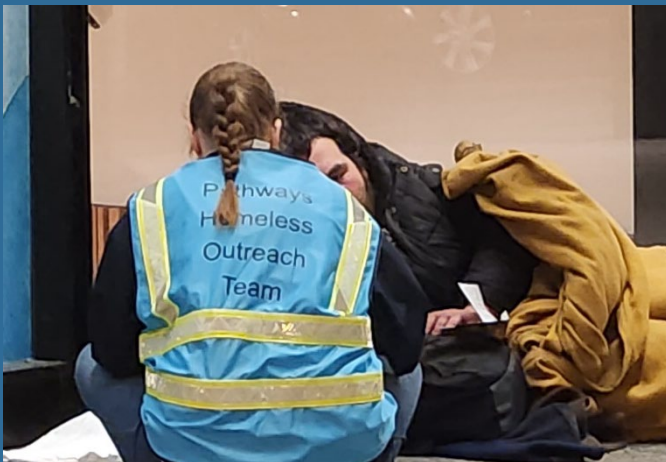


# HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

Results and Analysis from the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

May 2024



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**

## **HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**

Prepared by the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee

Adopted May 15, 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee has conducted a regional Point-in-Time (PIT) enumeration of the area's residents experiencing homelessness.

This year's enumeration and survey occurred on January 24, 2024. The report provides a one-night "snapshot" of the region's residents experiencing homelessness within nine metropolitan Washington area jurisdictions. It is important to note that this "snapshot," by definition, provides only one perspective on the state of homelessness in the region on only one night, and the count may be influenced by numerous variables, such as weather and shelter bed availability by jurisdiction.

## Impact of COVID-19

This year was the fourth year that the region's Continua of Care (CoCs)<sup>1</sup> conducted the enumeration since the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. COVID-19 precautions did not alter the methodology for the 2024 enumeration. However, indirect impacts of the pandemic – primarily increasing housing costs and the lack of affordable housing – continue to impact the region's ability to prevent and end the experience of homelessness, not just during one day in January but throughout the entire year.

As in past years, the majority of the PIT count was enumerated electronically using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), as 85 percent of people experiencing homelessness were sheltered on January 24, 2024.

## Findings, Highlights, and Trends from the 2024 Enumeration

### LITERAL HOMELESSNESS COUNT

- The 2024 PIT enumeration resulted in a total count of **9,774 individuals experiencing homelessness**.
- The region's number of persons experiencing homelessness **increased by 1,078 persons from 2023, a twelve percent increase from the 2023 enumeration**.

This is the second year in a row of increases following the historic all-time low recorded in 2022. Seven of eight jurisdictions recorded an increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness in 2024 from the 2023 count, indicating that this is a larger trend, not isolated to any one jurisdiction's experiences that may influence the numbers of persons counted locally each year.

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<sup>1</sup> According to HUD, a Continuum of Care is "a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness." Definition accessed at <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/what-is-a-continuum-of-care/>

## SHORT-TERM CHANGES, 2023 TO 2024

- The District of Columbia had the greatest increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness from 2023 to 2024 (694 additional persons), followed by Montgomery County (250 additional persons).

## LONGER TERM CHANGES, 2020 TO 2024

- During the period from 2020 to 2024, the metropolitan Washington region experienced a three percent increase in the total persons counted experiencing homelessness. Two of eight CoCs recorded a decline between the 2020 and 2024 enumerations.
- The District of Columbia experienced the greatest reduction in persons experiencing homelessness during this period, counting 764 fewer individuals. The District of Columbia also had the largest proportion of the region's residents experiencing homelessness (57 percent). The City of Alexandria had the second largest reduction between 2020 to 2024, with 20 fewer persons experiencing homelessness counted.
- The District of Columbia reported the highest percentage reduction in its literally homeless count from 2020 to 2024 (12 percent).

## VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The region's count of veterans experiencing homelessness increased slightly from 2023; there were nine additional veterans on the night of the count from the previous year's enumeration.

- In 2024, the total number of veterans counted on the night of the PIT was 328, representing a three percent increase from the 2023 enumeration.
- The District of Columbia recorded the greatest reduction in the number of veterans counted between 2020 and 2024 (89 fewer veterans counted), followed by Prince George's County (10 fewer veterans), and Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria (seven fewer veterans each).
- Four of eight CoCs reduced the incidence of veteran homelessness since 2020, for a regional reduction of 20 percent.

## CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness counted on January 24, 2024, increased from the 2023 enumeration by 237 additional persons. Regionally, the eight participating CoCs recorded an increase of 17 percent between 2020 to 2024.

- Seven of the eight participating jurisdictions experienced increases in their counts of people experiencing chronic homelessness since 2020. Similarly, seven of eight CoCs recorded an increase between the PIT counts of 2023 and 2024.
- Prince William County was the only CoC to note a reduction in the number counted from 2020 to 2024 (four fewer persons counted in 2024). This represented an eight percent reduction from the count in 2020.
- Fairfax County counted 64 fewer persons as chronically homeless in 2024 than in 2023 (or a 26% reduction.)

## PERMANENTLY HOUSED

The number of individuals who are in permanent housing and no longer experiencing homelessness was more than three times the number of people counted as literally homeless on the night of the annual enumeration. The region has increased the total number of persons who are permanently housed and no longer experiencing homelessness by 57 percent since 2020.

In addition, in 2024:

- 13,956 individuals were rapidly re-housed;
- 15,592 persons were served in permanent supportive housing; and
- 5,342 persons were served in other permanent housing.

**This brings the regional total of persons previously experiencing homelessness in 2024 to an all-time high of 34,890 additional people housed than at this time last year.** The significant number of people placed in permanent housing has constrained the incidence of homelessness in the region and helped prevent it from growing unchecked.

## CONCLUSION

This is the fourth year conducting the annual enumeration since the COVID-19 public health emergency began. The results during the period of 2020 to 2024 provide further evidence that strategies the region's CoCs are implementing, when scaled up, are effective in preventing and ending homelessness. Some programs, unique to the pandemic, such as eviction moratoriums and the significant provision of emergency housing assistance, reduced the number of people who entered the homeless services system as well as quickly assisted people whose incidences of homelessness could not be prevented into stable housing. The end of the eviction moratoriums and exhausted emergency rental and utility assistance funding has had an impact on the number of people whose housing crisis resulted in an experience of homelessness. While the results of the 2024 enumeration only present information collected during one day in January, data collected this year confirms that one of the most persistent barriers to ending homelessness in our communities is the insufficient number of affordable and available permanent housing opportunities for the lowest income households.

The 2024 report continues to highlight the fundamental nature of housing to protect human lives with several key, recurring themes:

1. The significant increase in the number of people formerly experiencing homelessness who have accessed permanent housing with the assistance of CoC housing interventions;
2. The positive impact of shelter diversion and homeless prevention programs; and
3. The critical need to increase the supply of housing affordable and appropriate supportive services to the lowest-income households.

Dedication to addressing the region's homelessness issues has resulted in steady, measurable progress in providing shelter and wrap-around services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The region should celebrate the achievements, dedication, and coordinated efforts of their communities to prevent people from entering the homeless system, to improve service delivery, and to increase permanent housing solutions. Reductions in homelessness achieved during the past five years reflect focused efforts to ensure that the experience of homelessness is ***brief, rare, and non-recurring***.

However, there remain significant challenges highlighted in this year's PIT efforts. While the numbers in this year's report demonstrate that effective strategies are in place, a sustained commitment to creating and adequately funding viable housing solutions for the lowest-income individuals and families, continuously improving data tracking and interpretation, and providing service pathways to ensure housing is sustained are among the most critical components to making further significant reductions in the annual PIT count. <sup>2</sup>

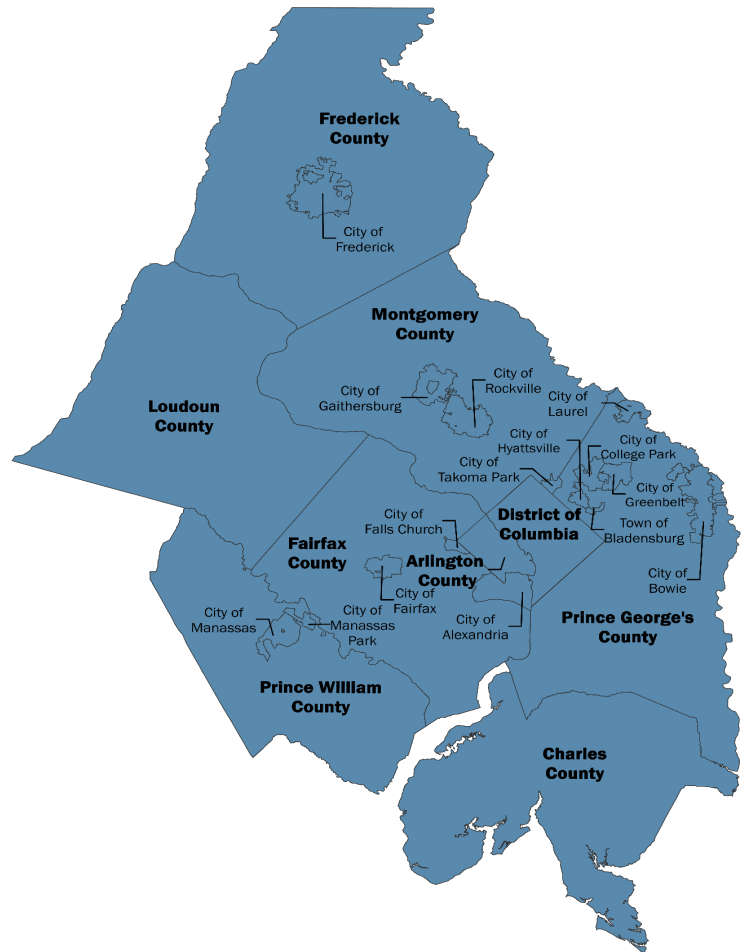
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<sup>2</sup> The map on the following page represents those jurisdictions which are members of COG. However, the City and County of Frederick as well as Charles County are not included in this Point-in-Time report. Both counties are part of the Maryland Balance of State Continuum of Care. Their PIT results are gathered and reported separately by the state of Maryland.

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The following report includes a count of the region's residents who are:

- Unsheltered and living on the streets, including parks, alleys, and camp sites;
- Staying in an emergency or hypothermia shelter or safe haven;
- Living in transitional housing where they receive supportive services designed to help them move into some form of permanent housing;
- No longer experiencing homelessness and are now living in permanent supportive housing or other permanent housing and who may be receiving supportive social services.



# INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) enumeration provides information on the number of unsheltered persons in the region as well as figures on how many persons use winter shelters, year-round emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and several permanent housing solutions. The PIT count also provides information on the extent to which persons experiencing homelessness in each jurisdiction live with disabling conditions or whose special needs are represented among various subpopulations. There is no “one size fits all” housing solution. The region’s Continuum of Care (CoCs), a public-private partnership designed to coordinate a response to a person’s housing crisis, respond with different housing types and services to meet residents’ unique needs.

The metropolitan Washington region’s homeless services system consists of nine jurisdictions, each representing a local CoC that receives federal funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program to assist its residents experiencing homelessness.

The participating jurisdictions include:

- City of Alexandria, Virginia;
- Arlington County, Virginia;
- District of Columbia;
- Fairfax County, Virginia, including data from the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax;
- Loudoun County, Virginia;
- Montgomery County, Maryland;
- Prince George’s County, Maryland, including data from the City of Bowie, the City of Greenbelt, and the City of College Park; and
- Prince William County, Virginia, including data from the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

Since the first regional enumeration in 2001, the City and County of Frederick, Maryland have participated in COG’s Point-in-Time count. In 2023, Frederick’s Continuum of Care (CoC) merged with the state of Maryland’s Balance of State CoC.<sup>3</sup> Going forward, Frederick’s PIT data will be gathered and reported on at the state level, along with eight other Maryland counties (including COG member jurisdiction Charles County).

The report includes narratives prepared by each of the respective jurisdictions. The narratives briefly describe each jurisdiction’s CoC and provide detailed explanations of their respective enumeration results. All the region’s CoCs use a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to count people experiencing homelessness in their respective jurisdictions, in addition to other methodologies. HMIS is an electronic data collection system that is used to produce an unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness for the respective jurisdictions, improve program operations, measure program performance, and coordinate services community-wide.

Similar to past enumerations, the 2024 count *does not* include people who “double up” with relatives or friends, in accordance with HUD guidelines. HUD’s requirements for conducting the

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<sup>3</sup> For more information about the Maryland Balance of State Continuum of Care, please see <https://www.mdboscoc.org/>

annual PIT count can be found in its Standard and Methods for Point-in-Time Counts of Homeless Persons and the annual Housing Inventory Count updates at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

Due to high housing costs and limited housing options for households with lower incomes, the collaborating jurisdictions and service providers represented in this report are concerned that many of the region's residents are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

These concerns have been exacerbated since COVID-19 began affecting the region in March 2020. All jurisdictions in the metropolitan Washington region have been impacted by the end of federal emergency funding provided to keep people stably housed. The results of the end of these rental assistance programs, eviction prevention measures, and increasing housing costs are represented in part by the results of the 2024 enumeration.

While not yet defined as experiencing homelessness, many households are believed to be doubled up and/or living in overcrowded situations. Homelessness is often the next step for such households once the family members or friends who have been sheltering them can or will no longer do so.

## How We Define Homelessness

The region's jurisdictions use HUD's definition of homelessness which is *people who reside in emergency shelter, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, runaway youth shelters, safe havens, or places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, parks, alleys, abandoned buildings, and stairways*.

**Literal Homelessness**, which may also be referred to as "experiencing homeless" in this report, includes the status of people in Households without Children, Households with Adults and Children, and Households with Only Children, who may be **sheltered or unsheltered**.

**Formerly Experiencing Homelessness** in this report refers to the status of having moved into permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, or other permanent housing immediately after an experience of homelessness. This does not include persons who are able to secure other permanent housing outside of the homeless system, including a non-subsidized apartment or room, moving in with a relative or friend, or receiving a mainstream rental subsidy.

Data for the 2024 enumeration were collected in the following three categories, as defined by HUD:

1. **Households without Children.** Households without children consist of only adults age 18 or over. This report also refers to households without children as "single adults." The majority of households without children are single persons, although this category may include couples without minor children or a parent and an adult child over the age of 18. These households are counted as single adults for purposes of the PIT count.
2. **Households with Adults and Children.** Households with adults and children contain at least one adult age 18 or over and at least one child under age 18. In this report, we also refer to households with adults and children as "families" or "families experiencing homelessness."

3. **Households with ONLY Children.** Households with ONLY children contain no adults aged 18 or over, only persons under age 18, including teenage parents under 18 with at least one child, or other households with only persons under age 18.

## Why We Conduct This Count

COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee, concerned by the lack of regional data available, undertook the first effort to produce an unduplicated PIT count of adults and children experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region in 2001. Regional information can help inform local efforts and provide an avenue for sharing strategies to better serve the region's residents facing a housing crisis.

HUD requires communities which receive federal funds (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants) to conduct an annual count during the last ten days of January. The annual count is done using electronic administrative records to enumerate people living in shelters. Unsheltered counts are only required every other year, although the participating CoCs in the metropolitan Washington region have conducted an unsheltered count annually for 24 years.

Point-in-Time counts are valuable for gathering trend data, establishing the scope of homelessness, and are necessary and essential to policymakers and community members alike in tracking progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. At the federal level, HUD uses PIT count data to inform Congress about the number of people experiencing homelessness nationwide and the effectiveness of HUD's programs and policies in achieving its goals.<sup>4</sup>

At the local level, PIT counts can assist CoCs to identify any service gaps and appropriately size its system to meet the current needs of its residents, measure progress towards ending the experience of homelessness, identify individuals who may not be known to the homeless services system, and raise awareness that may attract additional resources to help solve a community's housing challenges.<sup>5</sup>

It is important to note, however, that the PIT count provides a limited and imperfect perspective on the challenges, successes, and progress made in ending homelessness. It does not provide a complete picture of the dimensions of homelessness, or the scale of people served during a week, month, or year. It is not unusual for a jurisdiction to serve as many as four or five times the number of people during a year as are counted during one night of the PIT enumeration.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/what-is-a-point-in-time-count/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Further, many variables—bed availability, weather, surveying methodology, the willingness of people to be interviewed, and the availability of trained outreach workers—can impact the number of people counted on any given night.

To round out the limited perspective that PIT data provides, the region's CoCs use other data sources to measure the extent of the number of people experiencing homelessness and determine the best responses. These include having a quality by-name list, which provides live, up-to-date information on exactly who is experiencing homelessness; Longitudinal System Analysis reports, which provides information about how people experiencing homelessness use their homelessness response systems, and System Performance Measures,<sup>6</sup> which HUD requires of communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system of homeless assistance as opposed to programs and funding sources that operate independently.

However, the PIT count remains a dependable source for trend data upon which the eight participating CoCs in the metropolitan Washington region can measure their efforts as a region over time to prevent and end the experience of homelessness.

## How We Conduct This Count

The methodology for the annual enumeration is conducted primarily electronically, using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), as most persons experiencing homelessness in metropolitan Washington each year are counted in shelter.

For the unsheltered portion of the count, outreach workers, government staff, service providers and trained volunteers head out in teams across urban, suburban, and rural areas across the region on the same night. Trained outreach workers typically visit known areas where people may be residing outside the shelter system prior to the enumeration to prepare them for the count as well as provide the best possible information for surveyors on the night of the count itself.

Four of eight jurisdictions in 2024 used a digital platform, such as ESRI's Survey123 mobile app, to gather, map, and track engagements in real-time during the unsheltered portion of the count. The other jurisdictions used paper surveys from which responses were entered manually after the count.

Following the night of the enumeration, the region's CoCs work with Day Centers and meal programs to ensure that no one was missed during the count itself. The region's data leads then use personally identifiable information to de-duplicate any survey responses and ensure the most accurate census possible. Coordination with other programs which cannot use HMIS, such as ones that serve people fleeing domestic or intimate partner violence, is required separately to include everyone without housing on the night of the PIT count.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/#guidance>

## HOW MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

On January 24, 2024, 9,777 people throughout the metropolitan Washington region indicated that they were experiencing homelessness, an increase since 2023. Table 1 illustrates the region's 2024 enumeration across jurisdictions compared to last year.

Seven of eight CoCs recorded an increase in the number of people experiencing literal homelessness counted from the previous year's enumeration. Overall, the region recorded a nine percent increase from the 2023 to the 2024 enumerations.

TABLE 1: People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2023 - 2024				
Jurisdiction	2023*	2024	Change in Number of Persons 2023-2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
City of Alexandria, VA	152	187	35	23%
Arlington County, VA	213	243	30	14%
District of Columbia	4,922	5,616	694	14%
Fairfax County, VA	1,310	1,278	-32	-2%
Loudoun County, VA	220	303	83	38%
Montgomery County, MD	894	1,144	250	28%
Prince George's County, MD	659	658	-1	0%
Prince William County, VA	326	345	19	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>9,774</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>12%</b>

Source: COG 2024

\*Total for 2023 has been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

For the longer period of 2020 to 2024, two of eight CoCs recorded decreases in the number of persons counted experiencing homelessness. This is shown in Table 2 on the following page, which illustrates the numerical and percentage change in the number of residents in the region experiencing homelessness.

## How Has the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Changed?

Fairfax County was the only jurisdiction during the 2024 enumeration to record a decrease from 2023 to 2024. Fairfax attributes this change primarily to a change in the number of families in shelter. Contributing factors to the decrease include improved and increased diversion efforts, increased eviction prevention efforts, increasing legal representation for families, and greater tenant outreach.

Although seven CoCs experienced an increase in the number of individuals counted from the 2023 to 2024 enumerations, two of eight CoCs experienced decreases in the number of people

experiencing homelessness between the longer, five-year period of 2020 and 2024. The District of Columbia had the largest percentage decrease since 2020 (12 percent), followed by the City of Alexandria (10 percent). The region increased the number of persons counted by 319 or three percent between 2020 and 2024, in contrast to the nine percent regional reduction noted between 2019 and 2023. The return to higher than pre-pandemic numbers of people experiencing homelessness reflects the growing levels of housing need in the region, but without the additional federal support provided during the pandemic for rental assistance and robust tenant protections.

The District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria were the only jurisdictions to experience a decrease in the total number of people experiencing homelessness during the 2020 to 2024 period. The District of Columbia counted 764 fewer individuals in 2024 than in 2020 followed by the City of Alexandria (20 fewer individuals).

<b>TABLE 2: People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020-2024*</b>							
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Change in Number of Persons 2020 - 2024</b>	<b>Percent Change 2020 - 2024</b>
City of Alexandria	207	106	120	152	187	-20	-10%
Arlington County	199	171	182	213	243	44	22%
District of Columbia	6,380	5,111	4,410	4,922	5,616	-764	-12%
Fairfax County	1,041	1,222	1,191	1,310	1,278	237	23%
Loudoun County	179	80	99	220	303	124	69%
Montgomery County	670	577	581	894	1,144	474	71%
Prince George's County	453	537	571	659	658	205	45%
Prince William County	326	282	241	326	345	19	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,455</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>9,774</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>3%</b>

Source: COG 2024

\*Totals from 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

The District of Columbia attributes the decrease in persons experiencing homelessness between 2020 and 2024 primarily to the reduction in the number of families experiencing homelessness. This has been achieved through the use of Short-Term Family Housing (STFH), a type of family shelter program now in its fifth year that provides housing-focused case management in apartment-style living facilities, which has resulted in shortened length of stays (below 90 days in fiscal year 2023). The CoC also saw an increase in families in its programs that serve households fleeing domestic and intimate partner violence. Providers serving survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence in the District and throughout the U.S. have added beds in their programs to respond to the nation-wide surge in domestic violence incidents since the pandemic began in 2020. Including these new additional beds and services, the District saw an increase of almost 180 people in its shelters and transitional housing programs for survivors in 2024 compared to the 2023 PIT count. The strategic importance of a strong focus on shelter diversion and prevention are among several critical factors that have constrained or contributed to the reduction in the number of persons counted as experiencing literal homelessness in recent years. With the end of federal and local eviction moratoriums, eviction cases have been rising steadily and some residents who were facing

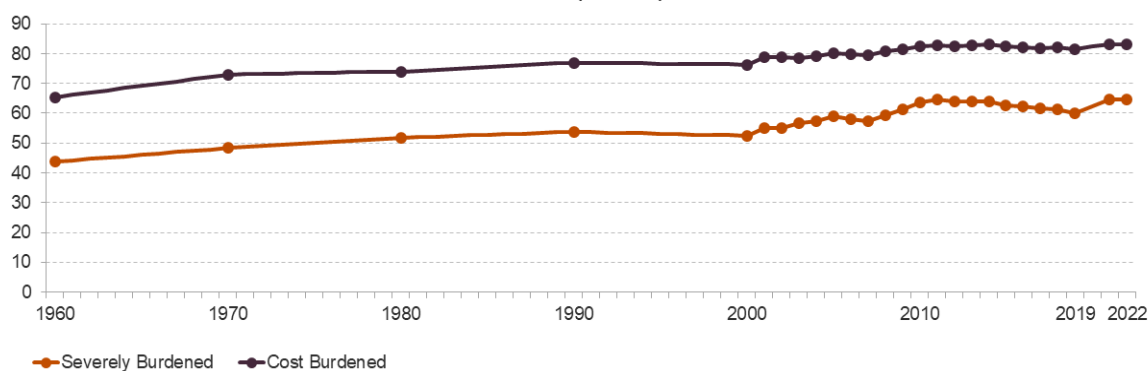
housing instability entered the homelessness response system. Given reduced federal funding for emergency housing needs, diversion strategies are critical, along with tenant protections, to keep people in their homes and prevent someone from experiencing the trauma of homelessness.

Although the City of Alexandria counted 20 fewer persons in 2024 than in 2020, this can be attributed to operational changes in the CoC. Two programs were excluded from the 2024 enumeration that were included in the 2020 count. A Safe Haven was converted to permanent supportive housing and a transitional housing program was vacant on January 24, 2024 as the program restructures. If these two programs had been included, it is more likely that Alexandria's decrease would have indicated an increase. The experience in Alexandria therefore mirrors the trend noted in nearly all other CoCs in the region.

A combination of factors account for increases in homelessness during the past five years and the region-wide increase during the past year. The end of federal rental assistance and eviction moratoriums has had a significant impact on jurisdictions' abilities to keep people stably housed. The region's high housing costs make it very difficult for extremely low-income households to find or maintain housing that they can afford. A shortage of living wage jobs compounds the difficulty in finding and maintaining affordable housing, particularly given the impacts of rising inflation on individuals with lower incomes.<sup>7</sup> As reported by the Joint Center for Housing Studies, the lowest-income renters are facing the greatest challenge of any group of renters in the United States in terms of housing cost burden, or the percentage of their income that goes to housing costs each month.<sup>8</sup> (See graphic below.)

## Figure 2: While the Lowest-Income Renters Have Always Faced Affordability Challenges, Conditions Are the Worst on Record

Share of Renter Households in the Bottom Income Quintile (Percent)



Notes: Income quintiles are defined using all households. Years without a marker are estimated based on surrounding data points. Cost-burdened households spend more than 50 percent of income on rent and utilities; severely cost-burdened households spend more than 50 percent. Households with zero or negative income are assumed to have burdens, and households that are not required to pay rent are assumed to be unburdened.

Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates via IPUMS-USA.

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Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University JCHS

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.marketplace.org/shows/marketplace-morning-report/wages-arent-keeping-up-with-inflation-hitting-low-income-workers-the-hardest/>

<sup>8</sup> Airgood-Obyck, Whitney. "Rental Housing Unaffordability: How Did We Get Here?" Joint Center for Housing Studies, March 26, 2024. Accessed at <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/rental-housing-unaffordability-how-did-we-get-here> on April 14, 2024.

Further, efforts to prevent and end the experience of homelessness cannot exclude a simultaneous examination of systemic racism as a root cause. Segregation and discrimination in housing, incarceration, over-policing in communities of color, and a lack of access to quality health care and educational opportunities all compound inequities that result in the disparities seen in metropolitan Washington's systems of care.<sup>9</sup>

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**“Homelessness is not just a housing problem; it's a housing and racism problem.”**

**-Bill Pitkin**

Without a careful examination of these factors and more evidence-based practices (including tools such as vulnerability assessments), as a region, we will continue to have disparities in our systems of care. Homelessness is not just a lack of affordable housing problem; it is a housing and racism problem.<sup>10</sup>

At the federal level, the COVID-19 stimulus funding was critical during the public health emergency, but cannot quickly solve the persistent, long-term challenge of finding permanent housing options easily. The lack of deeply affordable housing in the metropolitan Washington region constrains local jurisdictions' ability to make dramatic progress in providing more permanent housing solutions.



An outreach worker interviews a person sleeping outside on January 24, 2024 in the District of Columbia (credit: Pathways to Housing DC)

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<sup>9</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness, “Homelessness and Racial Disparities”, Accessed at <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/>

<sup>10</sup> Pitkin, Bill. “Homelessness is a Housing and Racism Problem.” *Housing Matters: An Urban Institute Initiative*. May 11, 2022. Accessed at <https://housingmatters.urban.org/articles/homelessness-housing-and-racism-problem>

## REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS BY TOTAL POPULATION

The prevalence of homelessness can also be understood by determining the number of persons experiencing homelessness counted in the metropolitan Washington region as a percentage of its total population. Including the District of Columbia, there was a 0.19 percent incidence of homelessness in the region. This figure has increased from 0.16 in 2023. Excluding the District, the incidence of homelessness is 0.09 percent for the region's suburban population, which is a slight increase from the 0.08 percent noted in 2023 that had previously not changed since 2016.

HUD's national 2023 CoC Point-in-Time data (the most recent information available) states that there were 653,104 people experiencing homelessness in the country. This rate is 0.002 percent of the total US population (estimated at 334,233,854 as of January 2023), compared to the region's rate of 0.19 percent. The incidence of homelessness per 1,000 persons is on par in our region with the national average, although the difference is less significant: 1.95 persons per 1,000 Americans were experiencing homelessness nationwide on the night of the count in 2023 compared to 1.9 persons per 1,000 in the metropolitan Washington region in 2024.

<b>TABLE 3: 2024 Share of Population That Is Experiencing Homelessness</b>				
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2023 Total Population*</b>	<b>2024 Homelessness Enumeration</b>	<b>Homeless as Percent of Total Population</b>	<b>Homeless Persons per 1,000 People</b>
City of Alexandria	155,230	187	0.12%	1.2
Arlington County	234,162	243	0.10%	1.0
District of Columbia	678,972	5,616	0.83%	8.3
Fairfax County <sup>1</sup>	1,181,707	1,278	0.11%	1.1
Loudoun County	436,347	303	0.07%	0.7
Montgomery County	1,058,474	1,144	0.11%	1.1
Prince George's County	947,430	662	0.07%	0.7
Prince William County <sup>2</sup>	548,697	345	0.06%	0.6
Region with D.C.	<b>5,241,019</b>	<b>9,777</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Region without D.C.	<b>4,562,047</b>	<b>4,161</b>	<b>0.09%</b>	<b>0.9</b>
*Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Cities, Counties, and the District of Columbia in the COG region: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022. (CO-EST2022-POP-11) U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Release Date: March 2024				

<sup>1</sup> Includes the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church

<sup>2</sup> Includes the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park

The results described above are shown in Table 3 (see above). The District of Columbia has the largest local incidence of homelessness within the region's population. Of every 1,000 people in the District, 8.3 are experiencing homelessness, an increase from last year when it was 7.3 people.

## Household Composition

Table 4 compares enumeration survey responses from the three main categories of households from 2020 to 2024. Regional family homelessness (the number of persons in families) increased 16 percent from 2023 to 2024 and the number of single adults experiencing homelessness increased six percent from 2023 to 2024.

TABLE 4: Household Composition					
		Total Persons in Households without Children	Total Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Total Persons in Households with ONLY Minor Children* (Unaccompanied Minors)	Regional Total
COG REGION**	2024	6,259	3,499	16	9,774
	2023	5,755	2,917	24	8,696
	2022	5,120	2,265	10	7,395
	2021	5,752	2,318	16	8,086
	2020	5,752	3,690	13	9,455
2020 - 2024 Percent Change		9%	-5%	3	3%

\*Change in Households with ONLY Minor Children is shown in total numbers, not a percentage, due to the small overall number of individuals counted.

\*\*Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

Source: COG 2024

Conversely, the longer-term trend from 2020 to 2024 represents a five percent reduction in persons in families experiencing homelessness. This decline in families experiencing homelessness during the past four years differs from changes observed at the national level, where family homelessness increased by eight percent between 2020 and 2023.<sup>11</sup> The progress seen in reducing the number of single adults experiencing homelessness in metropolitan Washington in 2022 reversed course in 2023 and continued to increase in 2024 with a regional nine percent increase since 2020.

## Family Households

Families represent 36 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. Tables 5 and 6 (below and following pages) illustrate the 2024 survey responses from the region's families without a permanent home. As of January 24, 2024, a total of 1,075 family households were counted as experiencing homelessness, a higher number than the 951 families counted in 2023. Although this represents a continued increase in the number of families

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6291/2020-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/>

experiencing homelessness in 2022 and 2023, the numbers are still lower than were recorded prior to the pandemic during the enumeration in 2019.

In 2024, six of eight CoCs noted an increase in the number of persons in families on the night of the enumeration from the previous year. The District of Columbia had the greatest increase in the number of persons in families from the 2023 PIT count, with 486 additional family members counted.

<b>TABLE 5: 2024 Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction</b>				
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Adults in Families</b>	<b>Children in Families</b>	<b>Total Persons in Families</b>
City of Alexandria	26	29	55	84
Arlington County	24	31	43	74
District of Columbia	539	622	1,034	1,656
Fairfax County	201	278	416	694
Loudoun County	26	38	53	91
Montgomery County	103	145	251	396
Prince George's County	115	143	220	363
Prince William County	41	50	91	141
<b>ALL COG COCs</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>3,499</b>

*Note: Chart above does not include Households with Only Children (Unaccompanied Minors).*

Source: COG 2024

One distinguishing characteristic of families experiencing homelessness is that the age of adults in families experiencing homelessness tends to be much younger than single adults experiencing homelessness. For example, a single adult experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region is most likely to be between the ages of 55 and 64, but adults in families with children are most likely to be between the ages of 25 to 34.

A positive trend is reflected in the longer period of 2020 to 2024, when two of eight regional CoCs recorded decreases in family homelessness. During this period, the District of Columbia experienced the greatest percentage decrease (32 percent) and the greatest reduction in numbers of persons counted in families (775 fewer persons in families from 2020 to 2024). See Table 6 on the following page.

TABLE 6: Change in Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction						
Jurisdiction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2020-2024
City of Alexandria	86	43	47	70	84	-2%
Arlington County	60	44	50	66	74	23%
District of Columbia	2,431	1,235	1,004	1,170	1,656	-32%
Fairfax County	528	480	564	752	694	31%
Loudoun County	50	30	33	78	91	82%
Montgomery County	183	97	173	269	396	116%
Prince George's County	240	286	298	376	363	51%
Prince William County	112	103	96	136	141	26%
<b>ALL COG COCs</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>3,499</b>	<b>-7%</b>

Note: Chart above does not include Households with Only Children (Unaccompanied Minors).

\*Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

Source: COG 2024

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) median monthly housing costs are \$2,120 and median monthly gross rent is \$1,762. Regionally, nearly half of all households—46 percent—are housing cost burdened, meaning they pay more than a third of their incomes to satisfy these monthly housing costs<sup>12</sup>. Severely cost-burdened households (i.e., paying more than 50 percent of monthly income towards housing costs) vary by income level. Eighty-three percent of households with extremely low incomes (at or below 30 percent of the average median) are severely cost burdened in the metropolitan Washington region and may face difficult decisions regarding which basic needs to prioritize for payment.<sup>13</sup> In the District of Columbia, a person earning the minimum wage (\$17.00 per hour) in 2023 would need to work 73 hours per week to be able to afford a one-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent (\$1,615/month).<sup>14</sup> The region's lowest-income households face significant challenges affording housing, especially as the area's housing demand creates pressure on rental rates. This trend makes otherwise affordable units unaffordable for households, especially as they compete with the general public for housing in a highly constrained market.

