

ANNUAL
SNAPSHOT
2017
OF SERVICE AND SHELTER USE

IOWANS
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS



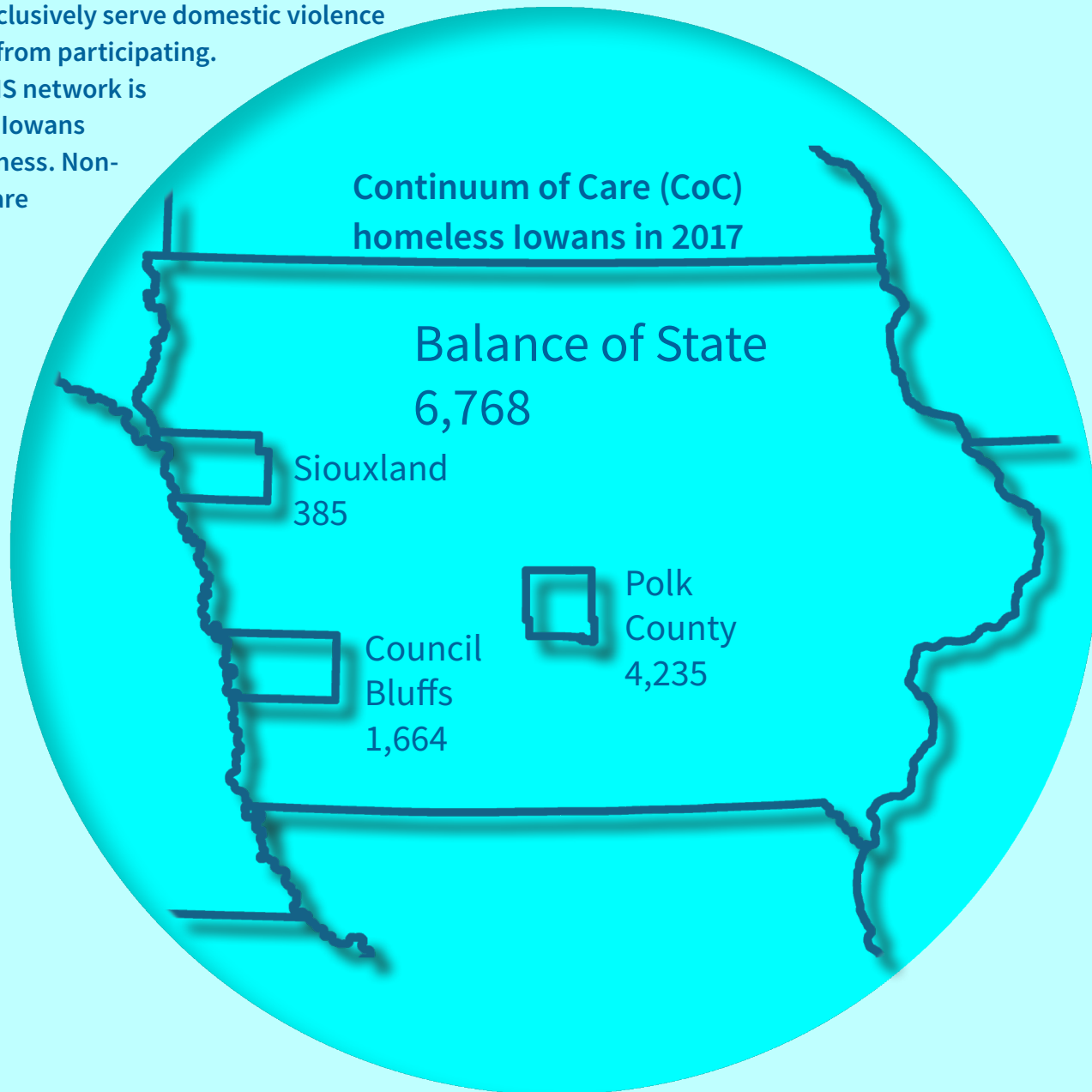
12,932

**Iowans were homeless in 2017
and served by emergency shelters,
transitional housing, or rapid rehousing projects.**

**also 1,192 Iowans were served
in permanent supportive housing.**

Each number in this report is an un-duplicated count. A person may be counted in multiple populations if they were in multiple populations during the year.

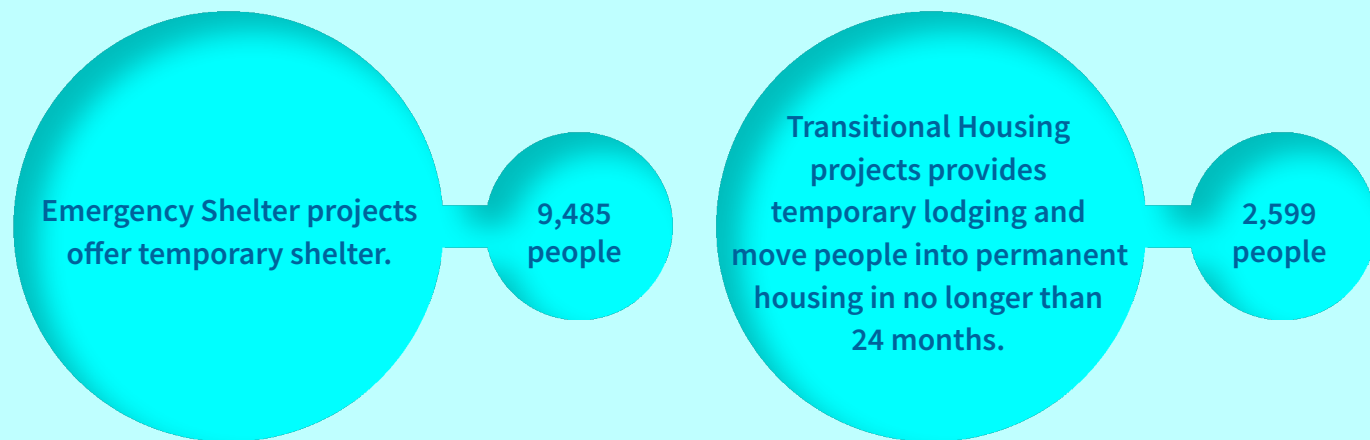
Iowa's Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used by most homeless agencies across Iowa. Programs that exclusively serve domestic violence survivors are excluded from participating. Participation in the HMIS network is important to represent Iowans experiencing homelessness. Non-participating agencies are privately funded.



Rare Brief & One Time

When people experience housing instability it is typically for a short period. They need a little help then move on quickly. For some people the situation is beyond their capacity to address unassisted. Additional longer term services may be needed.

HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) describe the goal as making homelessness rare, brief, and one time. To assess progress toward that goal HUD provides System Performance Measures.



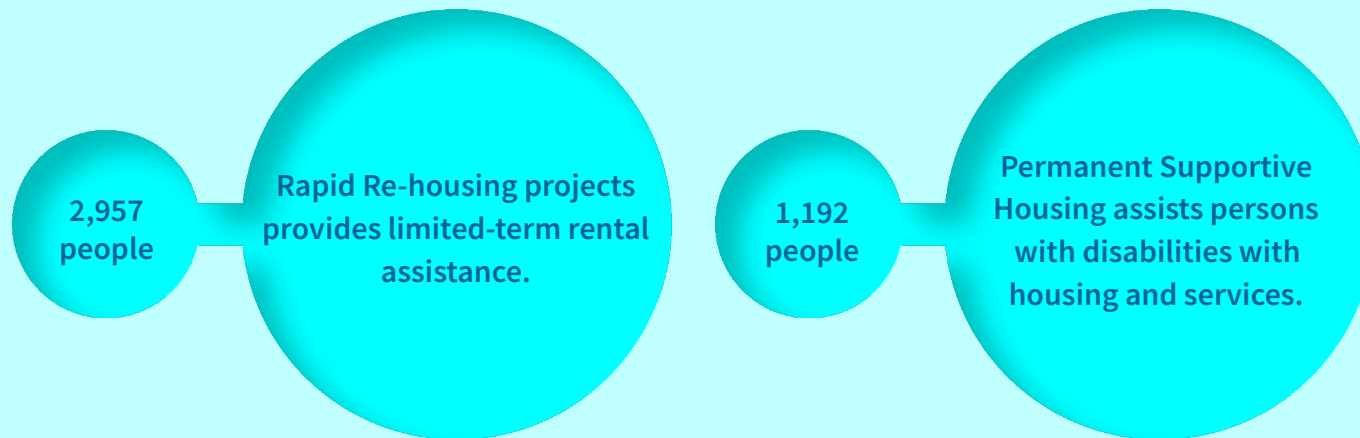
The homeless response system begins with coordinated entry. Coordinated Entry is a process for doing more with available resources.

