



# Executive Summary prepared for the 2016 State of the State

The New Jersey Reentry Corporation

# Addiction and Reentry Statistics

**19%**

JCETP/NJRC Recidivism rate

**67.8%**

of state prisoners released in 2005 were rearrested within three years of release.<sup>5</sup>

\*Cooper, A.D., Durose, M.R. & Snyder, H.N. (2014). Bureau of Justice Statistics. Recidivism Of Prisoners Released In 30 States In 2005: Patterns From 2005 To 2010

**58%**

JCETP/NJRC Employment Placement

\*For comparison, according to the most recent data available from the State of New Jersey, Release Outcome 2010 Report, 53% of released individuals are rearrested within three years.

**404**

clients were served in 2015

**2,349**

individuals sought treatment at Integrity House in 2014

**85%**

of inmates are substance-involved (CASAColumbia 2010)

**47.4%**

of Essex County Drug deaths in 2014 were due to heroin

**50%**

of Ocean County Drug deaths in 2014 were due to heroin

**48.4%**

of Hudson County Drug deaths in 2014 were due to heroin

**70%**

of Passaic County Drug deaths in 2014 were due to heroin

\*For each of these counties, heroin resulted in a higher instance of death than any other drug.



Jim McGreevey and Governor Chris Christie

## Employment and Treatment: Pathways to Reducing Addiction and Recidivism

*Building Blocks that the New Jersey Reentry Corporation is Utilizing To Transform the Lives of Court Involved Individuals*

Reentry and addiction treatment is everyone's business, at least in New Jersey. From humble inauspicious beginnings in the Hudson County Jail to partnering with Jersey City, to adopting the model statewide, the New Jersey Reentry Corporation has incorporated proven "best practices" to treat addiction that reduce the likelihood of formerly incarcerated citizens relapsing, committing new crimes and returning to prison.

As the old spiritual says: "we fall down, we get up." Making mistakes is part of life; yet, the New Jersey Reentry Corporation understands the importance of assisting formerly incarcerated persons in not repeating their mistakes. For individuals who battle addiction, the stakes are even higher. When an addicted person falls down, the landing place is often in the criminal justice system, and in the most extreme cases, death. We are working everyday to combat this process through treatment and other supportive services.

With over seventy percent of our clients facing some form of addiction, we provide treatment through Integrity House and Eva's Village. Working with the New Jersey Department of Human Services and County Social Services, we refer clients for safe, structured, and sober transitional housing. And, working with the New Jersey Department of Labor One Stop Operators, we offer training and job referrals that place our employment numbers around 58%.

We are proud of the work accomplished by our Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) team throughout the past year; and, more importantly, of the lives we have touched. Our mission at JCETP is to fight for the court involved addicted individual. We help our clients ensure their sobriety, reside in structured housing, and access job training and employment. Additionally, our partnership with the New Jersey State Bar Association enables clients to clean up the legal wreckage of their past lives.

We would like to thank our state's elected leadership. Through the cooperation of Governor

Christie, Speaker Vincent Prieto and Senate President Stephen Sweeney, we are re-imagining how reentry works. With the assistance of Hudson County and the United States Department of Justice we are engaging in some landmark changes.

The NJRC is placing court involved individuals on a pathway to productive livelihood. Through job training partners, who offer certification in various in-demand fields, such as transportation distribution and logistics (TDL), carpentry, automation, technology and lean manufacturing, we are providing sustainable work to transform lives.

We are replicating the success of the model that Mayor Fulop created with County Executive DeGise in Hudson County. The NJRC model is being replicated in Newark with Mayor Baraka and County Executive DiVincenzo, in Paterson with Mayor Torres and the Freeholder Board, in Toms River with Mayor Kelaher and the Freeholder Board in addition to all of our partners such as Barnabas Health and individual employers.

I believe what we are doing here in New Jersey with the NJRC reentry model is something that works. The NJRC is demonstrably lowering recidivism and is enabling people to have a fresh start and a new beginning by giving them the skills and the treatment necessary to rebuild their lives, all while making government work.

We are excited to share our results and activities from the past year with you, our partners, constituents and community members, in gratitude, and also as a reminder of the important work we are doing in transforming lives of our formerly incarcerated citizens, many of whom are struggling with addiction.