## Children in Families Experiencing Homelessness

It is important to note that children face particularly adverse effects from experiencing homelessness. Children may be dislocated from familiar surroundings, relatives, friends, and

<sup>12</sup> Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Renter Cost Burdens, Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas. Accessed at [https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/ARH\\_2017\\_cost\\_burdens\\_by\\_metro](https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/ARH_2017_cost_burdens_by_metro)

<sup>13</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes*. <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/dc> Accessed on April 14, 2024..

<sup>14</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2023* <https://nlihc.org/orr/state/dc> Accessed on April 14, 2024.



neighborhood schools when their families lose their housing. Children must also contend with the associated stigma when navigating their new surroundings and making friends.

Children who experience homelessness may have poor nutrition, increased incidence of health impairments, higher exposure to violence, and severe emotional distress as compared to their housed peers.<sup>15</sup>

Homelessness and hunger are also closely intertwined. Children experiencing

homelessness are twice as likely to experience hunger as their housed peers, which negatively affects their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Schooling for children experiencing homelessness is often interrupted and delayed: children are twice as likely to have a learning disability, repeat a grade, or be suspended from school.<sup>16</sup> Combined, these conditions eliminate feelings of safety and predictability that are important for healthy growth. In addition to the trauma the experience of homelessness causes children, some students experience additional hardships, such as having limited English proficiency or a disability that requires special supports.<sup>17</sup>

The impacts on educational attainment for children experiencing homelessness at young ages, such as infants and toddlers, can be felt even after families are stably housed, according to research released in March 2024 by national nonprofit organization SchoolHouse Connection.<sup>18</sup> Only one in nine children experiencing homelessness nationwide are enrolled in early childhood education programs, which can mitigate the consequences of housing instability. According to the authors of the study, “The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll on their health and well-being.”<sup>19</sup>

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**“The impacts of homelessness on young children, including on children’s school readiness, can be long-lasting, even after families are stably housed.”**

COG’s 2024 enumeration identified 2,163 children in families experiencing homelessness, representing 22 percent of the region’s total population of persons experiencing homelessness (9,774). This represents a slight increase from 21 percent of the total population of children experiencing homelessness represented last year. Children account for 62 percent of all people in families experiencing homelessness; this proportion is essentially unchanged from 2023 and has otherwise remained consistent since 2010.

Some of the region’s public schools have reported higher numbers of homeless children than are reported in the annual count. The primary reason for this is that area public schools track the

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<sup>15</sup> National Center for Homeless Education, <http://center.serve.org/nche/briefs.php>, *Domestic Violence, Homelessness, and Children’s Education*: 1.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.aspx>

<sup>17</sup> National School Boards Association, “Homeless Students in Schools Across America: Down But Not Out”, [https://www.nsba.org/Perspectives/2021/homeless-students#:~:text=How%20Many%20Homeless%20Students%20Are,in%202019%20\(Figure%201\).](https://www.nsba.org/Perspectives/2021/homeless-students#:~:text=How%20Many%20Homeless%20Students%20Are,in%202019%20(Figure%201).) Accessed April 11, 2022.

<sup>18</sup> Homeless infants and toddlers largely unenrolled in early ed programs | EdSource Accessed April 4, 2024 at <https://edsource.org/2024/homeless-infants-and-toddlers-largely-unenrolled-in-early-ed-programs>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. <https://edsource.org/2024/homeless-infants-and-toddlers-largely-unenrolled-in-early-ed-programs>

number of unhoused children on a cumulative basis throughout the school year, compared to the one-day snapshot of the region's homeless provided by the PIT count. Also, the self-reported information regarding the experience of homelessness used by public schools is based upon definitions provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

Children counted by public schools may or may not be experiencing homelessness per the HUD definition and may be living in doubled up situations.

SchoolHouse Education and the National Center for Homeless Education reported that 1.2 million students experienced homelessness during the 2021-2022 school year, which represents a 10 percent increase over the previous year.<sup>20</sup> The National Center for Homeless Education reported that during the 2021-2022 school year, 76 percent of students that self-identified as facing homelessness reported they were “doubled up” with family or friends.<sup>21</sup> Based upon HUD's guidelines, local jurisdictions cannot count people who live in doubled up situations for the PIT count.

## Demographic Profile of the Region's Residents Experiencing Homelessness

Since 2014, COG has reported questions regarding ethnicity and race in addition to age and gender. HUD specified the ethnic and racial categories included in the Point-in-Time questionnaire which generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. The answers are also limited and may not fully represent the varied racial and ethnic backgrounds of all people who live in our region.

The survey question on ethnicity asks respondents to identify whether they are Hispanic or Latin(e)(a)(o). People who identify their ethnic origin as Hispanic or Latin(a)(e)(o) may be of any race<sup>22</sup>. In addition, the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or ethnicity were self-reported, and individuals could choose “multi-racial” to indicate their racial identity included more than one category.

HUD introduced changes to its data standards in 2023 and revised its categories for race and ethnicity for the Point-in-Time survey as well. For the first time this year, respondents could select Middle Eastern or North African as an option for racial identity. It also added African as an expanded option for people who identify as Black or African American. Less than one percent of single adults experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region on January 24<sup>th</sup> identified racially as Middle Eastern or North African. Race and ethnicity responses are combined in this year's enumeration and therefore cannot be compared accurately with the results of enumerations from prior years.

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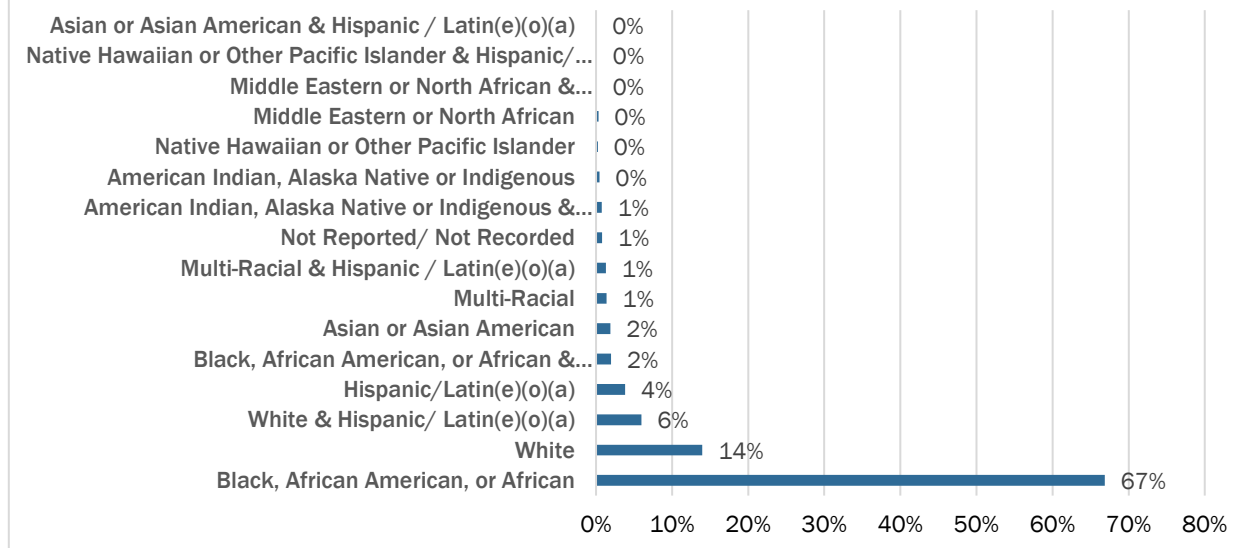
<sup>20</sup> SchoolHouse Connection. *Student Homelessness Has Increased Since the Pandemic, Creating a Greater Need for Targeted Support*. March 20, 2024. Accessed April 2024 at <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/fy25-ehcy-fact-sheet/#:~:text=Public%20schools%20reported%201.2%20million,identification%20challenges%20during%20virtual%20learning>.

<sup>21</sup> National Center for Homeless Education, *National Overview*.. Accessed April 15, 2024 at <https://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/ConsolidatedStateProfile.aspx>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.census.gov/population/race/>

**Figure 1: Regional Homeless Single Adults Demographic Profile (Race and Ethnicity)**

Source: COG 2024



Of the 6,253 single adults experiencing homelessness (Figure 1) who responded to these demographic questions, 90 percent were over the age of 24, and the majority (69 percent) identified as male. For those single adults who responded to the question regarding ethnicity, 85 percent self-identified as non-Hispanic or non-Latin(a)(e)(o).

The top three choices for racial and ethnic identities for single adults experiencing homelessness included 67 percent Black, African American or African, 14 percent White, and six percent as White and Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o). One percent declined to respond, or the information was not recorded.

In Loudoun County, the single adult racial profile differs slightly from the rest of the region. In Loudoun, 47 percent of single adults experiencing homelessness identified as White and 36 percent of the single homeless adults identified racially as Black, African, or African American.

The demographic profile of adults in families experiencing homelessness (Figure 2, following page) differs slightly from that of single adults in a few key characteristics. In families experiencing homelessness, most adults (81 percent) identify as women. The average age of adults also tends to be younger than single adults. Twenty-one percent are aged 18 to 24, 40 percent are aged 25 to 35, and among adults in families, 79 percent are over age 24.

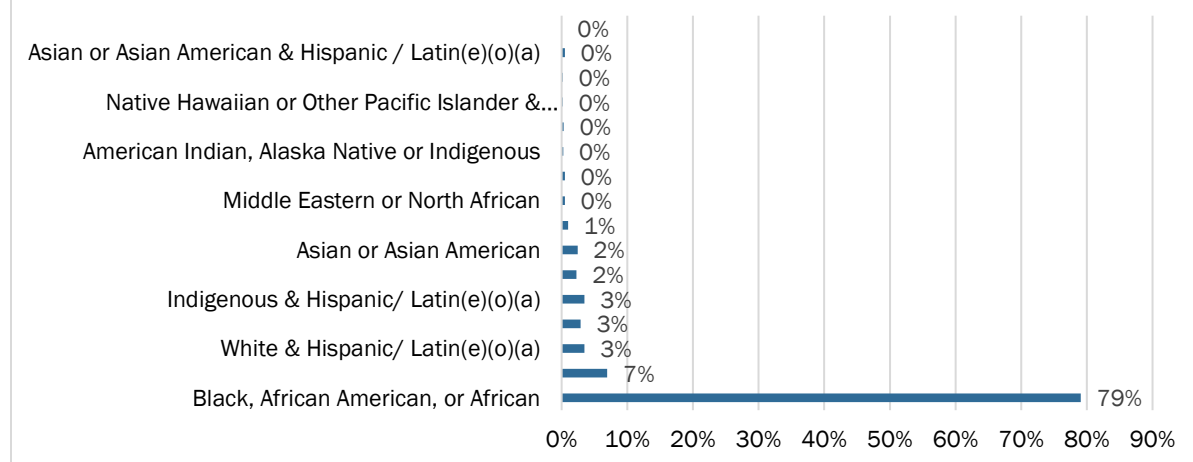
Adults in families experiencing homelessness were most likely to identify as Black, African American, or African (79 percent), followed by Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) at seven percent, and White (three percent).

The region's racial breakdown (Figure 3, following page), in contrast with the data shown in Figures 1 and 2, shows that 48 percent of the population identifies as White and only 25 percent identifies as African American or Black. With the exception of single adults in Loudoun County, persons

experiencing homelessness are disproportionately more likely to be Black or African American than they are in the general regional population.

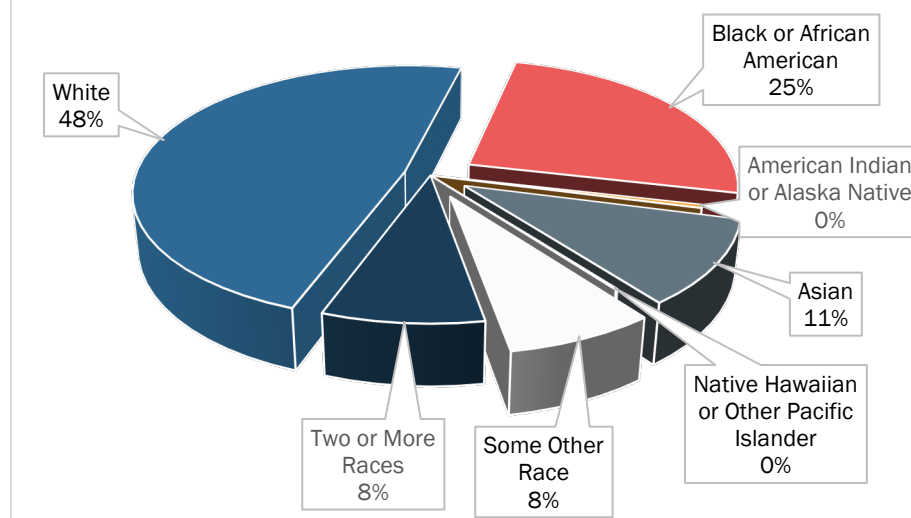
**Figure 2: Regional Homeless Adults in Families Demographic Profile (Race & Ethnicity)**

Source: COG 2024



**Figure 3: Regional Total Population Demographic Profile (Race)**

Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Yr Estimates



## Addressing Racial Inequality

The racial disproportionality reflected in the regional 2024 PIT count demographic data is not unique to metropolitan Washington. Rather, it reflects a long history of racial segregation and discrimination in the United States that continues to impact Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) to this day. Several organizations have worked to address this concern, focusing specifically on people experiencing homelessness. One example is C4 Innovations' (formerly known as the Center for

Social Innovation) mixed-methods research study known as SPARC (Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities).

Among some of the key findings from its first phase research, it notes that, “Although Black people comprise 13% of the general population in the United States and 26% of those living in poverty, they account for more than 40% of the homeless population, suggesting that poverty rates alone do not explain the over-representation.”<sup>23</sup>

The research coalesced around five major areas of focus regarding racial inequity and homelessness, including economic mobility, housing, criminal justice, behavioral health, and family stabilization. The disparate experiences of BIPOC in these realms are all factors that can lead to high rates of homelessness and prolong exits to permanent housing.<sup>24</sup>

Cornell University published findings in February 2023 of the first-ever national, annualized rates of sheltered homelessness over time across race and ethnicity.<sup>25</sup> Although this study was limited to people experiencing homelessness in shelters, it found that between 2007 and 2017, the “lowest rate of homelessness among Black Americans – 1.4% - was more than four times the highest prevalence for white individuals and families.”

The legacy of structural racism and bias through deliberate practice (de facto) as well as legal (de jure) decisions have led to segregated communities and decisions that disadvantaged persons of color in favor of those who were or are White. These practices, from slavery to mass incarceration, have contributed to intergenerational racial inequality<sup>26</sup> and neighborhoods that are comprised of residents who are living in impoverished networks -- where not just an individual or family, but the entire network, lacks the economic and social capital necessary to prevent and end homelessness.<sup>27</sup>

An important component in the work to address disparities shown in the metropolitan Washington region’s systems of care is actively involving People with Lived Experience of homelessness in the design and response of the homeless services system. People with lived expertise have the most important understanding of what barriers must be removed to get people into housing and which strategies or interventions are the most effective solutions to ending the experience of homelessness.

To address the racial disparities noted in metropolitan Washington’s homeless services system, the CoCs collaborated on a regional racial equity systems analysis in 2021 through 2022. The analysis closely reviewed each of the nine participating jurisdictions’ CoC operations to develop an equity-driven, results-based action plan that centers racial equity in our shared efforts to end disparities in the homeless response system. The region’s CoCs continue to collaborate to prioritize and implement actions that can be taken at the local as well as the regional level.

<sup>23</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/time-change-findings-sparc-study-race-homelessness/>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Dean, James. *Cornell Chronicle*. “Staggering disparities: Homelessness risk varies across race.” Accessed at <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2023/02/staggering-disparities-homelessness-risk-varies-across-race>

<sup>26</sup> Dean, James. *Cornell Chronicle*. “Staggering disparities: Homelessness risk varies across race.” Accessed at <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2023/02/staggering-disparities-homelessness-risk-varies-across-race>

<sup>27</sup> Pitkin, Bill. “Homelessness is a Housing and Racism Problem.” *Housing Matters, an Urban Institute Initiative*. May 11, 2022. Accessed on April 15, 2024 at <https://housingmatters.urban.org/articles/homelessness-housing-and-racism-problem>

<sup>27</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/time-change-findings-sparc-study-race-homelessness/>

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (TRANSITION AGE YOUTH) EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Experiencing homelessness as a child in a family can have traumatic, long-term consequences, leading to a greater likelihood of experiencing homelessness as an adult.<sup>28</sup> While the causes of youth (children under age 18) and young adults (age 18 to 24) losing their housing are complex, the CoCs in metropolitan Washington are dedicated to ensuring that unaccompanied minors and young adults who are unstably housed or experiencing literal homelessness are quickly returned to safe, stable housing.

Table 7 provides a breakdown of households of homeless children without adults by jurisdiction. The small number of Households with Only Children counted in 2024 reflects the challenges of counting homeless youth accurately. One difficulty is the HUD definition of homelessness, which excludes persons who are “doubled up” or “couch surfing,”<sup>29</sup> a form of shelter often used by youth. Also, methods often used for counting homeless adults do not accurately capture survival strategies particularly common to youth, such as being mobile and transient, latching onto friends and staying in groups, or trying to hide in plain sight. In addition, many homeless youths do not want to be found because they may be fleeing abuse or fear being placed in foster care. Most are not connected to formal supports such as the child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health systems and many avoid or are unaware of available services.<sup>30</sup>

TABLE 7: Households With <u>Only</u> Children Under Age 18 By Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024						
Jurisdiction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Absolute Change 2020 - 2024
City of Alexandria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arlington County	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	11	11	9	11	10	-1
Fairfax County	0	5	1	3	3	3
Loudoun County	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery County	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince George's County	1	0	0	10	3	2
Prince William County	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: COG 2024

<sup>28</sup> National Conference on State Legislatures., *Youth Homelessness Overview*, Accessed on April 17, 2024 at <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/youth-homelessness-overview>

<sup>29</sup> Couch surfing is typically understood to mean a temporary stay in a series of acquaintances' homes at no cost, rather than a hotel, making use of improvised sleeping arrangements.

<sup>30</sup> The Urban Institute, *Youth Count! Process Study*: 10.

There are many challenges with counting homeless youth, and because their experiences with homelessness are episodic, single point-in-time counts will always underestimate the true number.

Taking note of seasonal conditions that affect whether youth will seek shelter or stay on the street, some homelessness researchers make sure they count in more than one season.<sup>31</sup>

During the 2024 enumeration, the Arlington County CoC conducted a targeted Point-in-Time count for youths and young adults between 2:30pm to 8:00pm on January 24<sup>th</sup> at two locations frequented by youth. The locations included a local community center that hosts a regular Teen Drop-In Program for middle school and high school teens and a local library. The Arlington County CoC partnered with community programs, including Arlington Parks and Recreation, Public Health, Child Welfare, Bridges to Independence, Center for Youth and Family Advocacy, Equality Arlington, Project Peace, Doorways, and The Dream Project to make services and activities available at the event. Volunteers conducted a preliminary screening tool with each young person to learn more about their needs and priorities. For anyone who indicated concerns about where they would sleep that night, a Point-in-Time Count survey was completed.

Noting the importance of counting youth during non-winter months, Prince George's County, the District of Columbia, and Montgomery County have all held youth-only counts separately from the January enumeration.

Youth counts differ from the annual Point-in-Time census in January in several important ways. First, the count takes place during warmer months, when youths are more likely to be spending time outside, and potentially unsheltered. Second, the youth count generally takes place during a longer period than just one day and includes intentional enumeration by school personnel with knowledge of and connections to youth and young adults who may not be regularly attending school and would be missed in the one-day count. Third, in addition to counting youth who are experiencing literal homelessness, per the HUD definition, the youth count efforts include those who are unstably housed who may be doubled-up or "couch surfing." Finally, the youth count includes a much broader series of questions designed to identify social, economic, developmental, and other contributing factors leading to youth homelessness for the purposes of strategic system design at the local level as well as to reveal opportunities for focused diversion and prevention work among youth who are unstably housed and at risk of experiencing literal homelessness.

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Youth counts in metropolitan Washington have resulted in higher numbers of youth than were counted in the PIT enumeration of literally homeless persons in January.

The youth counts conducted in metropolitan Washington included individuals between the ages of 13 and 24 and have resulted in higher numbers of youth than were counted in the PIT enumeration of literally homeless persons in January.

Prince George's County is one of six CoCs in Maryland which has participated in the Youth REACH MD (Reach out, Engage, Assist and Count to End Homelessness) demonstration pilot since 2015 to count unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults and served as one of three regional team leaders providing technical assistance to Maryland CoCs new to conducting youth counts.<sup>32</sup> The enumeration involved surveying youth through shelter counts, service-based counts (meaning

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.healthycal.org/archives/11079>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.youthreachmd.com/>

youth/young adults who used services from participating providers during the count), and kick-off/magnet events and street counts.<sup>33</sup> Further, results from this state-wide effort concluded that combining survey data and administrative data (via HMIS or Homeless Management Information Systems) result in a more accurate picture of youth homelessness than survey data alone.<sup>34</sup>

In October 2018, Maryland passed the Ending Youth Homelessness Act of 2018 (SB 1218). The Ending Youth Homelessness Act of 2018 defines unaccompanied homeless youth as individuals of 24 years of age or younger who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; makes the annual Youth REACH MD unaccompanied homeless youth count a permanent fixture under the leadership of the Department of Housing and Community Development; and, provides additional grant funding to end youth homelessness and address related disparities based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity by establishing the Ending Youth Homelessness Grant Program.<sup>35</sup>

The 2022 Youth REACH MD count took place for two weeks and was the first year that all Maryland jurisdictions participated in Youth REACH MD. The youth count in Maryland takes place every two years; the next youth count will be held in the fall of 2024.

The District of Columbia passed the End Youth Homeless Amendment Act in 2014, which not only provided expanded funding for youth-accessible services, but also mandated an annual census.<sup>36</sup> The most recent of the past nine homeless youth counts took place over two weeks during September 2023.

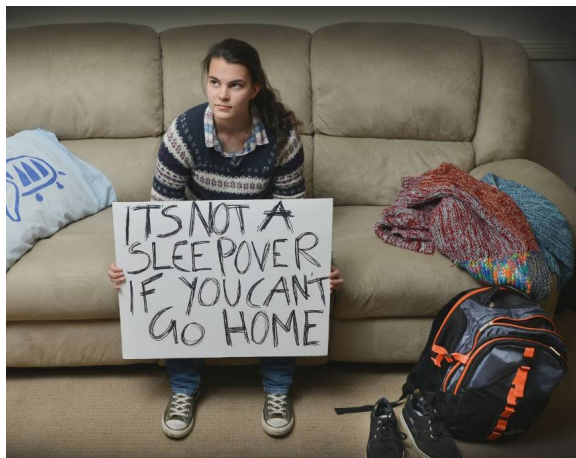


Photo credit: Ian Rideaux, Changing the Narratives Fund

The District of Columbia's CoC created a Youth Action Board called *Supporting Hopeful Youth*, which ensures youth who have experienced homelessness have a role in planning services for this population.<sup>37</sup> The CoC also worked with The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) to develop and implement *Solid Foundations*. In turn, this plan has highlighted youth service needs leading to the establishment of a 24-hour youth drop-in center, prevention and family reunification services, rapid rehousing for Transition-Aged Youth (TAYs), and a new model called extended transitional housing which allows for longer lengths of stay with intensive supportive services, progressive engagement, and a housing first approach.

<sup>33</sup> *Maryland's First Unaccompanied Homeless Youth & Young Adult Count: Findings from Youth REACH MD Phase 2 (May 2016)*, accessed at <https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/docs/YouthREACHMD-Phase2Report-Final.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.youthreachmd.com/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://dc-aya.org/youth-count-dc-2018/>

<sup>37</sup> For more information about DC's Supporting Hopeful Youth, please visit <https://www.youthcountdc.org/pages/d-c-s-h-y>

Both Prince George's County and the District of Columbia received nationally competitive HUD grant funding from the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.<sup>38</sup> The program requires convening a large variety of stakeholders, assessing the needs of special populations, convening Youth Action Boards, and creating a coordinated community plan for youth experiencing homelessness. It also provides an opportunity to test new approaches to address youth homelessness. Building on the YHDP work, Prince George's County is also implementing a U.S. Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Demonstration program.

In Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as nationwide, a key contributing factor to youth experiencing homelessness was conflict with a parent, guardian, or foster parent. Findings from the Maryland Youth REACH initiative suggest that focused interventions on prevention among youth and young adults who identify as Black or African American, LGBTQIA+, are in high school and/or are pregnant or parenting are needed to reduce the numbers of youth and young adults who are unstably housed or experiencing literal homelessness.<sup>39</sup> These findings were reinforced by research published by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, which also found that the lack of a high school diploma or GED was a top risk factor for youth and young adult homelessness.<sup>40</sup>

## Transition Aged Youth

In response to growing concerns about young adults experiencing homelessness, beginning in 2015, as required by HUD, the region's CoCs began collecting demographic information on Transition Age Youth (TAY). Transition Age Youth are between the ages of 18 and 24 and face several unique challenges on their path to a successful adulthood, including finding employment with health benefits, as they may have become ineligible for Medicaid or SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program). Youth who may be "aging out" of foster care (reaching age 18 without returning to their birth families or being adopted) or leaving juvenile detention facilities face significant challenges in finding affordable housing and employment as well.<sup>41</sup>

In 2024, the region counted 830 persons who were between the ages of 18 and 24 experiencing homelessness. This represents eight percent of the total number of people counted as literally homeless on the night of January 24, 2024. Transition Aged Youth in Households without Children represents 10 percent of all single adults experiencing homelessness and 14 percent of adults in families. Since 2020, persons in this age range were more likely to be single adults than adults in families; 78 percent of all adults in TAY households were single young adults in 2024. Like other families experiencing homelessness, 57 percent of persons in TAY family households were children.

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<sup>38</sup> For more information about YHDP, see: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/yhdp](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/yhdp)

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/YRMD-2017-Report-Executive-Summary-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> Morton, M., Dworsky, A., Miranda Samuels, G., and Patel, S. (2018). *Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America. Report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.* <https://www.chapinhall.org/project/voices-of-youth-count/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/transition-age-youth>

TABLE 8: Transition Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction: 2024			
Jurisdiction	Single Adults (TAY)	Adults in Families (TAY)	Total
City of Alexandria	1	4	5
Arlington County	8	1	9
District of Columbia	410	139	549
Fairfax County	35	20	55
Loudoun County	67	3	70
Montgomery County	39	7	46
Prince George's County	74	7	81
Prince William County	11	4	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>830</b>

Source: COG 2024

The longer-term trend between 2020 and 2024, as shown in Table 9, indicates that the number of single TAYs experiencing homelessness has increased by 69 percent. Some CoCs attribute this in part to continuing to increased capacity and programming to support people experiencing homelessness in this stage of their lives.

Single TAYs have one characteristic that distinguishes them from other single adults experiencing homelessness: they are more likely to have a history of foster care involvement (see Figure 4). Like their peer adults, they were also likely to have experienced institutionalization and have a history of experiencing domestic violence.

TABLE 9: Single Transition Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction: 2020-2024							
Jurisdiction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in Persons 2020 - 2024	Percent Change 2020 - 2024
City of Alexandria	2	1	1	2	1	-1	-50%
Arlington County	5	6	4	7	8	3	60%
District of Columbia	243	325	351	362	410	167	69%
Fairfax County	47	50	41	47	35	-12	-26%
Loudoun County	20	9	3	16	67	47	235%
Montgomery County	31	20	19	33	39	8	26%
Prince George's County	22	26	47	85	74	52	236%
Prince William County	11	12	6	15	11	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>69%</b>

Source: COG 2024

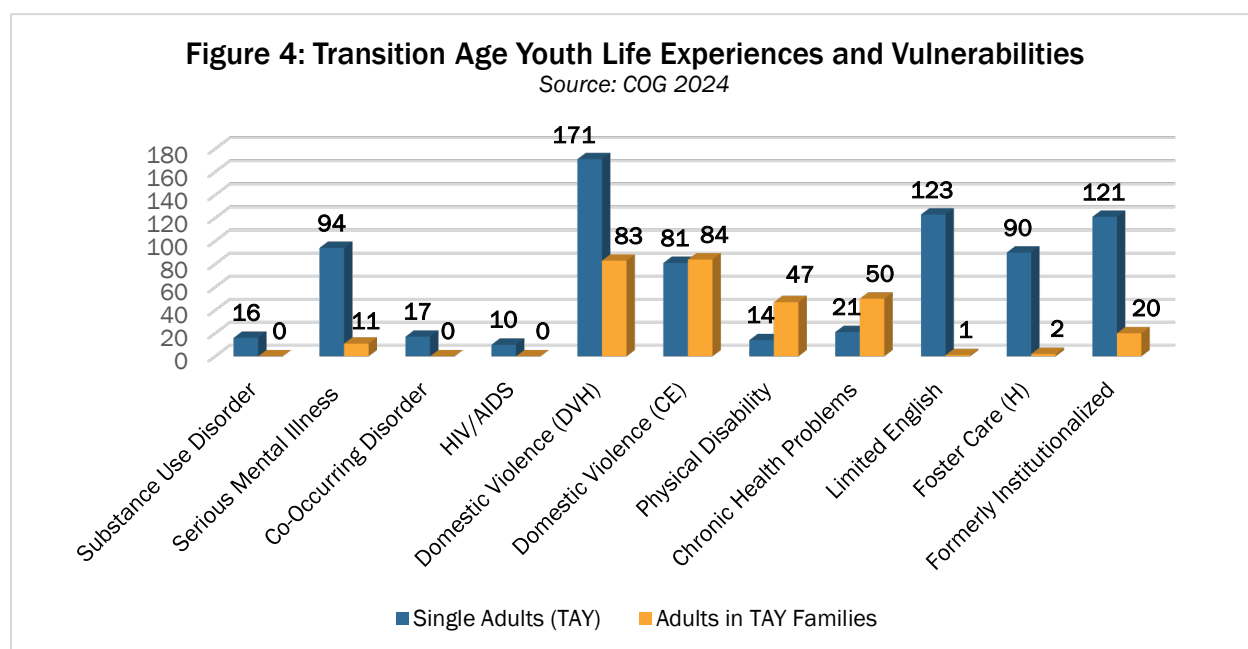
Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

Adults in TAY families experiencing homelessness were more likely to report having experienced a past incident of domestic violence, followed by an incidence of domestic violence which led to their current experience of homelessness on the night of the count. This is shown below in Figure 4.

These data were previously required to be reported to HUD but are no longer part of the national survey instrument. The CoCs in metropolitan Washington continue to include these questions in their surveys both for trend comparison and to better understand the complex vulnerabilities that can lead to homelessness as a young adult.

**“Many youth and young adults experiencing homelessness who have been in foster care consider their experience in foster care as the beginning of their homelessness.”**

One of the key findings from research published by the National Conference of State Legislatures was that young adults experiencing homelessness who have a history of child welfare involvement consider their foster care experience the beginning of their homelessness.<sup>42</sup> Having a history of being in foster care is represented below in Figure 4.



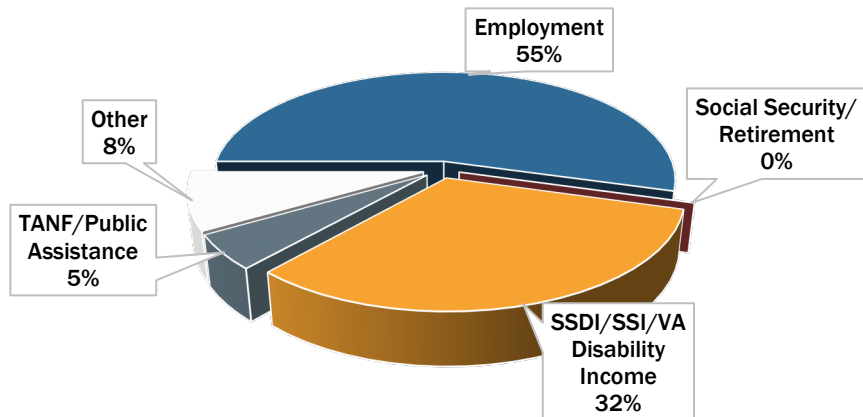
Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive; it is possible for TAYs to be counted in more than one category.

Transition Age Youth, or young adults in Households without Children who report having income were most likely (55 percent) to report their primary source of income was from employment. Adult TAYs in families who responded to these questions reported their primary source of income was from employment at a similar level (53 percent). For another 38 percent of adults in TAY families, the primary source of income was public assistance, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and seven percent of adults in TAY families' primary form of income was from SSI/SSDI. The next largest category of income for single adult TAYs was from disability income (32 percent), followed by public assistance. See Figures 5 and 6 below and on the following page.

<sup>42</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, *Youth Homelessness Overview*. Accessed on April 17, 2024 at <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/youth-homelessness-overview>.

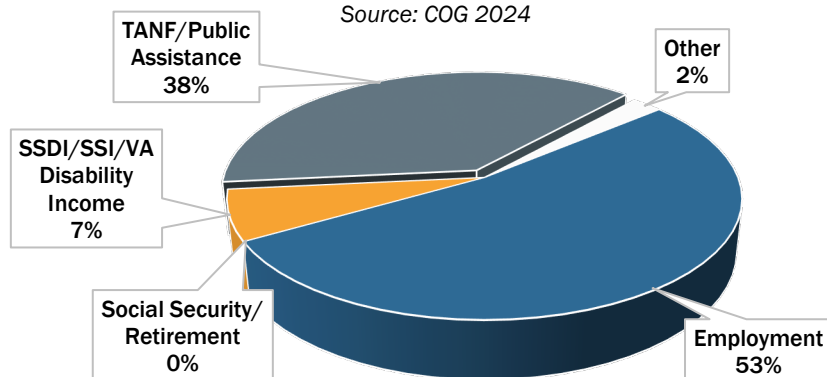
**Figure 5: Homeless Young Single Adult/Transition Age Youth Source of Income**

Source: COG 2024



**Figure 6: Homeless Young Adults in Families/Transition Age Youth Source of Income**

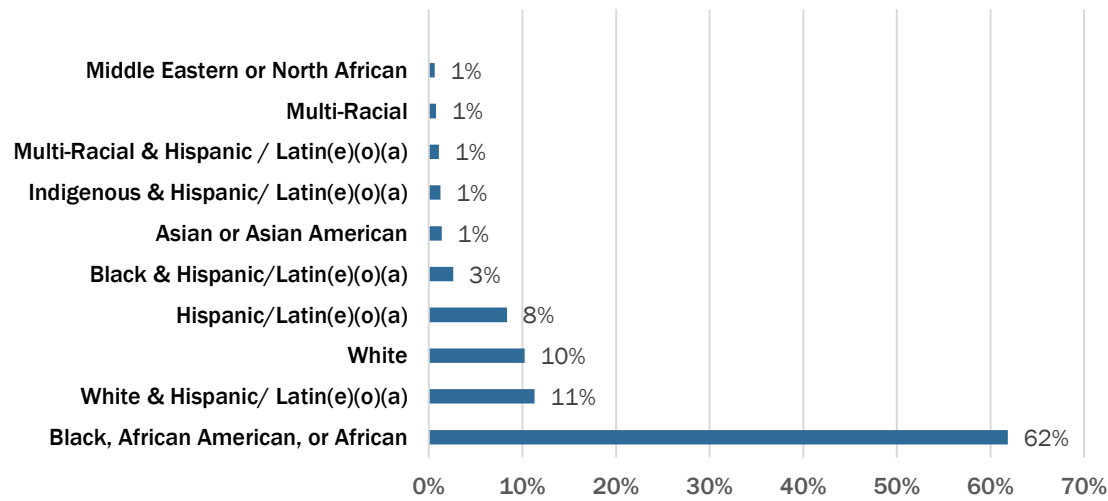
Source: COG 2024



Reflecting the same characteristics as the larger population experiencing homelessness, most single TAYs who reported their race identified as Black, African, or African American (62 percent) as well as adults in TAY families (82 percent). Transition Age Youth identifying as White and Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) made up the next largest group, with 11 percent of single TAYs and six percent of adult TAYs in families. These percentages represent a slight decrease in the numbers of single TAY adults who identified as Black or African American (from 74 percent) and an increase in those who identified as White (from 18 percent) in 2023. These are shown graphically in Figures 7 and 8 on the following page.