Coordinated entry employs individual assessments to assure that people are matched with the resources that will do the most good to help them find lasting stability quickly. Coordinated entry evaluates the strengths and needs of people experiencing a housing crisis.

Coordinated entry helps agencies make informed and objective decisions to reduce burdens on people who can self-resolve and better assist people with higher needs.

The System Performance Measures are a census of persons experiencing homelessness. They include a de-duplicated count from HMIS and an annual Point in Time count to describe rarity. The average length of time people remain homeless describes brevity. The idea that homelessness is one time is described by exits to permanent destinations and returns to homelessness along with a count of people who are new to homelessness and growth in income.

These measures are designed to work at the community level and, although they are made up from the performance of many projects in the community they measure emergent properties. This means they cannot be simply understood as the sum of their parts. Measuring emergent properties also means they can not be broken out into agency level or individual level measures. These measures describe homelessness in the community.



Excluding domestic violence programs, 66% of overall program beds participate in the HMIS network. Contributing to that, 57% of emergency shelters, 71% of transitional housing, and 70% of permanent supportive housing programs participate in the network.

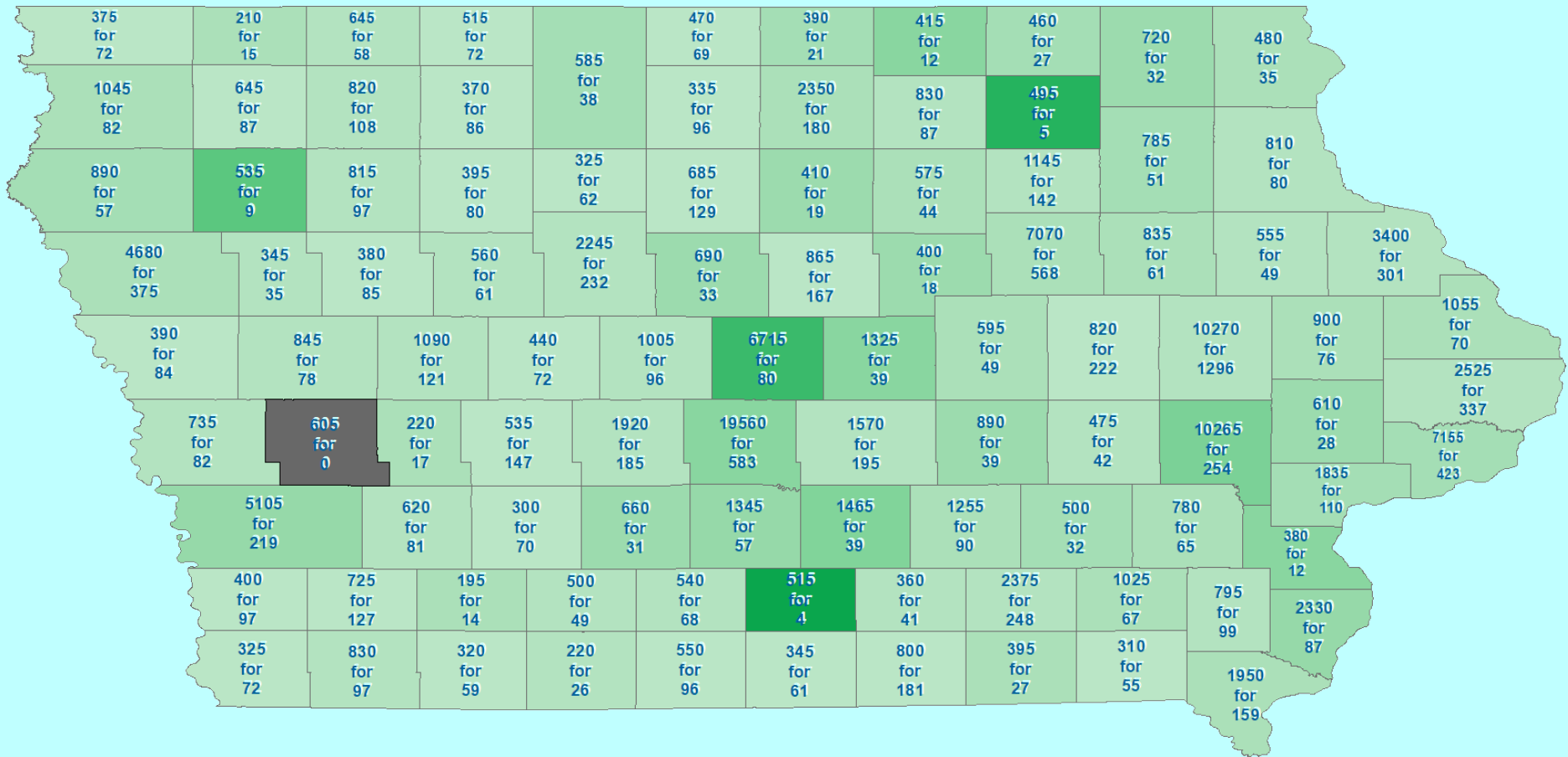
Participation Rates

	Balance of			
	State	Council Bluffs	Polk County	Siouxland
Emergency	55%	60%	84%	2%
Transitional	79%	42%	90%	75%
PSH	52%	61%	100%	44%
TOTAL	66%	56%	92%	34%

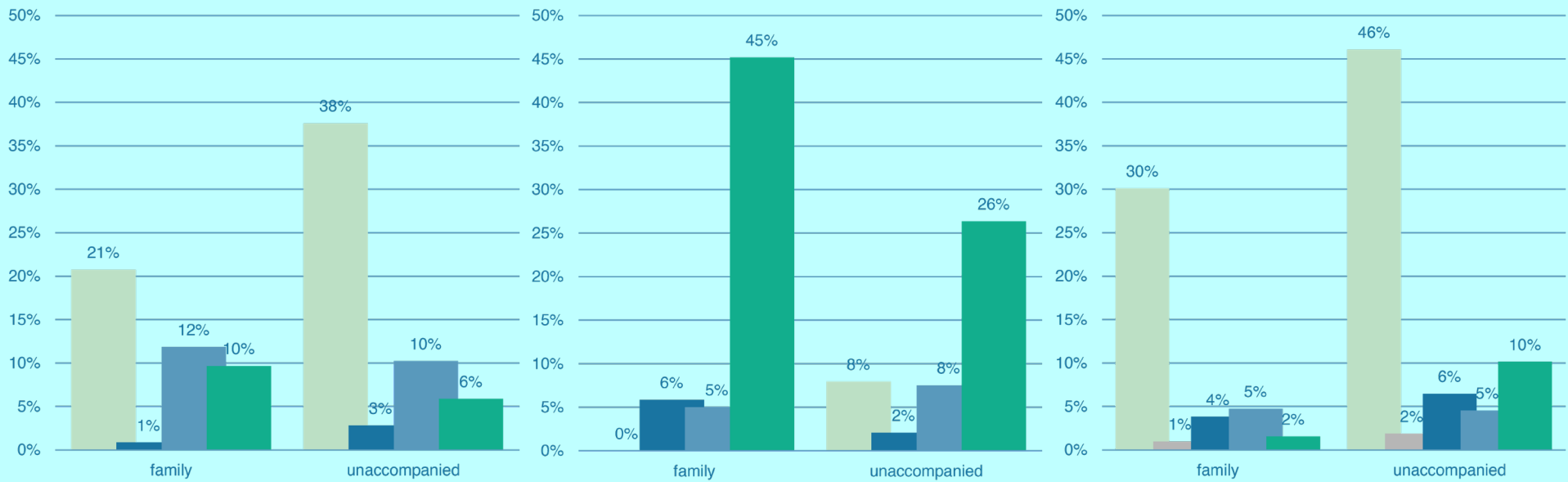
HOUSING

Households should be able to afford place to live costing no more than a third of their income. Households with incomes below 30% of the county median are at considerably more risk for homelessness than households with higher income. In each county, the number of households in this population is compared to the number of affordable units for this population.

