

Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

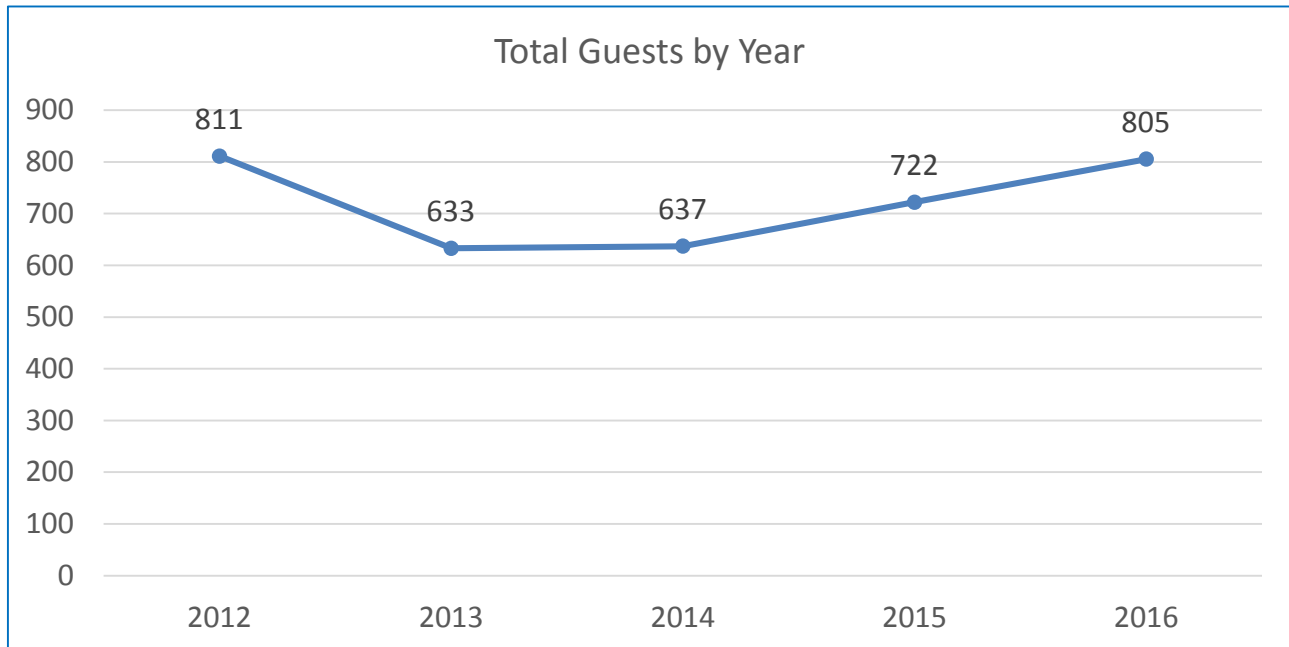
2016 Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing One-Night Count

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) conducts an annual survey of Vermont's publicly-funded homeless shelters and transitional housing service providers, known as the One-Night-Count (ONC). The survey provides a snapshot of shelter and transitional housing utilization and the demographics of the people who are homeless in Vermont. The ONC is different from the national Point-in-Time (PIT) count because the ONC survey only includes those people staying in shelters and transitional housing operated by community partners with funding from the Housing Opportunity Grant Program (HOP); it is not a population-wide census of homelessness. Both, the ONC and the PIT are one-night counts, which do not reflect the full scale of those households experiencing homelessness and served by these programs during a year.

Analysis:

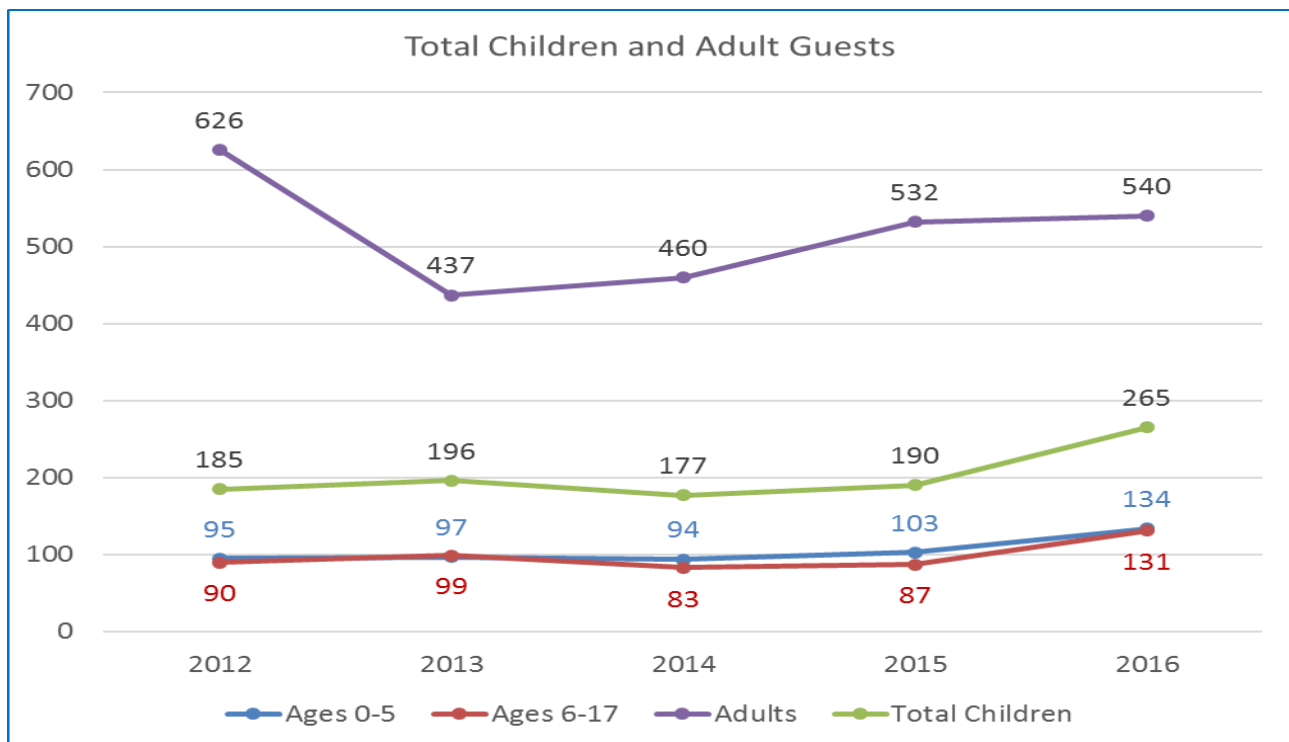
The results of the 2016 One Night Count show an increase in the numbers of children, families with children, households in domestic violence housing, and total guests in publicly funded, community-based emergency housing. These higher numbers are primarily due to an increase in capacity to serve families, although utilization of shelter services has also been higher overall. In 2016, the Office of Economic Opportunity continued to partner with the Economic Services Division to reduce reliance on motel stays for homeless persons. As of the date of this count, additional investment from General Assistance in community solutions resulted in the addition of 17 two-bedroom apartments for families; and 2 one-bedroom apartments for youth; a total of 65 new bedrooms of emergency housing capacity in communities.

1. Total Guests: A total of 805 people were housed in publicly-funded shelters and transitional housing on December 14, 2016. This increase of 83 people represents an 11% increase over the 2015 total of 722.