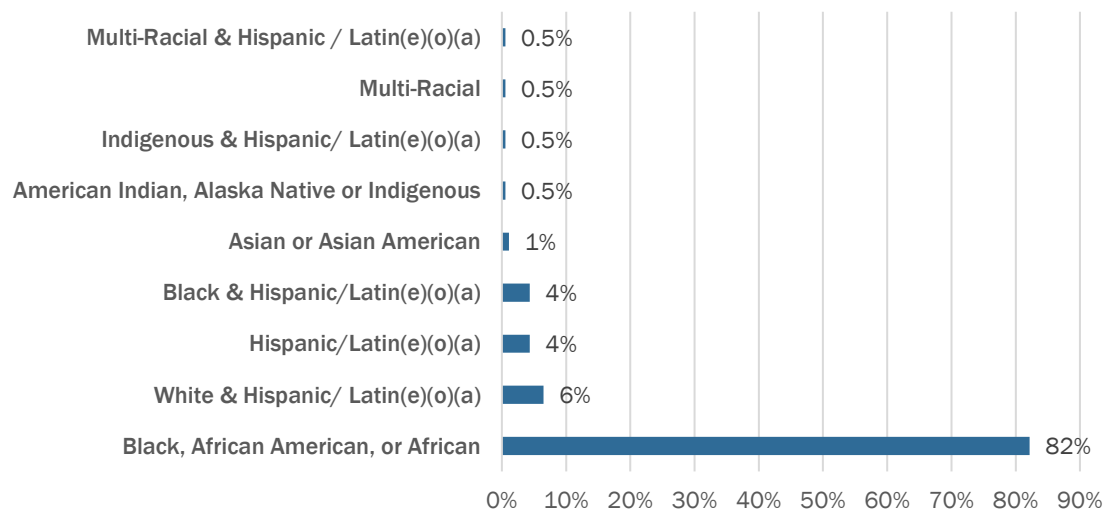
**Figure 7: Single Young Adult/Transition Age Youth (Race and Ethnicity)**

Source: COG 2024



**Figure 8: Young Adult/Transition Age Youth in Families (Race and Ethnicity)**

Source: COG 2024



# OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

There is concern among the region's CoCs that there may be a growing number of senior citizens facing a housing crisis and who are seeking emergency shelter. Nationally, older adults are the fastest-growing age group experiencing homelessness, comprising nearly half of all unhoused people.<sup>43</sup>

Elderly persons experiencing homelessness face unique vulnerabilities due to health or mobility limitations. They may also have more significant health concerns not typically seen in homeless services systems, such as Alzheimer's disease or cancer.<sup>44</sup>



Photo credit: Wonderferret "homeless"/Flickr

It's important to note that older adults experiencing homelessness already have medical ages that exceed their biological ages. Multiple studies have demonstrated that older adults experiencing homelessness have age-related medical conditions, such as decreased mobility and cognitive decline, on par with housed counterparts who are 20 years older.<sup>45</sup> This was emphasized by Dr. Margot Kushel, a health care practitioner who has tracked the rise in older adults experiencing homelessness, and noted that, "Fifty is the new 75."<sup>46</sup> The average life expectancy of a person experiencing homelessness is estimated between 42 and 52 years, compared to 78 years in the general U.S. population.<sup>47</sup>

**Older adults experiencing homelessness have complex health needs, comparable to housed individuals who are 10-20 years older.**

National demographic trends suggest that there will be a dramatic increase in the number of people aged 65 or older as the Baby Boomer generation reaches retirement age. This means that as the aged homeless population increases rapidly during the next decade, the region's policymakers and service providers may need to adjust their systems' approach to accommodate this growing segment of persons experiencing homelessness.<sup>48</sup> In 2017, nationally there were more than 40,000 people over age 65

<sup>43</sup> Henderson, A., Manian, N., Rog, D., Robison, E., Jorge, E., & Al-Abdulmunem, M.. *Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults: Final Report*. October 30, 2023. Accessed at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/9ac2d2a7e8c360b4e75932b96f59a20b/addressing-older-adult-homelessness.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.seniornavigator.org/article/12426/special-concerns-elderly-who-are-homeless>

<sup>45</sup> Brown, R.T., Hemati, K., Riley, E.E., et al. Geriatric conditions in a population-based sample of older homeless adults. (2017). *Gerontologist*, 57(4), 757-766. Doi:10.1093/geront/gnw011. (n/u). As accessed in *The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness: Could Housing Solutions Be Funded by Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital, and Nursing Home Costs?*, <https://www.aisp.upenn.edu/aginghomelessness/>

<sup>46</sup> Thomas Fuller. "A Rising Tally of Deaths on the Streets" *The New York Times*. April 18, 2022. Accessed at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/18/us/homeless-deaths-los-angeles.html>

<sup>47</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, *Health Care and Homelessness*, Accessed at <https://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/health.html>

<sup>48</sup> "The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness: Could Housing Solutions be Funded by Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital, and Nursing Home Stays?" University of Pennsylvania, accessed at <https://aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness.pdf>

experiencing homelessness. By 2030, that number is expected to more than double to 106,000.<sup>49</sup>

Nationally in 2023, HUD asked communities to provide more detailed information on age, with over 65 years of age being the highest age category. The results from the 2023 PIT count showed that one in six persons experiencing homelessness were nearing retirement age (55-64) and one in four unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness was over the age of 55.<sup>50</sup>

In the metropolitan Washington region, 32 percent of persons in Households without Children (2,017 individuals) were over the age of 55, and 389 older adults were unsheltered. This represents a slight increase from the 383 seniors without children who were counted as unsheltered in 2023.

On January 24, 2024, the region counted 254 adults aged 70 to 79 experiencing homelessness, 31 of whom were unsheltered. A total of 26 persons between the ages of 80 and 89 years old were experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT count. In addition, there were at least two seniors over the age of 90 counted on the night of January 24, 2024. Both of the 90-year-olds were sheltered on the night of the count.

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The average life expectancy of a person experiencing homelessness is estimated between 42 and 52 years, compared to 78 years in the general U.S. population.

Beginning in 2018, the nine-member CoCs in the metropolitan Washington region provided a more detailed age breakdown in the regional report to monitor these data more closely and determine how best to respond to changing demographic needs.

Figure 9 (following page) illustrates the age distribution of single adults experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region during the night of the PIT count. In previous years this figure represented data showing older adults defined as age 62 or older. In 2023, the region's CoCs chose to revise the breakouts to better follow and assess the number of seniors at older ages above age 62. This younger age threshold also reflects the observed difference between biological and chronological ages of older adults experiencing homelessness. For trend comparison, the data are reflected in Figure 9 showing age 55 as the highest age category. A more detailed breakout in Figure 10 reflects the additional efforts the metropolitan Washington jurisdictions have taken for the past two years to break out the age categories for older adults.

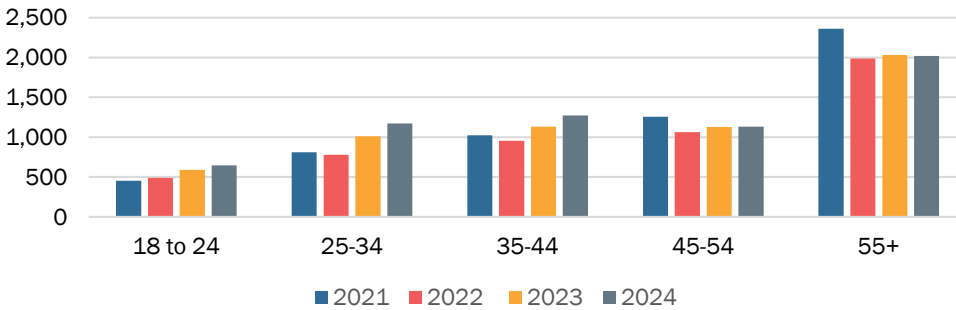
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<sup>49</sup> RRF Foundation for Aging, "Home Front and Center, Supporting Access to Affordable and Quality Housing Issue Brief 4: February 2022", Accessed at <https://www.rrf.org/wp-content/uploads/RRF-ISSUE-BRIEF-ON-HOUSING.pdf>,

<sup>50</sup> Capps, Kriston. "The Invisible Factors Driving US Homelessness to Record Highs." *Bloomberg*. December 20, 2023. Accessed on April 21, 2024 at <https://origin.www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-20/senior-homelessness-tops-concerns-as-us-unhoused-population-spikes?srnd=citylab-housing>

**Figure 9: Age Distribution of Single Adults Eperiencing Homelessness**

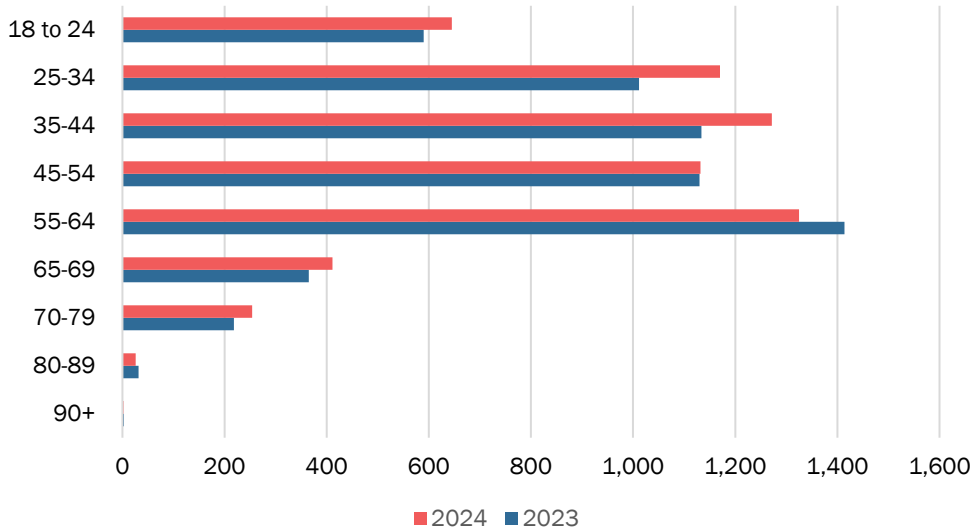
Source: COG 2024

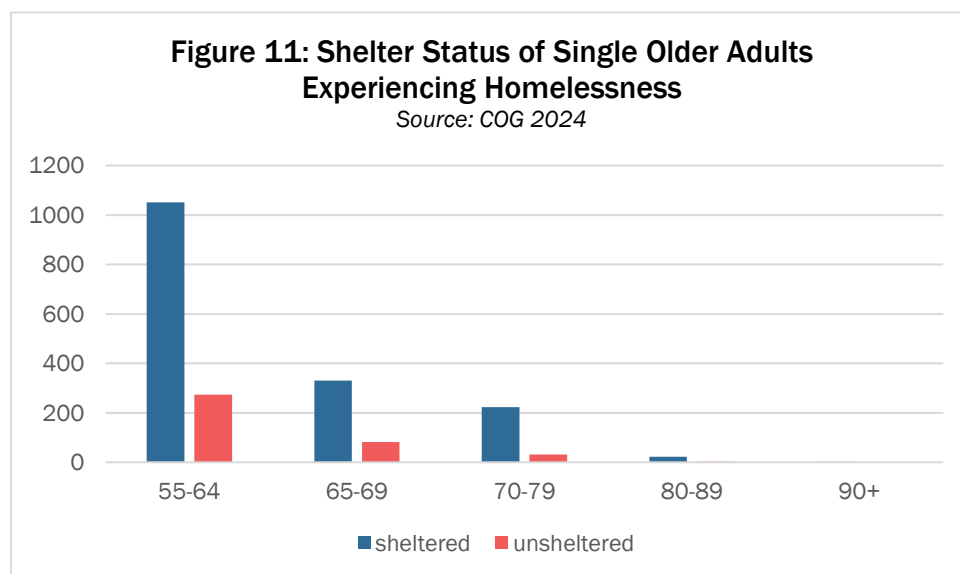


This more detailed analysis can provide insights into the types of solutions that may be needed to assist older adults experiencing homelessness. The converging trends of people aging into elder homelessness and older adults experiencing homelessness for the first time are shown below by the growing numbers of single adults aged 55 and above in Figure 10. The shelter status of single adults experiencing homelessness aged 55 or older is shown in Figure 11 below.

**Figure 10: Age Distribution of Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness Detailed Breakout**

Source: COG 2024





A recent report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service suggests strategies to address the needs of older adults experiencing homelessness. Recommendations for federal state and local governments include expanded state coverage for home and community-based services, such as assistance with medication and activities of daily living; identification by HUD of older adults as a key subpopulation in its Annual Homelessness Assessment Reports; and better cross-system coordination. Service providers can play a key role as well by training case management staff on issues specific to older adults; providing additional assistance accessing medical equipment, such as eyeglasses or hearing aids that may be lost or damaged during an individual's episode of homelessness; and documenting services available in local communities to enable older adults at risk of experiencing homelessness what resources are available and how they can access support.<sup>51</sup>

Several CoCs in the region have medical respite beds for persons discharged from the hospital who need rest to recover which elderly persons may be able to use. However, many older adults require ongoing medical assistance and lack access to adequate care. The region's CoCs are working to address the unique needs of older adults while anticipating a growing need to expand resources to assist this group of residents appropriately and safely in the future.

<sup>51</sup> Henderson, A., Manian, N., Rog, D., Robison, E., Jorge, E., & Al-Abdulmunem, M..*Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults: Final Report*. October 30, 2023. Accessed at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/9ac2d2a7e8c360b4e75932b96f59a20b/addressing-older-adult-homelessness.pdf>

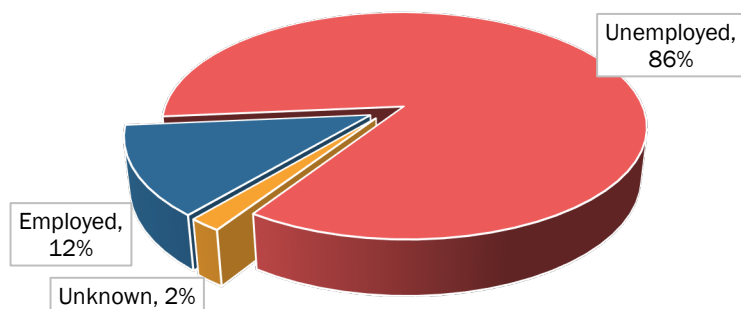
## INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, AND HOMELESSNESS

Employment, or having an adequate and reliable source of income, is crucial to a household's ability to afford housing. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the metropolitan Washington region's preliminary unemployment rate for February 2024 was 3.0 percent, compared to 4.2 percent for the nation. The region's unemployment rate increased slightly from 2.8 percent in January 2024.<sup>52</sup>

While the region's job growth has expanded and unemployment continues to remain low in the metropolitan Washington region relative to the rest of the country, this obscures the economic outlook for many of the region's residents who struggle with housing instability. Unemployment continues to be a concern for those without a high school diploma, college, or advanced degree.

**Figure 12: Employment Status of Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness**

Source: COG 2024



Among all adults experiencing homelessness who responded to this question on the night of January 24, 2024 – both single adults and adults in families – 13 percent were employed. The rates of employment vary by household type; Figures 12 through 15 illustrate the employment status (including full- and part-time employment) of single adults and adults in families experiencing homelessness throughout the region. Also included are percentages for people experiencing homelessness for whom employment status was

unknown.

Similarly, approximately 12 percent of single adults experiencing homelessness were employed, which is a decrease from 19 percent in 2023 (Figure 12). The lower rate of employment for homeless single adults (compared to adults in families) is attributed to higher incidences of conditions that make securing and maintaining employment difficult, such as physical disabilities, and multiple behavioral and chronic health issues, including substance use disorders and mental illness. The priority the region's CoCs place on serving the most vulnerable residents is reflected by the larger proportion of single adults experiencing homelessness who were unemployed on the night of the PIT count.

Data from the 2024 enumeration suggests that 36 percent of all homeless adults in families with children who responded to the question were employed (Figure 13), but the picture can vary significantly by jurisdiction.

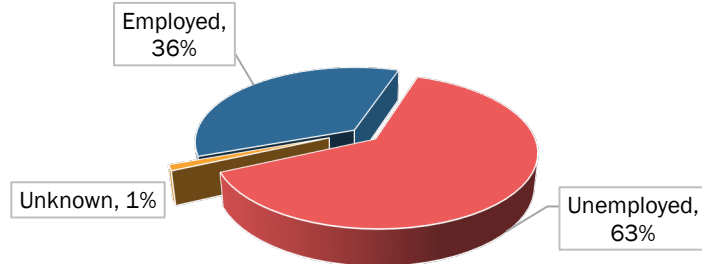
<sup>52</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/web/metro/laummtrk.htm>

Figure 14 shows that, in all eight of the region's participating CoCs, less than 30 percent of single homeless adults were employed on the night of the annual enumeration. Four of eight CoCs had higher rates of employed single adults experiencing homelessness in 2024 than in 2023. However, region-wide, only 12 percent of adults reported being employed and this trend has been consistent during the past five years. The lower observed

rates of employed single adults is in part due to the priority the region's CoCs place on assisting the most vulnerable residents to get into housing. In addition to the challenges faced when trying to find a job without a stable home address, these individuals may have higher barriers to employment due to having a disability, serious mental illness, or substance use disorder.

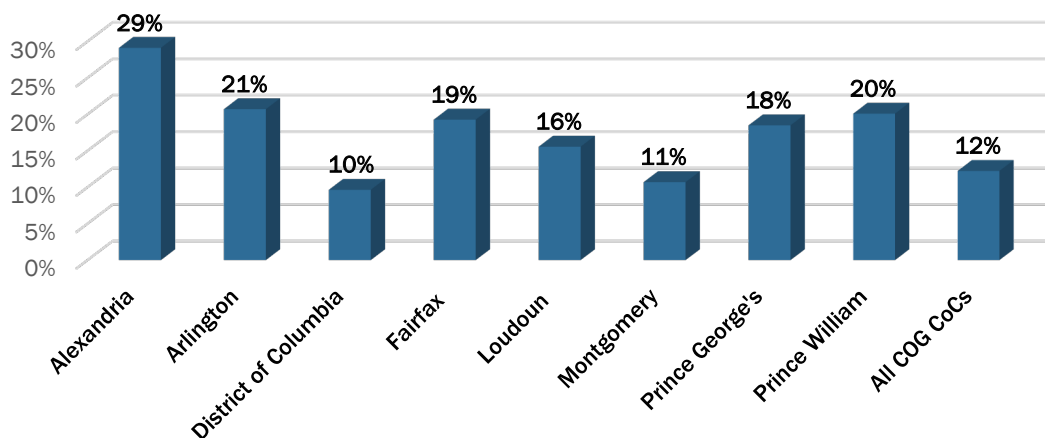
**Figure 13: Employment Status of Adults in Families Experiencing Homelessness**

Source: COG 2024



**Figure 14: Employed Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction**

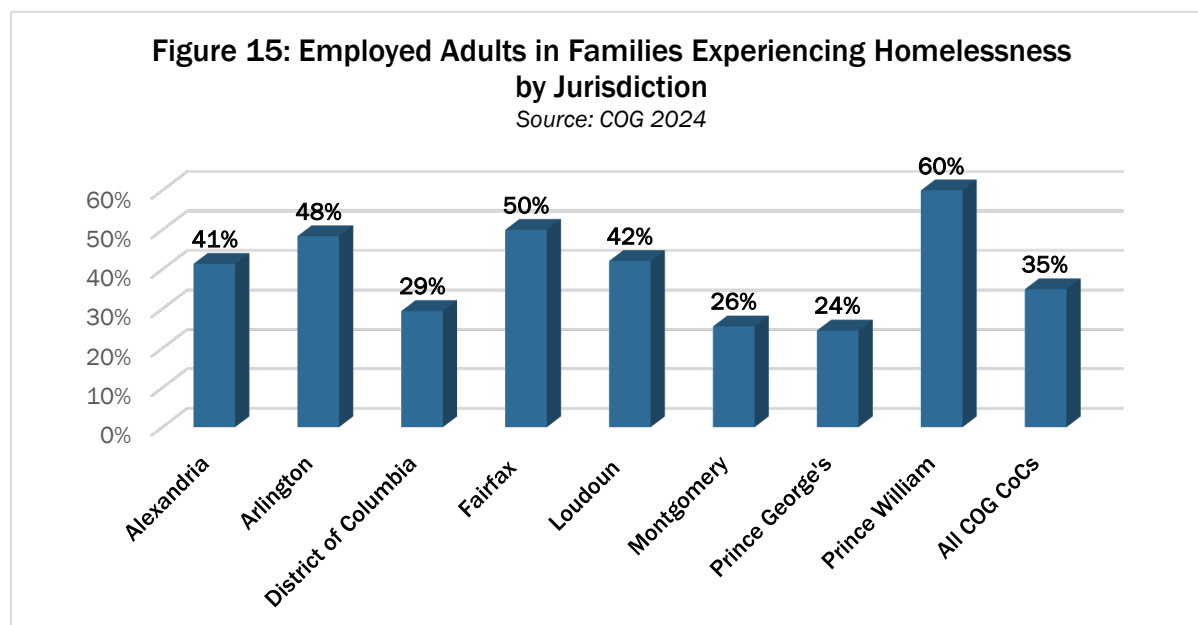
Source: COG 2024



In contrast, in seven of nine local jurisdictions, more than 30 percent of adults in family households were employed (see Figure 15, following page).

Rates of employment for adults in families experiencing homelessness vary not only from one year to the next, but across jurisdictions in metropolitan Washington. In Prince William County, for example, 60 percent of adults in families were employed, compared to 24 percent in Prince George's County (see Figure 15, following page). Approximately 64 percent of adults in these families region-wide were unemployed and employment status is unknown for one percent. The overall rate of employment is lower than during the 2023 enumeration.

Although the total number is small, seven children in homeless families were employed on the night of the enumeration. Only one of the 20 unaccompanied minors in the region's Households with Only Children were employed on the day of the PIT. This is attributed to the youths' age, levels of employability, and housing status.



While metropolitan Washington has traditionally enjoyed a lower unemployment rate compared to other national metropolitan areas, it remains one of the country's most expensive areas in which to live. In a region where housing prices are rising faster than wages, the lowest income workers face tremendous pressures. To afford a one-bedroom apartment making a minimum wage in metropolitan Washington (\$17.00 per hour) requires working 73 hours per week.<sup>53</sup> The reality is stark for the region's homeless households as evidenced in the figures shown in this section.

As a region, the percentage of employed adults in families decreased from 43 percent in 2023 to 36 percent in 2024. Improving the employment picture for some of the region's most vulnerable residents remains challenging, but CoCs will continue efforts to increase residents' earned income as a critical component for long-term housing stability.

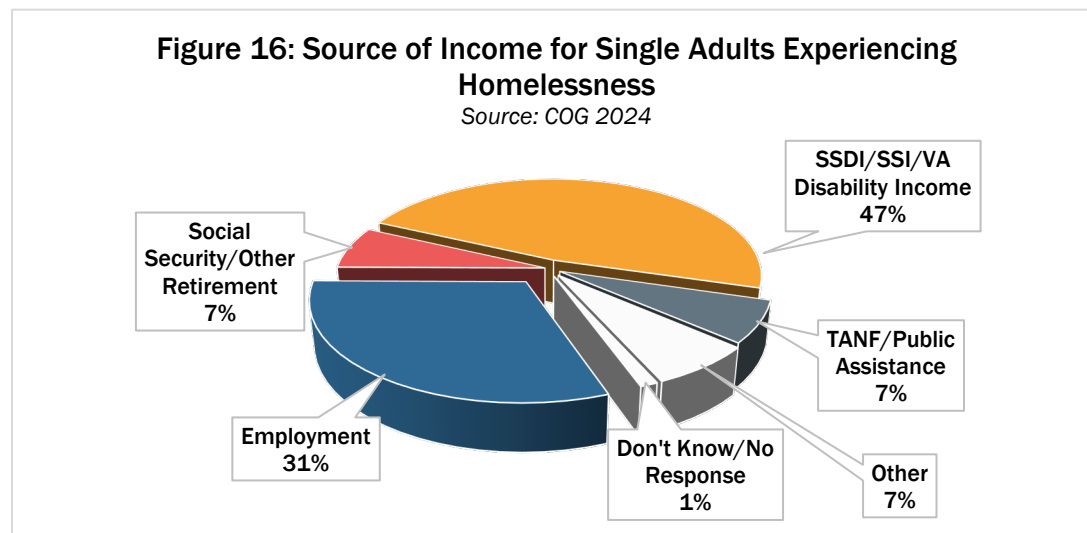
Combined with the high cost of housing, the availability and safety of living wage jobs remains a key obstacle to ending homelessness, even for those individuals who are already employed.

## Income

While a portion of the region's population of people experiencing homelessness reports receiving monthly income, many do not receive any monthly income. In 2024, 59 percent of adults in families reported having income, but only 40 percent of single adults reported income. Forty-three percent of

<sup>53</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2023*. Accessed at <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/dc>

all adults for whom this information was available report having some form of monthly income. Among single adults experiencing homelessness, 31 percent reported that employment wages and salaries were their primary source of income (see Figure 16). The largest source of primary income was disability (such as Supplemental Security Income), followed by employment, retirement (such as Social Security), and public assistance. Source of income was unknown for seven percent of single adults.

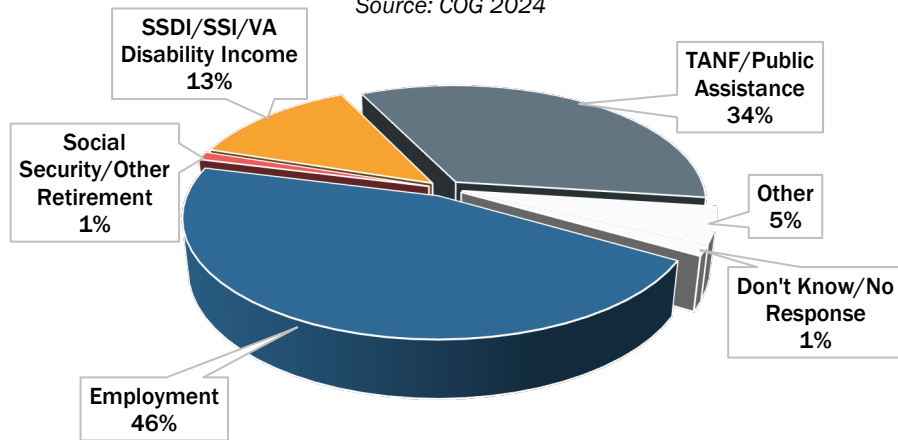


Among adults in families who responded to this question, 46 percent reported the primary source of income being from employment. This is essentially unchanged from 2022 and 2023. The next largest primary source of income was public assistance, which supports a much larger number of families than single individuals experiencing homelessness.

Figure 16 illustrates the primary source of income for the 2,514 single adults who provided this information; Figure 17 represents the responses from 845 adults in families.

**Figure 17: Source of Income for Adults in Families Experiencing Homelessness**

*Source: COG 2024*



# UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS



Rachel Pierre and Eileen Rosa interview a person experiencing homelessness outside on the night of the Point-in-Time count on January 24, 2024 in the District of Columbia.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, outreach workers, local government staff, and experienced volunteers for the region's CoCs surveyed their communities to count the area's unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. Outreach workers counted people living on the streets, in alleys, under bridges, in local parks, in camp sites, and in other places frequented by people experiencing homelessness. In 2024, the unsheltered portion of the count resembled approaches used prior to the COVID-19 pandemic with increased numbers of survey volunteers assisting with conducting interviews for the count.

According to the 2024 enumeration, 1,502 persons (approximately 15 percent of the region's 9,779 persons experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT) were unsheltered. While almost all were single adults, 23 people were in 12 families including 21 children, as well as one unaccompanied minor who were unsheltered on the night of the count. The 1,478 unsheltered single persons counted represents a nine percent increase in the number of unsheltered adults in Households without Children counted in 2024 than in 2023 (125 additional persons counted). Overall,

regional homelessness among unsheltered single adults increased 25 percent (295 additional persons) during the period between 2020 and 2024.

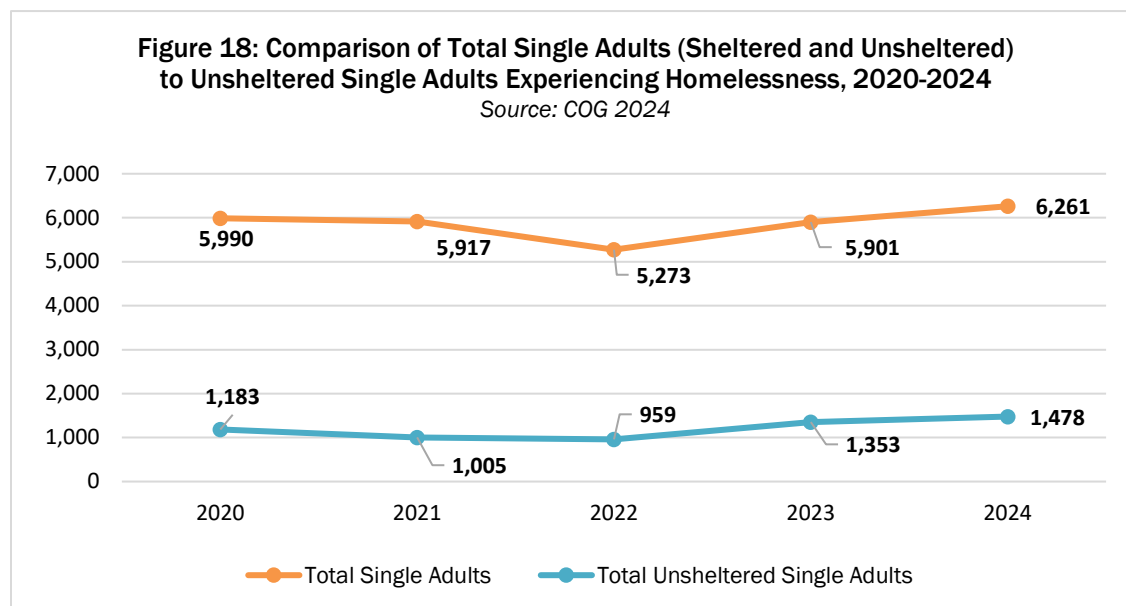
The fluctuations in the unsheltered count during the past five years may be attributed to a variety of factors. Typically, the number of individuals counted residing in areas unfit for human habitation can depend on weather conditions, the number of surveyors employed for the count, and methodology (complete coverage or sampling). Several CoCs in the region have been engaged in vigorous efforts to assist individuals experiencing chronic homelessness attain permanent housing, which may have contributed to decreases recorded in some jurisdictions.

In Loudoun County the unsheltered portion of the enumeration was conducted by a diverse team of thirty volunteers comprised of Loudoun County government employees, local homeless service providers' staff, local Veterans, and other volunteers. Loudoun County is comprised of both densely populated urban areas as well as rural areas. The vast geography of rural areas can make homelessness easy to miss, and often harder to quantify during a PIT count. As in previous years, homeless outreach workers conducted outreach through rural western Loudoun County to include small towns and incorporated villages. People camping in the woods or more rural landscapes may

not self-identify as experiencing homelessness, even though the place where they stay could be identified as “unfit for human habitation” in an urban environment.

The outreach efforts for this year's PIT count in Loudoun County were significantly enhanced by the active involvement of individuals with lived experience who played pivotal roles in guiding the efforts and conducting surveys among those similarly affected. Their familiarity with common locations within rural and western Loudoun proved to be immensely valuable in ensuring the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the data collected. This may have contributed to the increased count of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness during the 2024 enumeration.

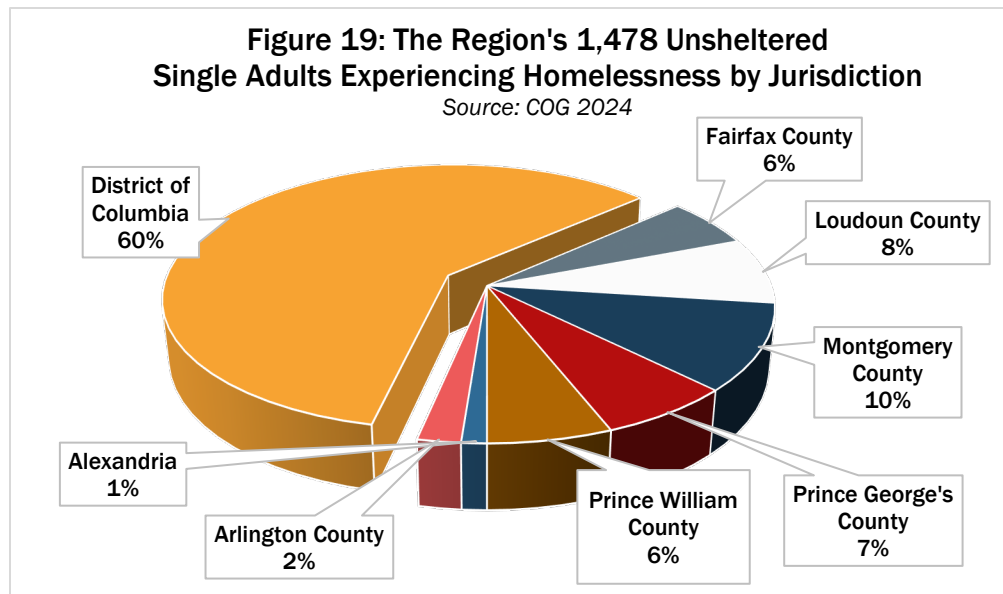
The variation in the unsheltered count by year makes discernment of a real trend difficult. This is represented graphically in Figure 18. While the prior four counts reflect a slight upward trend in the total number of homeless single adults, the count of single adults who were unsheltered on the night of the enumeration does not precisely correspond.



