

Profile of Oxford House™ Residents in Sixteen Jurisdictions

The following represents data from 2,806 interviews of Oxford House™ residents out of a possible 3,412 (81% response rate). Data collection is by periodic survey of residents and each data set is a snapshot of the Oxford House population of a particular state at a specific point in time. Response rates average 81% with a range of 63% to 84%. Table 16 shows the actual number of respondents within each state. Survey data were collected during 2008 – 2011.

Most Oxford House™ residents have a job in order to pay an equal share of rent for the house and household expenses. The current average equal share of household expenses is \$100.50 a week with a range from \$85 to \$155. States with low employment percentages [Washington and Hawaii] are those that provide subsidies to individuals early in recovery. In the other states those not employed were either between jobs or in receipt of retirement, Social Security or Veterans' benefits.

Table 1
Percent of Oxford House™ Residents Employed By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Employed%	85%	59%	75%	82%	89%	85%	81%	78%	81%	83%	82%	81%	92%	96%	83%	63%

As of June 2012, the average per person weekly share of house rent and household expenses was \$100.50 per week (\$435 per month) -- well within the average monthly income of Oxford House™ residents. The monthly income figures shown below are in current dollars except Washington [2008], SC, CT, HI [2008], and LA [2010]. The national average weekly equal share of expenses was \$67.50 in 1993 and \$100.50 in 2012 – almost the same as inflation.

Table 2
Mean Monthly Income Of Oxford House™ Residents By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Employed%	\$1484	\$1227	\$1319	\$1357	\$1689	\$1633	\$1470	\$1274	\$1586	\$1704	\$1309	\$1849	\$1719	\$1705	\$1335	\$1209

*Residents in both Washington State and Hawaii are eligible for state payments during early recovery. Therefore, the average monthly earnings are lower than would be but for the state subsidy. Employed residents of Washington State earned \$1,528 a month vs. \$727 for those not employed and employed residents of Hawaii earned \$1,336 a month vs. \$518 for those not employed.

Reflecting the colorblind nature of alcoholism and drug addiction, Oxford Houses have a racial mix of residents. In each state the racial mix over-represents minority populations. Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hawaiians and Native Americans are included under "other" in the table below.

Table 3
Percent of Residents By Race By State

Race	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
White	69%	85%	87%	54%	79%	84%	82%	50%	85%	43%	51%	85%	27%	21%	77%	24%
Black	26%	06%	05%	32%	11%	08%	06%	45%	08%	54%	45%	11%	71%	75%	17%	02%
Hispanic	02%	05%	02%	09%	07%	02%	02%	-	05%	01%	01%	02%	-	-	03%	11%
Other	03%	07%	06%	05%	03%	06%	10%	05%	02%	02%	03%	02%	02%	04%	03%	63%

Oxford House™ residents cover a wide age range -- from 17 to mid-seventies. The self-support requirement tends to make it difficult for individuals under age 17 to live in an Oxford House™, but residents from 17 to 35 often work and go to school to catch up on education missed or to learn new job skills.

The average level of Oxford House™ residents' educational level is a little above high school. The range of educational attainment within houses ranges from third grade through graduate school.

Table 4
Mean Educational Attainment By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Years of School	12.8	12.6	12.7	12.5	13.2	12.8	13.0	12.5	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.8	12.7	13.2	12.9	12.0

On average, 18.5% of Oxford House™ residents are veterans. State by state, the range is from 12 percent in Hawaii to 28 percent in South Carolina. The percentage of veterans is higher whenever outreach workers work with Veterans' hospitals.

Table 5
Percent of Residents With Military Service By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Military Service %	19%	23%	22%	13%	14%	20%	10%	28%	20%	27%	22%	11%	20%	26%	18%	12%

The average age of Oxford House™ residents survey is 38.5. This is about 4 years older than the average age was in 1994. There may be three explanations for this “aging” of the average age. First, the rate of new Oxford Houses openings is less today than it was ten years ago while individuals in established houses are aging along with the house but not reaching out to establish new houses for younger individuals entering recovery. Second, jurisdictions not having outreach workers tend to start fewer new houses. Third, those in established houses are slower to open new houses and tend to be highly selective in accepting new residents by favoring individuals “just like us” in both age and experience

Table 6
Mean Age of Oxford House™ Residents by State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Mean Age	41.9	37.7	37.2	41.7	37.5	36.2	37.1	40.1	38.7	40.8	39.0	35.9	42.9	45.3	34.7	36.4

About a quarter of Oxford House™ residents are going through the recovery process for the first time (21.6%). At the other end of the spectrum about 18% have gone through treatment (formal residential treatment in addition to detoxification) more than ten times before becoming Oxford House™ residents. Over one-half have been through residential treatment (in addition to detoxification) three (3) or more times prior to residency in Oxford House.

