

Emergency Shelter

CITY OF PORTLAND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

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Homelessness in Portland: Single Adults

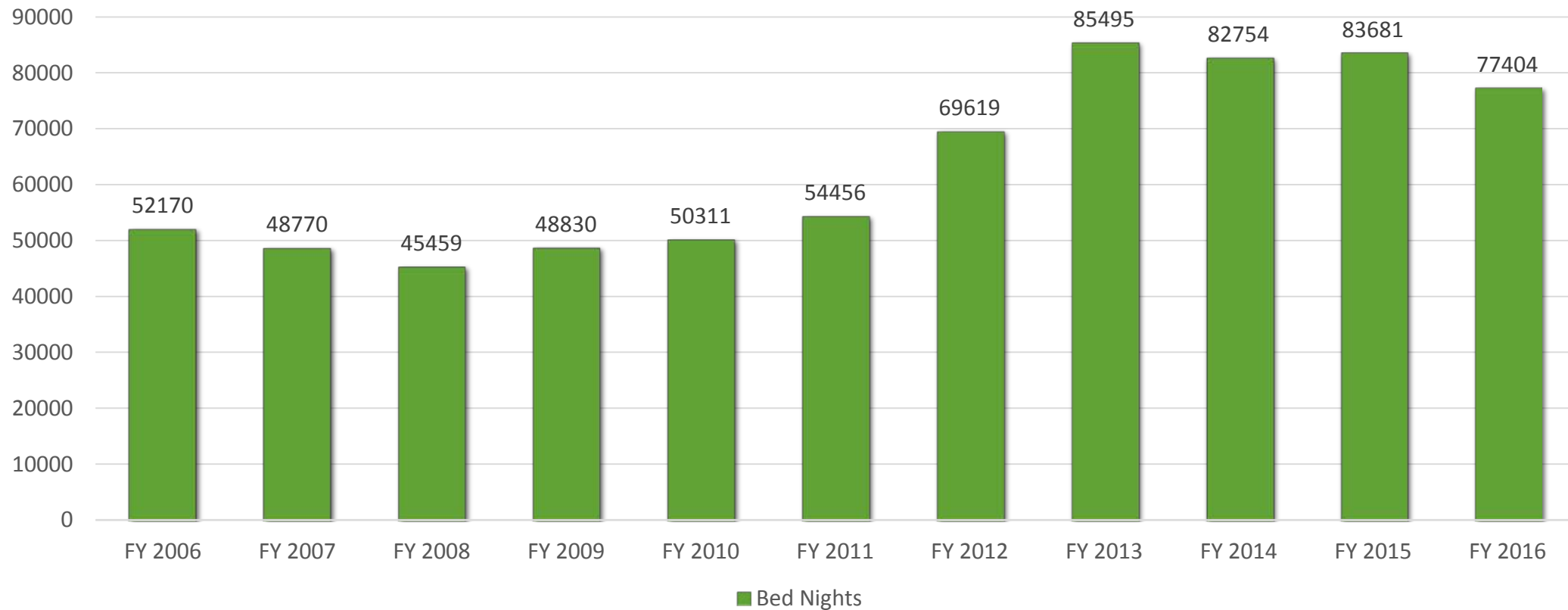
Oxford Street Shelter (OSS)

- Total Capacity: 229 Individuals
 - Shelter: 154
 - Overflow: 75 Individuals

The City of Portland's Health and Human Services Department, Social Services Division operates the Oxford Street Shelter, which is the largest emergency shelter in the State of Maine. This low-barrier shelter provides safe, temporary housing for homeless adults. The Shelter offers a variety of support services to assist homeless individuals enhance their self-esteem, secure housing, and work towards a self-sufficiency plan.