## Brenna's Story

Brenna was a 5th grade teacher with multiple advanced degrees, a fiancée, two cars, and on her way to being tenured. She had no idea that a small fender bender would completely change her life. After the accident, a girlfriend suggested she go to the doctor that she worked for to receive medical treatment. Even though she had no serious physical injuries, the doctor prescribed her sixty Oxycontin pills. Brenna had never taken opiates, and despite having experimented with marijuana and a few other substances, she never had any sense that she had an issue with substance abuse. However, after the first oxy pill she was hooked.

Soon enough her fiancée was taking them with her recreationally every weekend -- and then the weekend turned into every morning, and every morning became all day every day. When Brenna had a falling out with her drug supplier (her friend at the doctor's office) she had to turn to a more "traditional" drug dealer who gave her and her fiancée heroin to sniff to reduce their withdrawal symptoms. Brenna started getting arrested for stealing to support her habit. She became a frequent flyer in the court system for shoplifting and minor theft, and after assaulting a security guard at a T.J. MAXX she was sentenced to a three year prison sentence. To avoid being fired, Brenna quit teaching (but not before the Department of Education revoked her teaching license).

Upon release Brenna was referred to Integrity House where she received addiction treatment and began to reflect on who she had become, reconciling it with her preconceptions of who addicts are. "Nobody wants to be an addict, it's not their dream. What some people, even some people in my own family, don't accept is that it's a disease, it's genetic. I didn't have a bad childhood, my parents weren't addicts. I'm just predisposed." Brenna has worked hard to get her life back together, and we are proud to announce that she has been recently hired as the Intake Coordinator at our Toms River NJRC Location.

## Introduction

The tragic link between unemployment, addiction, and incarceration is more than just a statistical novelty. It is the grueling, cyclical, and too often deadly reality that men and women with court involvement face everyday. The past five years have been a perfect storm for those without the shelter of stable communities and social capital to keep them out of the addiction-to-prison pipeline. A broken economy, easier access to hard drugs (especially heroin and prescription opioids), and a booming prison industry have created a public health and safety crisis of unrivaled proportions in the United States. According to a CASAColumbia report published in 2010, "of the 2.3 million inmates crowding our nation's prisons and jails, 85% were substance-involved; 1.5 million met the

DSM-IV medical criteria for substance abuse or addiction."<sup>1</sup> In response to this epidemic that has received national attention, agencies like NJRC and JCETP are working hard to change things for the better.

This past year 2015 saw drug treatment and justice reform become virtually the only bipartisan issues in the United States. Issues such as the heroin crisis, prescription opioid addiction, mandatory prison sentences, solitary confinement, and excessive sentences for drug offenders were publicly discussed with nearly unanimous agreement that change is needed. Whether you were watching John Oliver on HBO, Hillary Clinton or Chris Christie on CNN or Fox News, or our own Jim McGreevey on MSNBC, the message was



clear: the prison system and the way we handle addiction in this nation is broken. What wasn't agreed upon is how we fix it.

New Jersey Reentry Corporation's (NJRC) mission is simple. Find out what works to help men and women with court involvement reintegrate into society and manage their addiction issues and provide those services. According to the 2014 task force report by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, "in recent years, New Jersey has experienced a dramatic surge in heroin and opiate abuse, particularly among persons aged 18-25."<sup>2</sup> This is true across the state of New Jersey but especially in Toms River, which leads Ocean County in the number of heroin related deaths. It ranks among the top 10 towns in NJ battling the rise in heroin use, in addition to Newark, Jersey City and Paterson, according to the Division of Addiction Services in the New Jersey Department of Human Services. NJRC has worked tirelessly

## A Timeline of Our Events in 2015



### FEBRUARY

**Feb. 2, 2015**  
Walmart Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Grant

**Feb. 28, 2015**  
Statewide Attorney Reentry Training

**Feb. 2015**  
Building Trades Veteran Apprenticeship Fair



### MARCH

**March 4, 2015**  
NJMVC partnership began providing services to clients to restore licenses



### APRIL

**April 1, 2015**  
CDBG Grant

**April 2, 2015**  
Hosted our second reentry conference at St. Peters University (Mike Tyson)



### JUNE

**June 1, 2015**  
NJ BUILD Grant



### JULY

**July 1, 2015**  
PEPP Year 2 Grant

**July 1, 2015**  
Out of School Youth Grant

to sort out what works and what does not work in addiction treatment, and we are proud to be evidence based and outcomes oriented. We view addiction treatment, employment and housing as a three legged stool with each being essential to support successful reintegration for formerly incarcerated individuals with addiction.

