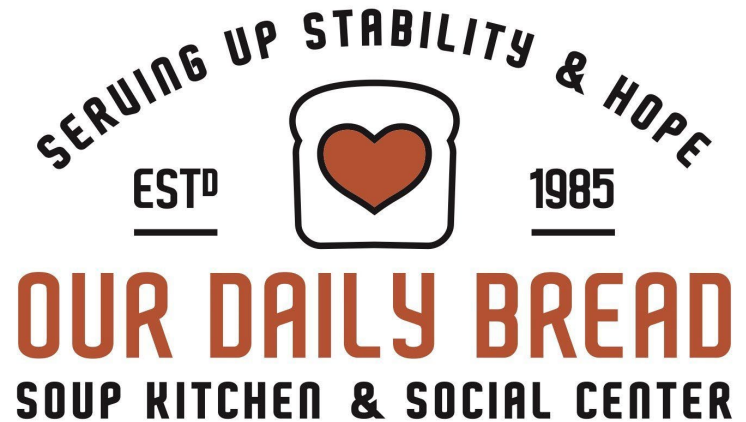


Evaluating Hygienic Concerns and Public Restroom Access in Over the Rhine in collaboration with Our Daily Bread

LC 10



Introduction - Our Daily Bread

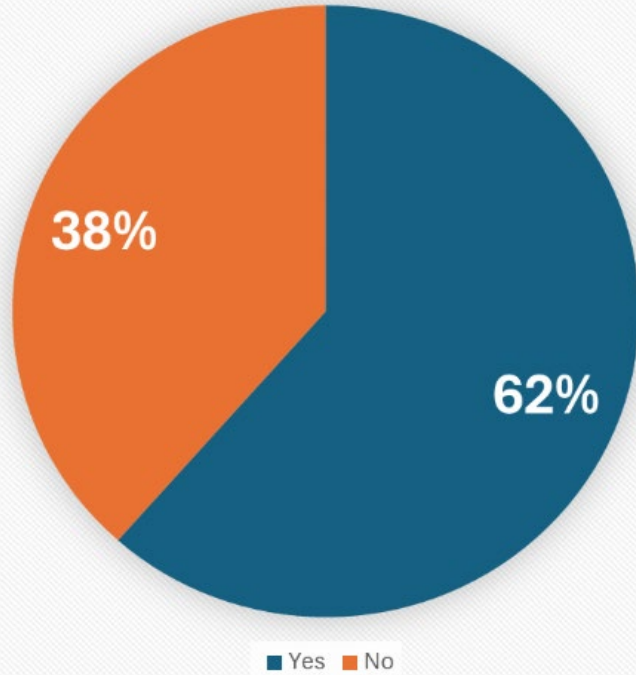
- A place for community members to:
 - Receive meals
 - Rest and use the restroom
 - Play games with other community members
 - Receive social services to help with shelter, food, etc.
- Helps with food rescue:
 - Using scraps and food close to expiration date to reduce food waste
- Serves over 600+ meals a day in their dining room or takeout window
- Volunteers help by serving meals, bussing tables, and donating meals and desserts