The number of households living below 30% of median income “for” the number of affordable units available color coded so darker counties have a greater deficit.



FAMILIES

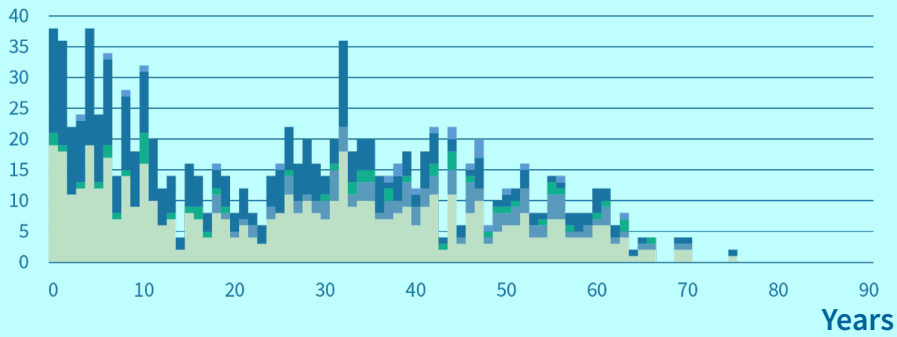


Balance of State

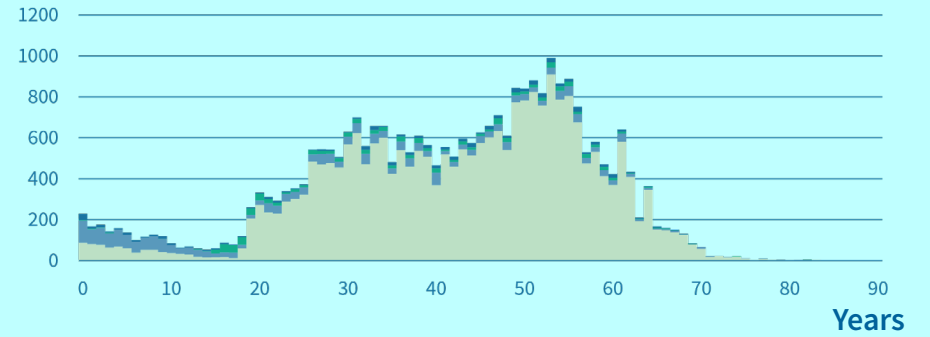
Siouxland

Polk County

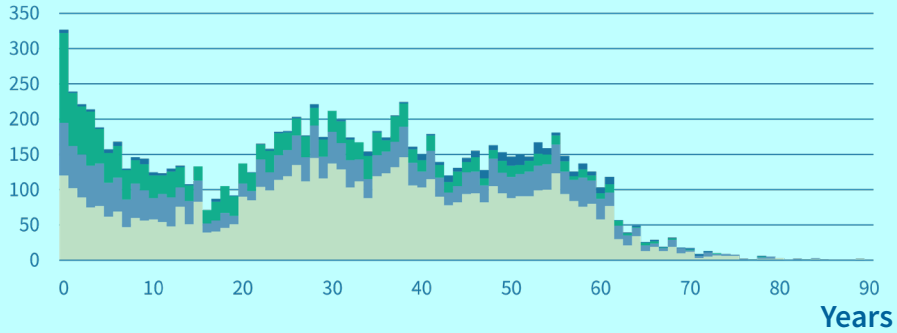
AGE AT ENTRY



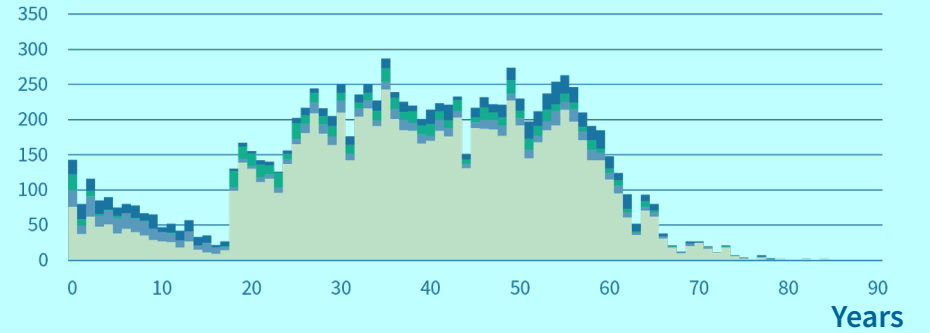
Siouxland



Council Bluffs



Balance of State



Polk County

Emergency Shelter