In accordance with recommendations from the CASAColumbia findings<sup>1</sup>, we employ and partner with trained healthcare professionals who assess clients with addiction and co-occurring mental health problems. We ensure a continuum of care for individuals who are referred to us before release so that their in-prison treatment is not interrupted in their transition back into the community. Our partner in delivering these treatment plans include Integrity House, C-line, Kaleidoscope Health Care and Jersey City Medical Center. This executive summary provides the highlights from our top programs and partnerships, both narratively

discussing our progress and operations, as well as sharing our program outcomes from the year.

## Integrity House

As the Jersey City community continues to be diverse and full of promising developments, it also continues to struggle with a multitude of on-going substance abuse issues, increasing crime rates, high levels of poverty/homelessness and the lack of adequate employment opportunities. Throughout the last 24 months, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program/NJRC and Integrity House have collaborated in addressing a number of the issues affecting the day-to-day livelihood of the Hudson County residents.

Integrity House is the NJRC's Jersey City current provider of evidence-based addictions treatment for both men and women in need of outpatient treatment. Jersey City Employment and Training



### AUGUST

**August 1, 2015**  
DCA NJRC

**August 25, 2015**  
US DOT Grant Awarded



### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 23, 2015**  
NJCU Veterans  
Job Fair<sup>4</sup>



### OCTOBER

**October 1, 2015**  
CRC Grant



### NOVEMBER

**Nov. 2, 2015**  
John and Governor  
McGreevey meet with  
President Obama in  
Newark, as part of the  
Reentry Summit.

**Nov. 5, 2015**  
CRC opens on  
S. Hackensack in  
Kearny

**Nov. 23, 2015**  
NJRC at the Greater  
Newark Conservancy  
Opens



Program is the NJRC's Jersey City source employment and vocational training and services for the community. Through these partnerships we work together towards improving the community and providing a number of opportunities for individuals committed to rebuilding and restoring their lives.

Throughout the past 50 years, Integrity House (IH) has provided high-quality addiction treatment, mental health services, discharge planning and coordination of wrap-around services throughout the Hudson County community. IH is intensely familiar with treating clients who are reintegrating back into society after being incarcerated for a significant amount of time. Individuals who engage in treatment at JCETP/NJRC are most frequently convicted of controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and other drug-related charges. Many have suffered from sexual abuse and a series of traumas

that have affected their lives tremendously.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 2004 survey of inmates in State and Federal correctional facilities, "32% of state prisoners and 26% of federal prisoners said they had committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Among state prisoners, drug offenders (44%) and property offenders (39%) reported the highest incidence of drug use at the time of the offense."<sup>3</sup> In 2015, 97 JCETP Clients have been treated by Integrity House, which means they also had criminal charges. 46 of these individuals have a co-occurring mental health issue in addition to their substance dependence. 47 of these individuals are currently employed. The majority of these clients are African American males between the ages of 25-50.

## Hudson County

Here in Hudson County, with the leadership of Mayor Fulop and County Executive DeGise, we target economic clusters to train our clients in. Whether it's transportation, logistics, the hospitality industry, financial services industry and we identify job opportunities for which former prisoners might be eligible. The NJRC's grants management team identifies and applies for applicable grants related to these in-demand fields. Past grants have been awarded by agencies such as United States Department of Transportation with the support of Senator Menendez and Senator Booker, and also NJ Department of Labor led by Commissioner Hal Wirths. **Our relationships with the job creators of New Jersey and the corrections agencies, like the NJ State Parole Board led by Chairman Jim Plousis**, allow us to connect create opportunities where others cannot.

We partner these efforts with our addiction treatment and sober housing referrals to ensure that returning citizens who struggle with substance abuse have the best chances of transitioning successfully. We define success as being sober, gainfully employed and remaining arrest free.