## Location of the Region's Unsheltered Single Adults

Where are people experiencing homelessness outside the shelter system in the metropolitan Washington region? Figure 19 indicates where survey volunteers interviewed persons experiencing homelessness in places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, parks, alleys, abandoned buildings, stairways, and rural campsites.

The District of Columbia accounts for 60 percent of the region's unsheltered homeless single adults in 2024. This proportion of the regional share represents a small decrease from 2023 when 61 percent of unsheltered single adults experiencing homelessness were counted in the District of Columbia.



In 2024, six of eight CoCs recorded an increase in their unsheltered counts from 2023 to 2024.

Overall, the region recorded a nine percent increase in unsheltered single adults in 2024 than in 2023, when the region recorded a significant 41 percent one year increase from 2022. The largest increase during this one-year period was recorded in the District of Columbia (68 additional persons), followed by Loudoun County and Montgomery County (61 and 29 additional unsheltered single adults counted respectively). Loudoun County and the City of Alexandria had the greatest increased rate from 2023 to 2024 (109 percent and 80 percent more persons counted unsheltered) counting 61 additional unsheltered persons in Loudoun and eight in the City of Alexandria respectively.

Weather conditions on the night of January 24, 2024, may have contributed to higher numbers of persons counted experiencing unsheltered homelessness as the temperatures were relatively mild for January.<sup>54</sup> The number of survey volunteers and bed availability on the night of the count may have contributed to the number of people sleeping outdoors, in places not meant for human habitation. This continues to be among the many challenges the region's CoCs are facing in keeping people experiencing homelessness safe during the winter months.

## Comparison of Unsheltered Homelessness by Jurisdiction

Reviewing the unsheltered count for a longer period than one year provides a different perspective of the PIT count results, although discerning a pattern in the findings is less clear.

Six of eight CoCs in metropolitan Washington experienced an increase in the number of people counted as experiencing unsheltered homelessness since 2023. Between the longer period of the counts from 2020 to 2024, three of eight jurisdictions recorded reductions in their unsheltered counts.

<sup>54</sup> The temperature at 10pm in the District of Columbia was 51 degrees on January 24, 2024, which is considered mild for this climate at this time of year.

Prince William County recorded the greatest decline in its rate (13 percent) or a difference of 13 fewer people counted in 2024 than in 2020. Arlington County experienced a nine percent rate of reduction and counted three fewer unsheltered individuals in 2024 than in 2020. However, the majority of CoCs experienced an increase between the 2020 and 2024 enumerations. The District of Columbia and Loudoun County recorded the greatest increase in the number of unsheltered single adults experiencing homelessness during this period. In the District of Columbia, 235 additional unhoused persons were counted in 2024 than in 2020, and in Loudoun County, the difference was 60 additional persons during the same period. Overall, the region's percentage of unsheltered single adults increased by 30 percent from 2020 to 2024. Table 10 presents the number and percentage of single adults experiencing homelessness by CoC from 2020 to 2024. Table 11 (following page) represents the percentage of each individual jurisdiction's literally homeless population that was unsheltered during the same period.

<b>TABLE 10: Unsheltered Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024</b>							
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Change in Number of Persons 2020 - 2024</b>	<b>Percent Change 2020 - 2024</b>
City of Alexandria	11	8	5	10	18	7	64%
Arlington County	34	27	20	42	31	-3	-9%
District of Columbia	652	681	689	819	887	235	36%
Fairfax County	88	57	57	113	86	-2	-2%
Loudoun County	57	28	25	56	117	60	105%
Montgomery County	103	68	69	124	153	50	49%
Prince George's County	91	68	49	89	97	6	7%
Prince William County	102	42	27	73	89	-13	-13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>30%</b>

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

<b>TABLE 11: Unsheltered Single Adults as a Percentage of Total Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024</b>					
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
City of Alexandria	9%	13%	7%	12%	17%
Arlington County	24%	21%	15%	29%	18%
District of Columbia	17%	18%	20%	22%	22%
Fairfax County	17%	8%	9%	20%	15%
Loudoun County	44%	56%	38%	39%	55%
Montgomery County	21%	14%	17%	20%	20%
Prince George's County	43%	27%	18%	33%	33%
Prince William County	48%	23%	19%	38%	44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

# CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The eight CoCs in the region are working to reduce the number of residents who meet the definition of chronic homelessness.<sup>55</sup> HUD's definition of an individual experiencing chronic homelessness as an unaccompanied adult or youth head of household is someone with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years; the episodes of homelessness must cumulatively equal at least 12 months. The definition of a chronically homeless family includes an adult member of a family who has a disabling condition and meets the same time requirements as an unaccompanied adult. Persons who are not the head of the household under the age of 18 do not meet this definition in this scenario, nor are other adults in the family who do not meet the HUD definition. However, all members of the family household are counted as persons in a family experiencing chronic homelessness. Also, persons under the age of 18 who are heads of household, including unaccompanied youth and parenting youth, may be counted as chronically homeless.

It is important to note that PIT data are self-reported, and persons who may disclose being chronically homeless, upon further investigation, may not meet HUD's definition.

Numerous studies<sup>56</sup> have found that housing individuals experiencing chronic homelessness leads to greater stability and independence and, significantly reduces the overall numbers of people experiencing homelessness. This helps communities reduce public expenditures, particularly for the most frequent users of medical, judicial, and other emergency services. For example, one study, completed by the University of California Irvine in June 2017<sup>57</sup>, found that the costs incurred by a person experiencing chronic homelessness can be cut in half (from an average of \$35,500 per year) when they are provided with permanent supportive housing. However, it is worth noting that the cost of homelessness declines when someone experiencing homelessness is housed, whether someone has experienced multiple episodes of homelessness or not.

The more important benefit to housing chronically homeless persons using a Housing First<sup>58</sup> approach, however, may be in achieving an improved quality of life rather than basing the value of this approach solely from a public cost savings perspective. This may have the unintended effect of implicitly devaluing the lives of people experiencing homelessness.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> HUD updated the definition of chronic homelessness in 2015.

<sup>56</sup><http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/supportive-housing-is-cost-effective> and <http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/news/housing-homeless-mentally-ill-pays-itself-according-university-pennsylvania>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.unitedwayoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/united-way-cost-study-homelessness-2017-report.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Housing First, a successful and well-documented national best practice, focuses on placing residents experiencing homelessness in housing first and receiving wrap-around social services to maintain housing stability rather than requiring behavioral health changes to be eligible for housing assistance.

<sup>59</sup> Stefan G. Kertesz, M.D., Travis P. Baggett, M.D., M.P.H., James J. O'Connell, M.D., David S. Buck, M.D., M.P.H., and Margot B. Kushel, M.D., "Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless People – Reframing the Debate", *New England Journal of Medicine* 2016; 375:2115-2117 December 1, 2016 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1608326. Accessed April 14, 2017 at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1608326#t=article>

## Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Twenty percent of the region's unhoused residents were single adults who met the chronic homelessness definition. This percentage represents a slight increase from 19 percent in 2023.

However, among all single adults experiencing homelessness, the incidence of experiencing chronic homelessness is more than 10 percent higher than among all persons experiencing homelessness (30 percent of single adults in contrast to 19 percent of all persons experiencing homelessness on the night of the enumeration).

Nearly all jurisdictions (seven of eight) experienced an increase in their chronic homelessness count since 2023. During the longer period between 2020 and 2024, only one jurisdiction, Prince William County, noted a reduction, counting four fewer persons. Fairfax County counted 64 fewer chronically homeless persons from 2023 to 2024. Prince William County, Prince George's County, and the District of Columbia recorded the largest increases in the numbers of single adults experiencing chronic homelessness from the previous year's enumeration (noting 90, 78, and 72 additional persons respectively.)

The region's CoCs attribute the increase in the number of residents counted as chronically homeless from 2023 to 2024 to a variety of related factors. An ongoing key contributing challenge to making progress ending chronic homelessness is the lack of deeply affordable and available housing options, particularly permanent supportive housing, to enable more residents to exit homelessness and remain stably housed. This situation has been true for many years, and the situation has grown more severe since the onset of the pandemic. The end of eviction moratoriums and other tenant protections that were put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may slow the region's progress in ending chronic homelessness in the future.

In some jurisdictions, prioritization of mainstream Housing Choice Vouchers for persons experiencing homelessness may have led to increased numbers of persons moving to permanent housing on one day in January. In some jurisdictions, such as Fairfax County, Emergency Housing Vouchers were targeted to persons experiencing chronic homelessness. These housing resources may have had a positive impact on the number of people considered chronically homeless on the day of the annual enumeration.

Overall, the region has worked tirelessly to decrease the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness. Although the regional five percent increase is relatively small, the CoCs in metropolitan Washington face significant challenges finding permanent housing in a high-cost housing market for residents who may be among the most vulnerable due to having a disabling condition and experiencing the trauma of multiple episodes of homelessness.

An important region-wide strategy for ending chronic homelessness is the use of a coordinated entry system and a by-name list to prioritize housing for the most vulnerable residents. Several of the region's CoCs also attribute success in constraining or reducing the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness during the longer period between 2020 and 2024 to participation in several successive nationwide campaigns, such as Community Solution's Built for Zero initiative.<sup>60</sup> Montgomery County, Fairfax County, Arlington County, and the District of Columbia have participated in the Built for Zero effort for years. COG and the region's CoCs kicked off a partnership with

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<sup>60</sup><https://www.community.solutions/what-we-do/built-for-zero>

Community Solutions in January 2024 to implement the Built for Zero methodology, with an initial focus on ending veteran homelessness as a region.

<b>TABLE 12: Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024</b>						
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Percent Change 2020 - 2024</b>
City of Alexandria	15	21	18	5	18	20%
Arlington County	20	34	39	18	35	75%
District of Columbia	1,337	1,618	1,257	1,314	1,386	4%
Fairfax County	174	318	273	248	184	6%
Loudoun County	21	23	22	27	42	100%
Montgomery County	10	51	40	22	100	900%
Prince George's County	15	34	46	24	114	660%
Prince William County	53	49	31	33	49	-8%
<b>All COG CoCs</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>17%</b>

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

Table 13 (following page) provides the sheltered status breakdown of the single adults experiencing chronic homelessness counted as part of the 2024 Point-In-Time Enumeration. Most residents suffer from severe physical health and mental health-related impediments. Health impediments may include physical disabilities and substance use disorders. The problem is more acute when individuals suffer from multiple challenges. To provide appropriate services for a person experiencing chronic homelessness, jurisdictions and service providers must ensure that individuals receive adequate screenings and are accurately and timely diagnosed. Additionally, in many cases, people need medical assistance and/or other regimented methods of care and counseling. People may not immediately respond to the care they receive, or their care may be required for the remainder of their lives. In such instances, proper case management services are essential.



An outreach worker interviews a person experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the District of Columbia on January 24, 2024 (credit: Pathways to Housing DC)

TABLE 13: 2024 Shelter Status of Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness				
Jurisdiction	Total Single Adults	Number of Sheltered* Single Adults	Number of Unsheltered Single Adults	Percentage of Single Adults Who Are Unsheltered
City of Alexandria	18	2	16	89%
Arlington County	35	21	14	40%
District of Columbia	1,386	900	486	35%
Fairfax County	184	129	55	30%
Loudoun County	42	16	26	62%
Montgomery County	100	69	31	31%
Prince George's County	114	84	30	26%
Prince William County	45	22	23	51%
<b>All COG CoCs</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>35%</b>

Source: COG 2024

Table 14 below provides a longer-term view of how the percentage of single adults who are experiencing unsheltered chronic homelessness has changed over time. The increased rate of persons who are experiencing chronic homelessness in areas not meant for human habitation between 2020 and 2024 may represent the variations seen from year to year in the unsheltered count converging with the increasing challenge of providing deeply affordable supportive housing in metropolitan Washington.

TABLE 14: Percentage of Unsheltered Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020-2024					
Jurisdiction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
City of Alexandria	13%	24%	28%	0%	89%
Arlington County	70%	41%	28%	67%	40%
District of Columbia	29%	28%	35%	42%	35%
Fairfax County	34%	11%	11%	27%	30%
Loudoun County	52%	61%	50%	44%	62%
Montgomery County	0%	0%	8%	5%	61%
Prince George's County	0%	97%	7%	50%	26%
Prince William County	53%	24%	23%	48%	51%
<b>All COG CoCs</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>36%</b>

Source: COG 2024

## Families Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Most families experiencing chronic homelessness across the region reside in emergency and/or winter shelters. There were 30 families experiencing chronic homelessness (or 88 total persons in families) counted in the region in 2024, a slight increase in the number of households from the 27 families counted in 2023, and an increase of only one person in the total number overall.

In 2024, three CoCs (City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Prince William County) did not count any families experiencing chronic homelessness. Five chronically homeless families with a total of eight children were unsheltered on January 24, 2024.



The Horizon, a new short-term family shelter facility, has helped contribute to a reduced length of time homeless for families experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia. (credit: WI Webstaff, *The Washington Informer*)

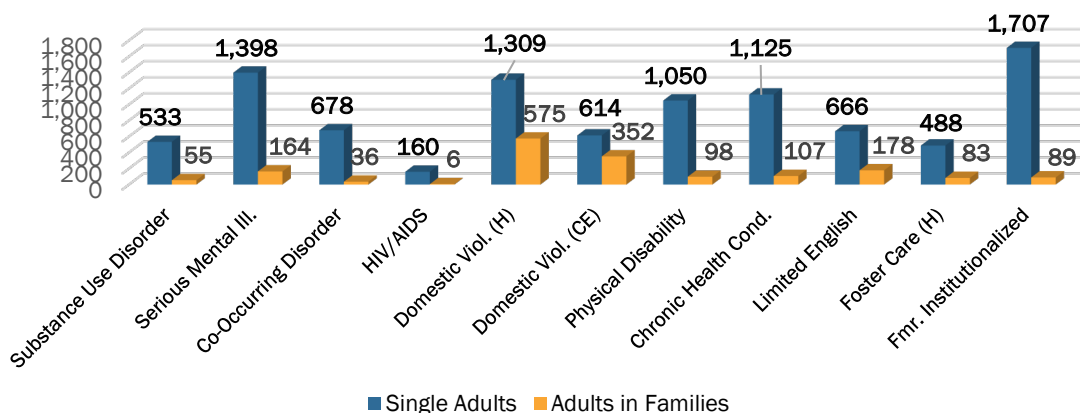
## VULNERABILITIES AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

According to the 2024 enumeration, a number of the region’s residents experiencing homelessness live with chronic health conditions, physical disabilities, substance use disorders, serious mental illness, or were formerly institutionalized and discharged directly into homelessness. The incidence of substance use disorders, mental illness, or co-occurring disorders among persons experiencing homelessness is similar among all CoCs in the region. Nationally, an estimated 20 to 25 percent of people experiencing homelessness live with some form of severe mental illness<sup>61</sup>, compared to only six percent who live with serious mental illness in the general population.<sup>62</sup>

While these conditions may contribute to housing instability, the experience of homelessness itself can be the cause of or exacerbate poor mental health—the stress of being without housing can contribute to anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, or lead to substance use.<sup>63</sup> Media coverage can conflate these issues and contribute to an inaccurate picture of homelessness as an intractable problem or that is something caused by individual shortcomings.<sup>64</sup> Failings of multiple systems of care, including systemic racism as a root cause, result in the number of people who experience homelessness in metropolitan Washington.

**Figure 20: Life Experiences and Vulnerabilities of Adults Experiencing Homelessness**

Source: COG 2024



Note: These subgroups are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for adults experiencing homelessness to be counted in more than one subgroup.

In 2024, the most prevalent characteristic reported among Households without Children was having a history of institutionalization, followed by serious mental illness. The next most reported characteristic for single adults experiencing homelessness is having a history of domestic violence and living with a chronic health condition. This remains unchanged from 2023. Other past

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/fixing-the-system/features-and-news/3965-research-weekly-homelessness-increases-among-individuals-with-serious-mental-illness->

<sup>62</sup> Psychology Today. “The Complex Link between Homelessness and Mental Health.” May 21, 2021. Accessed April 16, 2022. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mind-matters-menninger/202105/the-complex-link-between-homelessness-and-mental-health> and [http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Mental\\_Illness.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Mental_Illness.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/topics/mental-health>

<sup>64</sup> Center for American Progress. “Lack of Housing and Mental Health Disabilities Exacerbate One Another.” November 20, 2018, Accessed April 16, 2021 at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/news/2018/11/20/461294/lack-housing-mental-health-disabilities-exacerbate-one-another/>

experiences people reported in the survey included having a physical disability, followed by a co-occurring disorder (or having both a mental health and substance use disorder).

Among families, the most defining characteristic is an incidence of domestic violence, either as a contributing factor to the current episode of homelessness on the night of the enumeration or having a history of domestic violence. Forty-three percent of the adults in families who responded in the subpopulation categories indicated having experienced domestic violence in the past, and nearly a third (27 percent) reported their current episode of homelessness was related to domestic violence. This represents an increase from the 21 percent recorded in 2023 for the number of adults in families whose current episode of homelessness was caused by domestic violence.

Beginning with the 2013 enumeration, HUD requested data on persons who had a *history* of domestic violence. Although HUD no longer requires gathering data about domestic violence, to maintain base data for trend comparison, both elements are collected and are shown in Figure 20 (previous page). Regionally, the number of single adults reporting their experience of homelessness was a result of a current episode of domestic violence (DV-CE) increased in 2024 from 554 to 614 persons. However, the number of single adults (1,309) who were identified as having a history of domestic violence at any time (DV-H) is higher (20 percent) than the number of single adults whose current episode of homelessness was caused by domestic violence (ten percent).



An outreach worker interviews a person experiencing unsheltered homelessness on January 24, 2024 in the District of Columbia. (credit: Pathways to Housing DC)

# VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

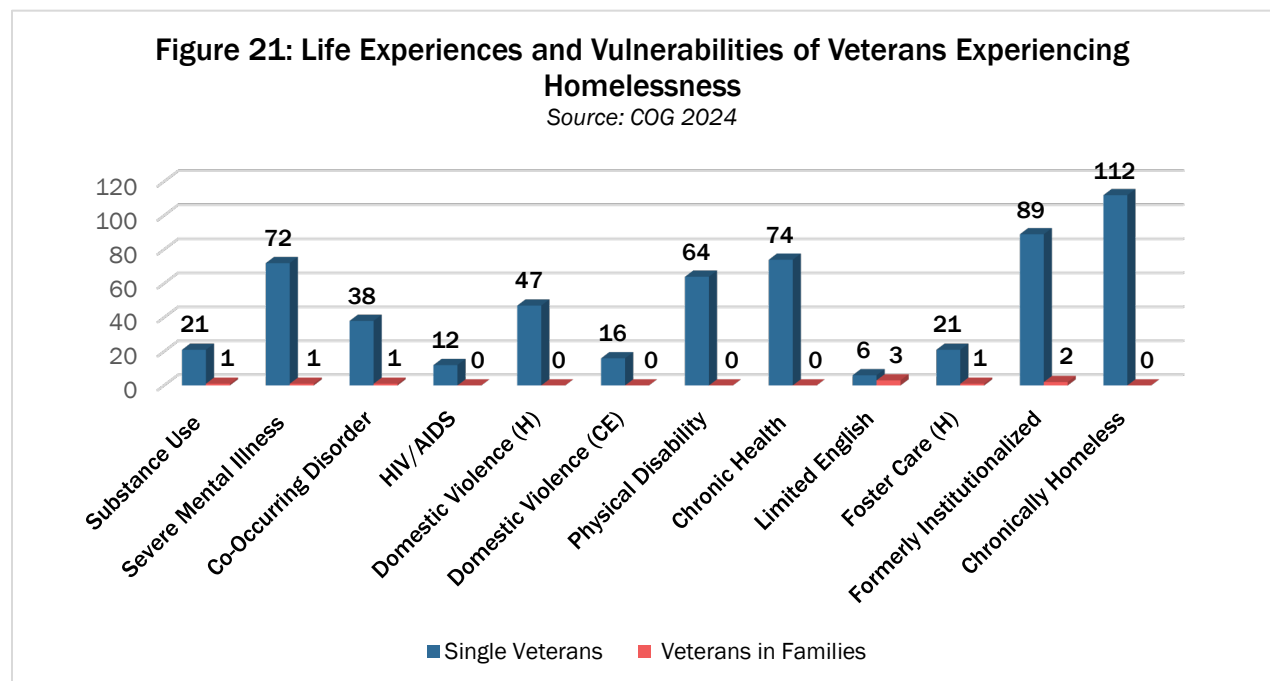


Photo credit: Jay Adan /Flickr

Veterans are another subset of people experiencing homelessness tracked by HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This is the eleventh year that the region's CoCs collected separate data on single adult veterans as well as veterans in families to better understand and address their unique experiences of homelessness.

Nationally, as of 2023, veterans represented five percent of the total number of persons experiencing homelessness.<sup>65</sup> In contrast, in the metropolitan Washington region, three percent of persons experiencing

homelessness were veterans as of the PIT count in 2024. Of the total self-reported veterans experiencing homelessness in the 2024 enumeration, 37 of 327 total veterans identified as female (11 percent of all veterans experiencing homelessness or less than one percent of all people counted as literally homeless). One of the veterans experiencing homelessness identified as transgender and one veteran identified as having a different gender identity. Figure 21 graphically represents some experiences and challenges these veterans face; veterans are broken out



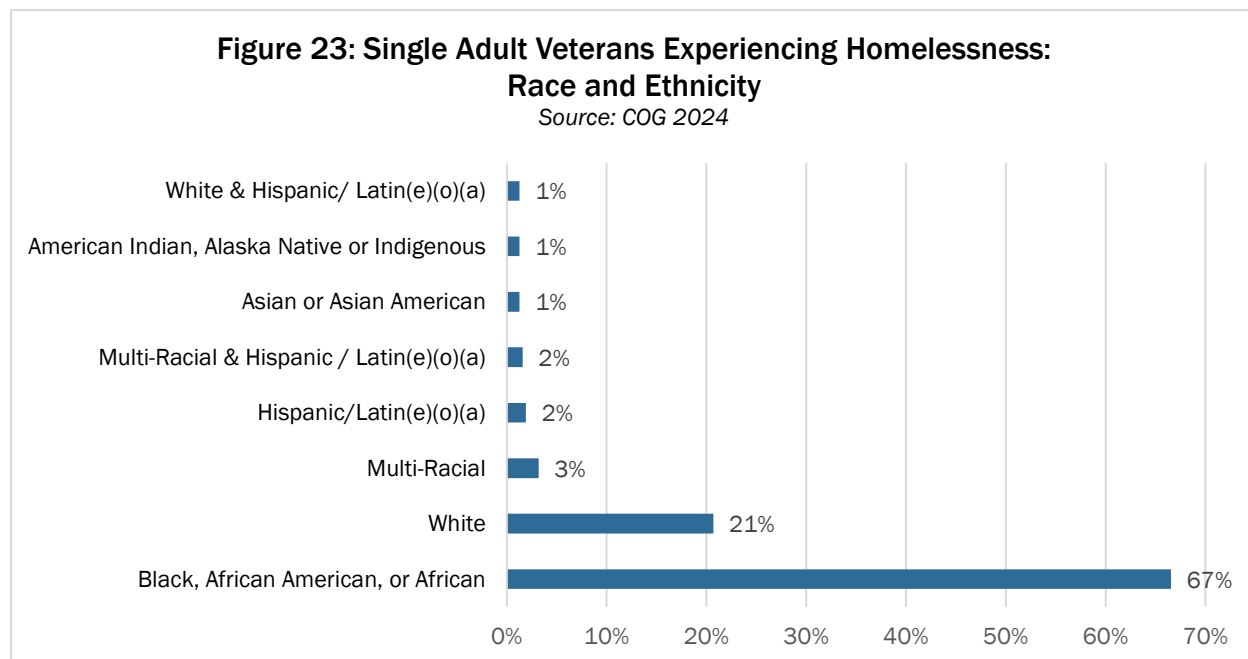
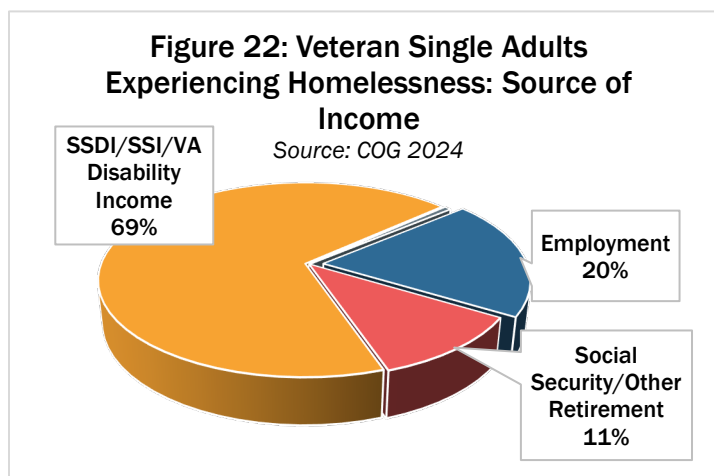
Note: These subgroups are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for veterans experiencing homelessness to be counted in more than one subgroup.

<sup>65</sup> As of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count. See <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

separately as individuals in Households without Children as well as Households with Adults and Children. Veterans, like other persons experiencing homelessness, have a high incidence of chronic homelessness, former institutionalization, living with serious mental illness, and chronic health concerns, as shown in Figure 21. The small number of veterans in families who responded to these questions for the 2024 enumeration make comparison with single adult veterans challenging.

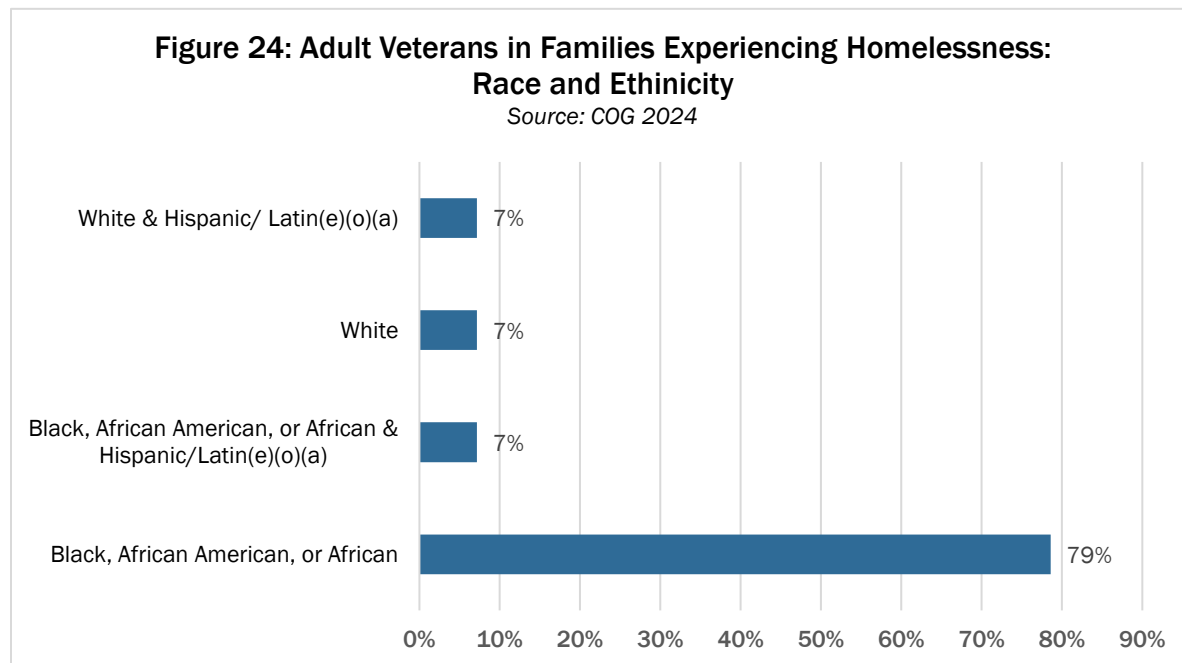
For those single veterans who reported having income in 2024, 20 percent reported that employment was the primary source of income. The likelihood of having a disability is reflected in the veteran populations' source of income; 69 percent of veterans with income noted SSVI/SSI/VA disability and retirement as their primary source of income, as shown in Figure 22.

Most homeless veterans who reported their race and ethnicity selected Black, African, or African American (67 percent of single adults and 85 percent of adults in families). It is important to note that the total numbers of adult veterans in families is small (14 persons) compared to the total number of single veterans (314) who reported their racial and ethnic identity. See Figure 23.



White veterans in Households without Children made up the next largest racial and ethnic identity shared, with 21 percent. Veterans who selected multi-racial were three percent, with all remaining responses at two percent. This remains essentially unchanged since 2018. See Figure 23 for self-reported racial and ethnic identities for single veterans.

Ethnically, the overwhelming majority of veterans, both single adults and adults in families, who responded to this question responded they identified as non-Hispanic or non-Latin(a)(e)(o). Figure 24 represents the responses from 14 veterans in families. Due to the small number of responses, the only racial and ethnic categories included are ones that indicated a positive response.



HUD and the VA, through the VA's Supportive Housing program (VASH), have focused efforts to increase the supply of Housing Choice Vouchers to put more veterans experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.

Key strategies used throughout the region in reducing the number of veterans experiencing homelessness include strong eviction prevention services, diversion services, street outreach and implementation of a Housing First approach.

Housing First, a successful and well-documented national best practice, focuses on placing residents experiencing homelessness in housing first and receiving wrap-around social services to maintain housing stability rather than requiring behavioral health changes to be eligible for housing assistance.

In 2024, four of eight CoC reported a reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness from 2023 to 2024.

Similarly, the longer-term trend as shown in Table 15 (following page) demonstrates that during the period of 2020 to 2024, four CoCs reduced their incidence of veterans experiencing homelessness and the region reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness by 20 percent.

Coordinated regional efforts from the local to state and federal level at the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) have had a positive impact on reducing the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in our region since 2020. Key

elements of this success include the increased availability of permanent housing resources (such as SSVF and VASH vouchers), tied to the use of coordinated entry to ensure that available resources are used efficiently.

TABLE 15: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024							
Jurisdiction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in Persons 2020 - 2024	Percent Change 2020 - 2024
City of Alexandria	9	3	2	5	2	-7	-78%
Arlington County	3	4	6	6	13	10	333%
District of Columbia	302	187	208	218	213	-89	-29%
Fairfax County	33	48	32	34	26	-7	-21%
Loudoun County	7	4	2	14	8	1	14%
Montgomery County	14	19	15	23	32	18	129%
Prince George's County	28	19	8	8	18	-10	-36%
Prince William County	16	12	11	11	16	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>-84</b>	<b>-20%</b>

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

COG and its participating CoCs have come together for the first time to end veteran homelessness as a region through a partnership with the national non-profit organization Community Solutions. COG and Community Solutions' partnership involves a multi-year commitment to implementing the Built for Zero<sup>66</sup> approach to preventing and ending the experience of homelessness. The methodology involves using data to help equitably drive and transform system performance to not just react to an individual's housing crisis, but act at a population level to end homelessness.

**“Achieving functional zero for a population yields benefits across the entire community.”**

Several jurisdictions have worked with Community Solutions for many years through successive campaigns, beginning with the 100,000 Homes Campaign: the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Montgomery County. Their efforts will be to sustain “functional zero” for veterans experiencing homelessness while working towards other locally determined goals. Functional zero means that “fewer veterans are experiencing homelessness than can be routinely housed in a month, with a minimum threshold of three veterans.”<sup>67</sup>

A research study conducted by the Urban Institute on the impact of using the Built for Zero methodology in four communities found that “achieving functional zero for a population yields benefits across the entire community, including individuals both within and outside the target

<sup>66</sup> For more information about Built for Zero, please see <https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/the-movement/>

<sup>67</sup> Community Solutions' definition of functional zero accessed on April 21, 2024 at <https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/functional-zero/>

population; the homelessness response system; other systems (like health care, criminal, legal, and emergency systems); and the broader community.”<sup>68</sup>

Through innovative region-wide focused and coordinated efforts, the CoCs in the metropolitan Washington region will continue to implement proven strategies to end the experience of homelessness for those who have served in the armed forces by assisting veterans in accessing permanent housing.