Permanent Supportive Housing

Rapid Re-Housing

Transitional Housing

LENGTH OF EPISODE

Average
for
Emergency

Balance
of State

37 days

Council
Bluffs

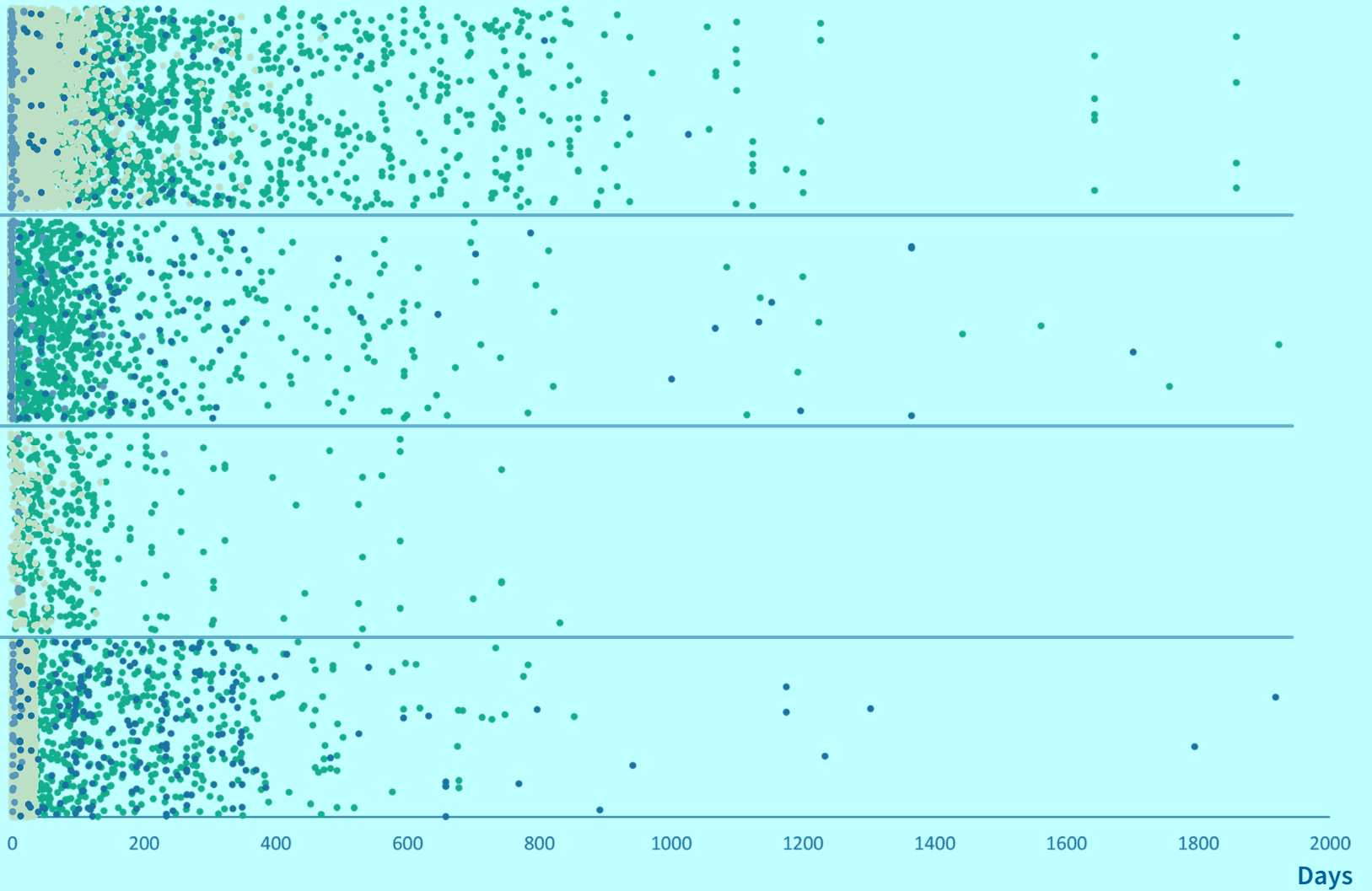
57 days

Siouxland

29 days

Polk
County

45 days



Emergency
Shelter

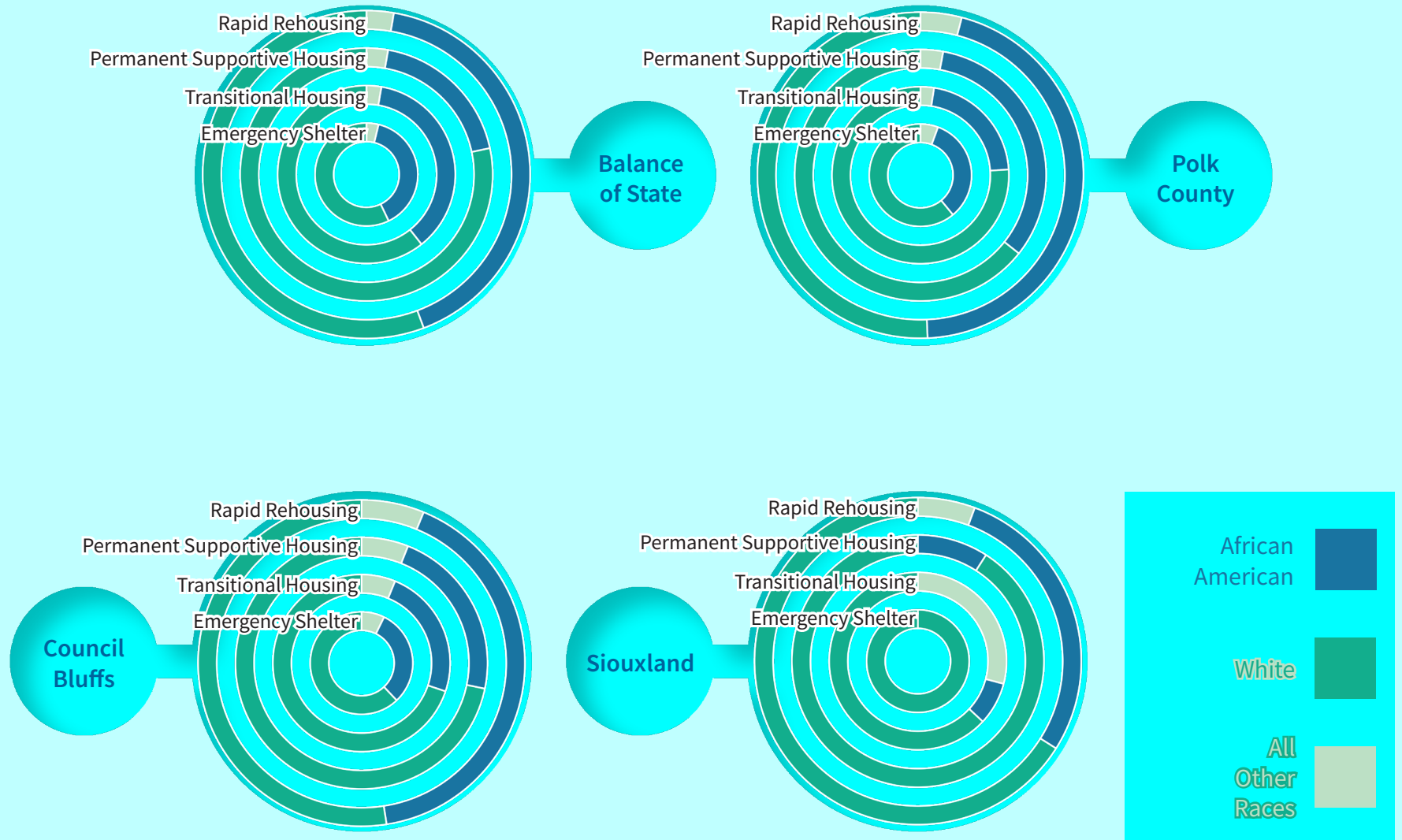
Transitional
Housing

Rapid
Re-Housing

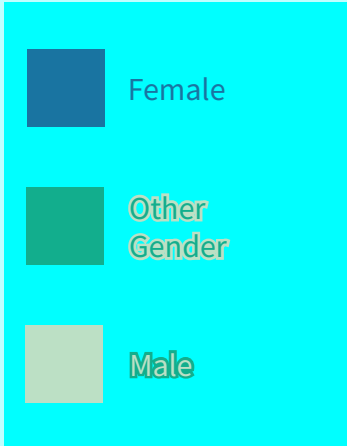
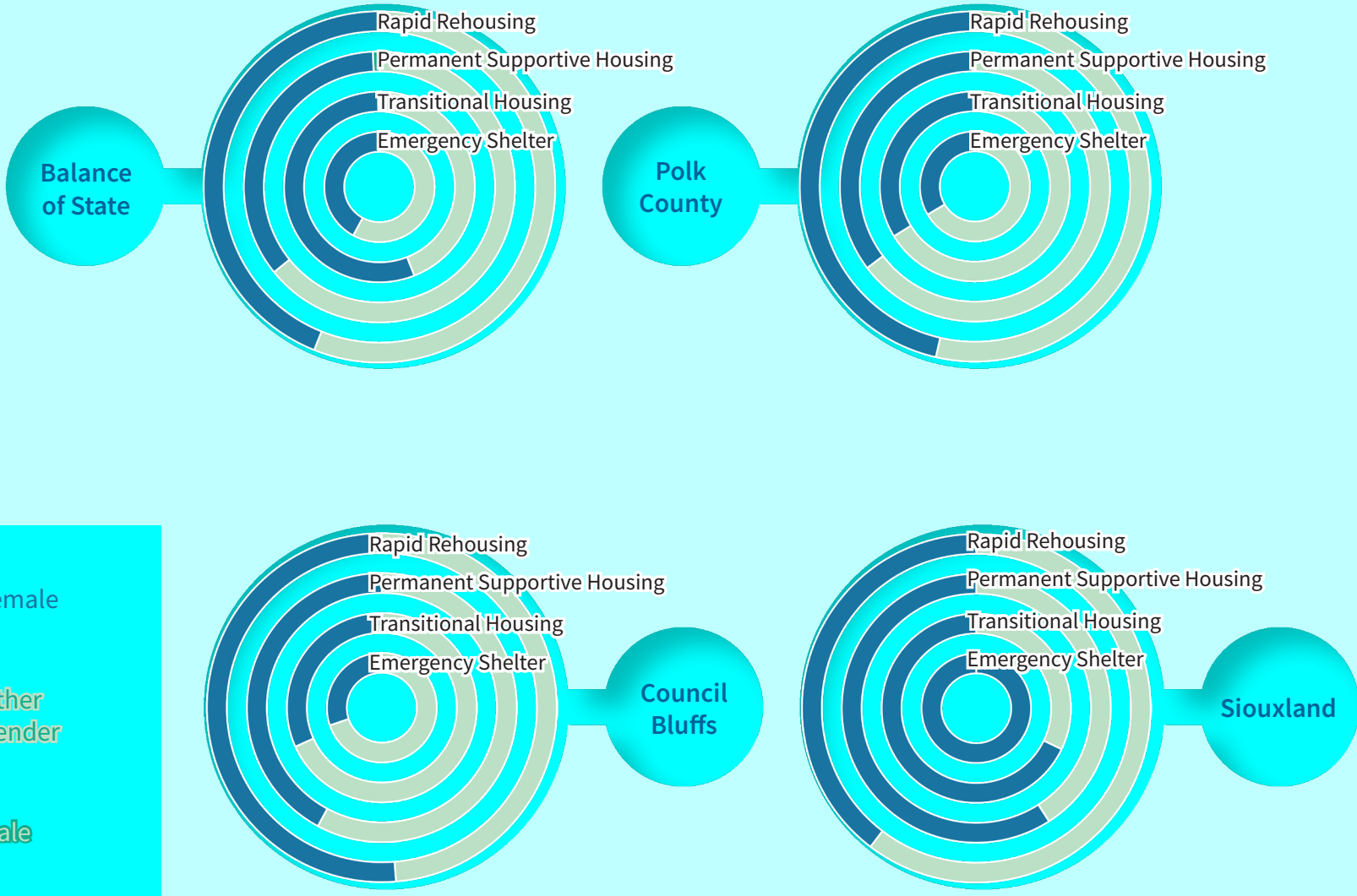
Permanent
Supportive
Housing