Based on 2014 County Medical Examiner Offices' death investigations data provided by the NJ Department of Laws & Public Safety, of the drug related deaths in Hudson County in 2014, the most prominent drug was heroin at 48.4%, which was more than any other individual drug.

## Parolee Employment Placement Program

The PEPP program is intended to increase employment opportunities for parolees. Benchmarks are measured on job coaching services and assessment, employment placement, employment retention measured at 30, 60 and 90 days, as well as monitoring for rearrest. For the first year of our PEPP program which ran through September 30, 2015 the following objectives were met:

- All **111 (100%)** of the PEPP clients received job coaching and employment preparation services, as it is a standard part of their programming here at JCETP. Enrollment in the program guarantees receiving those services.
- **65 (59%)** individuals were placed in employment
- **56 (86%)** employed individuals retained a job at least 30 days
- **48 (74%)** employed individuals retained a job at least 60 days
- **42 (65%)** employed individuals retained a job at least 90 days
- **42 (65%)** individuals retained employment for at least 90 days
- **12 (11%)** individuals were arrested within 6 months

## New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC)

With the gruesome crisis of heroin addiction plaguing our state, the price dependent citizens pay for these addictions is either prison or death. NJRC aims to offer the only alternative to this vicious cycle, and that is sobriety through

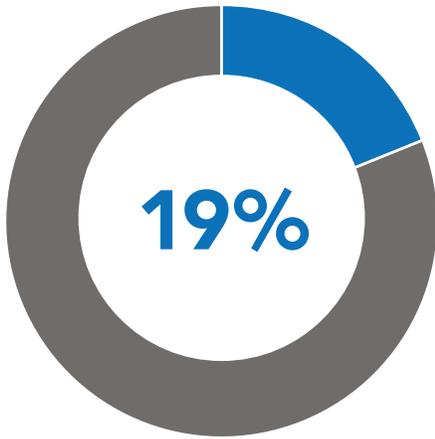
intensive treatment. In addition to addiction treatment, the aims of this program are also to increase employment placement and housing referrals to foster a three-legged-stool approach to supporting successful reintegration. We are working with partners in Essex, Hudson, Ocean and Passaic county to improve these services for our reentry clients.

This program launched in August 2015 and to date has served 113 clients, of which 96 are deemed to be work eligible. The first site to open beyond Jersey City was the Greater Newark Conservancy in Newark. The program thus far has realized a 58.3% employment placement rate for the first five months of operation, finding employment for 56 of the 96 individuals. We like to emphasize the raw numbers of clients served because those are 56 lives that we are helping to transform through increased employment opportunities.

In addition to the human cost of failing to treat addiction among the formerly incarcerated, there are also economic costs. According to a report by CASAColumbia (2010), if every inmate who needed treatment and aftercare services received it, the costs of providing the treatment would be redeemed in a year if just 10% of treated individuals remained sober, employed and committed no new crimes. This would average out to a national cost benefit of around \$90,953 per year (in reduced crime, lower arrest, prosecution, incarceration and health care costs, and economic benefits from employment). For each additional year that a former inmate stays substance free, employed and out of prison, society would receive an economic benefit of approximately \$90,953.<sup>1</sup>

## Community Resource Center (CRC)

In 2014 the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) submitted a proposal to the New Jersey State Parole Board's RFP to establish a community resource center (CRC) in Jersey City. CRCs are the frontline of reducing recidivism among parolees and are a critical resource to help



Using a 6 month benchmark, of the 129 clients who were enrolled in Martin’s Place (JCETP’s Reentry Program) prior to June 30 2015, **only 24 clients (19%) have recidivated**, which we define as having been rearrested for a new offense.

returning men and women successfully reintegrate into society. Nearly all CRCs in New Jersey were previously operated by large corporations, including the former operator of the CRC in Jersey City. JCETP has the unique distinction of being one of the first small non-profits to win a contract to operate a CRC, a great honor and humbling privilege for the staff of JCETP.

Of the CRC clients served since November 2015, 56% have been placed in employment. In the 2 months the program has been operational, none of the CRC clients have recidivated, and those with substance abuse are being serviced at Integrity House.

### U.S. Department of Transportation Grant

The Jersey City Employment and Training Program’s (JCETP’s) U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) grant program serves a target population of minorities, veterans, women, persons with disabilities, low income individuals, individuals in reentry, and otherwise underserved individuals. This program provides remedial education services, case management, training including commercial driver’s license (CDL) training and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training, employment services, and pro bono legal assistance with driver’s license issues.