The following Table 7 shows the breakdown of residents based on times they have gone through residential treatment. Table 8 shows current sobriety based on the number of times previously through treatment

Table 7
Prior Treatment Record of Oxford House™ Residents (Percentage)

Number of Sobriety Tries Residential Treatment	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
One	21.4	22.0	26.9	22.5	23.9	22.8	23.6	14.8	16.7	16.1	18.2	13.9	13.9	21.1	18.4	35.0
Two	20.9	23.2	28.8	17.7	18.8	25.0	20.6	22.2	18.5	24.2	20.0	22.2	23.8	23.9	24.6	25.0
Three to Five	34.5	33.6	26.9	37.3	31.9	33.7	36.7	42.6	25.0	41.9	44.1	31.3	28.7	30.9	42.9	32.5
Six to Ten	11.2	13.1	11.5	10.8	13.8	11.9	11.7	16.7	24.1	12.9	10.9	20.1	21.3	18.3	12.8	01.3
More than 10	12.1	08.0	05.7	10.8	11.6	06.5	07.6	23.7	07.0	04.8	06.3	12.5	12.3	05.6	03.5	06.3

Whether a resident had been through residential treatment once or many times Oxford House residents are able to stay clean and sober without relapse. The table below shows the months of current sobriety for each of the various times through prior treatment. Notice that “one” or first time through treatment permitted residents to gain as much or more sobriety than any other category. Think of the treatment cost savings if everyone had an opportunity to live in an Oxford House™ after treatment.

Table 8
Current Sobriety Based on Prior Treatment (Months)

Current Sobriety in Months by Number of Sobriety Tries Residential Treatment	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
One	12.8	20.1	10.6	38.0	33.9	18.5	15.0	11.0	26.3	25.3	16.9	19.9	29.9	56.7	09.8	17.4
Two	12.2	25.1	11.7	54.0	21.4	12.1	12.4	19.6	28.4	13.4	11.9	22.0	20.9	39.9	06.9	18.8
Three to Five	10.2	13.2	21.2	22.6	15.9	17.6	16.4	15.6	19.0	14.9	13.0	10.6	31.9	33.4	11.9	29.4
Six to Ten	08.7	14.5	06.2	14.4	17.6	14.2	13.1	04.4	20.8	13.8	12.3	12.5	29.5	50.4	07.5	13.0
More than 10	12.2	20.7	06.8	21.5	14.5	05.6	09.3	05.5	19.6	21.8	13.8	12.0	21.8	23.5	11.7	21.8

About one-half of all Oxford House™ residents have experienced homelessness during their addiction to alcohol and /or drugs. The average length of homelessness among these Oxford House™ residents is about 6 months. The number of times an individual had been homeless varies among residents within a state and even among residents between states. For example, the average number of times New Jersey residents had been homeless was 1.7 while Washington State residents had been homeless an average of 3.4 times. Table 8 shows the percent of Oxford House™ residents by state who had been homeless during their addiction.

Table 9
Percent of Oxford House™ Residents Who Have Been Homeless

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
% Homeless	67%	71%	52%	56%	48%	51%	51%	65%	64%	60%	70%	56%	73%	75%	46%	62%

Serving jail time is often the equivalent of informal treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction. Within the past five years, more correctional facilities have formalized treatment for inmates who are alcoholics or drug addicts. However, for most alcoholics and addicts in jail the “treatment” is informal. Most will detoxify. Some will receive the education, motivation and techniques of behavior change to help them avoid future use of alcohol and drugs. Substantial percentages of Oxford House residents have served jail time. The average length of jail time is 1 year, 1 month. Table 10 shows the percentage of Oxford House™ residents who have served jail time by state.

Table 10
Percent of Residents Who Have Served Jail Time

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
% Jail Time	78%	81%	83%	81%	74%	78%	51%	88%	74%	73%	77%	80%	72%	58%	74%	85%

The marital status of Oxford House™ residents is shown in Table 11. In all the survey questionnaires the category “single” was defined as “Never married.” Overall, the marital status of Oxford House residents suggests that few marriages withstood the effects of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Table 11
Marital Status (Percent By Status By State)

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Single	42.5	24.1	48.1	55.9	42.7	44.4	43.0	43.8	47.3	52.7	42.3	57.9	48.6	54.3	41.4	54
Married	04.0	03.8	07.6	05.4	07.2	04.3	05.0	09.1	10.9	02.7	07.3	03.6	11.4	03.9	06.9	04
Separated	11.6	07.9	09.4	19.8	03.9	04.3	11.0	19.7	21.8	18.7	17.9	20.3	18.6	19.4	17.2	06
Divorced	39.7	41.7	31.1	16.2	44.7	46.1	39.0	36.4	18.2	25.3	31.7	17.4	21.4	21.7	34.5	32
Widowed	02.2	02.6	03.8	02.7	01.3	01.0	02.0	00.0	01.8	01.0	00.8	00.7	00.0	01.0	00.0	03

Where an individual was living just prior to the treatment that preceded his or her moving into an Oxford House™ shows the marginal living conditions of a large percentage of residents. For example, an average of 40% came from either rented rooms, institutions or were homeless. But for Oxford House™, many could have been expected to return to these marginal living situations.