RACE & ETHNICITY



GENDER

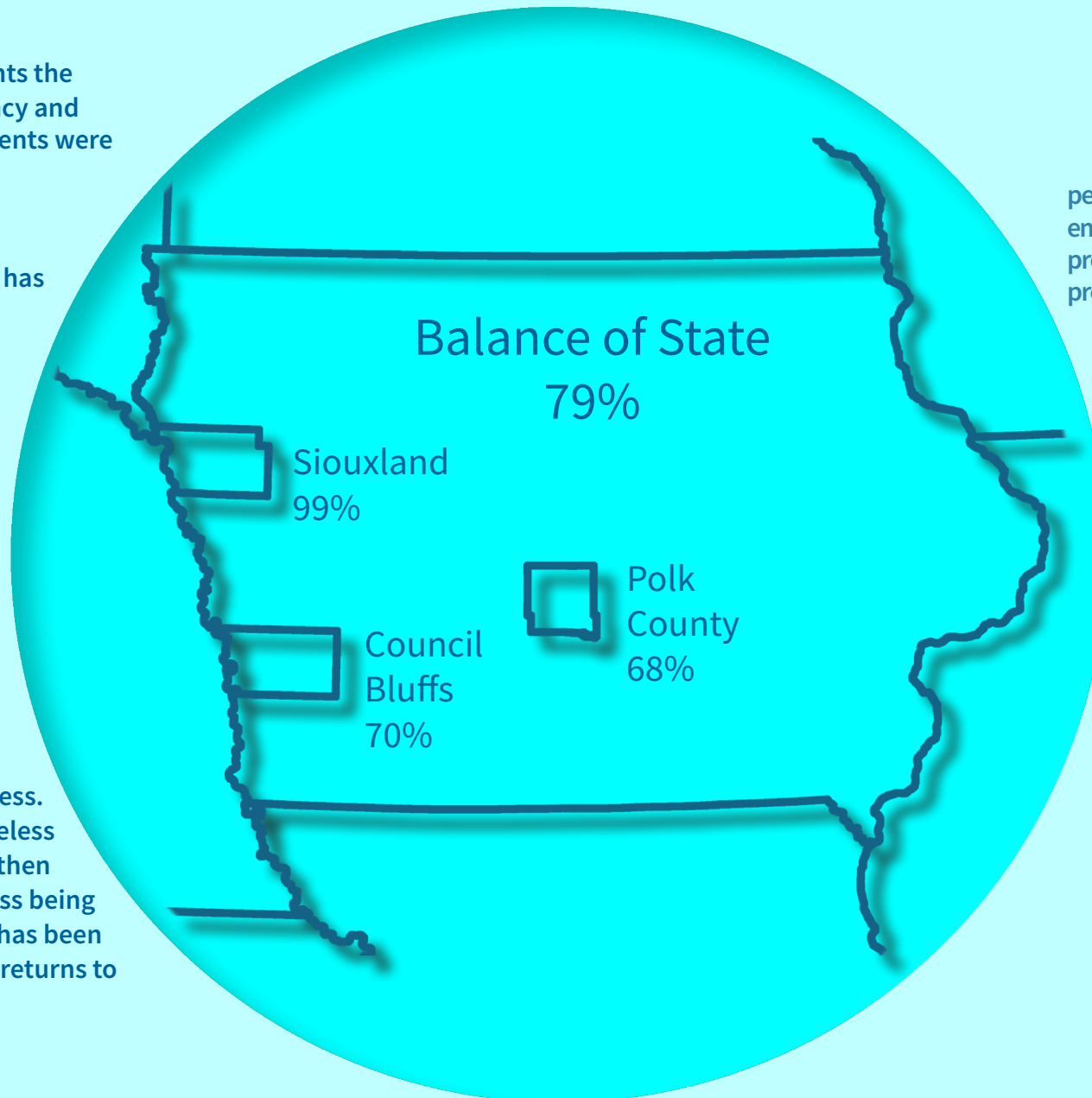


THE FIRST TIME

Each percent represents the de-duplicated emergency and transitional housing clients were first-time homeless.