Since this program began in August 2015, the U.S. DOT Case Manager has completed 93 intakes with individuals from these target populations. The Case Manager has worked with all individuals to determine their career interests, as well as to identify and remediate all barriers to employment. This includes assisting individuals with any driver’s license issues, linking individuals to state benefits, assisting with skills remediation, and any other case management needs that might affect an individual’s ability to obtain and maintain a job.

In partnership with New Jersey Transit, the U.S. DOT grant program will send individuals to do a three day training in Newark to prepare them to pass the CDL permit test, so far 17 individuals have been prescreened and are ready to test. Part of the prescreening is a test to screen for drug use. Those who fail are eligible for treatment through our program.

### Program Recidivism

Using a 6 month benchmark, of the 129 clients who were enrolled in Martin’s Place (JCETP’s Reentry Program) prior to June 30 2015, only 24 clients (19%) have recidivated, which we define as having been rearrested for a new offense. Eight clients were rearrested for a technical violation, which means that the remaining 97 clients have

made it at least 6 months without being rearrested since enrolling in our program. In 2015, a total number of **404 clients were served**.

For comparison, according to the most recent data available from the State of New Jersey, Release Outcome 2010 Report, 53% of released individuals are rearrested within three years.

Nationally, 67.8% of state prisoners released in 2005 across 30 states were arrested within 3 years of release according to the most recent report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014).

According to the CASAColumbia Report (2010) drugs and alcohol play a large role in criminal offenses. Based upon a national review of offense type, 78% of inmates incarcerated for violent crimes were involved with alcohol or drugs, as were 83% of those incarcerated for property crimes and 77% of those incarcerated for public order, immigration or weapon offenses. If we want to effectively combat and lower recidivism, drug and alcohol treatment are the cornerstone of successful reentry programming.<sup>1</sup>

## Client Stories

**Michael's Story:** "Michael" grew up in a structured, 2-parent home which was filled with love, spirituality and structure. He remembers

his parents supporting him and his two brothers at every sport and school event. He remembers praying with his parents at night and eating breakfast and dinner with his family each day, until the age of 16, when everything changed.

Michael's parents were in a horrific car accident and after months of undergoing multiple surgeries, they became addicted to pain medication. Michael and his brothers were suddenly robbed of two amazing parents and life as they knew it was changed forever. In order to cope with the severe back pain, Michael's parents self medicated. Their addiction grew fast and their ability to parent diminished quickly. Within months of being out of residential rehabilitation, Michael's parents were living in the streets while trying to chase their next high to ease the severe pain resulting from the accident. Michael and his brothers were forced to raise themselves and turned to the streets in order to feed the family and survive.

Within 15 months of the car accident, Michael buried both his mother and father as a result of a drug overdose. They left behind 3 grieving sons who would quickly develop their own addictions and criminal behaviors.

In speaking with Michael five years after losing his parents to opiates and other prescription medication, he's proud of being sober, he has reestablished his relationships with his brothers and continues to comply with his probation mandates. He's been sober for 20 months and through several treatment episodes, he has addressed his severe issues with loss & grief which led to much of his poor decision making. Michael has obtained a full-time job and has replaced his peers from the street with a strong support network.

There isn't a day that goes by that he doesn't miss what he considered to have been the "perfect set of parents". But he himself grew to understand the disease of addiction and how powerless





his parents were in the face of opiate addiction. He has forgiven them for all that happened and realized that although they survived the accident, their fates were sealed that idle Wednesday.

Today, Michael continues his commitment to his recovery, to living the life his parents were unable to live. He will forever be reminded that addiction does not discriminate.