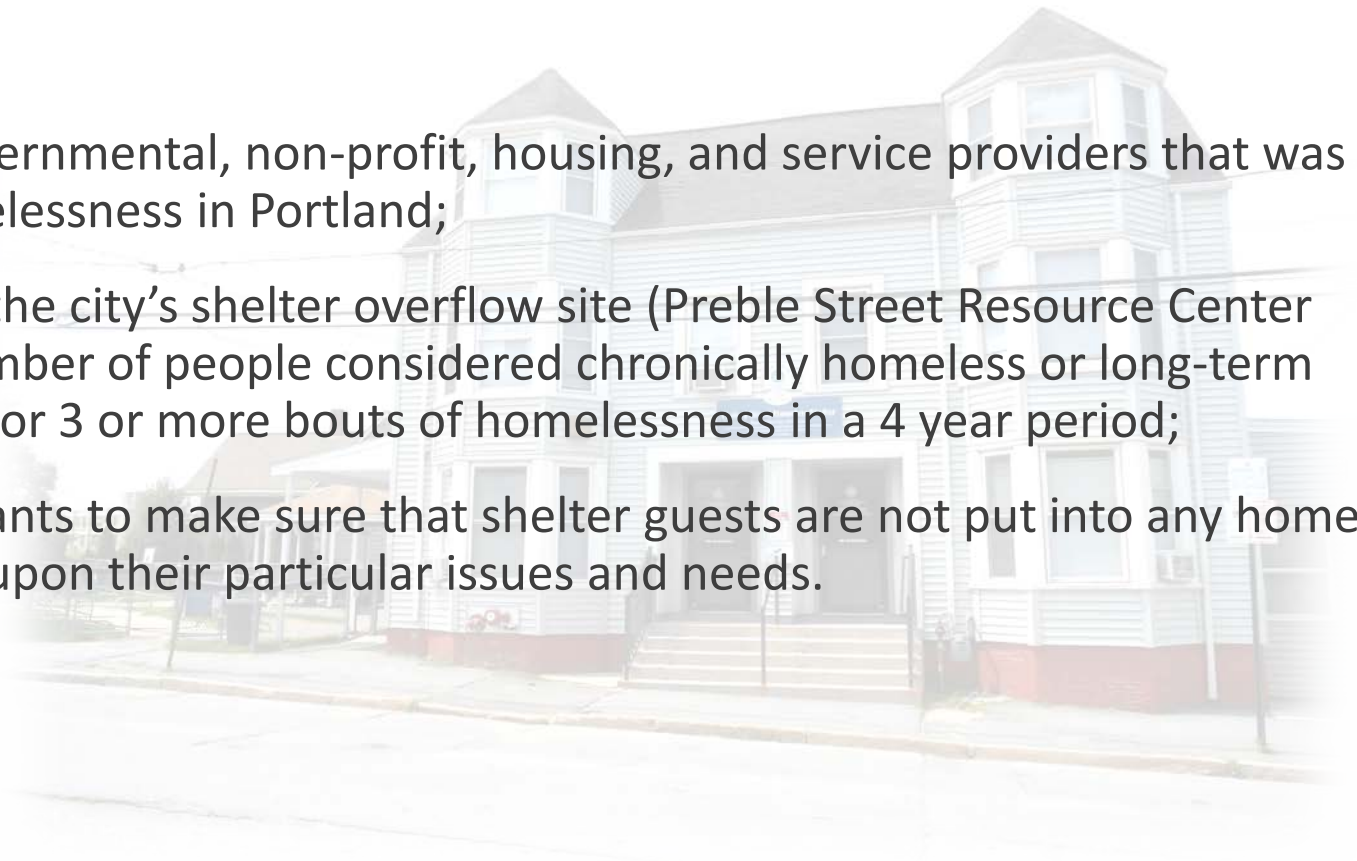
Homelessness in Portland: Oxford Street Shelter Occupancy