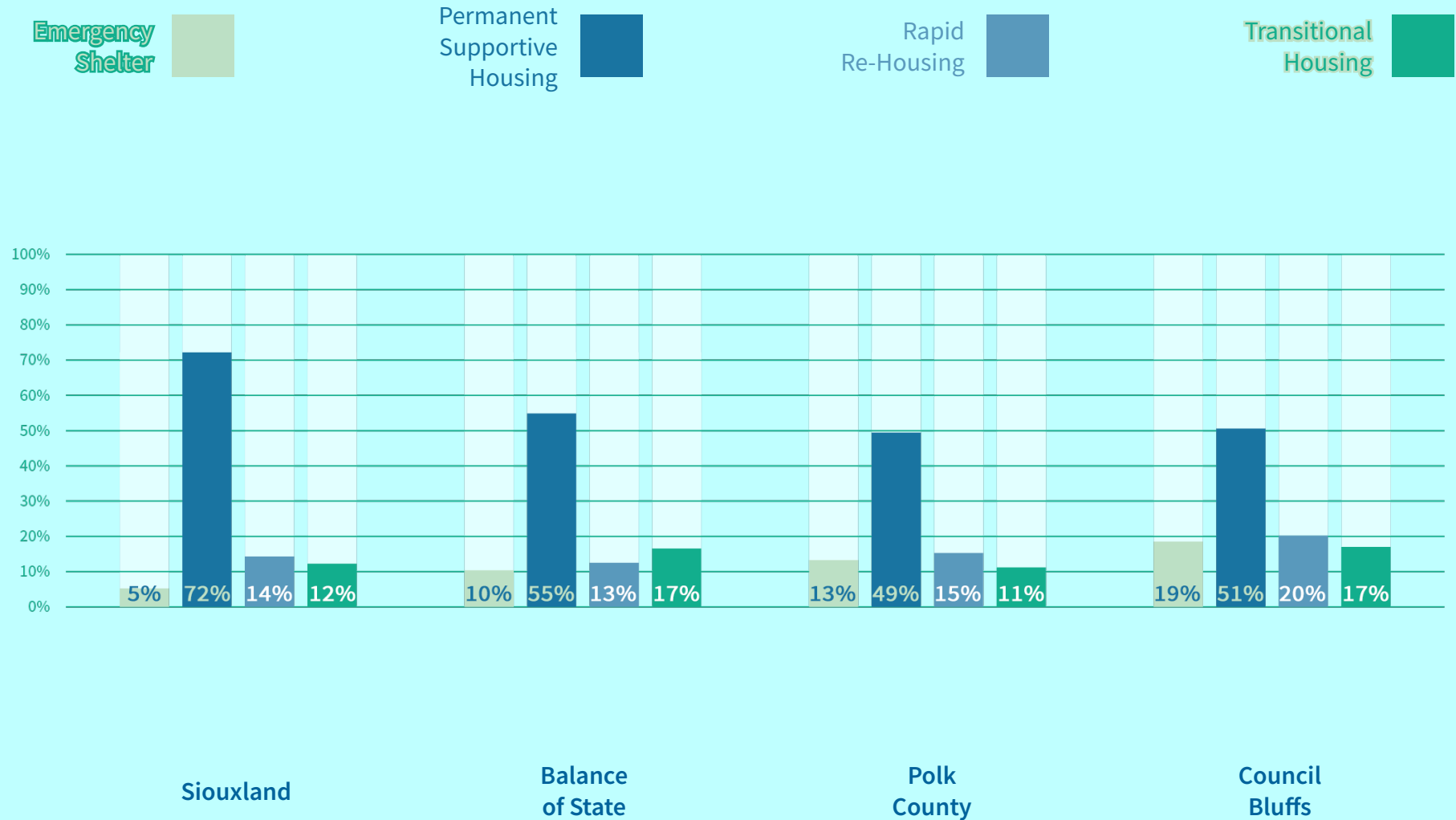
A two-year look-back determines if someone has been seen by providers in the CoC in the past. Reducing the number of people who become homeless for the first time is desirable. It may seem that the goal should be a low portion of first-time homelessness.

Perhaps counter-intuitively, the goal of this measure is a high rate of first-time homeless. For example, if all homeless episodes are first-time then the goal of homelessness being a one-time occurrence has been achieved. There are no returns to homelessness.



percent of persons entering emergency or transitional projects with no entries in the previous 24 months.

Percent of Persons in Projects who qualify as Chronic.



Cause of homelessness

Employment and Income

Health

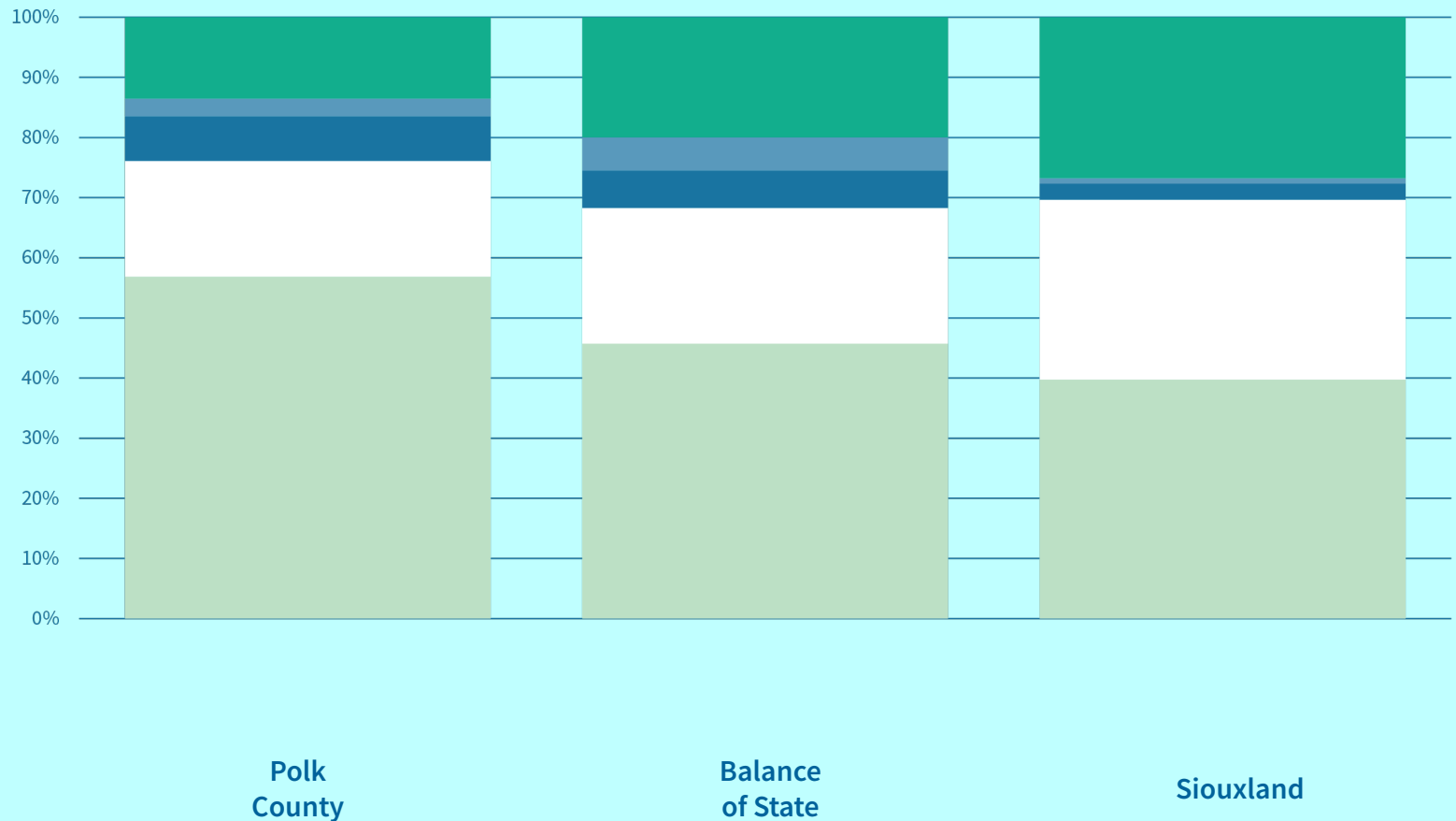
Legal

Other

Relationships

Many react to homelessness by seeking explanations, both to justify a sense of earned success, and to understand how others can experience hardship. Why is this person or family homeless while I am not?

