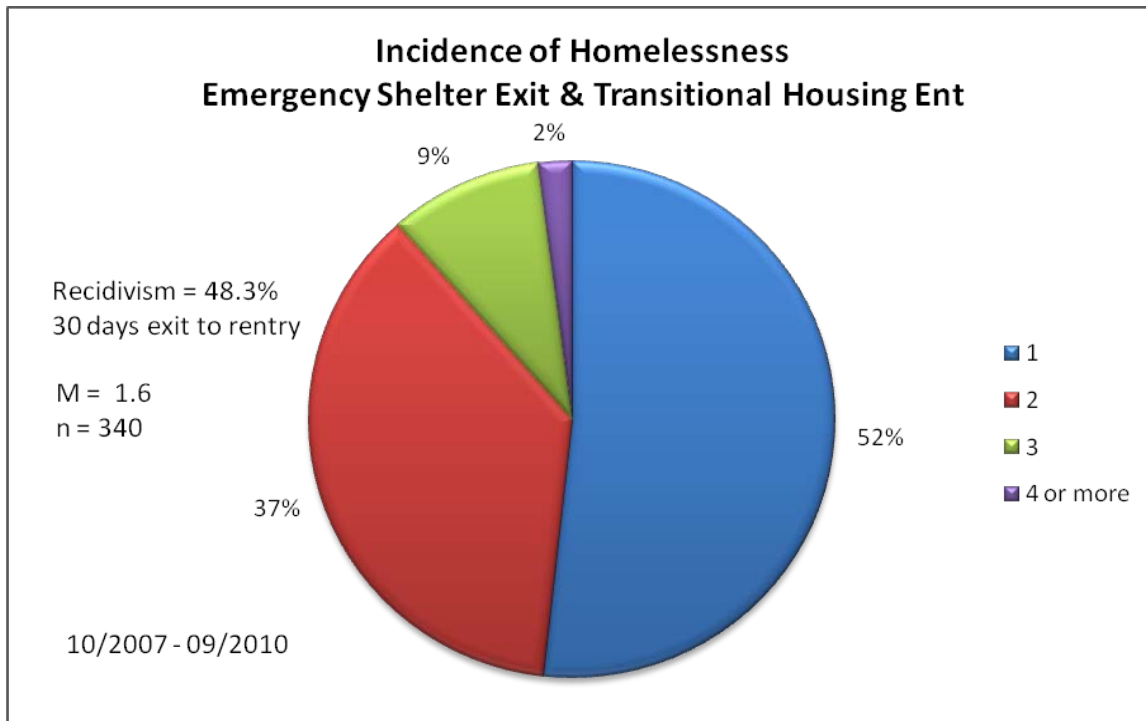


Figure 7.