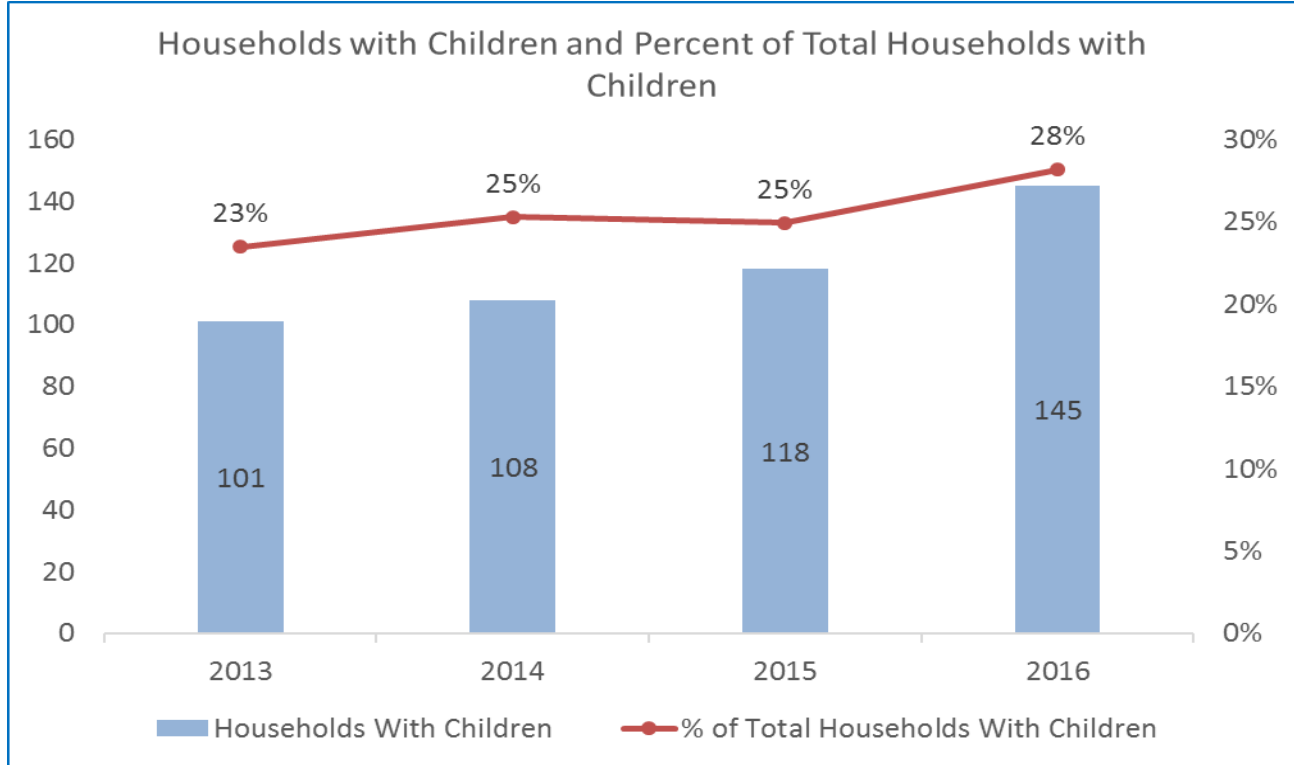


2. Children and Households with Children:

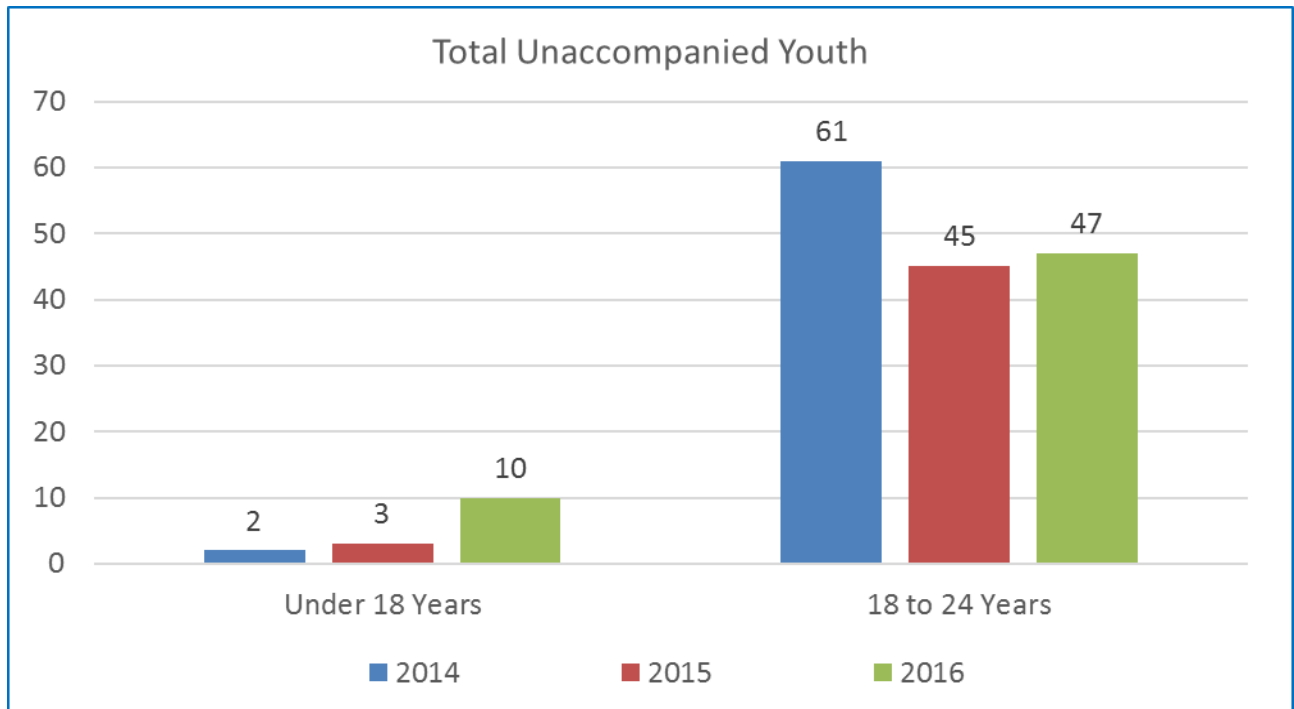
The biggest increase in reported categories was among children, which is 39% higher than last year (75 additional children under the age of 18).