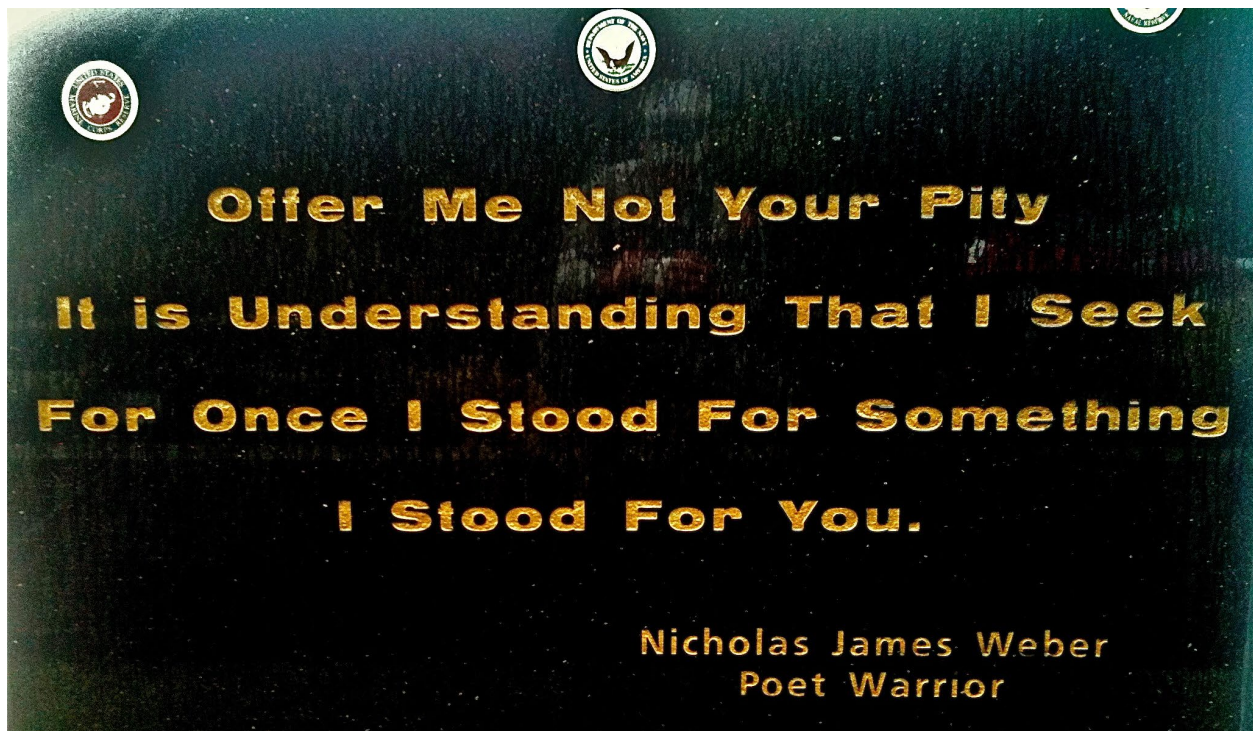


Photo credit: Eddie Black, Veteran Memorial / Flickr

<sup>68</sup> Batko, S., Solari, C. & DuBois, N. *The Value of Ending Veteran and Chronic Homelessness in Four Communities: A Framework for Measuring Community-Wide Costs and Benefits*. Urban Institute. Accessed on April 21, 2024 at <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104640/the-value-of-ending-veteran-and-chronic-homelessness-in-four-communities.pdf>

# SHELTER FACILITIES AND PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The metropolitan Washington region's multi-faceted CoC model focuses heavily on providing permanent housing solutions while continuing to provide emergency shelter for those facing an immediate housing crisis. The model for assisting persons experiencing homelessness has evolved due to the recognition that it is difficult to adequately address the systemic and individual problems that many people without permanent housing experience solely with the emergency shelter-based model. Emergency shelter alone cannot provide the intensive longer-term assistance people experiencing homelessness may need to sustain permanent housing. Housing models such as transitional, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing programs can provide this assistance, based on each individual's needs and circumstances.

Table 16 provides the region's 2024 distribution of emergency, seasonal and overflow, transitional, safe haven, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and other permanent housing beds for individuals, unaccompanied minors, and families experiencing homelessness. These facilities were available in the winter months during the enumeration and during the year's warmer months from April to October.

It's important to note that the availability of beds for persons experiencing literal homelessness are also affected by weather conditions; during a hypothermia alert, the number of seasonal beds (shown in Table 16) increases to meet the demand for those beds.

During the 2021 and 2022 enumerations, shelter capacity in all the region's CoCs had to adjust to meet public health guidelines from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). Congregate shelters were forced to reduce bed capacity to maintain proper distancing and use existing rooms for isolation and quarantine purposes. CoCs used hotel rooms, and other public facilities (such as closed recreation centers), to accommodate the need for alternative shelter spaces and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Capacity had to be modified not only to adjust spatial requirements, but also operationally to include staggered mealtimes, daily screening protocols, and COVID testing. During the 2024 enumeration, while some non-congregate shelter programs remained in place, most CoCs have returned to pre-pandemic level shelter capacity and operations. In some CoCs, such as Montgomery County, shelter capacity has continued to increase to meet the growing need. Between 2020 and 2024, the region added 5,733 permanent supportive housing beds to its year-round facility inventory. This represents a 41 percent increase since 2020.

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**The metropolitan Washington region achieved a significant 71 percent increase in permanent housing beds between the PIT counts of 2020 and 2024.**

Permanent supportive housing beds in 2024 comprise 45 percent of the region's inventory serving households experiencing or formerly experiencing homelessness. This remains essentially unchanged from 2023.

The region reflected 6,474 more rapid re-housing beds in use on the night of the 2024 PIT than in 2020, bringing the total inventory of permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing beds to 33,642. Rapid re-housing capacity, as reflected in the PIT count, is counted by utilization which may

ebb and flow over time, while permanent supportive housing stock includes designated beds or units. A better representation of rapid re-housing bed utilization would review the number of people served during a year.

Beds categorized as “other permanent housing” also represent another source of permanent housing. The region’s increased supply of permanent housing is consistent with the national initiative to use a Housing First<sup>69</sup> model. Persons in rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, or other permanent housing are no longer considered to be experiencing homelessness; they are counted as “formerly homeless” persons.

Other permanent housing was included in Table 16 for the first time in 2017. Other permanent housing is housing that is specifically targeted for persons experiencing homelessness. Examples of other permanent housing in the metropolitan Washington region includes non-profit agency partners purchasing housing units and designating them for persons who are formerly homeless and using project-based Housing Choice Vouchers to provide a longer-term rental subsidy. The data on other permanent housing are also reported to HUD and reflect a more complete picture of the number of formerly homeless beds available in the metropolitan Washington region. Including other permanent housing in the bed count shows an additional 914 beds since 2020 that would otherwise not be counted.

The region recorded 2,241 emergency, seasonal and overflow beds in 2024, representing a decrease increase of 3,701 beds since 2023 and a decrease of 5,329 beds since 2020. The reduction in emergency, seasonal, and overflow beds may be the result of several factors, such as weather conditions on the night of the count and the loss of some facilities for emergency shelter (such as churches) since the pandemic began, or conversions of shelter facilities into permanent housing.

The region continued to lose transitional beds from 2020 through 2024. This trend began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, the region provided 1,692 fewer beds, or a significant 84 percent decrease since 2020. This decrease has been a consistent trend, with reductions noted last year between 2020 and 2024.

The reduction in transitional housing beds is due to several factors. One main factor is resource reallocation to focus on prevention and permanent supportive housing. As funding to support transitional housing declines, primarily due to changed policy and practice at HUD, the region’s jurisdictions are faced with the need to eliminate beds as a result. In several jurisdictions, some transitional housing units have been converted to better meet the identified individual CoC needs, such as providing more rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing. Overall, the reduction in transitional housing beds reflects a change in approach that emphasizes permanent housing solutions, as transitional housing programs are inconsistent with a Housing First approach.

Transitional housing beds comprised only one percent of the region’s literally homeless beds in winter in 2024, a proportion that is reduced from four percent in 2023. The distribution of emergency, seasonal and overflow shelter beds comprised five percent in 2024, a decrease of eight percent from the previous year. The region currently has a total of 43,686 beds for its residents currently or formerly experiencing homelessness across each of the facility categories; this number

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<sup>69</sup> Housing First is an approach to solving homelessness that emphasizes providing housing first and making use of clinical services optional. This strategy has proven successful in stabilizing persons experiencing homelessness, lowering returns to homelessness, and reducing the use of crisis services. For more information: [http://usich.gov/usich\\_resources/fact\\_sheets/the\\_housing\\_first\\_checklist\\_a\\_practical\\_tool\\_for\\_assessing\\_housing\\_first\\_in](http://usich.gov/usich_resources/fact_sheets/the_housing_first_checklist_a_practical_tool_for_assessing_housing_first_in) and <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/what-is-housing-first>

has increased by 6,392 beds compared to 2020. Table 16 (shown below in two parts) represents this regional resource for persons who were literally or formerly experiencing homeless on January 24, 2024.

TABLE 16: 2020 - 2024 Winter and Year-Round Inventory of Beds in Metropolitan Washington								
		Beds for Singles	Beds for Unaccompanied Youth	Beds for Persons in Families	All Beds: Winter	Percent Distribution in Winter	All Beds: Warm Months	Percent Distribution in Warm Months
<i>Beds for Literally Homeless</i>								
Emergency, Seasonal & Overflow Beds	2024	1,124	4	1,113	2,241	87%		
	2023	3,759	21	2,162	5,942	77%		
	2022	4,289	0	2,123	6,412	77%		
	2021	5,178	16	2,571	7,765	78%		
	2020	4,217	24	3,329	7,570	79%		
Transitional Housing Beds	2024	136	2	191	329	13%	329	13%
	2023	1,039	8	753	1,800	24%	1,800	23%
	2022	1,116	0	820	1,936	21%	1,936	23%
	2021	1,094	0	1,021	2,115	22%	2,115	21%
	2020	1,085	0	936	2,021	23%	2,021	21%
Safe Haven	2024	0	0	n/a	0	0%	0	0.0%
	2023	24	0	n/a	24	0%	24	0.3%
	2022	32	0	n/a	32	0%	32	0.4%
	2021	25	0	n/a	25	0%	25	0.3%
	2020	12	0	n/a	12	1%	12	0.1%
Subtotal: Beds for Literally Homeless	2024	1,260	6	1,304	2,570		2,570	
	2023	4,822	29	3,068	7,766		7,766	
	2022	5,437	0	3,648	8,380		8,380	
	2021	6,297	16	4,350	9,905		9,905	
	2020	5,314	24	5,176	9,603		9,603	
Percent Change Since 2020		-76%	-75%	-75%	-73%		-73%	

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

Between 2020 and 2024, the metropolitan Washington region's supply of permanent housing beds increased by a significant 70 percent or 16,797 beds. This in part reflects the addition of other permanent housing to the inventory count; however, it also reflects the priority the region's CoCs continues to place on increasing resources for permanent housing solutions. The region currently has 41,116 permanent housing beds, representing 94 percent of the region's total bed inventory. This is reflected in the second portion of Table 16 on the following page.

**TABLE 16: 2020 - 2024 Winter and Year-Round Inventory of Beds in Metropolitan Washington (Continued)**

<i>Permanent Housing Beds for Formerly Homeless Persons</i>								
		Beds for Singles	Beds for Unaccompanied Youth	Beds for Persons in Families	All Beds: Winter	Percent Distribution in Winter	All Beds: Warm Months	Percent Distribution in Warm Months
Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	2024	9,862	0	9,970	19,832	48%	19,832	48%
	2023	10,315	0	8,731	19,046	53%	19,046	53%
	2022	10,067	0	9,099	19,166	64%	19,166	64%
	2021	8,468	0	10,422	18,890	79%	18,890	79%
	2020	6,809	0	7,074	13,883	58%	13,883	58%
Rapid Re-Housing & RRH Demonstration Beds	2024	1,273	0	12,841	14,114	34%	14,114	34%
	2023	1,209	0	9,520	10,729	30%	10,729	30%
	2022	905	0	8,062	8,967	30%	8,967	30%
	2021	657	0	8,772	9,429	39%	9,429	39%
	2020	746	0	6,806	7,552	31%	7,552	31%
Other Permanent Housing	2024	1,337	0	5,833	7,170	17%	7,170	17%
	2023	1,292	0	4,959	6,251	17%	6,251	17%
	2022	1,880	0	5,409	7,289	24%	7,289	24%
	2021	774	0	897	1,671	7%	1,671	7%
	2020	1,274	0	4,982	6,256	26%	6,256	26%
Subtotal: Beds for Formerly Homeless	2024	12,472	0	28,644	41,116		41,116	
	2023	13,191	0	22,664	35,855		35,855	
	2022	9,961	0	20,131	30,092		30,092	
	2021	8,024	0	15,991	24,015		24,015	
	2020	8,024	0	15,991	24,015		24,015	
TOTAL - All beds (literally and formerly homeless)	2024	13,732	6	29,948	43,686		43,686	
	2023	18,013	29	25,732	43,792		43,621	
	2022	15,398	0	23,779	43,802		38,472	
	2021	14,321	16	20,341	38,224		33,920	
	2020	13,338	24	21,167	37,294		33,618	
Percent Change Since 2020		3%	-75%	41%	17%		30%	

Source: COG 2024

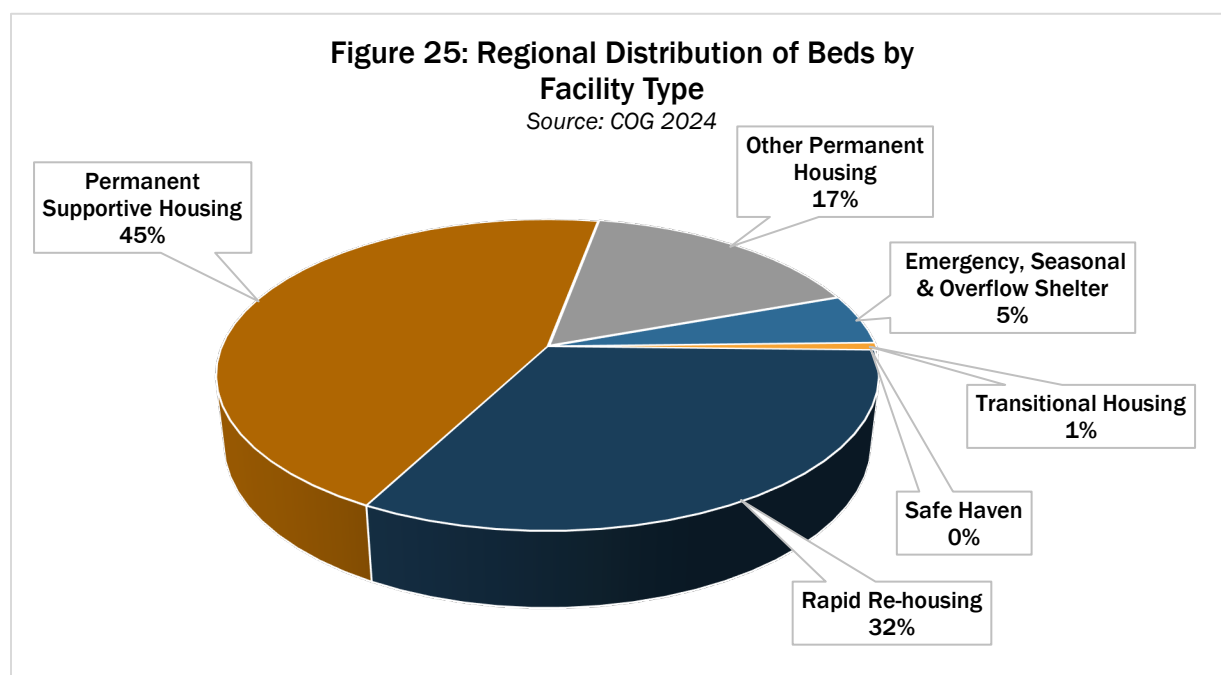
Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

According to Figure 25 (following page), five percent of the region's distribution of beds is for emergency, seasonal and overflow shelter. In 2014, the region added the number of rapid re-housing beds to the inventory it tracks. Rapid-rehousing beds accounted for 32 percent of the region's inventory during the 2024 enumeration. Transitional housing comprises one percent of the region's bed inventory, which represents a three percent decrease from 2023. Safe haven beds were less than one percent of the regional inventory in the 2024 PIT count.

In addition to the resources represented in Table 16, the region also has a limited supply of medical beds to provide short-term recuperative care for people who are too ill or vulnerable to use emergency shelter services, but who are not sick enough to be admitted to a hospital. These facilities provide an important short-term safety net solution for persons with significant medical

needs. Some hospital systems, such as Bon Secours, recognize housing as an important social determinant of health and have partnered with housing providers to create additional permanent housing for persons experiencing homelessness.

The District of Columbia's 16,112 permanent supportive housing beds for single adults and families represent 81 percent of the region's total number of permanent supportive housing beds. Montgomery County has 11 percent of the region's permanent supportive housing beds at 2,154 beds, and Fairfax County, the next largest system, had three percent or 644 permanent supportive housing beds in the region on the night of the 2024 enumeration.



## FROM HOMELESSNESS TO PERMANENT HOUSING



Homeless service providers and government housing officials are often asked, “How many people who previously experienced homelessness are now in housing?” The question was harder to answer when governments followed the emergency shelter model of the 1980s. Under this model, people experiencing chronic homelessness comprised most of the shelter population and were less likely to access permanent housing. This happened because people who were referred on to permanent housing had to demonstrate “readiness” for housing evidenced by completing treatment,

maintaining sobriety, or otherwise successfully “graduating” from temporary housing like shelter or transitional housing.

Housing First is an alternative to this “housing readiness” model which is founded on the belief that all people, regardless of their experiences or needs, deserve housing. Another core principle of the Housing First model is that the most vulnerable person experiencing homelessness is more responsive to interventions and social services support after they are in their own housing, rather than while living in temporary or transitional housing facilities. Under a Housing First model, people can gain the stability necessary to better manage the challenges in their lives.

The CoCs in metropolitan Washington have adopted a Housing First approach as a systems model to respond to homelessness. This includes programs that are low-barrier, person-centered, housing-focused, and are not just geared towards those who may experience chronic homelessness or live with a disabling condition.

The ultimate goal of the metropolitan Washington region’s homeless CoCs is to assist people in accessing permanent housing in communities where they can thrive. Permanent supportive housing is one solution that engages people who formerly experienced homelessness to build trust and rapport to identify what wrap-around services will best assist them in their efforts to live as independently as possible. These services may include substance use counseling, life skills training, health care, mental health services, and job training. Many of these crucial supportive services and housing subsidies are provided by the region’s CoCs, comprised of local governments, nonprofits, and other human services agencies.

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**The CoCs in metropolitan Washington use an approach that is low-barrier, person-centered, and housing-focused to end the experience of homelessness.**

Table 16 (previous section) provides information on the region’s residents who previously experienced homelessness living in different categories of permanent housing. Other permanent housing solutions, such as rapid rehousing, may meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who do not need the level of support that permanent supportive housing provides.

**TABLE 17: Persons Formerly Experiencing Homelessness In Permanent Housing**

		Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Persons in Households Without Children	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Persons in Households Without Children	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Other Permanent Housing (OPH) Persons in Households Without Children	Other Permanent Housing (OPH) Persons in Households With Adults and Children	Total Permanently Housed
ALL COG CoCs	2024	8,163	7,429	1,168	12,788	911	4,431	34,890
	2023	6,888	6,197	1,238	9,569	1,282	3,843	29,017
	2022	6,740	4,631	962	7,917	1,056	3,064	24,370
	2021	7,330	6,730	657	8,812	682	817	25,028
	2020	5,615	5,810	565	6,741	912	2,651	22,294
Percent Change Since 2020		45%	28%	107%	90%	0%	67%	57%

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

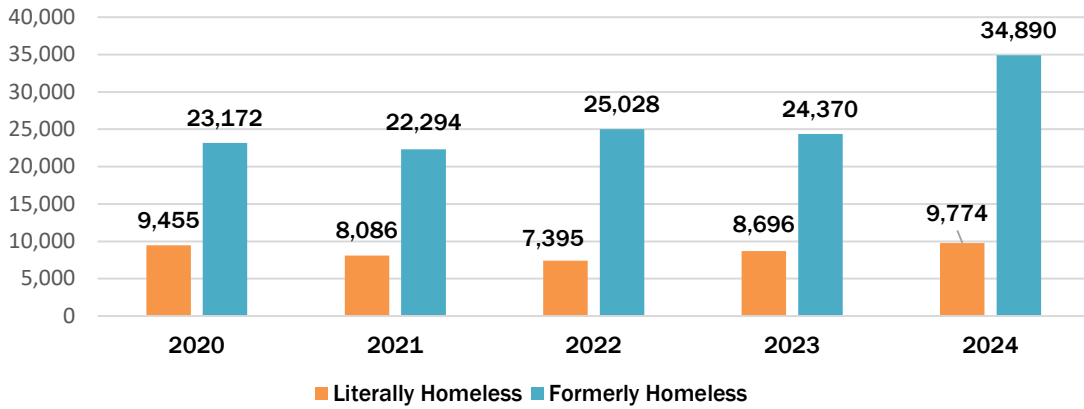
According to the 2024 enumeration, there were 34,890 people formerly experiencing homelessness currently residing in some form of permanent housing; this represents 4,647 additional individuals in permanent housing than in 2022. Table 16 cites the region's number of people living in permanent supportive housing (PSH), rapid re-housing (RRH) and other permanent housing (OPH) by household category and reflects the evolving pattern of permanent housing solutions for persons experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. The change in the number of people from 2022 to 2023 may reflect a variety of factors, including the availability and use of affordable units as of the day of the annual enumeration, or the continuing, compounding impacts of the pandemic on the demand for affordable housing in the region.

Figure 26 (following page) compares the total number of persons counted the night of the enumeration as literally homeless and formerly homeless from 2020 through 2024. The totals should not be combined as a proportion of each may be duplicated as people exit homelessness and move to permanent housing.

The data for persons who were formerly experiencing homelessness for 2020 through 2024 reflect not only persons in permanent supportive housing, but other forms of permanent housing such as rapid re-housing and other permanent housing. Per HUD's requirements, people who were previously experiencing homelessness and are now living in permanent housing are not counted as part of the people counted as experiencing literal homelessness who live on the streets, in emergency shelter, or in transitional housing programs.

**Figure 26: Region's Literally and Formerly Homeless in Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Other Permanent Housing**

Source: COG 2024

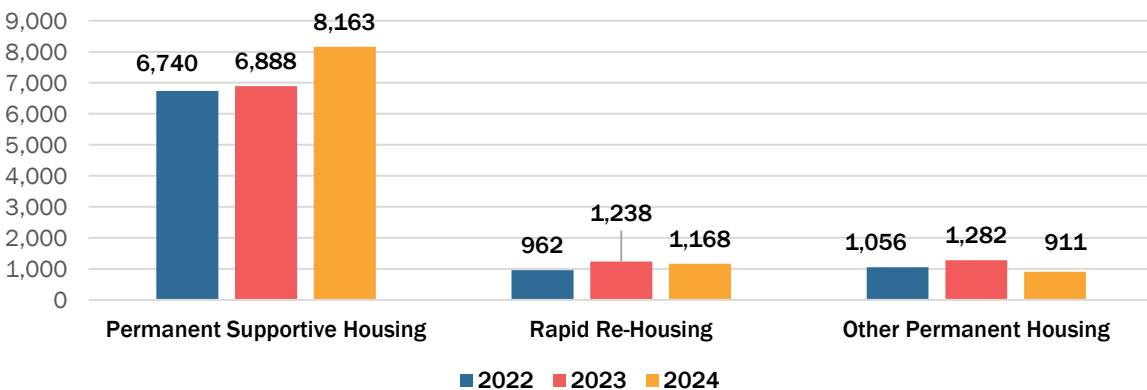


By definition, people who formerly experienced homelessness include people presently living in permanent housing following a period of living on the street or in emergency or transitional shelter. Since 2014, the nine participating Continua of Care have gathered data on permanent housing options in addition to permanent supportive housing.

Other permanent housing options include rapid re-housing, which primarily serves families experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region, and other supportive housing options.

**Figure 27: Permanent Housing Solutions for Formerly Homeless Single Adults, 2022 - 2024**

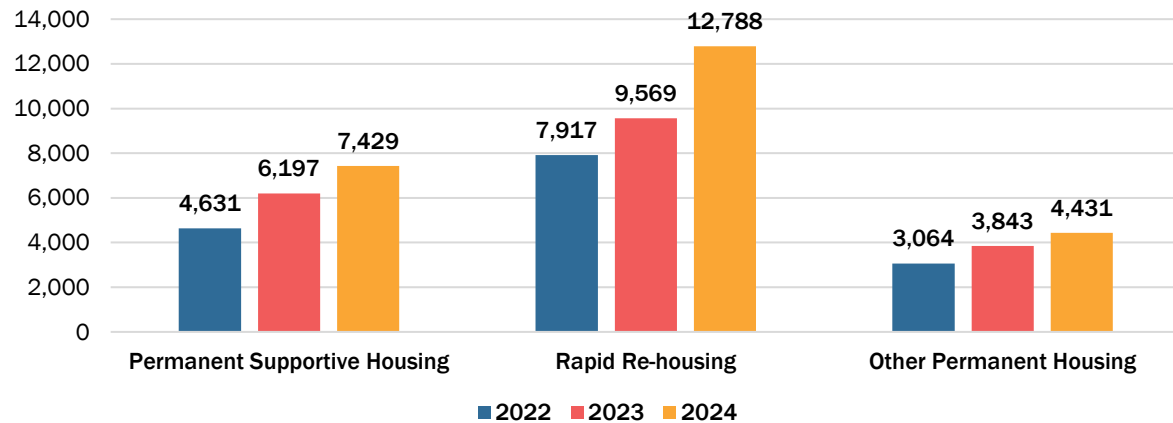
Source: COG 2024



The differences in the rates of use of permanent supportive housing and other permanent housing strategies by household type are represented graphically by Figures 27 and 28 and help demonstrate the importance of having different options to solve each person's unique housing needs.

**Figure 28: Permanent Housing Solutions for Formerly Homeless Adults in Families, 2022 - 2024**

Source: COG 2024



As mentioned earlier in this report, it is important to note that the PIT count is only a one-day snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. People face homelessness every day and this number fluctuates throughout the year. Growing pressures on the region's competitive housing market and high rents continue to negatively impact people experiencing homelessness. The pandemic has placed new pressures on the housing market, and in a region where housing costs are rising faster than incomes, it creates additional challenges for residents with low-wage jobs and remains a critical obstacle to ending homelessness. The region's focus on preventing homelessness, reducing the length of time residents experience homelessness, and creating more pathways to permanent housing has contributed to the region's efforts to reduce the number of people who experience homelessness at any given point in time.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Two surveyors study a map prior to conducting interviews with people experiencing homelessness for the unsheltered portion of the Point-in-Time count on January 24, 2024. (Photo credit: Pathways to Housing DC)

As of January 24, 2024, 9,774 people throughout metropolitan Washington were experiencing homelessness. This is an increase since the 2023 and 2022 enumerations, when the region recorded the lowest number of persons experiencing homelessness since the first annual Point-in-Time count in 2001. The change from the 2023 enumeration represents a nine percent increase from the previous year and demonstrates the ongoing challenge of keeping people stably housed in a market with a highly constrained supply of deeply affordable housing without additional resources for rental assistance and the lifting of strong tenant protections put in place as part of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

It is important to recognize that many factors influence the results of the annual enumeration and changes from one year to the next do not necessarily indicate evidence of a larger trend. However, the fact that seven of eight CoCs recorded an increase in the count from 2023 to 2024 indicates that increases are not isolated to certain communities. The total number of people counted experiencing homelessness during the enumerations of 2024 now exceeds that of 2020, the last enumeration prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. A review of the enumeration results during the past four years helps us understand the impact of key aspects of the regional system response during the pandemic, even if the PIT survey does not allow us to determine the impact of any one policy or program.

The end of some programs unique to the pandemic may have contributed to this year's increase in literal homelessness. On the prevention side, the lifting of local and federal eviction moratoriums has allowed eviction proceedings to move forward at rates that in some jurisdictions are now higher than before the pandemic began.<sup>70</sup> Federal funding for emergency rental and utility assistance has been expended, which leaves jurisdictions having to rely on local and state funding to fill the gaps. The region's CoCs continue to focus on diversion as an alternative to entering the homeless services system, but reduced housing resources means that fewer people's experiences of homelessness can be prevented. The scale of resources made available from the federal government and the flexibility in administering these new programs during the pandemic made a significant difference in reducing the number of people entering the homeless services system throughout the region. Results observed during the past three annual enumerations help demonstrate that access to additional housing resources can make a difference in reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness.

In some jurisdictions, program and system level changes have contributed to reductions seen in the number of people experiencing homelessness during the past five years. These improvements have

<sup>70</sup> <https://dcist.com/story/22/10/11/evictions-dc-md-va-rising-covid-protections/>

constrained the number of people facing a housing crisis below numbers seen prior to the pandemic and kept the total number of people experiencing homelessness below 10,000, a milestone that was achieved for the first time in 2019. However, if the results from the 2024 enumeration did not exclude the City and County of Frederick, it's possible that the total number would exceed the number of persons counted in 2019 as well.

Our region faces significant challenges in its efforts to end homelessness. Several of these key challenges are not new: high rents that continue to rise every year and make it very difficult for extremely low-income households to find or maintain housing that they can afford,<sup>71</sup> and wages that have not increased to keep pace with the rising cost of housing, particularly for less-educated workers.<sup>72</sup> In addition, the region's declining supply of permanently affordable housing continues to expand the gap between the options available for the lowest-income households and the increasing need.

Despite these persistent challenges, what may be more significant than the one-year nine percent increase in the regional homeless count is the fact that nearly 35,000 people who were formerly experiencing homelessness were residing in some form of permanent housing on the night of the count in 2024.

During 2020, COG's Human Services Policy Committee created a Regional Compact to End Homelessness, which was adopted by resolution of the COG Board of Directors on January 13, 2021. This compact sets forth a vision for regional cooperation to create a client-centered approach to ending the experience of homelessness by identifying and breaking down barriers to get people the resources they need.

To address these significant challenges and to implement the vision of the 2021 Regional Compact to End Homelessness, **the COG Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee recommends the following:**

- 1. It is critical that housing affordable for all income levels, including subsidized housing targeted for extremely low-income households, must be available across the region for metropolitan Washington to realistically reduce and eliminate the experience of homelessness. Resources from the local, state, and federal level should be maximized with a sustained commitment to achieve an end to homelessness.**

While the provision of housing is one of the most important elements of the solution to ending homelessness, the importance of jobs that pay wages high enough to allow individuals and families to be financially stable and remain housed for the long-term cannot be overstated.

- 2. The Committee recommends that each of the region's CoC jurisdictions continuously increase its permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing and other permanent housing inventory to meet the need equitably throughout the region.** The provision of supportive wrap-around services, in conjunction with permanent housing, helps people experiencing homelessness become more confident and independent once their challenges are diagnosed and addressed.

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<sup>71</sup> [http://www.urban.org/research/publication/housing-security-washington-region/view/full\\_report](http://www.urban.org/research/publication/housing-security-washington-region/view/full_report), p. 5

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.marketplace.org/shows/marketplace-morning-report/wages-arent-keeping-up-with-inflation-hitting-low-income-workers-the-hardest/>

Permanent supportive housing is one solution to ending homelessness that is particularly effective for individuals who experience chronic homelessness. However, some individuals in emergency shelter do not require the high level of care associated with permanent supportive housing. There is no “one size fits all” solution to ending a person’s housing crisis.

The greatest need in the metropolitan Washington region is permanent housing that is affordable to the lowest-income households, combined with a subsidy to be able to support the housing costs in this region and remain in housing for the long-term. Rapid re-housing is one solution in our region to ending homelessness for families and single adults facing a short-term economic crisis. However, without adequate affordable housing options, we will not be successful in assisting these families in remaining stably housed for the long-term.

- 3. Each jurisdiction should continue its efforts to reach out, assess, and house unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness.** The region’s CoCs have in place, or are developing, systems to rapidly re-house people experiencing homelessness into appropriate permanent housing.

Emergency shelters are an important resource for an immediate housing emergency, but do not provide the long-term solution to ending homelessness.

- 4. The committee further recommends that jurisdictions continue to provide job training opportunities and partner with employers to create ladders of opportunity to careers with higher-paying jobs.**

As the region recovers economically from the shock created by the COVID-19 pandemic, jurisdictions should ensure that workforce development programs are appropriately staffed and able to meet the rising need for more job seekers in the marketplace.

As noted earlier in this report, PIT data provides a limited, one-day perspective of the region’s progress in preventing and ending homelessness. Other data sources can also measure the extent of the number of people experiencing homelessness and help determine the best responses.

- 5. In addition to the data required by HUD, jurisdictions should continue to gather the best possible up-to-date information on persons experiencing homelessness using a by-name list and seek opportunities to share data within and across the region’s CoCs to strengthen local programs and improve outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness.**

A by-name list includes everyone in a jurisdiction experiencing homelessness, and access to housing resources is determined through a coordinated entry system and prioritized based on level of vulnerability. Jurisdictions’ use of a coordinated entry system is critical to ensure that housing resources are targeted and appropriate to ending a person’s unique experience of homelessness.

A guiding principle in all these efforts is to center racial equity in our solutions to ensure that the homeless services system does not compound existing structural inequities and contribute to the disproportionate representation of people of color experiencing poor housing outcomes.

- 6. The committee recommends that each of the region’s CoC jurisdictions aim to close gaps in systems of care that lead to disproportionality and disparities. To understand the impacts of**

**those gaps and identify appropriate and effective responses, communities should consult the people most impacted in their planning, design, and implementation.<sup>73</sup>**

The CoCs in the metropolitan Washington are committed to ensuring that system transformation is not only grounded in the principles of racial equity, but that it involves people with lived experience and expertise of homelessness to advise and inform how best to assist people experiencing a housing crisis.

Further, to maximize the impact of these actions, the committee also recommends coordinating with state agencies, advocates, legal and health care professionals, philanthropic organizations, and other stakeholders to address any gaps in the region's systems of care.

The nine jurisdictions comprising COG's CoCs worked hard to decrease the region's incidence of homelessness over the past year. However, housing availability and funding challenges at all levels of government will have a direct impact on whether the region's CoCs are able to prevent an increasing number of people experiencing homelessness this year.

The availability of federal stimulus funds provided during the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for innovation at the local level and to demonstrate that the region's CoCs can make progress towards the goal of reducing the number of residents who experience a housing crisis, given additional tools and resources. A strong commitment is necessary to continue to make progress in preventing and ending homelessness in metropolitan Washington without eviction restrictions and federal aid packages are exhausted.

Despite the many complex and unique challenges the region faced during the past year, member local jurisdictions' housing first approaches have proven successful in returning many people to permanent housing, and the region must continue these best practice efforts to realize the goal to provide permanent, affordable homes for all of its residents and end homelessness, rather than merely managing it through the provision of emergency shelter. Housing is the foundation for being able to live a safe and healthy life. No one should have to live without a place to call home.