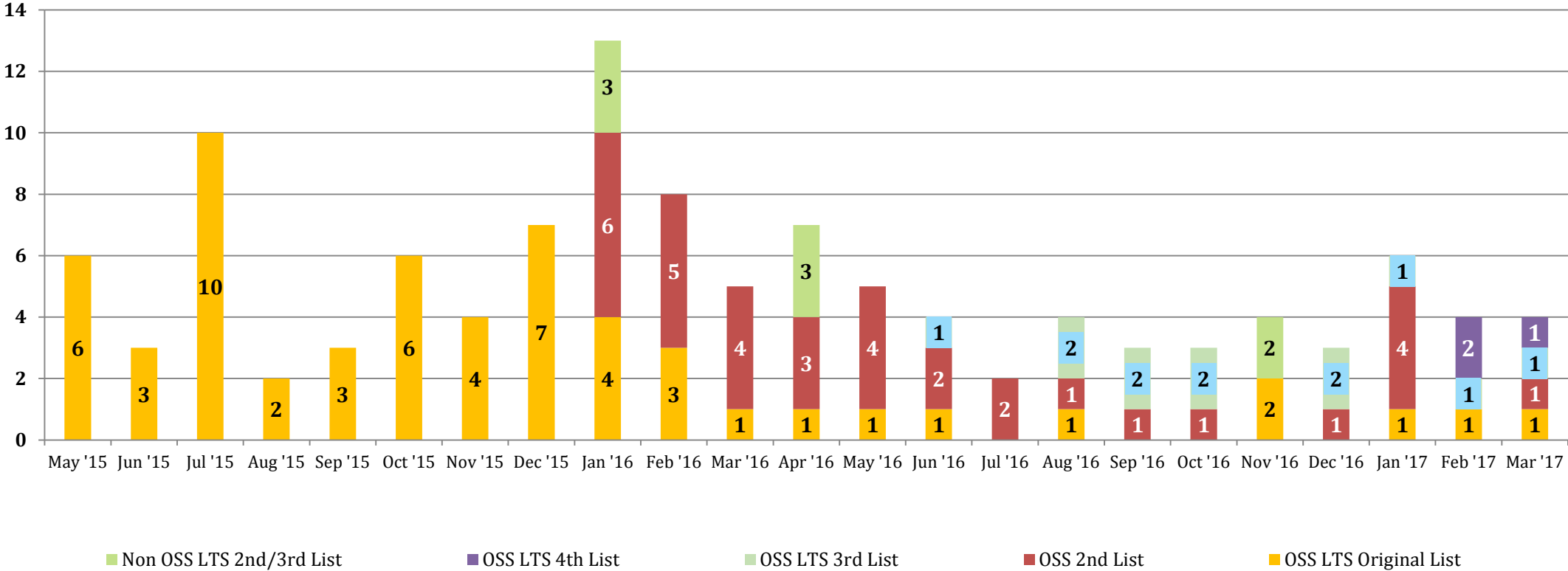
Long Term Stayers Initiative

Long Term Stayers Initiative (LTS)

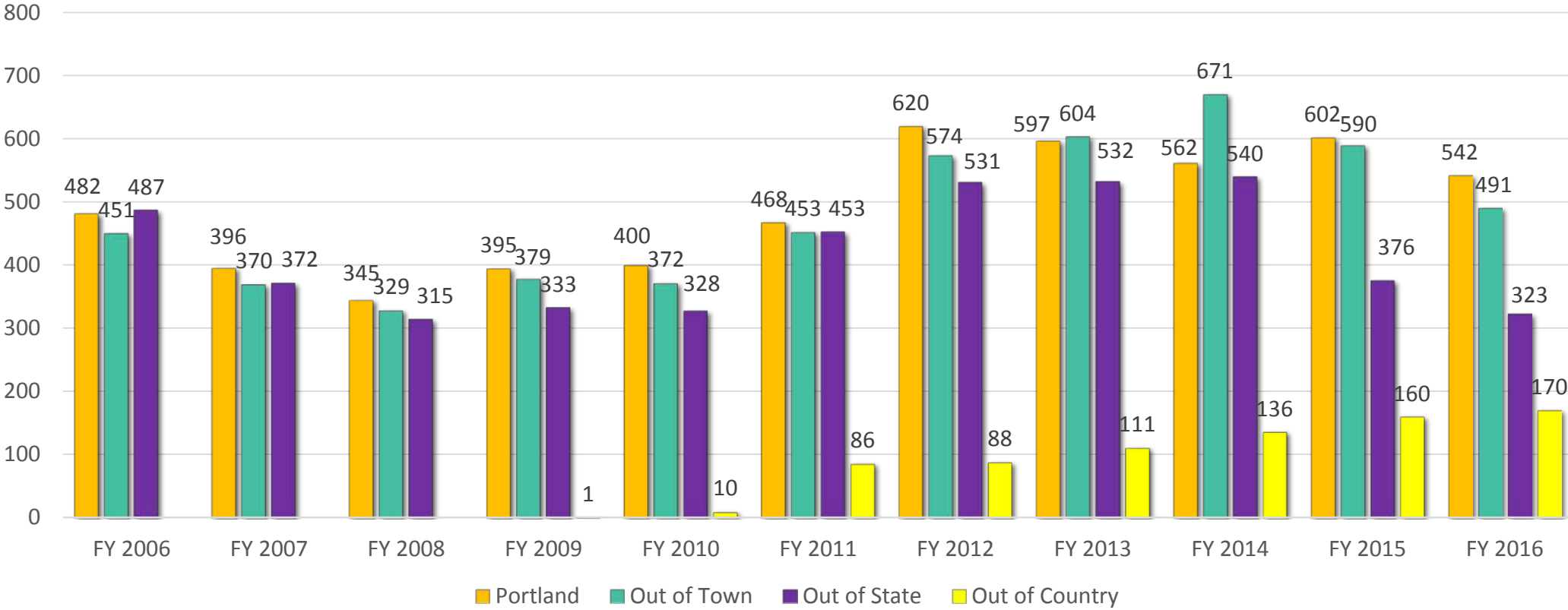
- A collaboration of multiple different governmental, non-profit, housing, and service providers that was born in 2015 to address the rise in homelessness in Portland;
- The number of people needing mats at the city's shelter overflow site (Preble Street Resource Center Day Room) was roughly equal to the number of people considered chronically homeless or long-term homeless (over 180 bed nights in a year or 3 or more bouts of homelessness in a 4 year period);
- Although using a housing first model, wants to make sure that shelter guests are not put into any home but into the best home available based upon their particular issues and needs.