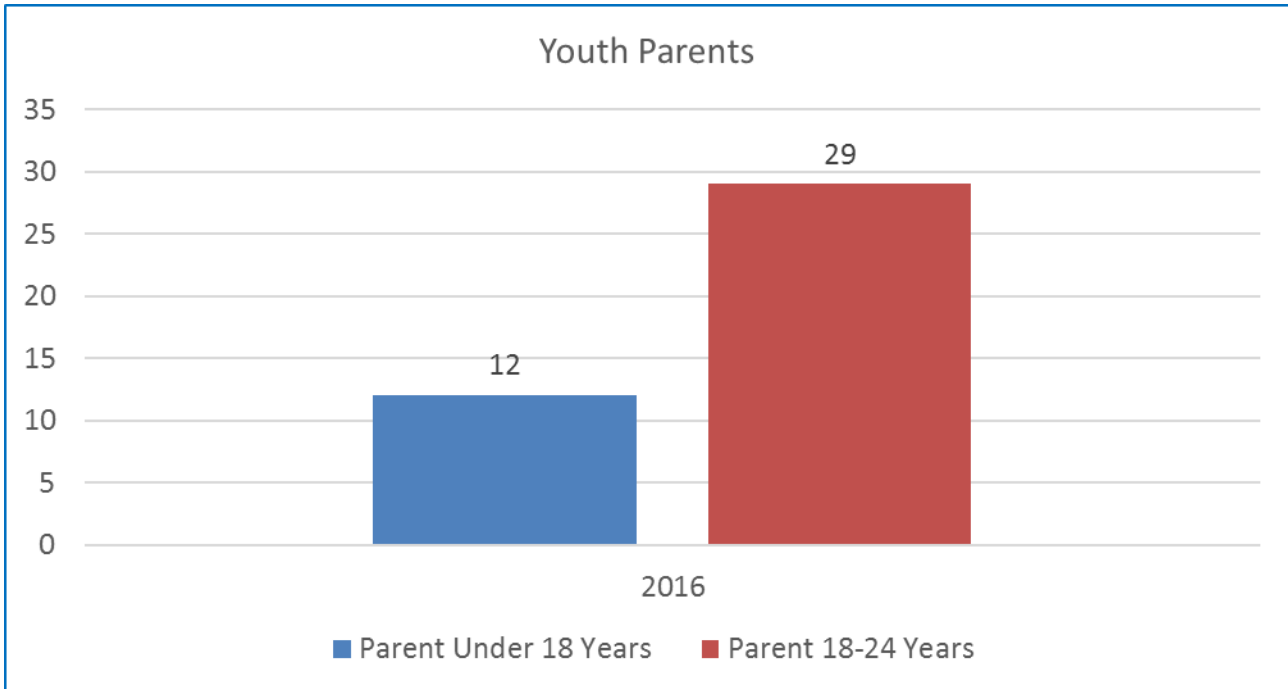
The number and percent of households with children has also increased.