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**Homelessness and housing instability are not confined to jurisdictional boundaries. The impact of coordinating at the regional level gives us the ability to see solutions beyond the limits of the communities in which we live and work.**

**In the highly connected metropolitan Washington region, doubling down on our year-round, joint efforts to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home has never been more important.**

**-Triina Van, COG Homeless Services Committee Chair**

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<sup>73</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-Fra>

TABLE 18: People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024					
Jurisdiction/Year		Households Without Children	Unaccompanied Youth/ Households with Only Children	Households with Adults and Children	All Persons
City of Alexandria	2024	103	0	84	187
	2023	82	0	70	152
	2022	73	0	47	106
	2021	63	0	43	207
	2020	121	0	86	207
2020-2024 Percent Change		-15%	N/A	-2%	-10%
Arlington County	2024	169	0	74	243
	2023	147	0	66	213
	2022	132	0	50	182
	2021	127	0	44	171
	2020	139	0	60	199
2020-2024 Percent Change		22%	N/A	23%	22%
District of Columbia	2024	3,950	10	1,656	5,616
	2023	3,741	11	1,170	4,922
	2022	3,397	9	1,004	4,410
	2021	3,865	11	1,235	5,111
	2020	3,937	12	2,431	6,380
2020-2024 Percent Change		0%	-17%	-32%	-12%
Fairfax County	2024	581	3	694	1,278
	2023	555	3	752	1,310
	2022	626	1	564	1,191
	2021	737	5	480	1,222
	2020	513	0	528	1,041
2020-2024 Percent Change		13%	0%	31%	23%
Loudoun County	2024	212	0	91	303
	2023	142	0	78	220
	2022	66	0	33	99
	2021	50	0	30	80
	2020	129	0	50	179
2020-2024 Percent Change		64%	0%	82%	69%

TABLE 18: People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2020 - 2024					
Jurisdiction/Year		Households Without Children	Unaccompanied Youth/ Households with Only Children	Households with Adults and Children	All Persons
Montgomery County	2024	748	0	396	1,144
	2023	625	0	269	894
	2022	408	0	173	581
	2021	480	0	97	577
	2020	487	0	183	670
2020-2024 Percent Change		54%	N/A	116%	71%
Prince George's County	2024	292	3	363	658
	2023	273	10	376	659
	2022	273	0	298	571
	2021	251	0	286	537
	2020	212	1	240	453
2020-2024 Percent Change		38%	200%	51%	45%
Prince William County	2024	204	0	141	345
	2023	190	0	136	326
	2022	179	0	103	282
	2021	214	0	112	326
	2020	117	0	160	277
2020-2024 Percent Change		74%	0%	-12%	25%
COG REGION	2024	6,259	16	3,499	9,774
	2023	5,755	24	2,917	8,696
	2022	5,120	10	2,265	7,395
	2021	5,752	16	2,318	8,086
	2020	5,752	13	3,690	9,455
2020-2024 Percent Change		9%	23%	-5%	3%

Source: COG 2024

Note: Totals for 2020-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

# **APPENDICES**

## **APPENDIX A: SHELTER HOTLINE RESOURCE NUMBERS**

This section provides a regional overview of resources to call when a person is in need of shelter throughout the metropolitan Washington region.

## **APPENDIX B: HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION JURISDICTIONAL NARRATIVE REPORTS**

This section provides each of the nine participating Continua of Care the opportunity to provide additional details regarding the Point-in-Time count conducted in their jurisdiction as well as an overview of the activities of their respective CoCs during the past year.

## **APPENDIX C: COG HOMELESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

## **APPENDIX A: SHELTER HOTLINE RESOURCES**

The information below is designed to assist a person experiencing a housing crisis with an emergency solution. Additional shelter resources may become available during the winter months (typically November through March each year) when a hypothermia alert is issued.

In addition to the information below, regional resources may be found online via the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington's [Emergency Services Directory](https://ifcmw.org/resources/emergency-services-directory) at <https://ifcmw.org/resources/emergency-services-directory>.

### **Alexandria, VA**

(703) 746-5700 Homeless Services Assessment Center (Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., except holidays). After hours, persons needing emergency overnight stay should contact the Alexandria Community Shelter (703-746-3660) or Carpenter's Shelter (703-548-7500 ext. 228).

### **Arlington, VA**

(703) 228-1300 during business hours or (703) 228-1010 (24/7)

### **District of Columbia**

(202) 399-7093 (24/7) or 311 in DC. Youth under the age of 18, call Sasha Bruce Youth Hotline: (202) 547-7777

### **Fairfax County, VA**

(703) 222-0880 (Households with Adults and Children), Coordinated Services Planning; Adults Only Households: (703) 820-7621 (Baileys), (703) 799-0200 (Kennedy), and (703) 437-1975 (Embry Rucker)

### **Loudoun County, VA**

(703) 777-0420 weekdays 8:30 AM - 5 PM - Coordinated Entry Services. After hours, call (571) 258-3033 (Adults only households), (703) 724-1555 (Households with Adults and Children, single women, and single mothers), (703) 777-6552 (survivors of domestic violence)

### **Montgomery County, MD**

(240) 907-2688 or 240-777-4000 Montgomery County Crisis Center (24/7) (TTY 240-777-4815)

### **Prince George's County, MD**

(888) 731-0999 (toll free in Maryland) or (301) 864-7095 (24/7)

### **Prince William County, VA**

(703) 792-3366, Coordinated Entry System (CES), 7 days a week, 9 AM - 9PM

## **APPENDIX B: HOMELESS ENUMERATION JURISDICTIONAL NARRATIVE REPORTS**

This section provides each of the eight participating Continua of Care the opportunity to provide additional details regarding the Point-in-Time count conducted in their jurisdiction as well as an overview of the activities of their respective CoCs during the past year.

# 2024 Jurisdictional Narrative Report

## CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA

### DESCRIPTION OF HOMELESS SERVICES

The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in the City of Alexandria (The Partnership) made up of public and private non-profit homeless, housing, and mainstream service providers, faith-based and educational institutions, advocates, former homeless consumers, and other community stakeholders serves as the homeless services Continuum of Care (CoC). The Partnership develops and implements the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in the City of Alexandria and coordinates and oversees the delivery of prevention and homeless services to residents experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

The Housing Crisis Response System is the CoC's centralized and coordinated approach to addressing the needs of persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the City of Alexandria. The comprehensive screening and assessment process ensure that all households that present with a housing crisis are screened for diversion services first to ensure the most appropriate assistance is offered and unnecessary entries into shelter are avoided. Intended outcomes include 1) reductions in the number of first-time shelter entries; 2) shortened lengths of homelessness; and 3) the prevention of reoccurring episodes of homelessness.

### CITY OF ALEXANDRIA HOUSING CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SERVICE COMPONENTS

<u>COMPONENTS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<u>Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)</u>	Outreach and assistance provided to adults with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of becoming homeless. Services include community-based outreach, mental health, substance abuse, case management and other supportive services, and a limited set of housing services.
<u>Day Shelter</u>	Facility providing services to meet the basic needs of unsheltered homeless individuals including access to showers, laundry machines, lockers, phone, and voicemail services, mailing address, case management, outreach, and linkage and referral to community resources.
<u>Homeless Services Assessment Center</u>	Assistance for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness to determine the best immediate next step to effectively address the housing crisis. Services include screening for diversion services and emergency shelter as appropriate, basic needs assessment, and mainstream and community resource linkages and referrals.
<u>Diversion and Prevention Services</u>	Temporary support to persons at-risk of homelessness including housing location, case management, housing counseling, linkage to mainstream resources, landlord-tenant mediation, job search assistance and employment services, budgeting/financial management and financial assistance.
<u>Emergency Shelter</u>	Temporary lodging and supportive services for homeless individuals and families.
<u>Domestic Violence Program</u>	Crisis intervention and supportive counseling services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Services include temporary accommodations, 24-hour hotline, individual counseling, support groups, and court and medical facility accompaniment.
<u>Rapid Re-housing Assistance</u>	Temporary supportive services and limited financial assistance to aid persons experiencing homelessness to quickly return to and remain in permanent housing.
<u>Winter Shelter</u>	Seasonal shelter from November 1 to April 15 to protect persons experiencing homelessness from exposure-related conditions such as hypothermia and frostbite during cold weather months.
<u>Safe-Haven</u>	Supportive housing for hard-to-reach homeless individuals with serious mental illness who have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

<b><u>Transitional Housing</u></b>	Extended supportive housing targeting homeless individuals and families needing longer-term assistance to facilitate a move to permanent housing.
<b><u>Permanent Supportive Housing</u></b>	Permanent housing with supportive services including barrier-free units for individuals designed to allow formerly homeless adults with children and individuals with serious mental illness to live in the community as independently as possible.
<b><u>Other Permanent Housing Resources</u></b>	Public housing units with and without supportive services; private income-based apartment units; Housing Choice voucher-subsidies; as well as rent relief subsidy for seniors and the disabled.

The Alexandria CoC provided a combined total of 124 year-round emergency shelter beds, 40 for households without children and 84 for households with adults and children during the 2024 Count. Combined, the transitional housing inventory consisted of 28 beds (14 for male households without children and 14 for households with adults and children).

The Domestic Violence Program shelter provided 20 undesignated year-round beds to serve persons in imminent danger of domestic or sexual violence, with 10 more available in hotels for overflow. From October 1 to April 15, the Winter Shelter Program provided an additional 50 undesignated seasonal beds to protect unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness from exposure-related conditions such as hypothermia and frostbite during cold weather months.

#### **CITY OF ALEXANDRIA CONTINUUM OF CARE HOMELESS SERVICES UNIT & BED INVENTORY**

INVENTORY TYPE	Units for Households with Adults & Children	Beds for Households with Adults & Children	Beds for Households without Children	Year-Round Beds
Winter Shelter	-	10*	40*	-
Emergency Shelter	16	84	40	124
Domestic Violence Program Shelter	-	15	5	20
Transitional Housing	10	14	14	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>222</b>

- Not Applicable

\* These numbers represent a combined total of 50 undesignated cold weather seasonal beds to serve households without children and those with adults and children. Designations are made each year based upon average occupancy during the Winter Shelter season.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE 2023 WINTER ENUMERATION**

##### **Strategic Plan Update**

In March of 2023 the CoC Governing Board Approved the City of Alexandria's Strategic Plan to End Homelessness 2023-2028 plan. Multiple focus groups of service participants at emergency shelters and homeless assistance programs were conducted to inform the plan, and new to the structure, lead to the creation of two Overarching Themes in the Plan. Those themes serve as guiding principles for all subsequent actions that were assigned, and include a focus on addressing racial inequity, and centering the voices of those with lived experience in policy decisions.

Currently the CoC is pursuing a presentation of the Strategic Plan to Alexandria City Council for a formal announcement of support for the Plan and all contained actions.

##### **Alexandria Eviction Prevention**

The City of Alexandria Eviction Prevention Task Force (Task Force) is responsible for reducing the impact of the current evictions crisis and developing long-term prevention strategies through collaboration among the City, state government

agencies, businesses, non-profits, landlords, tenants, faith community and community advocates. Since 2022, the Task Force has maintained eviction prevention positions around the City, including Housing Relocators, Service Navigators, Court Navigators, moving and storage support, and Housing Justice Attorneys, who all work towards supporting tenants involved in eviction processes, and landlords in need of connection to community resources.

Throughout 2023, members of the Taskforce have worked with state and local legislatures to sponsor several bills to the VA House of Delegates that sought to protect the rights of tenants through a few different policies. Some of those were recently passed, including expanding the definition of Domestic Violence so that survivors can more easily terminate their leases to escape a dangerous situation. These advocacy efforts will continue to build off that progress with an aim to secure more rights for renters in Alexandria.

### **Alexandria Racial Equity Initiatives**

73% of residents experiencing homelessness during Alexandria's 2024 Point in Time (PIT) count identified as Black or African American, compared to National Census Data where 22% of Alexandria's population is Black or African American. This disproportionate representation is the result of institutionalized racial inequity within systems of care nationwide, but remains a local trend, spurring the CoC to closely monitor housing stabilization processes and services for any opportunity to address those disparities.

In 2022, formalized a CoC Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC), that is responsible for aligning the CoC's racial equity initiatives to the needs of the community, and centering racial equity in all CoC policies and processes. Following that guidance, the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness update included overarching themes to advance Racial Equity within each goal and establish avenues for input from persons with lived experience. This year, that work culminated in the Board's adoption of a formal compensation policy for persons with lived experience in homeless programs, so that the residents can help craft the programs and services they need and use.

REAC also manages equity training for the CoC Board and staff, achieving adoption of the racial equity framework by the CoC Board in 2021, and receiving formal presentations from the City's Office of Race and Social Equity at several Board meetings in 2023. In 2024, REAC is preparing to sponsor Board members to attend a tour highlighting Alexandria's very storied Black and African American history, and the legacies that has created within Alexandria's housing climate.

### **HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT**

The Partnership conducted the 2024 Winter Point-in-Time count for those sheltered solely by collecting data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This process provides the CoC more accurate, client-level specific data in our reporting. It also gives the CoC the ability to conduct a Point-in-Time count on an ad-hoc basis, leaving potential for comparable Summer PIT data in the future. A manual count of unsheltered homeless persons was conducted under the leadership of the Office of Community Services using 4 survey teams including volunteers, and at least one representative from a CoC service provider to serve as lead. Reflected below are the demographic and sub-population comparisons from previous years' enumerations.

## HOMELESS COUNT BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Total Persons	106		120		152		187		23%
HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN									
Men	46	73%	60	82%	60	73%	74	72%	23%
Women	17	27%	13	18%	22	27%	29	28%	32%
Transgender	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Total Households	63		73		82		103		26%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ADULTS & CHILDREN									
Total Households	14		17		21		26		24%
Single Parent Households	12	86%	14	82%	16	76%	21	81%	31%
Adults	16	37%	20	49%	23	33%	29	35%	26%
Children	27	63%	21	51%	47	67%	55	65%	17%
Total Persons in Households	43		41		70		84		20%

A total of 187-persons experiencing homelessness were identified in this year's PIT Count, a 23% increase from 2023. There were no child-only households identified in the 2024 Count, the same as 2023. There were 103 households without children, a 26% increase from 2023. There were 29 single women and 74 single men identified, which was a 32% increase for women and a 23% increase for men compared to last year's count. Alexandria's 2024 PIT rebounded to pre-pandemic levels largely because COVID specific protections and resources have been exhausted, while the ongoing homeless assistance budget remains unchanged, and community need grows.

On the 2024 count, 26 households with adults and children were counted, an increase from 21 in 2023. The numbers of adults increased from 23 last year to 29 this year, while children in families increased from 47 to 55.

## TOTAL COUNT AND BREAKOUT BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

LOCATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Unsheltered	8	8%	5	4%	10	7%	18	10%	80%
Sheltered	98	92%	115	96%	142	93%	169	90%	19%
Total Persons	106		120		152		187		23%
HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation	8	13%	5	7%	10	12%	18	17%	80%
Winter Shelter	8	13%	22	30%	19	23%	36	35%	89%
Emergency Shelter	30	48%	28	38%	32	39%	36	35%	13%
Emergency Shelter for Registered Sex Offenders	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Domestic Violence Program Shelter	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	0%
Transitional Housing	10	16%	7	10%	10	12%	12	12%	20%
Safe Haven	7	11%	11	15%	10	12%	0	0%	-100%
Total Households	63		73		82		103		26%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ADULTS & CHILDREN	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Number of Households									
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Winter Shelter	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%	2	8%	100%
Emergency Shelter	8	57%	8	47%	11	52%	17	65%	55%
Domestic Violence Program Shelter	0	0%	3	18%	6	29%	6	23%	0%
Transitional Housing	6	43%	6	35%	3	14%	1	4%	-67%
Total Households	14		17		21		26		24%
Number of Adults									
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Winter Shelter	0	0%	0	0%	1	4%	2	7%	100%
Emergency Shelter	10	63%	7	35%	13	57%	20	69%	54%
Domestic Violence Program Shelter	0	0%	3	15%	6	26%	6	21%	0%
Transitional Housing	6	38%	10	50%	3	13%	1	3%	-67%
Total Adults	16		20		23		29		26%
Number of Children									
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Winter Shelter	0	0%	0	0%	2	4%	3	5%	50%
Emergency Shelter	15	56%	13	48%	30	64%	36	65%	20%
Domestic Violence Program Shelter	0	0%	6	22%	10	21%	13	24%	30%
Transitional Housing	12	44%	8	30%	5	11%	3	5%	-40%
Total Children	27		27		47		55		17%

100% of households with adults and children were sheltered on the night of the count. Of households with adults and children, 73% were present in Emergency Shelters, 4% in Transitional Housing, and 23% in the Domestic Violence Shelter. 17% of Households without children were unsheltered, or in a place not meant for human habitation. The number of unsheltered households increased by 8 since last year. 93% of all households were sheltered.

## HOMELESS COUNT BY SUBPOPULATION

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Households without Children	13	21%	18	25%	5	6%	18	17%	260%
Households with Adults & Children	0	0%	2	12%	1	1%	0	0%	-100%
SUBPOPULATIONS (ALL ADULTS)†	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Veterans	3	4%	2	2%	4	4%	2	2%	-50%
Substance Use Disorder	4	5%	12	13%	9	9%	7	5%	-22%
Serious Mental Illness	22	28%	37	40%	38	36%	43	33%	13%
Co-Occurring		0%	6	6%	4	4%	5	4%	25%
Physical Disability	6	8%	5	5%	17	16%	10	8%	-41%
Chronic Health Conditions	6	8%	7	8%	10	10%	17	13%	70%
HIV/AIDS	1	1%	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%	0%
Limited English Proficiency	8	10%	5	5%	10	10%	24	18%	140%
History of Foster Care	6	8%	1	1%	12	11%	3	2%	-75%
Institutional Discharge^	5	6%	13	14%	6	6%	7	5%	17%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023-2024
Homeless Due to Domestic Violence									
Total Households	8	8%	4	4%	7	5%	13	7%	86%
Single Women	4	24%	4	31%	1	5%	2	7%	100%
Women w/Minor Children	3	25%	3	21%	6	38%	11	52%	83%
Children	7	26%	6	29%	10	21%	14	25%	40%
Total Persons	14	13%	13	11%	17	11%	27	14%	59%

As reflected in the chart above, there were no chronically homeless households with adults and children in the 2024 count. There was also a 13 person increase in the number of chronically homeless households with adults only.

There were also increases in subpopulation categories for serious mental illness, chronic health conditions, institutional discharge, and limited English proficiency. Most notably, there were 7 more clients with a chronic health condition and 14 more clients with limited English proficiency on the 2024 count compared to 2023. 5 clients represent the increase in serious mental illness. There was a decrease in some subpopulations, including substance use disorder and physical disability.

There was a notable increase in the number of households that reported experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence; 7 households in 2023, and 13 households in 2024. The increase in total clients in the domestic violence shelter has also increased, going from 17 in 2023 to 27 in 2024.

# EMPLOYMENT & MONTHLY INCOME FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN

EMPLOYMENT	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023 - 2024
Not Reported	3	5%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	0%
No	40	63%	53	73%	50	61%	73	71%	46%
Yes	20	32%	19	26%	31	38%	30	29%	-3%
GROSS MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023 - 2024
Not Reported	1	2%	3	4%	1	1%	0	0%	0%
No	24	38%	28	38%	22	27%	47	46%	114%
Yes	38	60%	42	58%	59	72%	56	54%	-5%
<b>Income Amount</b>									
\$1-150	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%	0	0%	0%
\$151-250	1	3%	5	12%	4	7%	0	0%	0%
\$251-500	1	3%	1	2%	5	8%	5	9%	0%
\$501-1,000	19	50%	21	50%	24	41%	18	32%	-25%
\$1,001-1,500	7	18%	6	14%	13	22%	12	21%	-8%
\$1,501-2,000	7	18%	5	12%	5	8%	10	18%	100%
More than \$2,000	3	8%	4	10%	6	10%	11	20%	83%
<b>~Primary Source of Income</b>									
Wages	11	29%	17	40%	31	53%	30	54%	-3%
Retirement <sup>+</sup>	4	11%	0	0%	5	8%	5	9%	0%
Disability <sup>^</sup>	9	24%	21	50%	18	31%	21	38%	0%
Public Assistance <sup>*</sup>	5	13%	4	10%	5	8%	0	0%	-100%
Other <sup>**</sup>	9	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
No Reported	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%

29% of households without children were employed in 2024, a slight decrease from last year. 54% of these households received some income, a 5% decrease from last year. Of those that reported having income, the majority reported having monthly income of \$501-1,000. 11 households without children reported having incomes higher than \$2,000. Earned wages were reported as the majority income source for this population.

## EMPLOYMENT AND MONTHLY INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ADULTS AND CHILDREN

EMPLOYMENT (ADULTS)	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023 - 2024
Not Reported	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	-
No	8	50%	8	40%	8	35%	17	63%	113%
Yes	8	50%	12	60%	15	65%	12	44%	-20%
GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (ADULTS)	2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 2023 - 2024
Not Reported	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	-
No	6	38%	4	20%	3	13%	7	26%	133%
Yes	10	63%	16	80%	20	87%	22	81%	10%
<b>Income Amount</b>									
\$1-150	0	0%	0	0%	2	10%	0	0%	0%
\$151-250	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	0%
\$251-500	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	3	15%	0%
\$501-1,000	0	0%	4	25%	5	25%	6	30%	20%
\$1,001-1,500	3	30%	4	25%	4	20%	2	10%	-50%
\$1,501-2,000	2	20%	0	0%	2	10%	4	20%	100%
More than \$2,000	3	30%	8	50%	6	30%	7	35%	17%
<b>~Primary Source of Income</b>									
Wages	10	100%	12	75%	15	75%	12	60%	-20%
Retirement+	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%	1	5%	0%
Disability^	0	0%	3	19%	0	0%	4	20%	0%
Public Assistance*	0	0%	1	6%	3	15%	3	15%	0%
Other**	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%	2	10%	0%

12 adults in households with adults and children were employed, 3 fewer than 2023. 22 adults reported monthly income, while 7 reported not having income. Of those receiving some income, a slight majority reported monthly incomes over \$2,000.

## HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME RESULTS ANALYSIS

The number of those experiencing homelessness has increased since 2021, but compared to the pre-pandemic count in 2020, there is still a slight decrease. Unfortunately, that difference can be attributed to superficial changes, including reclassification of the City's Safe Haven Program to Permanent Housing along with a service hiatus at one of Alexandria's Transitional Housing programs. Without these changes, Alexandria PIT count would be at or above pre-pandemic levels. One factor that impacts the increase in those experiencing homelessness is Alexandria's rental market where there is a gap between fair market rents and market rate rents. Another factor is the continuing economic spikes in housing, food, and transportation costs. Without additional resources and policies like those established in response to the pandemic, the impact of CoC services will be limited to reactive solutions.

In the context of the past 5 years, the 2024 PIT Count illustrated the rebound to pre-pandemic numbers that was predicted since COVID specific resources and tenant protections sunset. It also highlights the efficacy of the CoC system and its providers for succeeding in service delivery when emergency funds were available, through strategic planning and system design. While these strategies have helped the CoC address increased housing instability over the past year, community needs continue to rise.

The CoC identified solutions for shortfalls at all points on the housing continuum, from prevention to shelter to housing. The work of the Eviction Prevention Task Force and Rapid Rehousing programs had a direct impact on reducing homelessness in Alexandria. Still, neither are without unique challenges including:

- Households still struggle to find affordable units for which they qualify;
- One third of residents reported eviction as the reason for homelessness at the time of the PIT;
- The community need for rental assistance consistently exceeds available financial resources; and
- Eligibility guidelines of available financial resources prioritizes those already in crisis and at risk of eviction; and
- Grantors' guidelines for rapid re-housing funding assistance dictate that rental subsidies do not exceed fair market rents, which creates a barrier for households to access the limited amount of affordable housing.

During this past year, the CoC has employed creative strategies to address the rising need for housing crisis support, such as:

- Collaboration with community partners such as the Alexandria Health Department, Community Services Board, and Neighborhood Health has also helped support residents in a holistic way, taking into consideration both medical and behavioral health needs; and
- Based on CoC and eviction data, the City allocated an additional \$800,000 in rental assistance to support residents living with low-incomes; and
- Carpenter's Shelter received, through the Homeless Reduction Grant, \$600,000 in Rapid Rehousing funds to move Alexandrians from homelessness into stable housing through Calendar Year 2024.
- Utilizing low-income housing tax credit programs such as the Waypoint and the Spire

Moving forward, the CoC will continue to advocate for data-driven best practices, such as adding specific eviction and homelessness prevention positions, and additional resources for subsidizing housing for residents living with low incomes.

## **HOMELESSNESS, PREVENTION, SHELTER DIVERSION AND HOUSING PLACEMENT**

### **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

To assist formerly homeless persons, the CoC currently operates 55 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds for households without children and three PSH units totaling eight beds for households with adults and children whose heads of household have a serious mental illness. On the night of the 2024 count, 96% of the beds were occupied. The HMIS team maintains a current list of chronic homeless clients which is prioritized using NAEH Assessment scores. When a vacancy becomes available in a PSH program, the team recommends clients in prioritization order. The count of chronic homeless persons on the PIT increased from 2023 to 2024, as did disabilities amongst the entire population, showing that high vulnerability persists even if the specific chronic definition is being met less often.

### **HOMELESS PREVENTION, DIVERSION & RAPID RE-HOUSING**

Since 2013 the City of Alexandria Housing Crisis Response System has enabled the CoC to assess the needs of persons seeking shelter more efficiently and effectively, best utilize community resources, quickly return households to permanent housing, and significantly reduce the number of households entering the shelter system.

Prevention and Diversion services have since the previous enumeration, with Prevention being the official program title, and Diversion, being a method that is attempted at each step in the case management, in the effort to prevent persons from experiencing a possible episode of homelessness.

- **Diversion & Prevention** - state homeless prevention subsidies were underused in years past as result of the eviction moratorium and subsequent rental assistance resources, but utilization exceeded budget projections in 2024 with the elimination of those policies and an increase in need. The CoC also hired new housing locators and service navigators at coordinated entry to bolster prevention strategies at the front door.
- **Rapid ReHousing** – Utilization in the City’s RRH programs outpaced funding projections again in 2024, prompting a hiatus on RRH enrollments August-December. For this reason, RRH numbers on the night of the 2024 count may be artificially low and less indicative of the growing need for RRH throughout the year. A better illustration was the CoC’s success in documenting that community need when applying for RRH funds to replenish exhausted resources. This resulted in a recent \$600k award solely for RRH to be used throughout CY24.

It is clear that Eviction Prevention and RRH programs have a direct impact on resolving homelessness in the City of Alexandria, but neither are without unique challenges: 1) Households still struggle to find affordable units for which they qualify; 2) The extent of need for rental assistance consistently exceeds original projections; 3) The assistance must be tailored to fit the household’s budget and ability to sustain housing costs post-assistance, which often limits the household’s ability to meet its housing need; and 4) Grantors’ guidelines for rapid re-housing funding assistance dictate that rental subsidies not exceed fair market rents, which creates a barrier for households to access the limited permanent housing for which they qualify. This is a result of the City of Alexandria’s high demand rental market where there is a huge gap between the fair market rents and the market rates.

## **FUTURE TRENDS IN HOMELESSNESS**

The greatest barriers to preventing and ending homelessness in Alexandria are 1.) persistent racial inequity among residents experiencing poverty and housing instability, 2.) limited avenues for engaging unstably housed youth, 3.) decrease in COVID-relief while community needs remain high, and 4.) the lack of fixed affordable permanent housing opportunities for the lowest income households (i.e., those with an income of 30% and below the area median of \$110,300). One future initiative that hopes to mitigate some of those barriers is the City’s 5.) Zoning for Housing / Housing for All Initiative.

- 1.) Race remains the strongest predictor of housing instability in Alexandria, where long term data trends exhibit disproportionate representation of Black residents within Alexandria homeless and housing assistance services. Over the past 8 years, Alexandria’s population of residents experiencing homelessness has never been less than 66% Black or African American, while only 22% of all City residents identified as Black or African American on the last Census. As predicted, the disparity remained through the pandemic and was again displayed on the 2024 PIT Count where 68% of residents identified as Black or African American.

The CoC is working to better understand racial inequity within our service delivery, but has learned that addressing homelessness for Black residents, shelters’ majority population, offers the best chance to decrease homelessness overall. New policies have been implemented to assess residents more accurately for housing barriers related to race and ethnicity, then better prioritize them for available housing opportunities. Further, education and training initiatives for leadership and direct service staff will be amplified to align program guidelines and service delivery with the CoC’s commitment to racial equity. This includes an update to Governing Board Equity Training, as well as a new Racial Equity Tool developed by Alexandria’s Office of Race and Social Equity. While these strategies cannot create the intended change alone, and certainly not immediately, they can help the CoC stem the tide of increasing racial inequity as community need increases and provide more information to policymakers and the public about the origins of housing instability in the Alexandria.

- 2.) Engaging youth who are experiencing housing instability, especially those outside of CoC services, has been a consistent challenge for the CoC. In Spring of 2024, the CoC will partner with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to conduct its second Youth Point in Time Count which will produce some short-term trend analysis about Alexandria students in

housing crisis. In Fall of 2023, the CoC hosted the State Coordinator of the Homeless Education Liaison program at their Public CoC meeting and engaged with residents around the City's Zoning for Housing initiative, highlighting what policies and input sessions could improve outcomes for households with school-age children. Down the road, the CoC plans to continue to leverage public forums and other media to center Youth Voice more sustainably.

- 2.) The eviction moratorium and subsequent eviction prevention infrastructure had the largest impact on Alexandria's lower PIT counts in '21 and '22, and the elimination of those policies and resources appear most responsible for the increases in '23 and '24. Recognizing that the need for housing assistance is growing, the Alexandria CoC must take strategic steps to bolster its housing crisis response system through partnerships and process improvements, as well as advocate for additional resources.

Local improvements to housing crisis response, like Alexandria's Eviction Prevention Taskforce and Eviction Prevention Partnership, have been formally established for future application. In 2023, four new full-time roles will bolster their work, including a housing relocater and service navigator. The Taskforce has also divvied initiatives amongst several subcommittees including client coordination calls, legislative advocacy, tenant and community outreach, landlord outreach, data analysis and evaluation, courthouse navigation.

The relationship between eviction prevention and the annual count of residents experiencing homelessness highlights the importance of "upstream" housing crisis resources, and coordination between housing stability services with systems that exit unhoused residents. More than anything the increase on the 2024 PIT illustrated that experiences of homelessness are closely correlated with the effectiveness of local prevention policies and resources.

- 3.) The need for more fixed-affordable housing options in our community remains, including PSH and housing with limited supports services as highlighted by the increase in chronic homelessness on the 2024 PIT. More options of this sort could functionally end chronic homelessness in the City or help address services gaps like housing for residents with SMI, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders who are experiencing homelessness.

For the larger shelter population RRH still proves invaluable for its ability to quickly return residents to market-rate housing. Together these interventions show the CoC can be effective at preventing and ending homelessness even in our high-cost housing market if we have the resources to do so.

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## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration: Arlington, VA

### **The Arlington County Continuum of Care**

The Arlington County Continuum of Care (CoC) works to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring by providing affordable and sustainable housing, tailored services, and by centering the voices and expertise of people with lived experience of homelessness. Arlington's CoC is led by Arlington County's Department of Human Services.

The CoC's mission is supported by a shared values of accountability, collaboration, dignity, equity, innovation, and integrity. The CoC's work includes collaborative planning and alignment of stakeholders and resources essential to Arlington County's Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, *A Way Home for All*. The CoC works towards an ambitious goal of ending homelessness for all by 2026.

The Arlington County CoC includes:

- A Centralized Access System (CAS): that provides a core intake process for households and residents to access a variety of human services across the entire Arlington CoC. The Arlington County CoC's CAS matches households as quickly as possible with the interventions that will most effectively and efficiently prevent or end their homelessness and lead to long-term stability.
- Street Outreach and Engagement: Outreach workers connect with individuals living outside or in other places not meant for human habitation to help navigate them towards a path of stability and housing. Outreach teams include social workers, behavioral health clinicians, and nursing staff.
- Targeted Prevention: Targeted efforts to provide acute crisis intervention services to persons most at-risk of homelessness are an integral part of the Arlington CoC.
- Shelters: Five Arlington County homeless shelters provide a safe, structured environment for singles and families who are experiencing homelessness as well as survivors of intimate partner violence. The Arlington CoC includes 134 single adult shelter beds and 85 family shelter beds. All shelters are at full or traditional capacity, except for the Doorways Safehouse, which operated at expanded, non-congregate capacity (master-lease apartments in the community and hotels) in addition to their Safehouse shelter facility. Within the past 12 months, Arlington's Department of Human Services has also made hotel assistance available for families who would otherwise be unsheltered and because existing shelters were at capacity.
- Hypothermia Shelter: Arlington County provides low-barrier access to hypothermia shelter through the winter months (November – March) and is included in the Point-in-Time Count with all other shelters. Unlike the traditional emergency shelter options, people experiencing homelessness often utilize hypothermia shelter to take refuge from inclement weather and are less interested in long-term shelter services. During Hypothermia seasons shelter staff utilize this opportunity to build rapport and relationships with individuals and households that experience homelessness to encourage them to engage in on-going services. This year's capacity included 25 hypothermia beds and 16 overflow beds.
- Transitional Housing: The CoC has 14 single adult transitional housing beds for persons in early stages of their recovery. The program assists adults by providing short-term housing assistance with therapeutic and social supports to assist residents in their recovery goals

while assisting them in identifying permanent housing for the long-term.

- **Rapid Re-housing:** Rapid Re-housing programs move households quickly out of shelter into housing with term-limited rental support and services to help families maintain housing.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Permanent supportive housing programs provide rental assistance and case management services for households who are homeless and have (or a family member has) a disabling condition. Arlington's CoC includes federal, state and locally funded PSH programs to provide multiple pathways to long-term, supportive housing.

At the time of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, the Arlington County CoC operated as it had pre-pandemic, while also following CDC guidelines for increased prevention in congregate spaces. As such, Arlington County's CoC expanded its Point-in-Time Count surveying approach to include additional volunteers. The Arlington County CoC was also interested in expanding its Point-in-Time Count efforts to better understand the housing needs of young adults so included a targeted, youth and young adult count which coincided with the traditional count. In 2024, the Arlington County CoC held the following Point-in-Time activities:

- **Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 17:** Volunteers attended a training on Arlington's CoC which reviewed local trends and available services. Volunteers donated goods and time to fill back packs distributed on the night of the count.
- **Youth & Young Adult Count on January 24:** After school and into the early evening, volunteers were at different 2 sites in Arlington frequented by young people, including a local library and a teen drop-in program located at a community center. Volunteers conducted an initial screening tool to learn about the most pressing needs faced by young people. Anyone who indicated concerns with housing would complete a Point-in-Time Count Survey.
- **Unsheltered and Sheltered Surveys overnight from January 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>:** Volunteers canvassed Arlington County and surveyed persons who were sleeping outside. Volunteers provided gift cards, back packs, and as requested, Narcan and Fentanyl strips.

As in years past, the 2024 Point-in-Time Count was an important marker for Arlington County's CoC to measure the impact of the continuously shifting dynamics happening across the country and in the region.