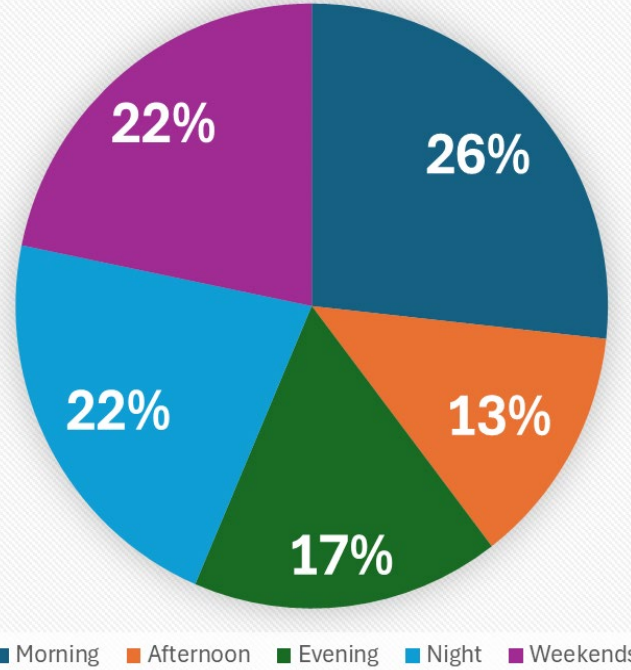
Health and Hygiene

- There are growing concerns regarding restroom accessibility in the downtown Cincinnati area, specifically Over-the-Rhine (OTR).
- Primarily affected by this issue is the unhoused population, which has limited reliable access to proper sanitation. This increased cases of public urination/defecation in the area.
- Research has shown that **inadequate hygiene** leads to adverse physical and mental health effects
 - Especially **dermatological, urinary, and gastrointestinal** health conditions
 - 2018 HAV outbreak in San Diego

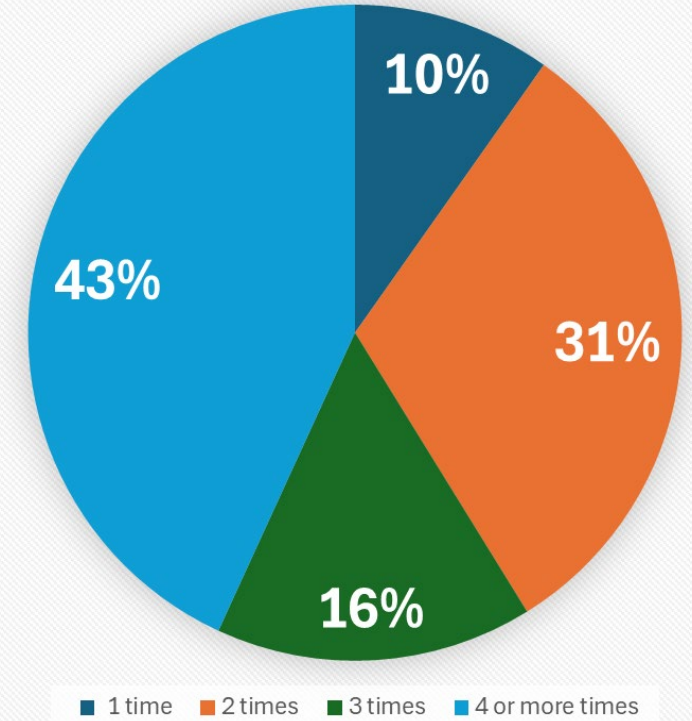
I find it difficult to find a usable restroom.