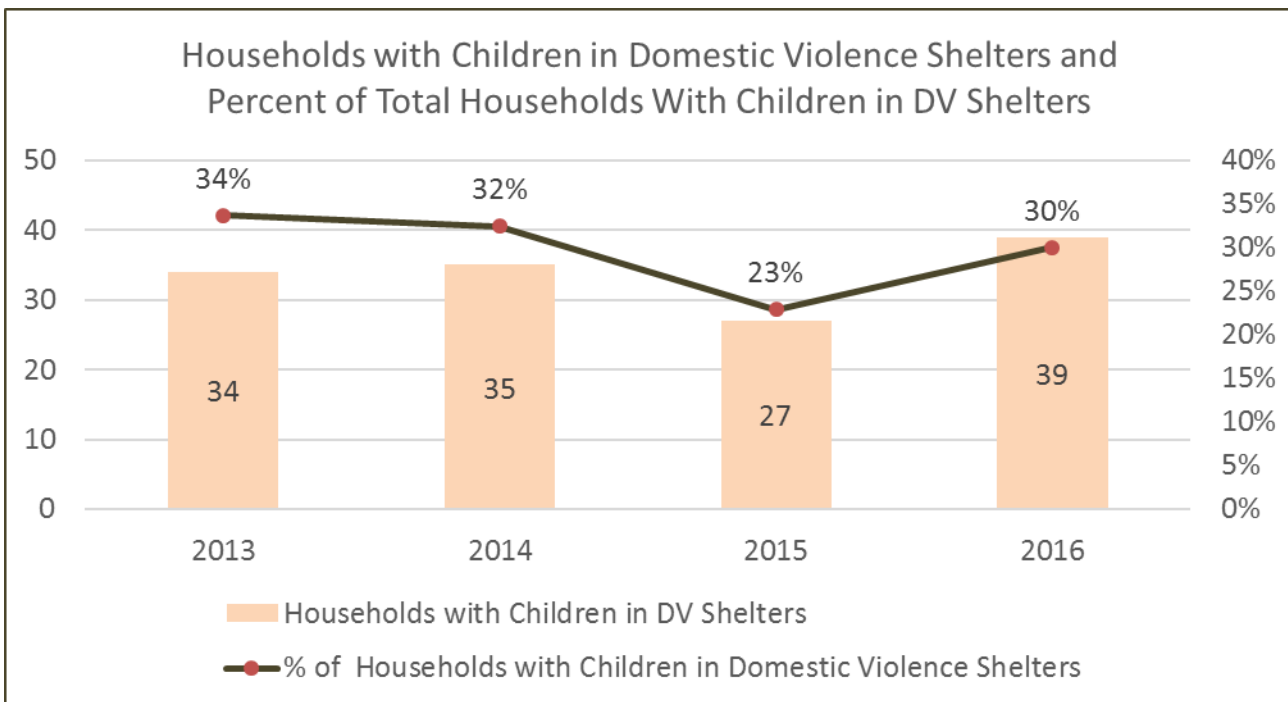
In 2016, the number of unaccompanied youth (<25) increased slightly from 2015. This group makes up approximately 7% of all persons in shelter. (57/805)