### **Point-in-Time Count Survey Analysis**

Arlington County is an urban county home to approximately 237,300 residents within the County's 26.1 square mile radius. In 2024, the Arlington County Continuum of Care (CoC) experienced an overall 14% increase in homelessness since the prior year's Point-in-Time Count (from 213 people counted in 2023 to 243 people counted in 2024 or an increase of 30 people). The Arlington County CoC's 2024 Point-in-Time count recorded increases across all sub-population groups, except for:

- **Survivors actively fleeing domestic violence** (from 40 people in 2023 to 17 in 2024, or a decrease of 58%).
- **Transition Age Youth (ages 18-24)** (from 16 people in 2023 to 10 people in 2024 or a decrease of 38%).
- **People experiencing unsheltered homelessness** (from 42 people in 2023 to 31 people in 2024 or a decrease of 26%).

Table 1

Yearly Totals by Household and Individuals			
	2024	2023	2022
Overall Total	243	213	182
Total Family <u>Households</u>	24	21	19
Total Single Adult <u>Households</u>	169	147	132
Total Number of persons in Families	74	66	50
Total Number of Adults in families	31	23	21
Total Number of children in families	46	43	29
Total Number of single adult persons	169	147	132

While this year's increase of 14% was more modest than last year's increase of 17%, the 26% reduction in unsheltered homelessness was mitigated by the 24% increase in sheltered homelessness. The biggest drivers impacting this year's PIT results include:

- Increased utilization of single adult emergency shelter from 105 people in 2023 to 138 people in 2024 on the night of the count. This represents a 31% increase.
- Increase of families and number of people in families in emergency shelter from 21 households and 66 people in 2023 to 24 households and 74 people in 2024. This represents 14% increase in households and 12% increase in people.

### ***Unsheltered Homelessness***

Unsheltered homelessness decreased from 42 people in 2023 to 31 people in 2024. This represents a decrease of 26%. While last year's unsheltered count was the highest count seen in over ten years (110% increase), this year's enumeration, despite the decrease, reflects Arlington County's pre-pandemic level of need.

Two-thirds of the 31 people surveyed were counted in Arlington County's Rosslyn neighborhood, located within walking distance to the District of Columbia and includes locations such as the Key Bridge and Rosslyn Metro-transit station; and Arlington County's Ballston neighborhood, including the Ballston Metro station and Ballston Mall.

Arlington County CoC staff identified how the weather conditions on the night of the count potentially impacted this year's count. With warmer conditions, persons encountered were largely in-transit onto other locations, versus being stationary in an encampment trying to keep warm. The seasonably warmer temperature on January 24, 2024, potentially had an impact on the true number of people sleeping outside. Conversely, Arlington County's CoC observed more people willing to accept shelter this 2024 Point in Time Count than last year when temperatures were much colder. Nine (9) additional people were identified on the night of the count, but accepted offers to enter emergency shelter. (They are represented in the sheltered count.)

Those who did not accept shelter cited concerns about crowded shelter sites, desires to avoid unwanted encounters with other known shelter residents, and/or the desire to remain in a private place of their choosing. With that said, unsheltered survey respondents also expressed their interest

in the offer of connections to Arlington County area day programs for the purposes of accessing showers, laundry services, hot meals, behavioral health services, and for other basic needs.

### ***Increased Utilization of Emergency Shelter***

During Arlington County CoC's 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 212 people were surveyed in emergency shelter. This is the highest rate of shelter utilization since 2015 when 200 people were experiencing sheltered homelessness. Sheltered homelessness increased 24% (or by 41 people) as compared to 2023's count. During 2024's Point-in-Time Count, Emergency Shelters across the CoC saw increases in utilization, with the exceptions of one single adult shelter (6 fewer people served on the night of the count in 2024 compared to 2023) and Doorways Safehouse (12 fewer people served on the night of the count in 2024 compared to 2023). These shelter reports do not include hypothermia residents residing in shelter. While the frequency of domestic violence/intimate partner (DV) hotline calls have increased, many survivors have not been ready or able to enter shelter, resulting in decreases of persons served at the time of the count.

All other Arlington County shelter programs experienced increases in shelter utilization on the night of the count in 2024 as compared to 2023's Point-in-Time Count. In 2023, Arlington County's Hypothermia Shelter and Overflow served 16 people on the night of the count. In 2024, that number increased to 42 individuals, an increase of 26 people or 163% and includes the 9 individuals who chose to enter shelter during the night of the Point-in-Time Count who would have otherwise been sleeping outside. This is corroborated by the experience of single adult emergency shelter and hypothermia shelter providers who noted more people taking advantage of shelter services this year which began at the onset of the hypothermia season. Street outreach programs saw greater successes this year in encouraging unsheltered persons to engage with shelter and services throughout the year. Additionally, Arlington County expanded more robust day programming services across single-adult shelter sites that brought more adults off the streets and inside shelters, creating additional opportunities to strengthen rapport and relationships with clients. Launched in 2023, Arlington County also implemented a new community-based, crisis intervention program: Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST). MOST staff, including licensed behavioral health clinicians, psychiatrist, and peer counselor connect with people in the community experiencing a mental health crisis. Referrals are made by community members and other emergency responders (i.e. fire and police). While not intended to solely assist persons experiencing homelessness, MOST has reported many requests to engage with and referrals made for persons experiencing homelessness. Their team utilizes these opportunities to promote engagement with area shelters and day programs. Lastly, 11 people were surveyed in the Arlington County CoC's Transitional Housing program on the night of the count, an increase of 6 people (120%) from 2023.

Family shelters (excluding DV shelter) also experienced increased utilization on the night of the count. In 2023, a total of 21 households, comprising 66 people, were residing in family shelters. In 2024, a total of 24 households comprising 74 people were residing in family shelters and hotels. This represents an increase of 3 households and 8 people in families or 14% increase in households and 12% increase in people. The CoC has continued to see the lasting impacts to the housing needs brought on by the end of COVID-era resources and policies, such as eviction prevention assistance and eviction moratoria. One area family shelter has resumed doubling up unit capacity to serve multiple, un-related families in non-congregate spaces to accommodate the growing need for family shelter. Additionally, 4 households comprising 13 people were residing in hotels provided by Arlington County's Department of Human Services on the night of the count, because all other shelters were at capacity.

## **Subpopulations**

The Arlington County CoC remains committed to reaching [functional zero](#) for all persons experiencing homelessness and does so by targeting strategies to specific sub-groups and populations.

### ***Veterans***

Arlington County's 2024 Point-in-Time Count marks the largest increase of homeless Veterans counted since 2015, over nine years ago. The count of Veterans increased by 117% (from 6 Veterans counted in 2023 to 13 Veterans counted in 2024). This trend is also corroborated by the Arlington County CoC's By-Names-List efforts, a strategy by which the CoC identifies all persons actively experiencing homelessness, by name, to prioritize and refer persons to available housing. The CoC has observed an increase in Veterans experiencing homelessness and works closely with the VA and other Veteran housing/service providers to prioritize Veterans for available housing resources, such as SSVF and VASH vouchers. The CoC turns to other CoC housing resources when VA resources are depleted.

### ***Chronic Homelessness***

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count identified 35 people who met the Chronic Homelessness definition within Arlington County. This is a 94% increase from 2023 (from 18 people in 2023 to 35 people in 2024). All persons meeting this definition are single adult households and 14 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered on the night of the count. The Arlington County CoC's aim is to reduce chronic homelessness and prioritize this group for available housing resources. Throughout the year, the CoC experiences lower rates of chronic homelessness among persons who regularly engage with services.

### ***Survivors of Domestic Violence (DV)***

Of those surveyed in the Arlington County 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 17 households indicated they were currently experiencing domestic violence (DV) and 69 households indicated having a history of domestic violence. In contrast, the 2023 Point-in-Time Count saw the highest records of reported DV experiences: 40 households reported current experiences of homelessness and 74 households reported having histories of domestic violence. These reflect 58% and 7% reductions, respectively. The reductions are largely explained by the reduced utilization of Safehouse shelter during the night of the count and explained above. Regardless, of the specialized needs included in the Point-in-Time Count survey, histories of DV are reported more than any other need and point to the close connection between experiences of DV and homelessness.

### ***Youth and Transition-Aged Youth (TAYs)***

Despite Arlington County's efforts to expand surveying for youth and young adults in 2024, the Point-in-Time Count saw a 38% decrease in the number of TAYs surveyed, from 16 people in 2023 to 10 people (in 9 households) in 2024. This is the first year, since 2021 the Arlington County CoC experienced a decrease of TAYs surveyed during the night of the Point-in-Time Count. All but one TAY surveyed was in shelter on the night of the count.

As mentioned, the Arlington County CoC conducted a targeted Point-in-Time Count for youth and young adult between 2:30pm to 8:00pm at 2 locations in Arlington frequented by this population. Locations included a local community center that hosts a regular Teen Drop-In Program for middle school and high school teens and a local library. The Arlington County CoC partnered with community programs, including Arlington Parks and Recreation, Public Health, Child Welfare, Bridges to Independence, Center for Youth and Family Advocacy, Equality Arlington, Project Peace, Doorways, and The Dream Project to make services and activities available at the event. Volunteers conducted a preliminary screening tool with each young person to learn more about their needs and priorities.

For anyone who indicated concerns about where they would sleep that night, a Point-in-Time Count survey was completed.

Seventy-five young people (ranging from age 11 to 19) completed the preliminary screening tool. When asked the extent to which they had a safe place to sleep, of the 73 respondents, 95% of respondents said every night, 3% said most nights, 1% said rarely, and another 1% said never. Of the four young people who conveyed they never had a safe place to sleep every night, three indicated they were sleeping with family or in a hotel on the night of the Point-In-Time Count. The one person who said they did not know where they would sleep completed the Point-in-Time Count survey and are included in this year's TAY unsheltered count. All young people were offered resources and shelter.

When youth were asked what the biggest issues facing their generation; mental health and substance use was identified as the frequently most reported issue facing young people among 69 total respondents. Community Safety was identified as the second highest reported issue, and school safety was the third. Other responses that followed included, hunger (food insecurity), housing, and safety in the home. (More information about [Arlington County CoC's Youth and Young Adult Count](#) can be found on the CoC's website.)

### ***Persons with Substance Use, Mental Illness, or Co-Occurring Disorders***

Persons reporting substance use disorders doubled in 2024, from 13 people in 2023, to 26 people in 2024. Reports of living with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders decreased in 2024, from 52 and 40 people in 2023, to 48 and 18 people, respectively. This prevalence in substance use disorder was largely among single adults (25 of the 26 adults). It is also corroborated by Arlington County CoC shelter providers. The majority of the persons surveyed on the night of the count reporting substance use disorder were connected to shelter or transitional housing (20 of the 26 persons). The Arlington County CoC works closely with the Arlington County Behavioral Health Division to connect persons interested in treatment to services, maintains a supply of Narcan and other supplies onsite at shelters to provide to clients to prevent overdose, and provides harm reduction training.

### ***Older Adults***

Arlington County CoC partners note an upward trend in the aging populations, particularly increases in vulnerability, declining health, and increased frailty and health complications among this population. In 2024, roughly 1/3 of the persons surveyed were over the age of 55, with 22% of persons aged 55-64 years old. This is the second most prevalent age group among those surveyed on the night of the count, with those aged 35-44 being the most prevalent (representing 26% of those surveyed). The CoC is actively working to address the immediate and long-term housing needs of this older, medically fragile population. The CoC collaborates with the County's Aging and Disability Services Division, area hospitals, senior housing, and nursing homes and has recently organized an Aging and Homelessness Taskforce as an ad hoc workgroup of its CoC governance.

### ***Intersections of Race and Homelessness and Root Causes***

Due to HUD's changes in data collection standards this year, CoCs across the nation have an opportunity to better understand the racial demographics of persons experiencing homelessness. People identifying as Black, African American or African represent 49% of all those surveyed in the Arlington County 2024 Point-in-Time Count. Forty percent (40%) of TAYs, 25% of single adults, and 53% of adults and children in family households identify as Black, African American or African. Twelve percent (12%) of persons surveyed identified as Hispanic/Latino. This includes 20% of TAYs, 25% of single adults, and 15% of adults and children in families. An additional 6% identify as White

and Hispanic, 1% identify as multi-racial and Hispanic, 1% identify as Black & Hispanic, and 6.6% as multi-racial (not Hispanic). Three percent (3%) identify as Middle Eastern or North African.

Racial equity and addressing disparities are foundational areas of the [Arlington County CoC's Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#). It requires an intentional focus on elevating the voices and expertise of people with lived experience, developing systemic partnerships to support the intersecting identities of those experiencing homelessness, addressing issues at their root causes, and creating new policies that do away with harmful and oppressive practices. These solutions cannot fully undo harms from the Country's past legacies of the genocide and enslavement of Indigenous Black and Brown people on these lands. But giving voice and power to those who are impacted most by oppressive policies and practices and are closest to the solutions, is a key component of the CoC's efforts to practice racial equity.

### ***Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation***

The Arlington County CoC also recognizes the complex needs of other historically marginalized groups and is committed to ensuring the CoC's practices are inclusive and affirming. With HUD's new data standards, the CoC has an opportunity to further understand the gender identities of persons experiencing homelessness. In the Arlington County 2024 Point-In-Time count, 36% of persons surveyed identified as female, 63% identified as male, and 1.2% identified as transgender. Additionally, 4% were affiliated with the LGBTQIA+ community. These point to the ongoing need to ensure the Arlington County CoC adheres to Equal Access protocols already in place. The CoC must continue to create welcoming environments where people feel safe and that their identities are affirmed.

### **Year-Round and Winter Inventory of Beds**

On the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, the CoC had the following bed capacity availability:

- 249 Beds (151 single adult shelter beds and 98 family and DV shelter beds)
- 181 Units (151 single adult shelter units and 30 family and DV shelter units)

### **Permanent Housing Inventory Count**

On the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, the CoC had the following Permanent Housing capacity:

- 447 Beds (311 single adult Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing beds and 167 family RRH and PSH beds)
- 339 Units (280 single adult Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing units and 59 family RRH and PSH units)

### **Conclusion:**

The Point-in-Time Count is one of many approaches to enumerate the housing and homelessness needs communities face. It is a helpful snapshot in time that can measure trends year over year. Additionally, the Arlington County CoC also measures the number of people served across a 12-month period. In FY 2023, the Arlington, VA CoC served 1,188 people across all its programs. This includes 437 people across each of its emergency shelters. The message is clear: By examining the trends in Point-in-Time Count data and annualized CoC data, last year's increase was no anomaly.

With eviction rates continuing to rise, lagging incomes and lack of affordable housing continue to disparately impact people of color in Arlington County, Virginia. In fact, 95% of persons surveyed during the Point-in-Time Count identified as having primary ties to Arlington County. These are our neighbors in need.

The Arlington County CoC has set an ambitious goal amidst a challenging economic and housing market. The CoC remains committed to these efforts and will continue to work to approve upon well-established, best practices. The CoC is also eager to continue its work alongside new members with lived experience who have joined the CoC to collaborate on our shared goal: improving outcomes and experiences for all persons experiencing homelessness in our community.

# The District of Columbia

## System Overview

The District of Columbia's Continuum of Care (CoC) includes over 200 provider agencies that deliver services to individuals and families who are facing housing loss, experiencing homelessness, or who have formerly experienced homelessness. In Fiscal Year (FY) 23 alone, these programs served nearly 10,000 families with children and more than 16,500 unaccompanied persons.

While most CoC programming in District serves families or unaccompanied men and women, there are also multiple programs that work exclusively with key subpopulations such as youth, veterans, LGBTQ+ persons, seniors, or survivors of domestic or intimate partner violence. In addition to street outreach, emergency shelter, and transitional housing – the provider types that are the focus on the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count – CoC providers also serve meals, offer respite care, safe housing, administer prevention and diversion assistance, and offer a variety of housing resources such as rapid rehousing (RRH), targeted affordable housing (TAH)<sup>1</sup>, and permanent supportive housing (PSH).

The District's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) acts as the CoC's board and sets its strategic framework; ICH members include representatives from Mayor Muriel Bowser's cabinet, persons who are currently or who have formerly experienced homelessness, providers, and advocates. The ICH's strategic plan, *Homeward DC*<sup>2</sup>, guides ICH's work and sets the vision of making homelessness in the District rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

The District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) administers local dollars to support CoC programming, along with its prime contractor, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP). TCP and DHS also acquire federal resources through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) CoC Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (respectively) that complement the local funding. Additional support for CoC programs comes from the U.S. Departments of Veteran Affairs (VA), Health and Human Services (HHS) and Labor (DOL).

As a part of its work with ICH, DHS, and federal partners, TCP conducts the PIT Count on behalf of the District and has done so since 2001. TCP is best positioned to manage the District's Count as TCP also administers the District's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the primary repository for person-level information on the individuals and families receiving CoC services. More than 90 percent of the programs in the District use the local HMIS and, in turn, TCP produces much of the data that informs the PIT Count using the system.

## Access to Services

Families facing housing loss in the District can visit DHS's Virginia Williams Family Resource Center for connection to homelessness prevention resources, shelter placement, or other

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<sup>1</sup> Targeted affordable housing is a permanent subsidy that provides quarterly case management services, targeted to those living with a disabling condition, who do not require the level of intensive services associated with permanent supportive housing.

<sup>2</sup> *Homeward DC* is available at the ICH's website, [ich.dc.gov](http://ich.dc.gov)

services based on the family's needs. All families placed in emergency shelter or transitional housing from Virginia Williams have access to RRH through the Family Rehousing and Stabilization Program (FRSP). The CoC's family shelters, or Short-Term Family Housing (STFH) programs, provide housing-focused case management in apartment-style living spaces, and FRSP provides shelter exit assistance for families as they move to housing in the community. While in FRSP, families receive time-limited rental subsidies and case management support. After the FRSP subsidies end, eligible families get matched to other available housing supports that they qualify for such as TAH or PSH resources to support their housing retention.

For unaccompanied individuals, access to the CoC's services follows a "no wrong door" approach with a decentralized process for obtaining services. DHS and CoC partners have worked to streamline system access and to re-orient the system towards homelessness prevention and diversion. The Project Reconnect program serves individuals who have newly entered shelter or who are currently facing housing instability by providing counseling and flexible funding that will either divert someone from needing homeless services or will facilitate a rapid exit from the homeless services system. Project Reconnect provides housing plan development while setting targeted goals for individuals to help them access services and maintain or return to stable housing.

Individuals in need of shelter may stay at any of the District's low barrier emergency shelters and/or engage in case management at meal program sites and drop-in centers such as the Downtown Day Services Center, the Adams Place Day Center in Northeast DC, or at 801 East on the Campus of St. Elizabeths. Day Centers provide access to showers and laundry facilities, meals, and services provided by the District Departments of Health (DC Health), Employment Services (DOES), Motor Vehicles, and from non-governmental partners like Unity Health Care.

Unaccompanied and pregnant/parenting youth may also visit the District's four youth drop-in centers for case management and referrals to other services. DHS's Youth Housing Options Prevention Education (HOPE) program also provides homelessness prevention assistance, family reunification mediation, whenever safe and possible, and connections to permanent housing solutions.

Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness can connect with a VA homeless services care coordinator via the Washington DC Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC). Through the CRRC, veterans can receive food assistance, access shelter or housing resources, or can receive referrals for employment opportunities and other financial support, justice system navigation, addiction and/or mental health treatment, and health and dental care.

The CoC's Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system, led by TCP, works with CoC providers to provide standardized access and referrals to RRH, TAH, and PSH as well as youth- and veteran-specific transitional housing resources. The CAHP system uses information from dedicated CAHP liaison staff at service provider organizations to determine when an individual or family's service needs are a good fit for an open CoC housing resource. Those identified as the most vulnerable in the CoC are prioritized for resources like PSH while others in need of temporary or more affordable housing resources may be prioritized for RRH or TAH respectively. CAHP staff focus their efforts into four "subsystems" - unaccompanied adults, families, youth, and veterans, and have worked with subsystem and CoC partners in the last year to make changes to their procedures to increase the scale of their resource

matches and are taking steps to decrease the time it takes for those matched to resources to move in to their housing.

### **Recent System Changes and Achievements**

The 2024 PIT Count shows an increase from the Counts conducted in 2023 and 2022 but is still lower overall than the Count recorded in 2020, the last PIT Count done prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency (though the number of just unaccompanied individuals is slightly higher than the 2020 figure). The 2024 PIT Count for unaccompanied individuals is up by 5.6 percent from last year but just 0.3 percent higher than the 2020 Count. The PIT Count for families increased by 38.6 percent last year but is *down* by almost 30 percent from PIT 2020.

Following the public health emergency declaration, the CoC saw large decreases in persons and families newly experiencing homelessness or returning to the system following a previous exit due to the eviction moratoria and an unprecedented local and federal investment in prevention and diversion resources. While these resources had positive system impacts and led to decreased PIT Counts in those years, the upward trend in PIT Counts since 2022 is concurrent with the expiration of the additional supports. To wit, annual figures for FY23 show that half of all families and more than one third of unaccompanied individuals served by the CoC's outreach, emergency shelter, and transitional housing programs were in their first episode of homelessness, underscoring the need for prevention and diversion-oriented resources.

While the District's programs do not capture information on the immigration status of persons served, the CoC has received feedback from providers that many individuals newly presenting for service may have come to the District soon after entering the United States. In response, the District has established services and temporary lodging for migrants with children through the Office of Migrant Services (OMS), though youth and adults without minor children are referred to the homeless system. The CoC and OMS are working closely to understand the extent to which the recent migrants are relying on CoC services to meet basic needs and to plan for resources to support the housing goals of this emerging population.

In the last year the CoC also saw an increase in families and individuals in its programs that serve households fleeing domestic and intimate partner violence. Providers serving survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence in the District and throughout the U.S. added capacity to respond to the nation-wide surge in domestic violence incidents occurring since the beginning of the pandemic. Locally, including these new additional beds and services, the District saw an increase of almost 180 people in its shelters and transitional housing programs for survivors in 2024 compared to the 2023 PIT Count.

Despite the end of many federal prevention-oriented resources, the CoC continued its intensive prevention and diversion work. DHS has made new strides in prevention for unaccompanied adults through the implementation of Streamlined Intake and the creation of a virtual "front door" for the unaccompanied individuals subsystem. This initiative expanded the reach of the Project Reconnect diversion program by placing staff in shelters, day service centers, and with outreach teams to engage with people newly experiencing homelessness or facing housing instability. DHS also launched the Front Door Navigation Tool (FDNT) with the Homeless Services Hotline, which has strengthened opportunities for diversion by providing information about available resources and more quickly connecting people to the

right intervention. The FDNT has provided over 100 additional referrals to Project Reconnect since its launch and Streamlined Intake allowed Project Reconnect to successfully assist 487 individuals, an increase of 200 percent from FY22.

Additionally, during FY23, DHS grew the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to accept more applications and distribute nearly \$45 million in funds, assisting 8,470 households. ERAP assists residents earning less than 40 percent of Area Median Income with rent arrearages, late fees, and court costs when a household is facing eviction. ERAP also helps with first month's rent and security deposits for households that are relocating.

DHS also successfully closed the last Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) site, which served 2,396 people since opening, and helped to move approximately 1,240 participants to permanent housing. PEP-V saved lives during the public health emergency and provided a supportive environment where residents had access to case management services and routine medical and behavioral health care. The key lessons learned from operating PEP-V led to the establishment of the first non-congregate bridge housing (NCBH) sites. This program offers an environment that is conducive to delivering critical case management and housing navigation services, and fills a longstanding gap in our system by serving the needs of adult families and couples experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, a milestone in our progress towards ending homelessness among unaccompanied adults is the opening of The Ethel. The Ethel was created through a public-private partnership as part of the Hill East community. This apartment building includes 100 units of permanent supportive housing and a range of amenities to support the overall wellbeing of residents such as fitness facilities, cooking classes, a clothing closet, hair salon, and on-site case managers who help residents navigate connections to healthcare, professional development, and other services.

The District has also worked to make improvements to the ways people are connected to housing resources. DHS has worked to simplify and streamline its voucher application process and implemented Operation Make Movement, which leveraged existing outreach and shelter provider relationships to assist individuals with their applications for apartments in the community. Taking these steps before the CAHP team matches someone to a specific housing resource has helped reduce the time between housing match and move-in.

The CoC's Short-Term Family Housing (STFH) programs are now in their fifth year. These programs, seamlessly embedded in communities in seven (7) of our eight (8) wards, continue to assist families with essential safety needs while maintaining average lengths of stay of under 90 days. The CoC is proud of the strides made in bolstering our emergency services system and ensuring a haven for everyone in our community.

As noted previously, families entering the CoC's STFH programs are eligible for exit assistance and rapid rehousing through FRSP. This combination of service types has continued to lead to positive outcomes for families, with nearly 70 percent of families served in FY23 exiting to permanent destinations by the end of the fiscal year with an average length of service of 114 days and an average length of stay in STFH sites at only 64 days. Just 49 of the nearly 1,300 families served in FY23 were back in the system within 6-12 months of a previous exit, owing to FRSP as a stabilizing resource for families exiting shelter.

Another way the CoC is meeting families where they are is through the Career Mobility Action

Plan (Career MAP) program. Career MAP removes barriers to gaining employment and increasing income allowing for long term stability. The pilot provides resources directly to parents who recently experienced homelessness, are committed to pursuing a career in a high-demand sector, and are at risk of losing TANF, SNAP, rental subsidies, and/or other benefits more quickly than their income can cover these lost resources. While Career Map is still early in its implementation, families are already making significant progress toward reaching their goals. Recently, the Career MAP benefits cliff mitigation strategy received recognition from the Federal Reserve Bank whose study of the program found that it reduces the financial disincentives participants face when making decisions about career advancement.

In addition, the CoC launched the Peer Case Management Institute in partnership with Howard University's School of Social Work. The Peer Case Management Institute provides a pathway for residents with lived experiences of homelessness to become qualified case managers in the Homeless Services System. The initiative seeks to leverage participants' lived experience and provide tailored training to enable them to obtain employment with CoC provider agencies.

## 2024 Continuum of Care Inventory

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SHELTER & HOUSING INVENTORY		
Category	Units for Individuals	Units for Families
Emergency Shelter <sup>3</sup>	2,751	405
Safe Haven	20	0
Transitional Housing	1,062	345
Rapid Rehousing	937	3,982
Permanent Supportive Housing	7,820	2,764
Other Permanent Housing (incl. TAH) <sup>4</sup>	1,077	1,695

The table above shows the number of units of various CoC program types operating as of the night of PIT for unaccompanied individuals and families. Persons served by emergency shelters, safe haven, and transitional housing programs (in addition to unsheltered persons) are the individuals and families included in the PIT Count. PSH, RRH, and TAH participants are not included in the PIT Count as they are no longer experiencing homelessness; however, these programs require that individuals and families served by these resources were experiencing homelessness at entry.

Most services in the District are funded by DHS, with additional support coming from federal sources such as the HUD CoC Program. While HUD CoC dollars are the primary federal source of homeless services funding, the District, TCP, and the provider community also receive federal funds from HUD via YHDP and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), from

<sup>3</sup> Includes all shelter beds/units for unaccompanied adults, unaccompanied minors, and families located at the District's severe weather, low-barrier, temporary, Short Term Family Housing (STFH), and Bridge Housing programs as well as the non-congregate motel spaces opened as a part of the District's public health emergency response that were occupied on the night of PIT.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Targeted Affordable Housing (TAH) and Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV).

HHS's Runaway and Homeless Youth program, and from the VA's Grant Per Diem transitional housing program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families RRH program, and VA Supportive Housing (VASH) PSH program. Some CoC providers use private funds to establish their own programs or to support programs that are also publicly funded.

### **2024 Point-in-Time Count: Methodology**

The CoC conducted its PIT Count on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. TCP primarily used HMIS as its source for information on individuals and families served in CoC programs, while providers that do not have access to HMIS collected the same HUD-required PIT information. Information collected on the PIT date provides both an enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness as well as information on household composition, demographics, life experiences, economic circumstances, and service needs of persons counted.

Outreach providers and volunteers used Survey123 to record engagements with persons who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT Count and Day Centers and meal programs worked with TCP to report information on persons served at their locations the morning after the PIT Count to ensure that no one was missed on the PIT date itself. These program participants indicated where they spent the night of PIT which TCP used to augment the information collected on the PIT night itself. TCP used personally identifying information collected from survey respondents to ensure de-duplication within the final set of information.

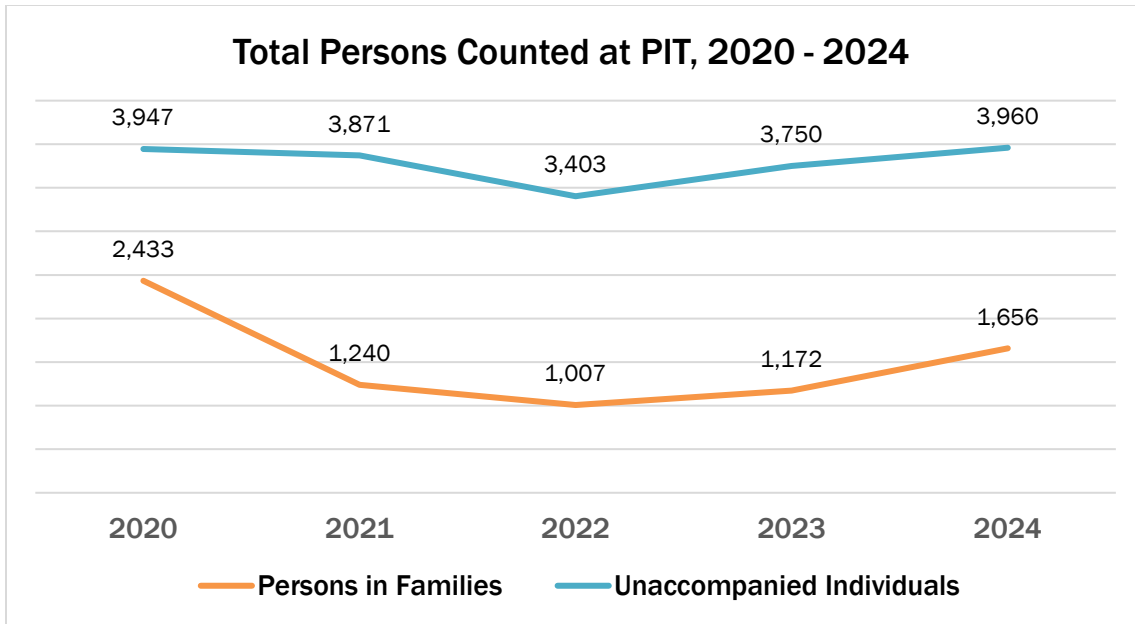
Most of the information collected for PIT comes from the HMIS, as more than 90 percent of all programs operating in the District are represented in that system. TCP trains HMIS users monthly to ensure that information on persons in their care is up to date throughout the year and trained street outreach professionals and volunteers to use Survey123 in the weeks leading up to the PIT Count. Some providers were only able to provide "head counts" on persons in their programs on PIT or were unable to submit identifying information due to programmatic restrictions,<sup>5</sup> but information received from these providers was aggregated with HMIS and Survey123 information to ensure that the count was as thorough as possible.

### **2024 Point-in-Time Count: Results**

Following an increase in 2023, the count in 2024 again rose 14 percent compared to the previous year. The total count remains 12 percent lower than the count in 2020, the last PIT recorded before the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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<sup>5</sup> Information from programs where participants are fleeing domestic/intimate partner programs may not include information like participants' names or program locations in their submissions in keeping with the *Violence Against Women Act*.



Between different household types, the 2024 count showed an increase of 484 persons in families and 210 unaccompanied individuals compared to the previous count. Despite a notable rise in the number of persons in families counted, it remains 32 percent lower than the 2020 count. Conversely, the count of unaccompanied individuals exceeded 2020 levels – though only slightly – by 13 individuals, or 0.3 percent.

### Families

As depicted in the table below, the count of family units increased 39 percent between 2023 and 2024, equating to a 41 percent increase in the number of persons within families. Despite this year's uptick in the number of families counted, it remains 30 percent lower compared to the number counted in the 2020 PIT count.

FAMILIES COUNTED AT PIT 2024							
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	% Change 2020 - 2024
<b>Families</b>	768	405	347	389	539	38.6%	-29.8%
<b>Persons in Families</b>	2,433	1,240	1,007	1,172	1,656	41.3%	-31.9%

The increase in the number of families over the past two years may be a readjustment following the expiration of additional resources made available to families facing a housing crisis during the public health emergency. Even so, positive family system transformations occurred during this time, including the transition of family shelter to the STFH model, which is proving to keep families' experiences in shelter brief, maintaining average lengths of stay below 90-days in FY23.

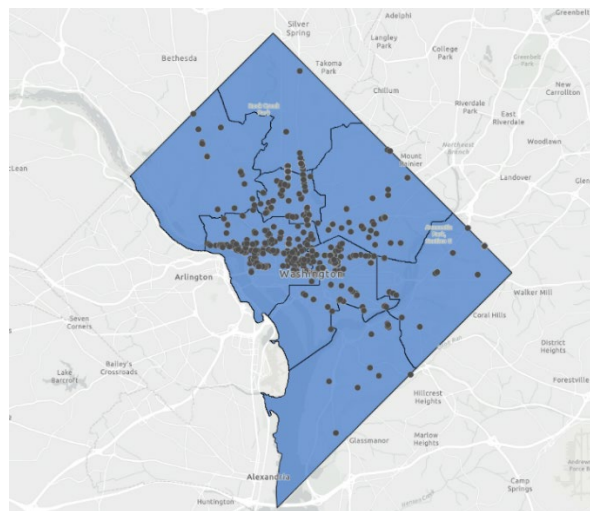
## Unaccompanied Individuals

Following an increase in 2023 after year-to-year reductions in the overall count of unaccompanied individuals from 2020, the total count of unaccompanied individuals again increased by six (6) percent. The count of individuals staying in an unsheltered location on the night of PIT follows the upward trend of the last several counts at eight (8) percent.

UNACCOMPANIED INDIVIDUALS COUNTED AT PIT							
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2023 - 2024	% Change 2020 - 2024
Emergency Shelter	2,580	2,547	2,166	2,314	2,329	0.6%	36.0%
Transitional Housing (incl. Safe Haven)	714	643	547	615	743	20.8%	-9.7%
Unsheltered	653	681	690	821	888	8.2%	4,1%
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>3,947</b>	<b>3,871</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

New inflow continues to thwart the District's efforts to reduce the number of unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness, despite exiting unaccompanied individuals to permanent housing at higher rates than before the COVID-19 public health emergency. In FY23, 40 percent of individuals served – or around 3,060 unique individuals – were either new to the CoC or returned to the CoC after exiting to permanent housing at least two years prior.