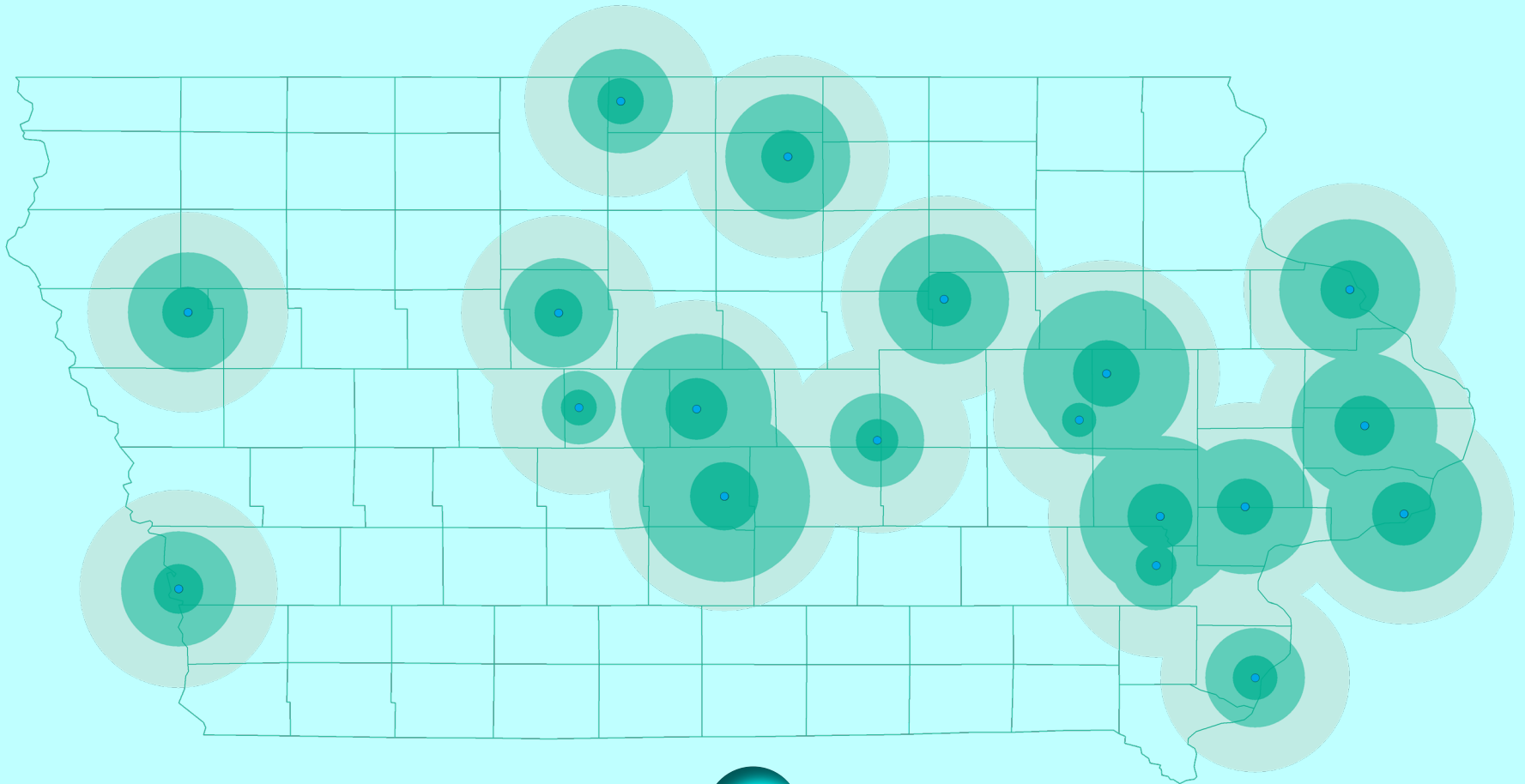
No person chooses homelessness. There is always some proxy explanation. These charts are based on what people feel is the cause of their homelessness. Most can be reduced to needing more money. Mental health and substance use is common among wealthy and comfortable people. Even mental health and substance abuse can be mitigated by social supports if there are resources.



MOBILITY

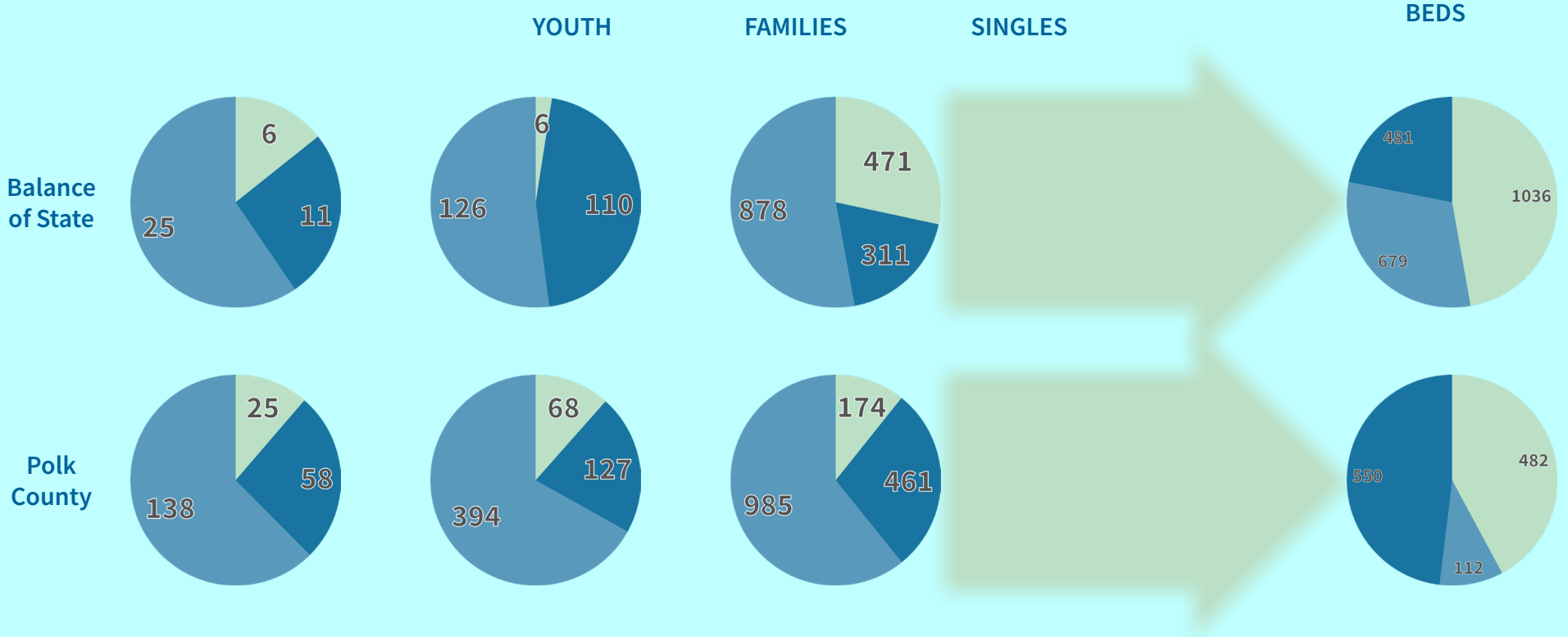
AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED FOR SERVICE

	Fewer than 20 Miles	20 to 50 Miles	More than 50 Miles
Balance of State	61%	12%	27%
Siouxland	2%	65%	34%
Polk County	71%	6%	23%
Council Bluffs	83%	3%	14%





VI-SPDAT SCORES

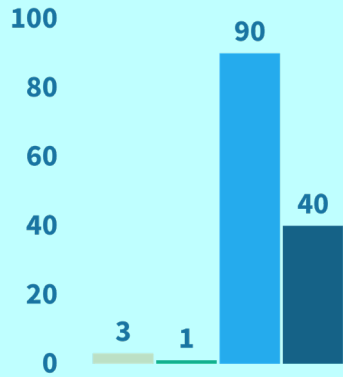


Coordination of services makes service providers more effective. Rather than people seeking services from whatever project they know about, people are referred to the best project type for their needs. People with more capacity to resolve their own problems are referred to emergency shelter. People with more needs are referred to permanent supportive housing. Intermediate needs are referred to rapid re-housing.

A vulnerability index and service provision decision assistance tool guides case managers. A series of questions assess the person’s needs and social resources. Because youth, families, and singles have different need/resource profiles there are different tools for each population.

This makes sure the available resources are going to the people most likely to benefit from them. Getting the system up and running has been a multi-year process. Each CoC is at a different stage in the process.