Table 12
Prior Place of Residence (Percent By Type By State)

Prior Residence	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Apartment	35.0	29.1	28.4	14.6	29.8	21.1	26.5	40.9	32.4	22.8	22.6	26.4	28.4	28.8	13.5	14.3
Owned House	10.0	16.4	15.7	08.6	17.2	21.1	19.5	16.4	11.1	11.0	12.7	13.9	11.8	15.1	24.7	15.5
Rented House	20.0	18.6	13.7	13.6	22.5	27.4	20.6	20.0	11.1	13.4	19.5	06.3	17.3	12.3	19.3	05.3
Rented Room	14.0	09.2	08.8	14.6	11.5	06.3		12.7	10.2	19.7	14.1	19.4	11.8	15.1	07.6	15.5
Jail	01.0	06.4	05.9	22.7	02.6	07.4	08.2	03.6	03.7	04.7	04.0	06.9	03.9	02.7	06.7	25.0
Mental Hosp	02.0	01.0	02.0	01.0	00.7	00.0	01.6	–	01.9	03.2	01.0	04.2	–	–	–	12.4
VA Hospital	02.0	02.4	02.9	–	00.7	–	0.4	01.8	01.0	05.5	00.3	–	01.6	01.4	–	–
HalfwayHouse	08.0	03.6	14.7	18.2	12.6	03.2	04.3	03.6	12.0	01.6	09.9	15.7	07.1	09.6	17.6	01.4
Homeless	09.0	16.7	07.8	07.3	04.6	13.7	13.2	10.9	16.7	18.1	16.0	06.3	18.1	15.1	10.9	16.7

Looking at specific behavior of Oxford House™ residents can be useful in evaluating whether or not an individual's activity is reflective of a serious effort to develop new behavior. One activity that directly measures seriousness in developing behavior to assure sobriety is attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. There is no requirement within an Oxford House™ that residents attend such meeting but both peers and the Oxford House™ "culture" encourage meeting attendance. In every state survey 12-step meeting attendance was high.

Table 13
Average Number of 12-Step Meetings Attended by Each Oxford House™ Resident
Per Week By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
AA	2.1	2.6	3.4	1.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.2	1.9	2.3	4.1	3.8
NA	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.7	3.1	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.5	1.0
Combined	3.6	3.9	5.1	3.4	4.4	3.9	4.4	4.4	4.8	5.5	5.8	4.7	4.3	4.4	5.6	4.8

A derivative of AA/ NA meeting attendance data from the surveys is the percentage of Oxford House™ residents recovering from addiction to cocaine, heroin, crack or other illegal drugs in addition to alcohol.

Table 14
Percentage of Drug Addicts Among Oxford House Residents By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Percent	62%	43%	46%	56%	31%	59%	43%	48%	68%	70%	71%	69%	81%	66%	55%	55%

Another indication of the seriousness of an individual's desire to develop new behavior is attendance at counseling sessions in addition to AA and NA. The surveys of Oxford House™ residents in the various states show that an average of 44% went to weekly counseling sessions.

Table 15
Percent of Oxford House™ Residents Attending Weekly Counseling By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI
Percent	39%	46%	49%	41%	33%	38%	35%	34%	40%	35%	32%	38%	27%	37%	39%	51%

The two final statistics are bottom-line -- staying clean and sober. The relapse rates among the states varied between 19.1% and 30%. The national average relapse rate for all Oxford Houses is about 17%.

In all the survey states we were able to measure the length of sobriety among current residents of Oxford Houses. Table 16 shows the length of current sobriety and the number of individuals survey in each state. All the states except D.C. and Hawaii included a broadly based survey and a response rate of more than 70%. Length of sobriety differs primarily because of the length of time Oxford Houses have existed in the respective states.

Table 16
Average Length of Sobriety By State

State	MO	WA	NE	PA	TX	KS	OK	SC	CT	VA	NC	NJ	MD	DC	LA	HI	SUM
No. Surveyed Mean (Months)	277	353	106	112	251	97	270	58	113	139	440	146	133	73	120	121	2806
	9.1	16.1	12.9	30.7	20.7	15.1	14.0	13.4	22.4	16.4	13.3	14.9	26.7	42.3	9.6	32.2	17.8*

* Weighted average of all surveyed persons

For more information about Oxford House™ contact the central services office. A copy of basic questionnaire is on its website under "Publications/General" – scroll to last item.

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