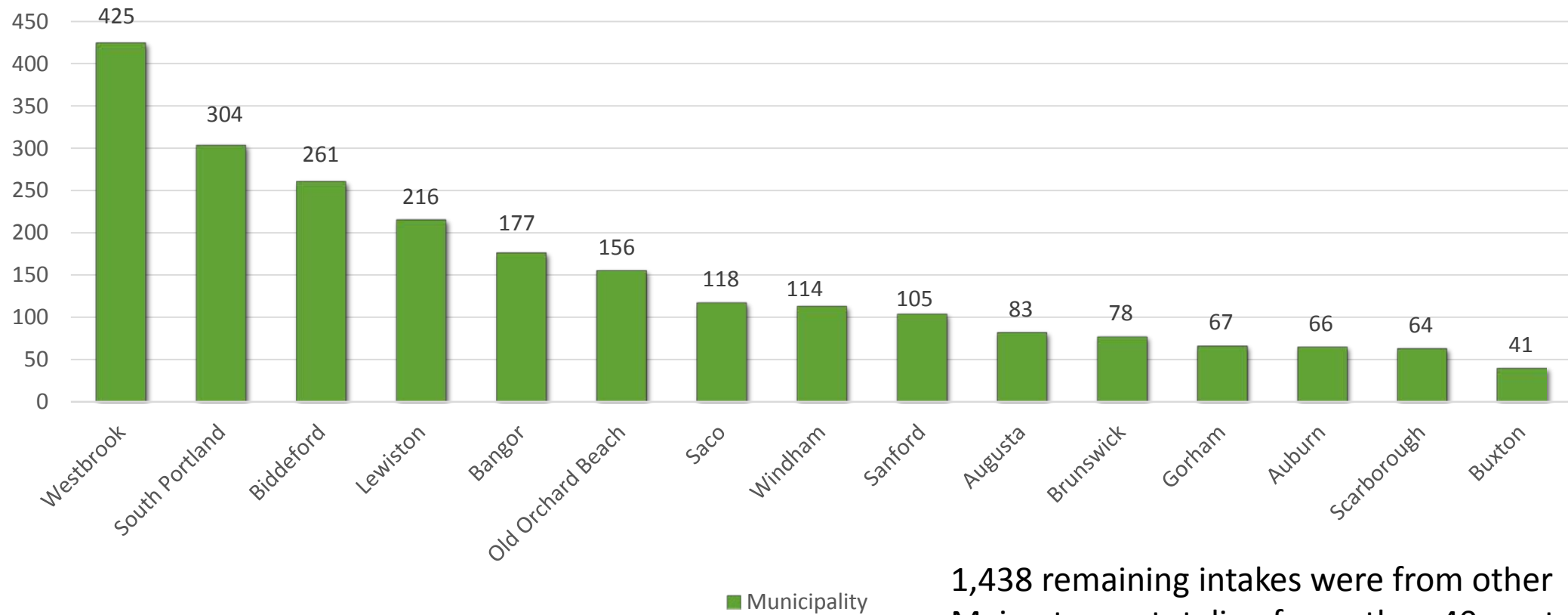
Oxford Street Shelter: Long Term Stayers