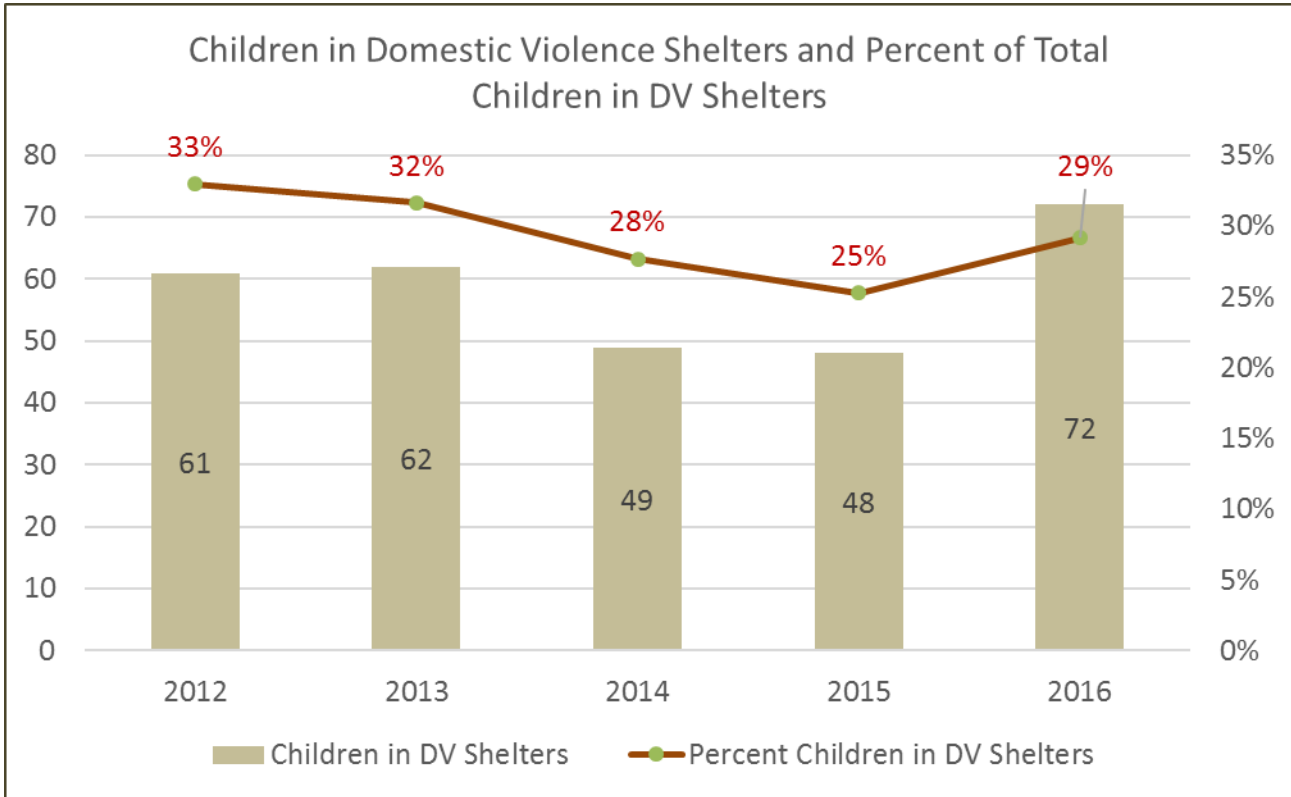


This year, the count also collected information on youth parents (<25). Parenting youth made up nearly 5% of all shelter guests.



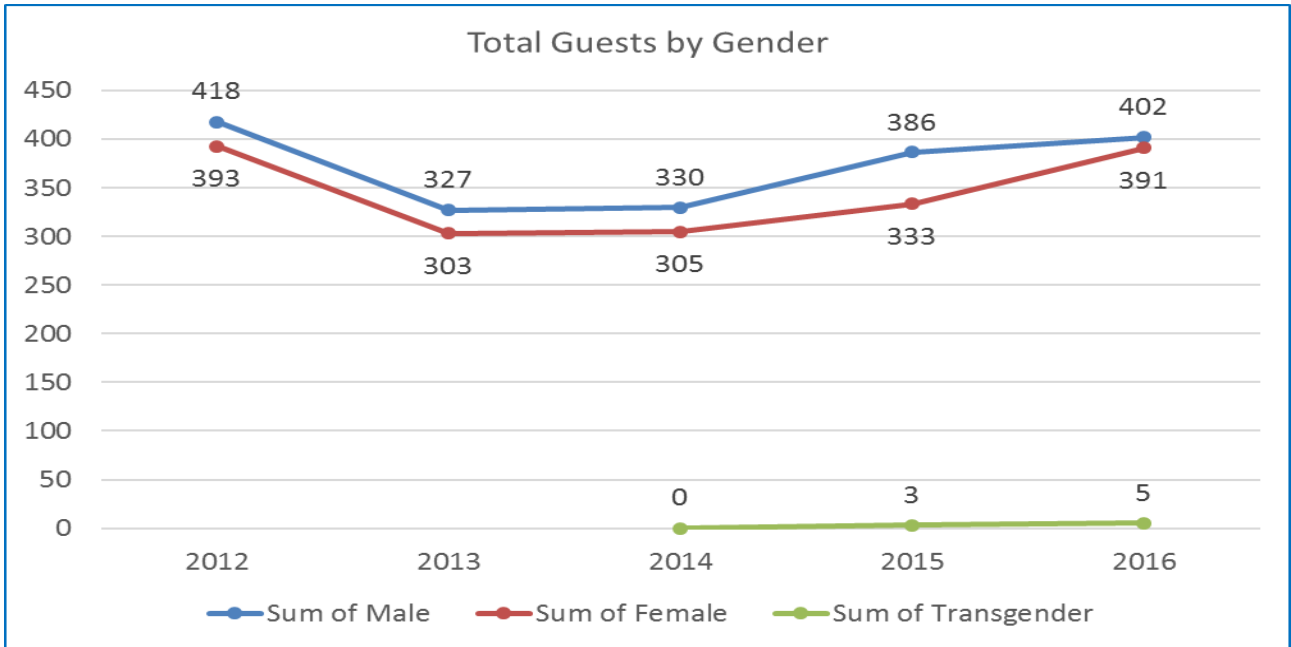
The population of households with children in domestic violence shelters increased by 7% in 2016. In addition, 24 households (not included in the below chart) fleeing domestic violence were housed in motels through local providers in Brattleboro and Rutland districts when domestic violence shelters were full. Previously these households were served by the Economic Services Division General Assistance program and not included in this report.