INCOME



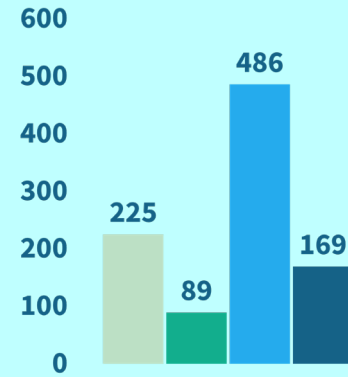
Siouxland

Adult Stayers

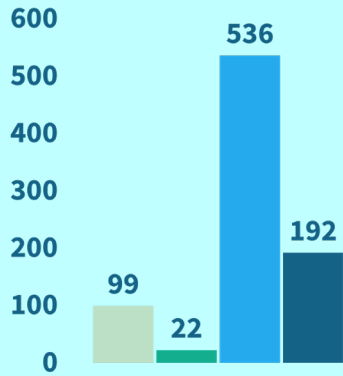
With Increased Income

Adult Leavers

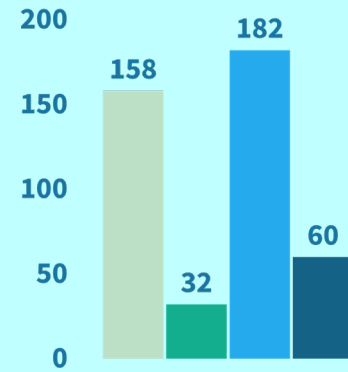
With Increased Income



Council Bluffs

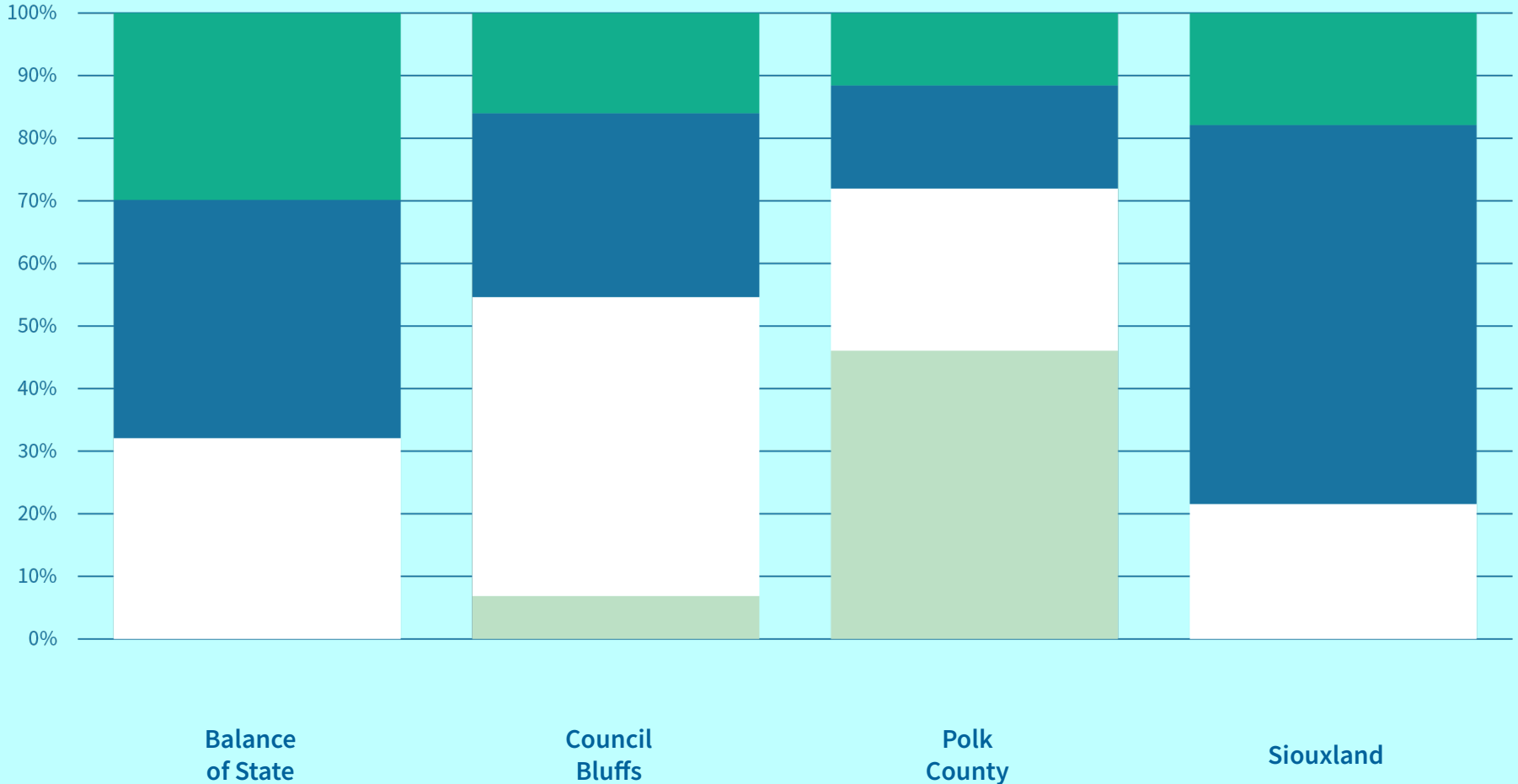


Balance of State



Polk County

DESTINATION AT EXIT (permanent placement)



RETURNING TO HOMELESSNESS

0-6 Months



6-12 Months



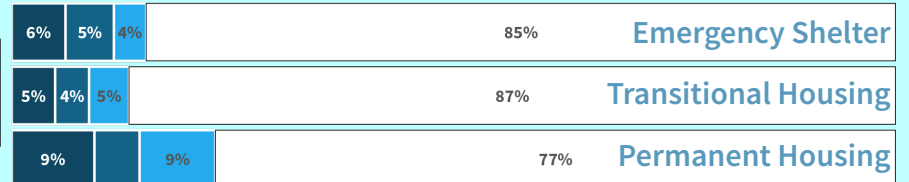
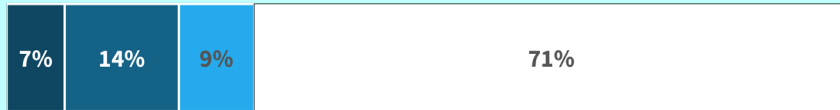
13-24 Months



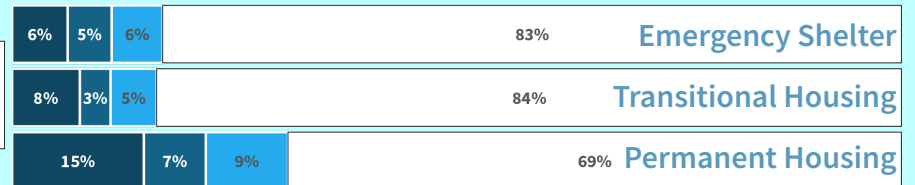
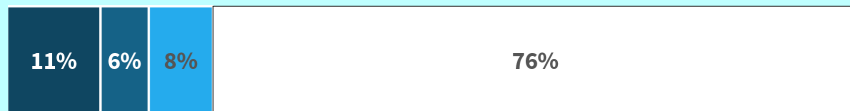
No Return



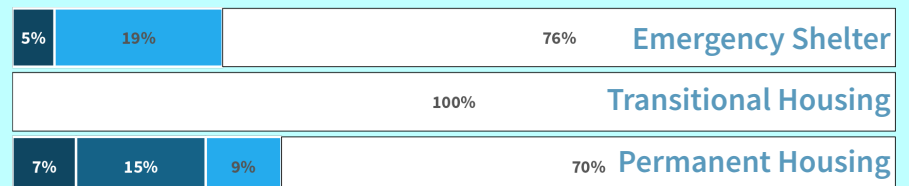
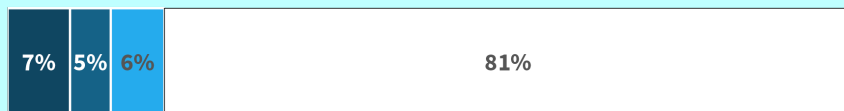
Balance of State



Polk County



Council Bluffs



**EVERYONE
DESERVES
A HOME**