Homelessness in Portland: OSS Intakes



Homelessness in Portland: OSS Intakes from Other Maine Towns 2011-2016



1,438 remaining intakes were from other Maine towns totaling fewer than 40 per town.

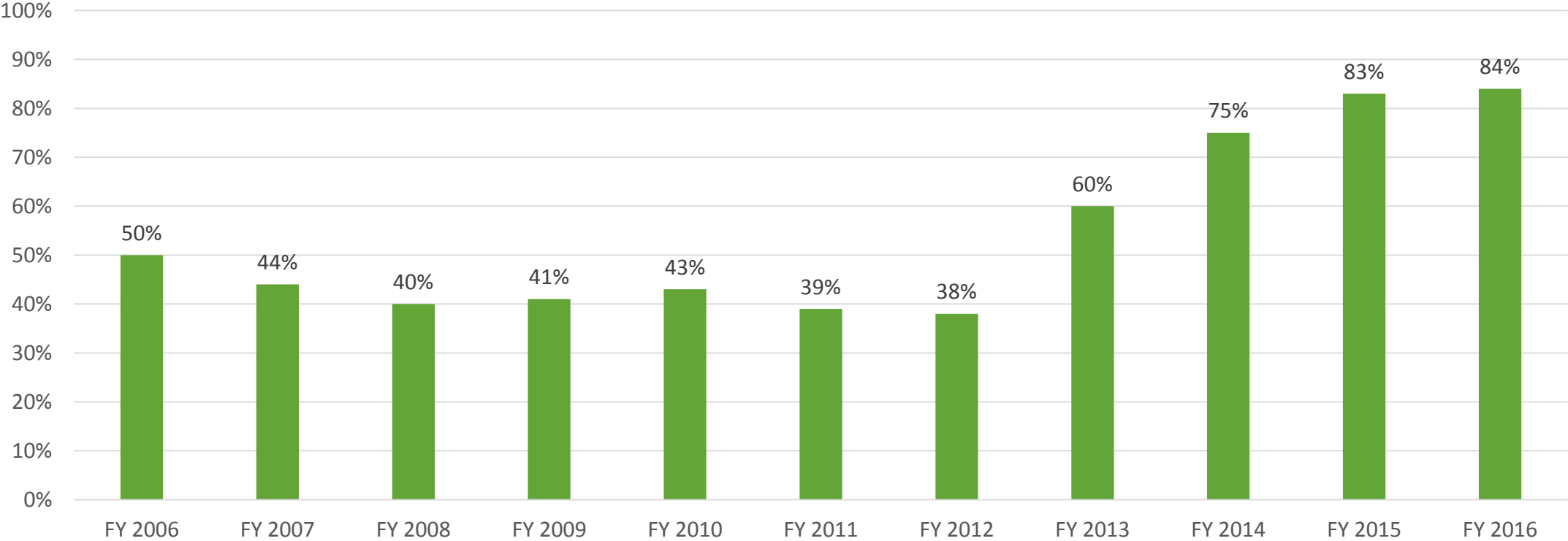
Homelessness in Portland: Substance Use

Addiction

- Historically, alcohol was the primary substance used by residents of the shelter. In the past five years, that has shifted to opioids and synthetic drugs.
- Overdoses and blood-borne illnesses are concerns facing our client population.
- With the increase of overdoses inside the shelter, staff have been trained on how to use Narcan in a emergency.
- Noticeable increase in Medcu calls in the neighborhood with layouts, overdoses and seizures on the sidewalks.
- Individuals choosing to sleep on the streets and not seeking shelter in order to continue substance use.
- Folks choosing to sleep on the streets and not seeking shelter in order to continue substance use.
- Increased calls for service for PPD from assaults.
- Lack of healthcare and resources for treatment when individuals are seeking help