Times of Day When You Experience Difficulties Finding a Public Restroom

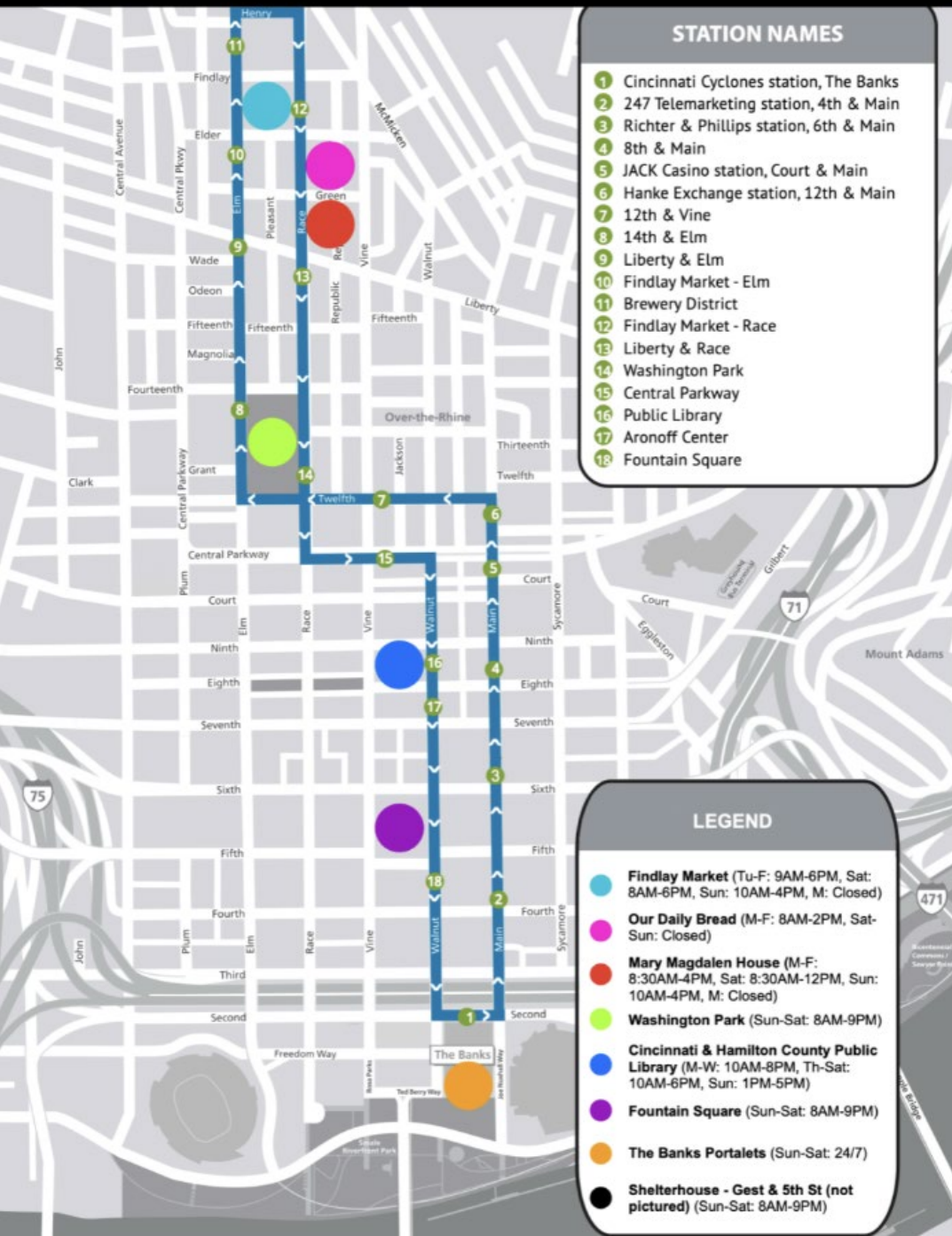


of Public Restroom Use Per Day



Survey Results

- The survey conducted last year largely served as a means of quantifying the issue at hand
- The large majority of guests at ODB had difficulty finding bathrooms throughout the day, despite the large usage



Service Project

- Mapped survey results of common public restrooms used
- Overlayed it with streetcar route
- Included times they are open

Current policy

- No current policy in Cincinnati mandating restroom access
 - Policy focuses on equitable access in regard to sex, gender identity, physical or mental capacity, or familial status
- Currently government buildings (ie Cincinnati Public Library) have access, but they are not open during the hours ODB guests voiced difficulties in the survey responses



Advocacy strategy – Portland Loo

- Take steps to improve public restroom access in OTR
 - Short term solutions: More portable restrooms
 - Policy change: incentivize local businesses to open restrooms, increase the hours at government locations (ie: libraries)
 - Long term solution: **Portland Loo**
 - One near the Bengals' stadium
 - Proven success in other cities
- Studies have shown that successful programs emphasize frequent cleaning, maintenance, and prevention of misuse



References:

- 1) Calzo JP, Carson J, Swayne MRE, Felner JK, Welsh Carroll M. Restroom access and health among people experiencing homelessness: A focus on San Diego, CA. *J Water Sanit Hyg Dev.* 2024;14(11):1155-1168.
- (2) Swayne MRE, Calzo JP, Felner JK, Welsh Carroll M. Developing evidence for building sanitation justice: A multi methods approach to understanding public restroom quantity, quality, accessibility, and user experiences. *PLoS ONE.* 2023;18(7):e0288525.
- (3) Avelar Portillo LJ, Calderón-Villarreal A, Abramovitz D, et al. WaSH insecurity and anxiety among people who inject drugs in the Tijuana-San Diego border region. *BMC Public Health.* 2024;24:19.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-17341-9>