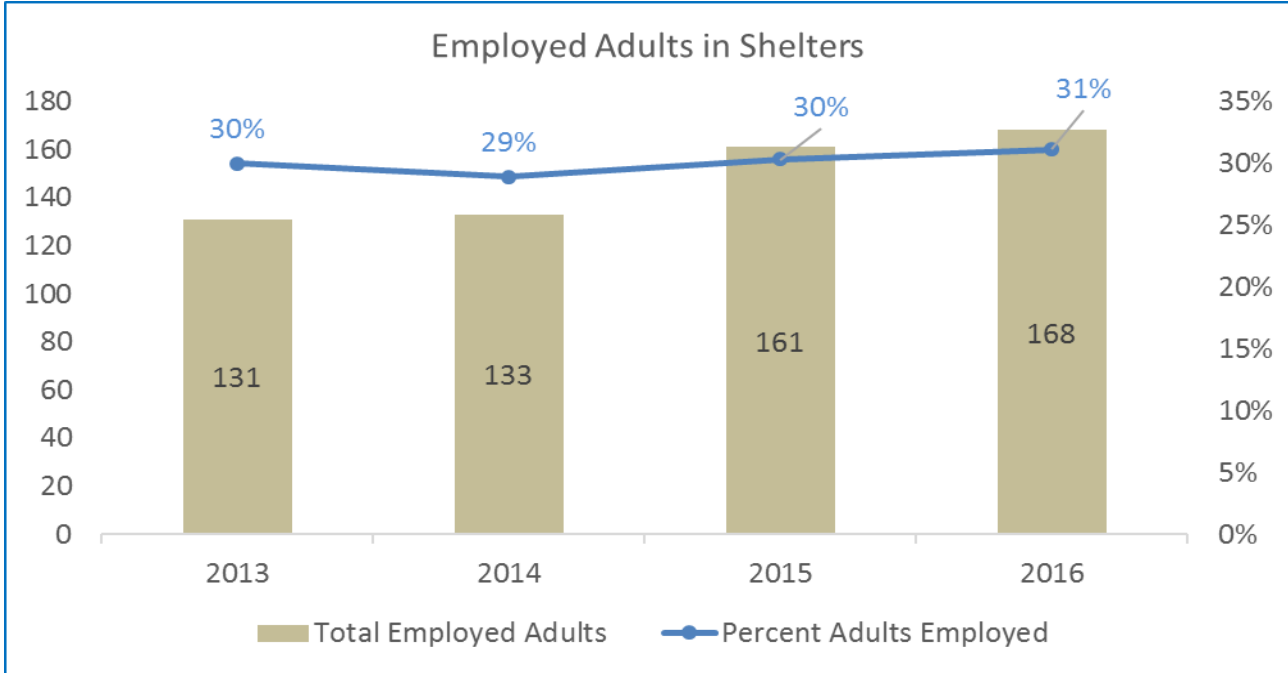
3. Gender:

The ratio of male and female guests remains constant. In 2014, concurrent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the OEO shelter count began counting transgender persons.



4. Employed Adults

Consistently, almost one-third of shelter guests are currently employed while staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing.



5. Veterans

The number of Veterans has dropped significantly, and they now represent only 5% of total guests in the shelter count. In recent years, there has been a national and state emphasis on ending Veterans homelessness, with significant new federal resources for homeless Veterans such as Supportive Services for Veterans Families, HUD VASH vouchers, and a statewide Veterans committee working on connecting Veterans to needed housing assistance.