Homelessness in Portland: Substance Use

Clients Indicating Substance Use



Homelessness in Portland: Families

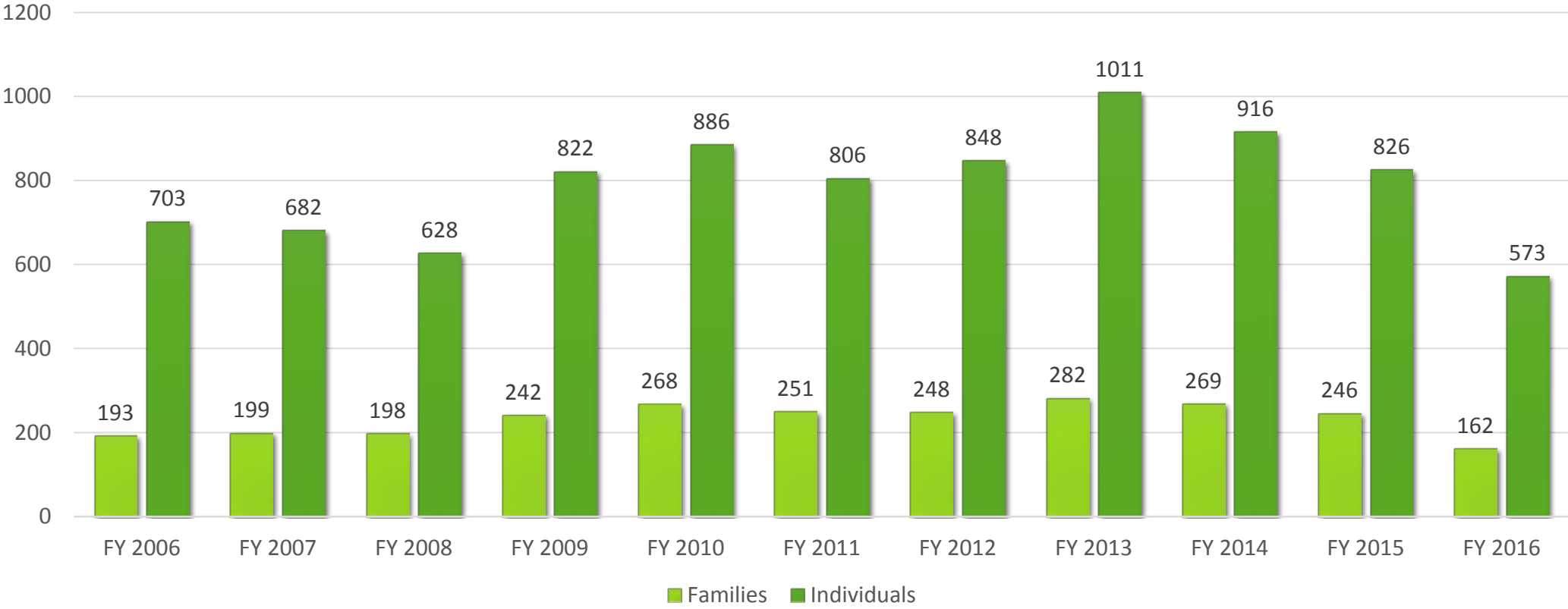
Family Shelter

- Total Capacity 124+*
- Shelter: 109
- Hotels: 15**
 - *The shelter operates a warmer center at various locations which gives shelter above capacity from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am
 - **The FS is eliminating all hotels with the addition of a building, changing the capacity to 147 with the ability to offer our own warming center.