**David's Story:** "David" is a young 25-year-old man who had developed a severe alcohol and drug problem by the age of 18; by 21, he was "ready to be done," by his own admission, but continued to relapse. He was in the Hudson County jail awaiting trial for six weeks in 2014. During his time in jail his mother, who was his primary caregiver and his payee for SSI, died suddenly of a heart attack. He attended her funeral in shackles and swore he would never use again. He voluntarily requested Drug Court during sentencing, and has been participating actively in maintaining his sobriety. Considering his disability, lack of family support, lack of income, and lack of stable housing, his ability to maintain his path towards sobriety is a testament to both his will, good judgment, and of our treatment team who have been fortunate enough to serve him. From age 18-24, he was perpetually using; by the time he came to the

NJRC at Martin's Place in Jersey City, he had accrued over a year of clean time. He works the steps of recovery carefully every day, knowing it is not a simple path. He has reconnected with family and recently told me that an uncle reached out and told him, "you are not alone." David's response was, "I just had no idea I wasn't still the devil to them." His goal is to become an auto mechanic technician someday.

## Endnotes

1. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. (2010). *Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population*. New York: Author.
2. Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults (2014) Report. *CONFRONTING NEW JERSEY'S NEW DRUG PROBLEM: A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS A BURGEONING HEROIN/OPIATE EPIDEMIC AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS*.
3. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*, NCJ 213530, October 2006.
4. Photo by Mike Mozart, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeepersmedia/13297827333/>, 2014.
5. Cooper, A.D., Durose, M.R. & Snyder, H.N. (2014). Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Recidivism Of Prisoners Released In 30 States In 2005: Patterns From 2005 To 2010*

# Client Demographics

## Gender

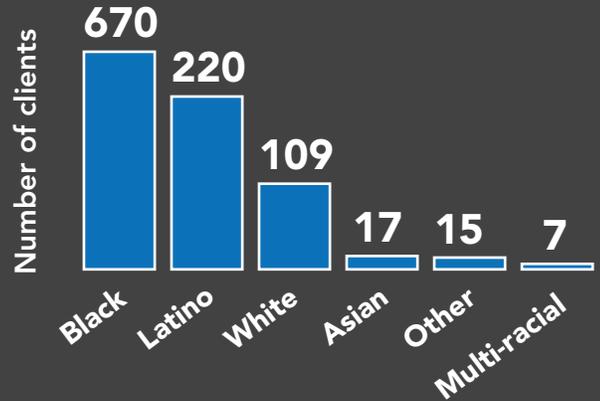


**77.7%**  
Male

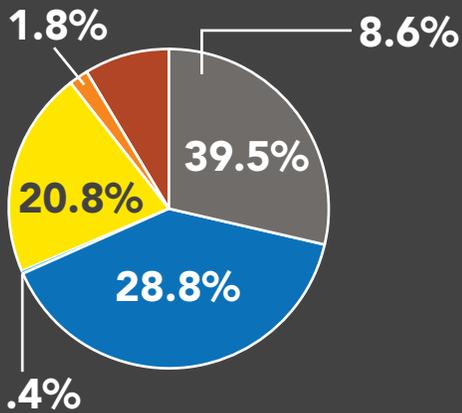


**22.3%**  
Female

## Race



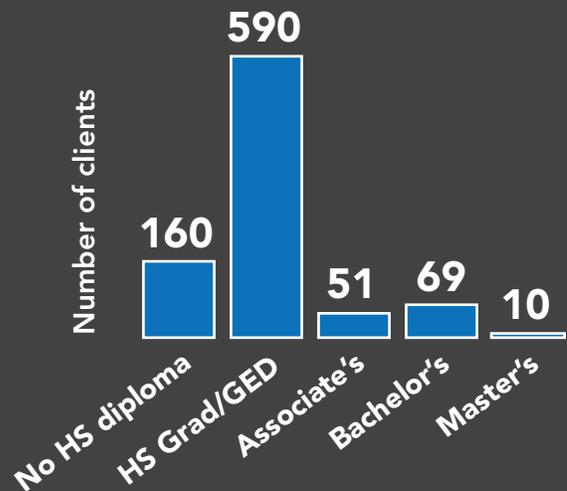
## Housing Status



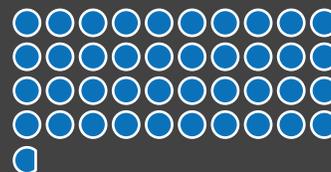
- Permanent, 39.5%
- Shelter, 28.8%
- Subsidized, .4%
- Couch\*, 20.8%
- Homeless, 1.8%
- Transitional, 8.6%

\*Doubled up with friends/relatives

## Level of Education



## PEPP Clients



**204**