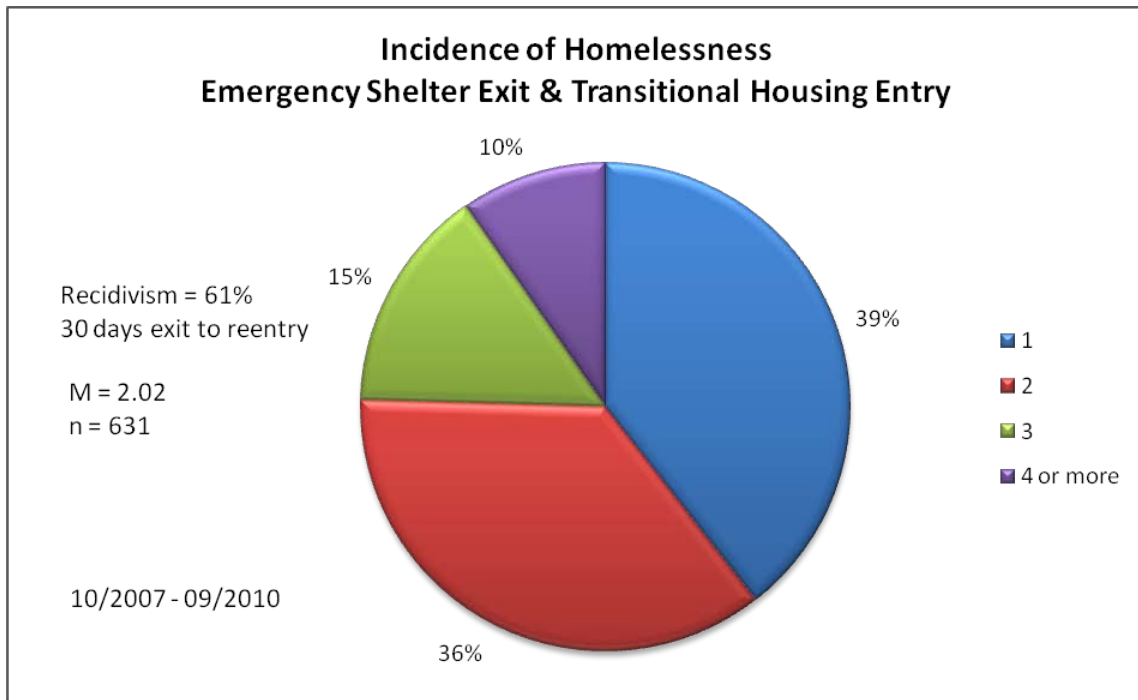
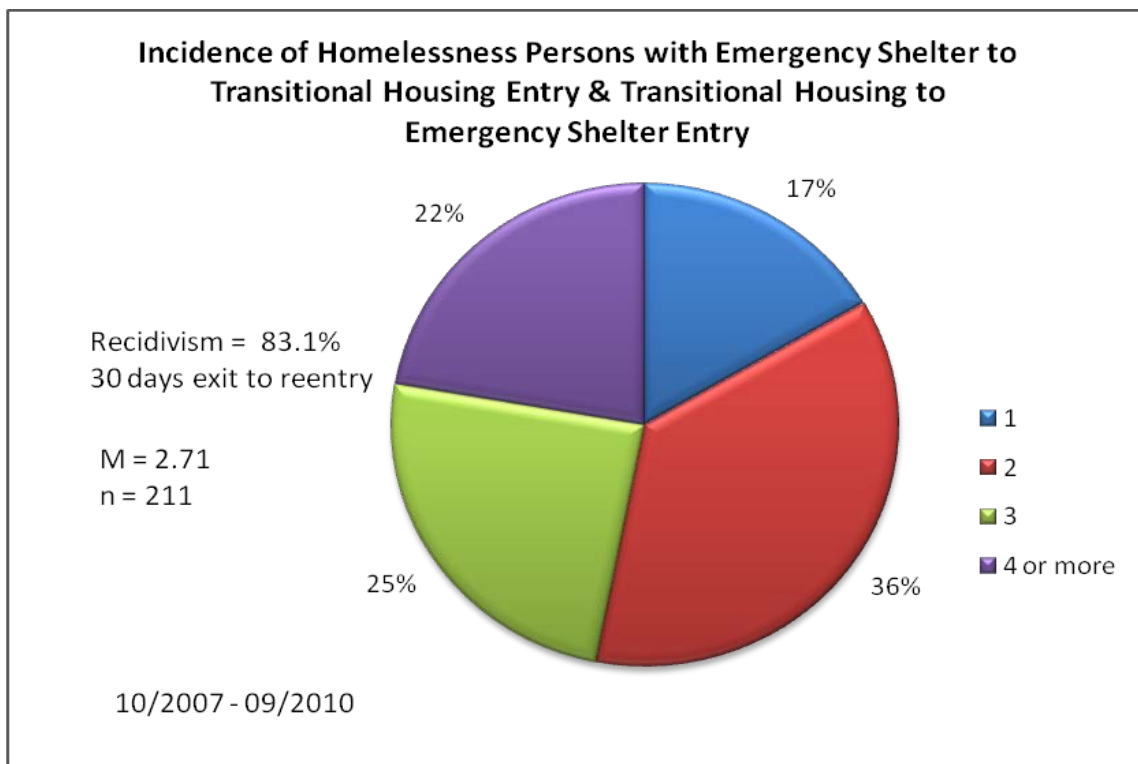
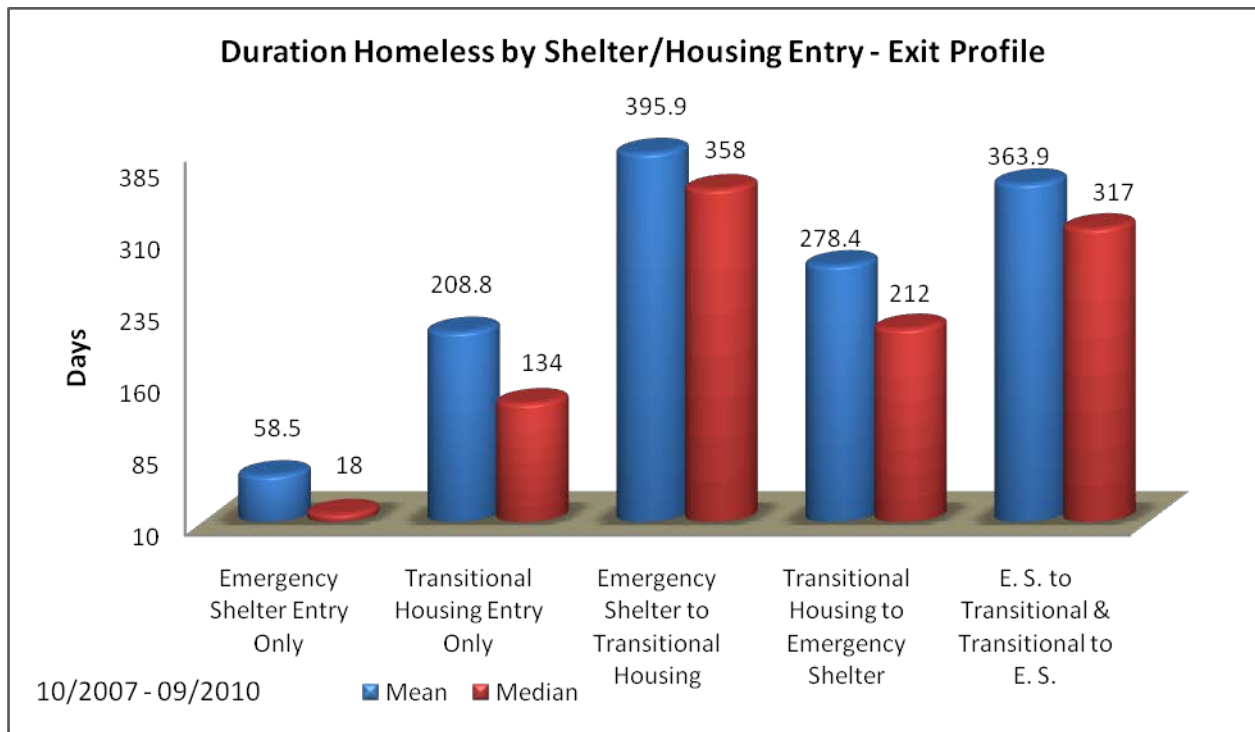


Figure 8.



The average duration of each homeless incidence by entry exit profile is presented in Figure 9. For persons with emergency shelter entry only, the average duration of each incidence of homelessness is 58.5 days with 50% of these persons homeless for 18 days or less.

Figure 9.



Recurrent Transitional Housing Program Entries within Homeless Incidence

Eight percent (8.1%, 120) of persons with a single homeless incidence were exited and re-entered into a transitional housing program during the same homeless incident (within 30 days of exit).