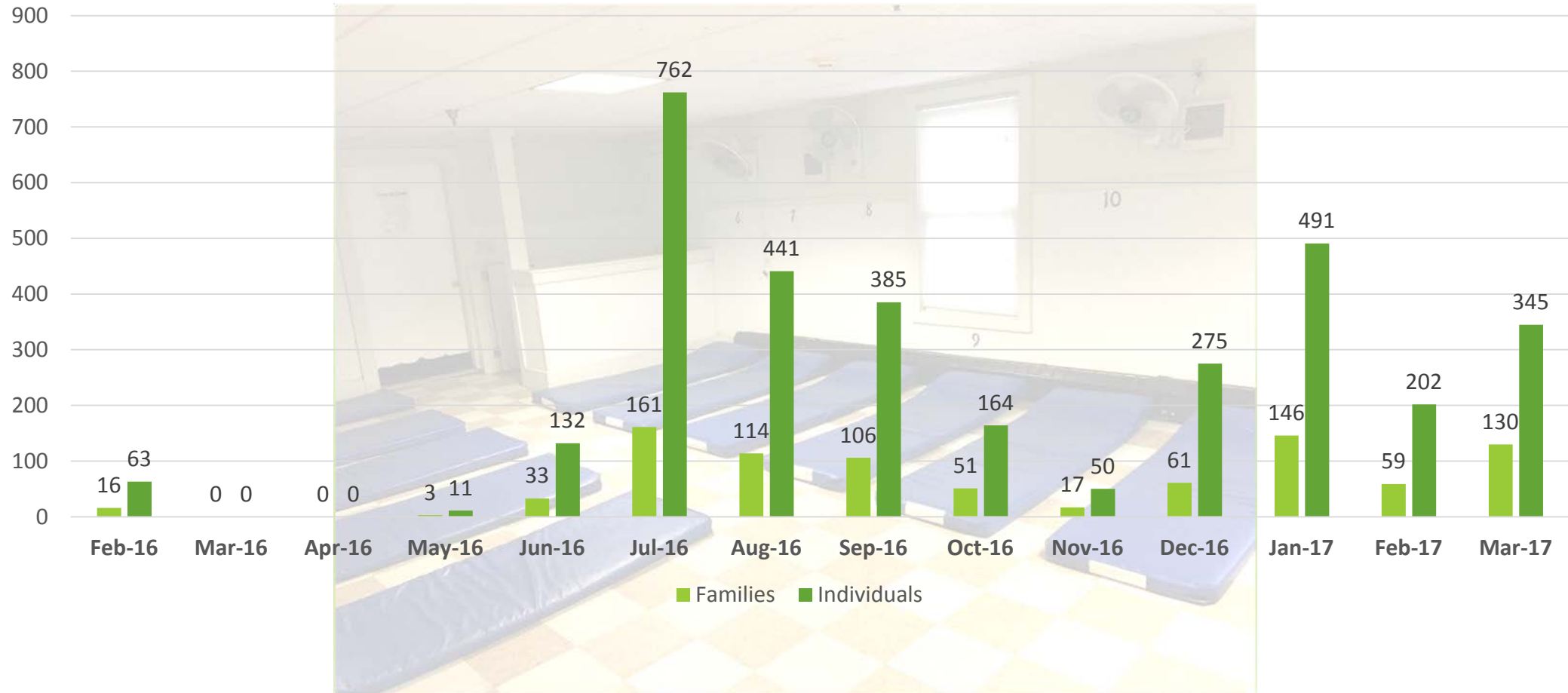
The City of Portland's Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division operates the Family Shelter, which is the largest shelter for families in the State of Maine. The Family Shelter offers both preventative services for families at risk of experiencing homelessness and support services to assist families locate housing and achieve stability.



Homelessness in Portland: Family Shelter



Family Shelter: Warming Center Bed Nights



Homelessness in Portland: Immigration

Shift from Secondary Migrants to Asylum Seeking Visa Holders

- The city of Portland Family Shelter started to track B visa families in 2010. Since then we have had hundreds of visa families enter our shelter and have secured permanent housing.
- The Visa families are fleeing from several African Countries, such as: Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Cong, Djibouti, and Angola. The Family Shelter has had success housing these families via General Assistance, but housing has become increasingly difficult.
- The Visa families are only eligible for Fair Market rents through General Assistance and are not eligible for rental programs such as: STEP (Stability Through Engagement Program), HCV (Housing Choice Voucher), Shelter + Care, and BRAP (Bridging Rental Assistance Program).
- The impact for Portland if the General Assistance Program were to go away or Visa families were no longer eligible would mean Visa families would become stagnant in the shelter system.



Family Shelter: Non-Citizens