**Map: Engagements with Unsheltered Persons at PIT (January 24, 2024)**



## Demographics

The PIT count serves as a vital performance metric for the CoC, offering valuable insights into the scale of homelessness within a community at a given time. While necessary for estimating the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness at a given point in time, the PIT survey tool also offers a deeper understanding of their demographic profiles, life experiences, economic circumstances, and service needs. This information not only highlights differences between subgroups like unaccompanied individuals and families but also reveals variations within these groups based on individuals' life experiences. Although the following information primarily focuses on disparities between unaccompanied adults and adults in families, TCP's website provides a dashboard tool for further exploration of differences within subgroups, the dashboard can be accessed at [community-partnership.org](https://community-partnership.org).

### Race & Ethnicity

The 2024 PIT count marks the first year of a change in HUD data standards for collecting race and ethnicity as a single measure. Notwithstanding the change, the data continues to show that in the District people of color are overrepresented among those who experience homelessness. 93 percent of all persons (including children) at PIT 2024 identified with a race and ethnicity other than White alone, including White and Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o). Compared to District residents at large, that number is just 62 percent.<sup>6</sup> Breaking out Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) for all persons in families and all unaccompanied adults those numbers are eight (8) and twelve (12) percent respectively.

The disproportionate representation of communities of color among those experiencing homelessness stems from longstanding factors that have persistently affected these communities, including discrimination, oppression, and exclusion from economic opportunities, housing policies, and social services. This has led to persistent inequalities in access to education, employment, and housing. These factors not only lead to higher rates of homelessness but also hinder individuals and families from effectively resolving their housing crises.

DEMOGRAPHICS: RACE & ETHNICITY		
	Unaccompanied Persons	Persons in Families
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous	0.4%	0.1%
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	0.5%	0.2%
Asian or Asian American	1.3%	0.1%
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	0.1%	0.0%
Black, African American or African	75.8%	90.3%
Black, African American or African & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	2.0%	3.6%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	1.7%	0.8%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.03%	0.2%
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	0.1%	0.0%

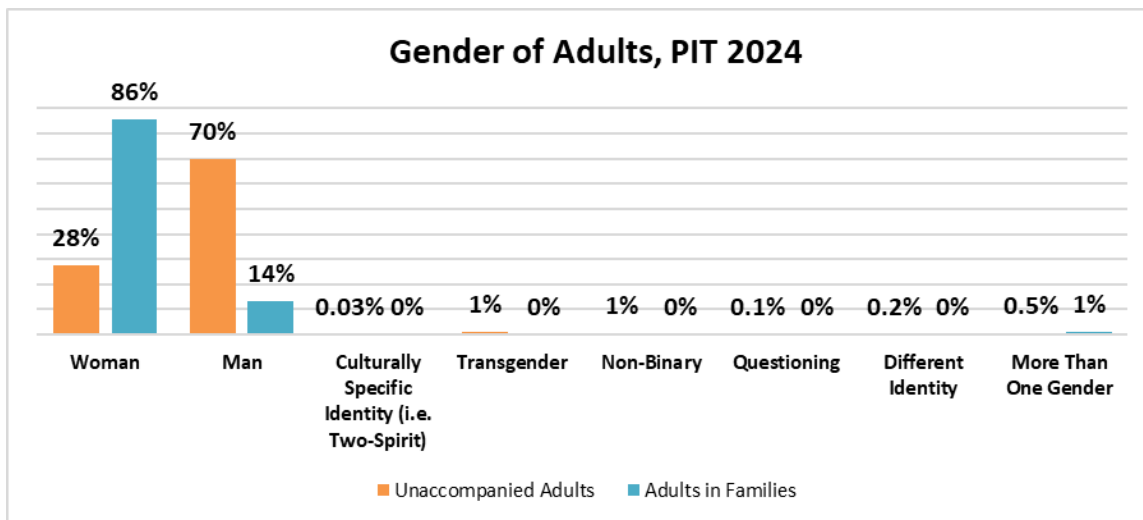
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/DC>

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	0.1%	0.1%
White	9.2%	0.4%
White & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	5.7%	2.1%
Multi-Racial (NOT Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o))	0.9%	0.9%
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	1.9%	0.9%

In the family subsystem the disproportionality in race and ethnicity is even greater, with all persons of color and those who identify as Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) making up nearly 100 percent (99.6%) of persons counted at PIT. For unaccompanied individuals, that number is roughly 91 percent.

## Gender

The distribution of gender between unaccompanied individuals and persons in families is consistent with past years' data. As depicted in the graph below, persons identifying as a woman comprise the greatest share of all adults in families, accounting for 86 percent of those counted in 2024, by contrast persons identifying as a man make up most unaccompanied individuals (70 percent). In general, unaccompanied individuals report more variation in gender identity with around two (2) percent of all unaccompanied individuals (92 persons) identifying as a gender other than singularly a man or a woman, contrasted to only six (6) adults in families.



## Age

The PIT survey prompts respondents to provide their date of birth or age for two main purposes: as a deduplication mechanism and to quantify the extent to which the CoC is assisting two significant age-based subpopulation groups – youth and seniors. Youth, as defined by HUD, comprises households with only children (such as unaccompanied minors or pregnant/parenting minors) or Transition Age Youth (TAYs), young adults ages 18 to 24. Seniors, on the other hand, are defined as individuals aged 55 and older.

Among adults counted at PIT, the median age for unaccompanied individuals was 45 (45 for men and 46 for women) and 30 for heads of family households. The unaccompanied individual population has skewed slightly younger each year over the past two counts, down from a median age of 49 in 2022 and 47 last year. Among unaccompanied individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, the median age was 30. Adults in families are skewing slightly older, up from 28 in 2023. The percentage of family heads of household in the TAY age range was 26 percent, slightly lower than the 30 percent recorded in 2023.

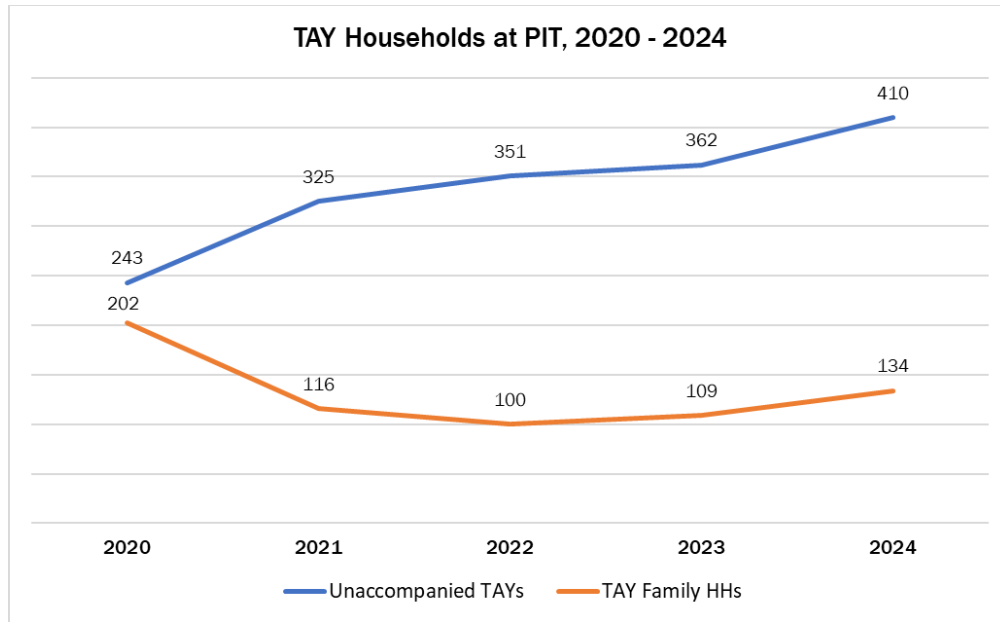
AGE RANGES, HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD AT PIT 2024 <sup>7</sup>		
	Unaccompanied Individuals	Families
<b>13 to 17 (Households with only children)</b>	0.3%	0.0%
<b>18 to 24 (TAYs)</b>	10.4%	25.6%
<b>25 to 34</b>	18.9%	45.8%
<b>35 to 44</b>	20.4%	22.6%
<b>45 to 54</b>	17.1%	5.0%
<b>55 to 64</b>	21.7%	0.9%
<b>65 to 69</b>	6.8%	0.0%
<b>70 to 79</b>	4.0%	0.0%
<b>80 to 89</b>	0.4%	0.0%
<b>90+</b>	0.03%	0.0%

## Youth

Youth experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity have access to age-appropriate programming offering services tailored to the specific needs of youth, such as supporting educational attainment, assisting pregnant and parenting youth with childcare resources, and preparing youth to enter the workforce. In addition to youth-specific shelter and transitional housing programs, the District also operates four (4) youth-only drop-in centers, including one (1) that is open 24-hours to ensure youth have a place to go whenever they might need it and regardless of the time of day.

As depicted in the chart below, the count of TAY-headed households in the family subsystem mirrors that of the overall family subsystem showing a sharp decrease between 2020 and 2022. This change reflects a continuation of reductions in family homelessness since 2016, in large part due to the reforms laid out in Homeward DC and additional resources made available during the public health emergency to keep families from losing their housing. In 2023 that trend shifted and the number continued to rise in 2024, consistent with the family subsystem as a whole. In contrast, the count of unaccompanied TAYs has shown a steady increase over the same period, reflecting the CoC's ongoing investment in resources tailored to this demographic.

<sup>7</sup> While most tables in this narrative include information on all adult persons in both the unaccompanied individuals and family subsystems, this table includes just the designated heads of households for families to ensure inclusion of the households headed by minors and to denote the number of families in the CoC where the family would be eligible for youth specific resource.



The CoC also includes one emergency shelter and one transitional housing site licensed to provide overnight accommodations to unaccompanied minors. There were nine (9) unaccompanied minors counted in emergency shelter at PIT and one (1) was counted in an unsheltered location on the night of PIT. There were no family households with a pregnant or parenting minor head of household counted in 2024.

### Seniors

Persons age 55 or older make up 29 percent of all adults counted at PIT; there were 1,307 unaccompanied adults and five (5) heads of family households who were seniors as of the PIT date. The CoC's inventory for seniors includes units across emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing resources. These resources are crucial, as older adults experiencing homelessness face acute risks of health complications due to their lack of housing. Seniors often present mental and physical health issues more commonly associated with individuals at least ten years older who are housed, translating into elevated rates of premature mortality compared to the general population.

### LGBTQ+

Looking at all adults surveyed at PIT, 527 persons – or 12 percent – identified as part of the LGBTQ+ community based on their responses to questions about their sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBTQ+ identifying persons were overwhelmingly using the unaccompanied adult subsystem, with the count including 475 unaccompanied individuals and just 52 adults in families.

As in past counts, Transition Age Youth (ages 18-24) were more likely than older adults experiencing homelessness to identify as LGBTQ+. To wit, 34 percent of unaccompanied youth and eight (8) percent of parenting youth (or 28 percent of all 18- to 24-year-olds

counted at PIT) identified as LGBTQ+ compared to estimates of around nine (9) percent of youth in the District at large<sup>8</sup>.

For LGBTQ+ youth, the CoC inventory includes 53 transitional housing units and a rapid rehousing program that serves 20 individuals at a time. The CoC established its first LGBTQ+ shelter for adults aged 25 years and older in 2022; this program serves up to 40 individuals at a time in a low barrier shelter setting and was at capacity on the night of PIT.

## Life Experiences

The PIT survey also asks questions about life experiences among adult respondents that are recognized factors contributing to housing insecurity. This data aids the CoC and its collaborating partners who serve survivors of domestic or intimate partner violence, migrant communities, and individuals involved with the foster care and justice systems. With insights garnered from the PIT survey, tailored prevention strategies and new programming can be developed to address the unique needs of these populations.

REPORTED EXPERIENCES AMONG ADULTS AT PIT 2024		
	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families
<b>Survivor of Domestic Violence</b>	25.7%	50.5%
<b>Limited/No English Proficiency</b>	10.9%	4.0%
<b>Formerly in Foster Care</b>	10.3%	10.6%
<b>Resided in an Institutional Setting</b>	37.5%	10.8%

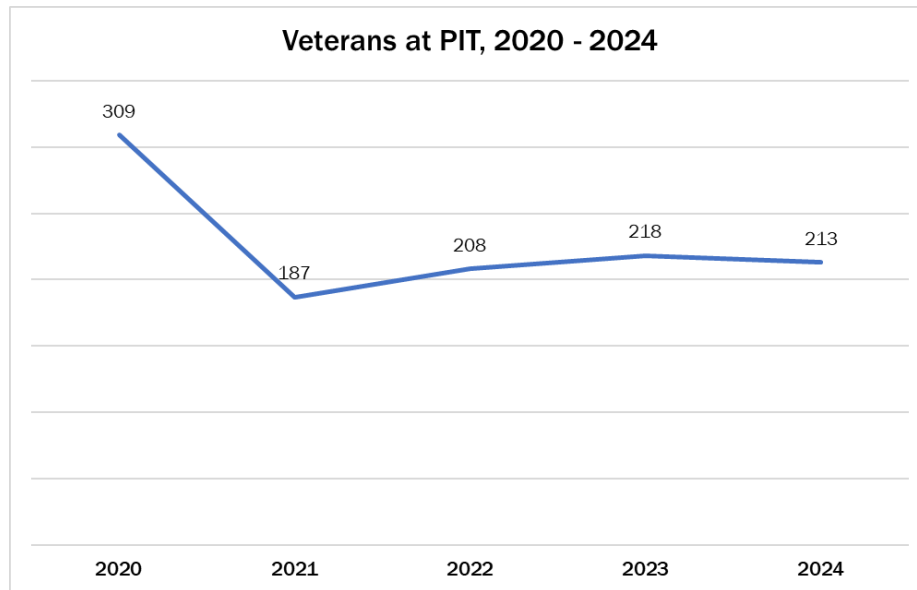
Surviving domestic or intimate partner violence remains the most frequently reported life experience among adults in families. In 2024, just over half (51 percent) of all adults in families reported an experience of domestic or intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and almost three-quarters of those said that their current episode of homelessness was due to that experience. Among unaccompanied individuals, this experience was reported by 26 percent overall. When breaking the individuals' subsystem down by gender, the PIT surveys showed that this was reported at a rate of 52 percent for unaccompanied women as compared to 13 percent for men.

The PIT data also revealed that over one third (38 percent) of unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness had previously lived in institutional settings, including treatment programs, residential hospitals, and corrections facilities, before becoming homeless. Additionally, over one in ten adults across the entire Continuum of Care (CoC) reported histories of involvement with the foster care system, among those aged 18-24, this figure is roughly one in six.

<sup>8</sup> <https://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/LGBT%20Health%20Report.pdf>  
(Note: Report refers to "LGBT", not "LGBTQ+")

## Veterans

The veterans subsystem has worked to convert many transitional housing units to affordable housing for veterans and has utilized private funds to bolster resources addressing veteran homelessness. In FY23, these interventions (along with existing resources) helped house 335 veterans – a 33 percent increase from FY22 – though the PIT Count of veterans remained relatively flat with a slight decrease of five (5) veterans. The majority of veterans were single adults and only four (4) were served by the family subsystem.



## Income and Employment

Throughout the year, data on income sources and amounts are continuously tracked to monitor changes over time. However, the PIT survey provides a snapshot of this indicator on a specific day, providing data on whether persons experiencing homelessness at PIT receive income, particularly from employment.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT AT PIT 2024		
	Unaccompanied Adults	Adults in Families
Receiving Income	40.5%	58.0%
Employed	9.6%	29.4%
PRIMARY INCOME SOURCE		
Employment	24.8%	29.3%
Social Security/Retirement	4.7%	0.0%
SSI/SSDI (Disability Income)	53.7%	16.2%
TANF/Public Assistance	9.0%	67.0%
Other	6.9%	5.4%

Typically, adults in families report higher rates of income and employment compared to their counterparts in the unaccompanied individuals' subsystem. This difference between household types is likely due to factors such as fewer disabling conditions and a younger average among adults in families.

Despite this, for those with income in both subsystems, a small majority report that income from benefits programs, such as TANF or SSI/SSDI, serve as their primary source of income, rather than income from employment.

Facilitating connections for adults to secure income and supporting those capable of gaining or sustaining employment is an important performance metric for the CoC. This indicator is closely monitored by the ICH, DHS, and TCP at both individual provider and systemic levels. Whereas not everyone will be prioritized for a permanent housing subsidy, employment income becomes crucial for obtaining housing and maintaining housing stability in the District's expensive housing market.

### **Disabling Conditions and Chronic Homelessness**

The PIT count also includes an assessment of the prevalence of various disabling conditions among unaccompanied adults. This data informs the CoC's program development efforts, ensuring that its services align with the needs of both unaccompanied adults and families seeking assistance.

Persons living with disabling conditions, particularly those experiencing prolonged or recurrent homelessness — referred to as "chronically homeless" according to HUD criteria — represent some of the most vulnerable individuals served by the CoC. As a result, they are prioritized for access to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) resources.

Year after year, the PIT data reveals a higher prevalence of disabling conditions among unaccompanied adults compared to adults in families. This divergence, coupled with the CoC's emphasis on swiftly transitioning families from shelter to permanent housing, has led to a notably low rate of chronic homelessness among families in the District. Similar housing-focused case management efforts and the allocation of funding for permanent housing resources for unaccompanied adults may also contribute to a reduction in chronic homelessness over time.

<b>DISABLING CONDITIONS &amp; CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AT PIT 2024</b>		
	<b>Unaccompanied Adults</b>	<b>Adults in Families</b>
<b>Substance Use (SU) History</b>	20.3%	0.2%
<b>History of Mental Illness (MI)</b>	34.1%	9.5%
<b>Dual Diagnosis (SU &amp; MI)</b>	12.2%	0.2%
<b>Chronic Health Problem</b>	19.8%	2.3%
<b>Developmental Disability</b>	5.4%	0.0%
<b>Living with HIV/AIDS</b>	3.4%	0.2%
<b>Physical Disability</b>	17.0%	2.6%

Experiencing Chronic Homelessness <sup>9</sup>	43.2%	3.5%
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## 2024 Point-in-Time Count: Permanent Housing

The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number of persons *currently* experiencing homelessness. In addition to the PIT count, the CoC also enumerates persons who *formerly* experienced homelessness – that is, individuals and families who reside in permanent housing resources dedicated to serving those who were experiencing homelessness when they entered the housing programs.

While not a part of the official PIT Count, households in these programs would likely still be in shelter or living in unsheltered situations if not for these permanent housing solutions. At PIT 2024, 7,916 unaccompanied individuals and 7,029 families were residing in housing units that are a part of the CoC's RRH, TAH and PSH inventory.

	Unaccompanied Individuals	Family Households
Other Permanent Housing (e.g., TAH)	630	1,203
Permanent Supportive Housing	6,430	1,933
Rapid Rehousing	856	3,893
Total	7,916	7,029

Funding for these programs comes largely from the District via DHS, but also from HUD, the VA, and private sources. As these resources expand, the District and TCP's CAHP team work to match eligible individuals and families to open slots in new and existing programs.

## Conclusion

Though the 2024 PIT Count is an increase over the previous year, The District of Columbia's CoC is making promising progress toward developing solutions to homelessness by strategically managing its resources and adapting to evolving needs. The CoC continues to house large numbers of individuals and families, housing a total of 972 individuals and 885 families across the CoC in FY23. However, ongoing inflow of individuals and families underscores the importance of continued prevention, diversion, and rapid exit resources, all while continuing to expand our supportive housing inventory.

<sup>9</sup> Other figures in this table use the sum of persons who are unsheltered, in emergency shelter, and in transitional housing as the denominator when calculating the associated percentages. The "Experiencing Chronic Homelessness" calculation is based on those who meet the definition described in footnote 12, and as such, the denominator used to calculate this percentage is only the sum of unsheltered persons and persons in emergency shelter (as persons in transitional housing cannot be considered chronically homeless).

In the work of making homelessness in the District rare, brief, and nonrecurring, the District of Columbia's CoC remains committed to implementing innovative and proven solutions while evaluating their efficacy and system impacts through exercises like Point-in-Time.

# 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

## Fairfax County, Virginia

### Description of Homeless Services

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, the community's Continuum of Care (CoC), is comprised of non-profit and governmental partners, faith-based communities, advocates, those with lived experience of homelessness, and other community stakeholders. The Fairfax County CoC is guided by the CoC Committee, which serves as the governance of the CoC, and community-wide vision that every person in the community can access and maintain safe and affordable housing.

The homeless services system is comprised of a spectrum of homeless service interventions, all of which are designed to achieve the goal of ensuring homelessness is brief, rare, and one time. This includes the following project types:

- **STREET OUTREACH:** Outreach services include engagement, case management, community linkages, and supportive services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION:** Homelessness Prevention is designed to stabilize households in their current housing or help them move into new housing through the provision of services and / or rental assistance.
- **EMERGENCY SHELTER:** Emergency Shelter is a short-term, temporary solution while housing-focused case management services are provided to quickly resolve the immediate housing crisis. Fairfax County's CoC operates with a total of eleven shelters serving single individuals, households with children, victims of domestic violence, and youth (ages 13-17).
- **HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION PROGRAM:** The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an expansion of emergency shelter capacity through existing shelters as well as auxiliary sites based in government buildings and houses of worship during the winter months for single individuals to prevent death and injury due to hypothermia.
- **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:** Transitional Housing includes the provision of case management and services meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing and is primarily used in Fairfax County for special populations, including victims of domestic violence and transition-aged youth (ages 18-24).
- **RAPID REHOUSING:** Rapid Rehousing programs are designed to help households experiencing homelessness move quickly into permanent housing through the provision of housing location support, ongoing case management services, and / or rental assistance.
- **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:** Permanent Supportive Housing is non-time-limited, affordable housing with wrap-around intensive support services for people experiencing homelessness where a member of the household has a long-term disability that is not expected to resolve, and the disability significantly interferes with their activities of daily living.
- **OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING:** Other Permanent Housing programs provide non-time-limited housing options for people experiencing homelessness. These programs have specific eligibility and prioritization criteria determined by the project's funding source.

The project types are all connected to the continuum's Coordinated Entry system, which was developed to standardize the access, assessment, and referral process across the Fairfax County CoC to make rapid, effective, and consistent client-to-housing and service matches.

# 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

## Fairfax County, Virginia

### **Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing: Capacity**

*Emergency Shelters.* There are eleven shelters in the Fairfax County CoC that are operated by non-profit partner organizations year-round. Shelter composition in Fairfax County includes the following:

- Households without Children (single adults), 3 shelters.
- Households with Children (families), 3 shelters.
- Households with and without Children (single adults and families), 1 shelter.
- Domestic Violence Survivors, 2 shelters.
- Youth shelter (ages 13 – 17 years), 1 shelter.

The shelters also provide limited overflow beds throughout the year. A hypothermia prevention program serving single individuals operates in several locations throughout the county between December 1 – March 31 in collaboration with non-profit partners and faith-based communities. Families with children are also sometimes sheltered in hotels when capacity in the year-round shelter beds is limited.

Emergency shelter capacity (including winter seasonal and overflow capacity) decreased by seven percent between the 2022 and 2023 Housing Inventory Counts due to the closure of nearly all temporary non-congregate shelters established as part of the response to COVID-19.

*Transitional Housing:* There are three transitional housing programs that serve single adults and five transitional housing programs for households with children. These programs are operated by non-profit agencies with various combinations of private, county, and federal funding. The transitional housing programs primarily serve special populations, including victims of domestic violence and transition aged youth (18-24).

### **Point-in-Time Count Survey Analysis**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count was conducted on January 24, 2024, in coordination with the Metro DC region. This annual count, organized in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, included people who were literally homeless – those in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, as well as those who were unsheltered and living on the street. Conducting the enumeration required extensive efforts by a wide range of community partners, involving dozens of staff from public and private nonprofit organizations that work with people experiencing homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

There were 1,278 people experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, which is a decrease of 2 percent (32 people) from the 2023 Point-in-Time Count. The overall decrease is primarily driven by the lower number of families in shelter (facilities and motels), which decreased by 8 percent (17 families) between the 2023 and 2024 Point-in-Time Counts, and the lower number of unsheltered individuals, which decreased by 24 percent (27 individuals) between the 2022 and 2023 counts.

One contributing factor to the decrease in the number of families in shelter is improved and increased diversion efforts through which families are diverted from needing to go to shelters. Increased eviction prevention efforts have also slightly reduced this need. Other contributing factors are increasing legal representation for families, higher levels of emergency rental assistance, and greater tenant outreach.

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

### Fairfax County, Virginia

While a decrease in the number of unsheltered individuals is reflected in the count, it is important to note that finding and counting unsheltered individuals is consistently a methodological challenge and there are fluctuations every year. An increase in the number of individuals in hypothermia shelter may have contributed to the decrease in number of unsheltered individuals.

Wherever increases are seen may be the result of an increase in evictions and the effects of inflation.

The following tables detail the number of people identified as experiencing literal homelessness during the past five years by household type, as well as project types.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (2020 - 2024)						
COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY POPULATION	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	% Change 2023 to 2024
Total # of Single Adults	581	555	626	737	513	5%
Total # of Families with Children	201	218	169	140	161	-8%
Total # of Persons in Families	694	752	564	480	528	-8%
Total # of Adults in Families	278	292	232	189	210	-5%
Total # of Children in Families	416	460	332	291	318	-10%
Total # of Children Only Households	3	3	1	5	0	0%
Total # of Persons Experiencing Homelessness	1,278	1,310	1,191	1,222	1041	-2%

FAIRFAX COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (2020-2024)						
COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY PROJECT TYPE	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	% Change 2023 to 2024
Unsheltered	86	113	57	57	88	-24%
Emergency Shelter	1056	1049	996	1004	763	1%
Transitional Housing	136	148	138	161	190	-8%
Total # of Persons Experiencing Homelessness	1,278	1,310	1,191	1,222	1,041	-2%

# 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

## Fairfax County, Virginia

### Subpopulations

Within the total population of people experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County there are a variety of subpopulations that have specific needs and require tailored assistance. The following table details some of the most important subpopulations identified in the count.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POINT IN TIME COUNT SUBPOPULATIONS			
CATEGORY			
	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN (TOTALS FOR ADULTS ONLY)	HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN	TOTAL
Chronic Homelessness	8	184	192
Substance Use Disorder	4	56	60
Serious Mental Illness	21	114	135
Physical Disability	8	95	103
Chronic Health Problems	22	88	110
Domestic Violence—History	118	76	194
Domestic Violence—Current	36	23	59
Limited English Proficiency	92	86	178
U.S. Military Veteran	4	22	26

- **CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS:** The number of adults experiencing chronic homelessness decreased significantly between the 2023 and 2024 Point-in-Time Counts. There were 257 adults that identified as experiencing chronic homelessness during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (30 percent of the total adults counted) and 192 adults experiencing chronic homelessness (22 percent of the total adults counted) during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count.
- **VETERANS:** There were 34 people that identified as veterans identified during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (4 percent of total adults counted) and 26 people that identified as veterans identified during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (3 percent of the total adults counted).
- **TRANSITION AGED YOUTH:** There were 73 transition-aged youths (persons between the ages

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

### Fairfax County, Virginia

of 18 and 24 years) identified during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (9 percent of total adults counted) and 53 transition-aged youths identified during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (6 percent of the total adults counted).

- SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** There were 87 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 227 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (11 percent and 30 percent of total households counted). There were 59 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 194 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (8 percent and 25 percent of total households counted).
- UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS:** The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased 24 percent or by 27 people, between the 2023 and 2024 Point-in-Time Counts.
- RACE & ETHNICITY:** The most significant disparity in the demographics of those experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count is the disproportionate representation of people identifying as Black or African American. Although only 10 percent of the general population in Fairfax County identifies as Black or African American, 48 percent of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count identified as Black, African American, or African.

FAIRFAX COUNTY 2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT DEMOGRAPHICS			
CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Age	Number of Persons (under age 18)	419	33%
	Number of Persons (18 - 24)	88	7%
	Number of Persons (over age 24)	771	60%
Gender	Female	573	45%
	Male	699	55%
	Culturally Specific Identify (i.e. Two-Spirit)	0	0%
	Transgender	0	0%
	Non-Binary	1	0%
	Questioning	0	0%
	Different Identity	0	0%
	More Than One Gender	0	0%
	Unknown	5	0%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian, Alaska Native Indigenous	5	0%
	Asian or Asian American	61	5%
	Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina (a)(e)(o)	1	0%
	Black, African American, or African	609	48%
	Black, African American or African & Hispanic/Latin(a)(E)(o)	15	1%

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

### Fairfax County, Virginia

	Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	116	9%
	Middle Eastern or North African	10	1%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	0%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	2	0%
	White	207	16%
	White & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	186	15%
	Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	17	1%
	Multi-Racial (NOT Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)	43	3%
	Client Prefers Not to Answer	3	0%

#### Year-Round and Winter Inventory of Beds

The following table details the number of emergency shelter beds (year-round, seasonal, and overflow), as well as transitional housing, on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count.

FAIRFAX COUNTY HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT (2024)				
Beds for Persons Experiencing Literal Homelessness BY PROJECT & POPULATION	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN	CHILDREN ONLY HOUSEHOLDS	
	BEDS   UNITS	BEDS	BEDS	TOTAL
Emergency Shelter	312   83	155	4	471
Winter Seasonal/Overflow	265   n/a	405	0	670
Transitional Housing	136   46	13	1	150
<b>Total # of Beds</b>	<b>713   129</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,291</b>

The following table details the change in the number of emergency shelter beds (year-round, seasonal, and overflow), as well as transitional housing, over the past six years of Point-in-Time Counts.

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

### Fairfax County, Virginia

FAIRFAX COUNTY HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT (2019 – 2024)							
Beds for Persons Experiencing Literal Homelessness BY PROJECT TYPE	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	% Change 2023 to 2024
Emergency Shelter	471	453	730	814	507	483	4%
Winter Seasonal/Overflow	670	564	363	292	322	340	19%
Transitional Housing	150	191	200	255	247	249	-21%
<b>Total # of Beds</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>7%</b>

#### Permanent Housing Inventory Count

Increasing permanent housing capacity, including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing, remains a critical strategy in preventing and ending homelessness in Fairfax County. Access to permanent, affordable housing that matches the individualized needs of those experiencing homelessness influences the overall homeless services system performance. Housing is critical to ending homelessness.

- **RAPID REHOUSING:** The Fairfax County CoC number decreased by 34 percent between the 2023 and 2024 Housing Inventory Counts. The reduction is primarily driven by the end of the resources from the supplemental Emergency Solutions Grants program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding (ESG-CV), along with the pandemic relief funding from the Virginia COVID Homelessness Emergency Response Program (CHERP).
- **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:** The number of permanent supportive housing beds in the 2024 Housing Inventory Count remained level (only one percent lower than the previous year). Most of the permanent supportive housing in the Fairfax County CoC is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program. The remaining projects are funded through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, along with smaller state and local county funding. In 2016, a public finance bond was passed that includes \$48 million over the next several years to renovate the 30-year-old shelters. The first facility, Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing, was designed to include co-located emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing. This model supported the addition of 18 new units of permanent supportive housing, which became available in 2019. Development is underway for the other shelters included in the bond. An additional 88 permanent supportive housing units are under development through two new projects that are part of public-private partnerships with the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA). The FCRHA and the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development are making important strides by securing additional funding resources for permanent supportive housing and developing more new permanent supportive housing units.

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative

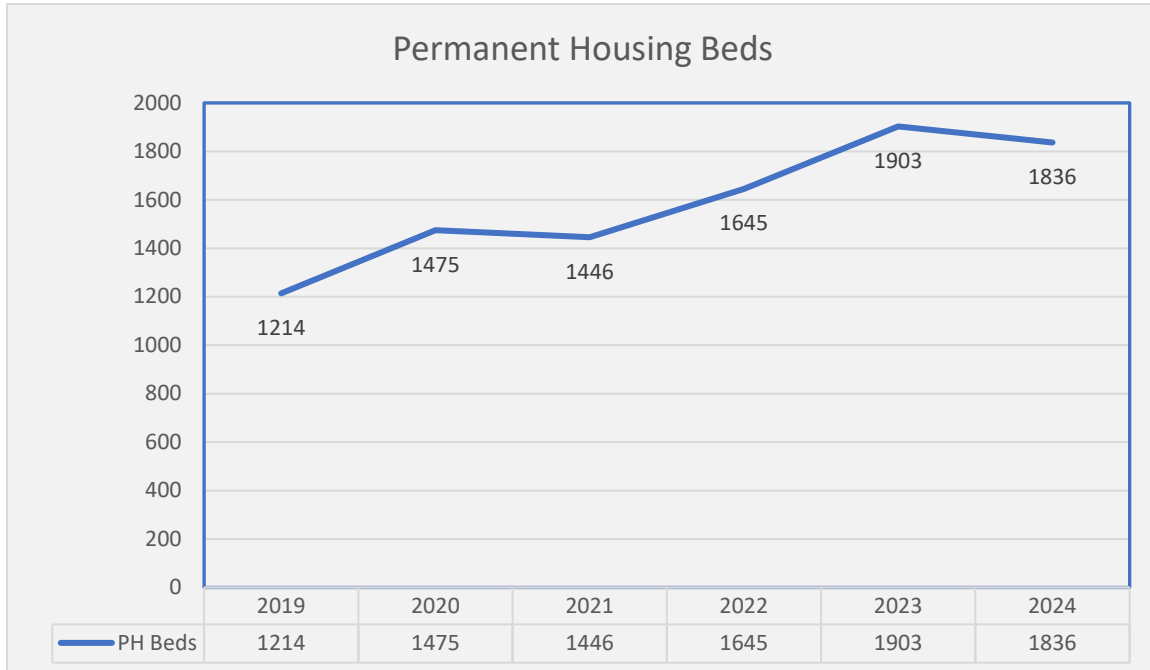
### Fairfax County, Virginia

- OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING:** The number of other permanent housing beds Increased by 18 percent in the 2024 Housing Inventory Count from the 2023 number. The increase can be attributed to “Emergency Housing Vouchers” (EHV’s) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the locally-funded “Rental Subsidy and Services Program” (RSSP). EHV’s, paired with supportive services from the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, serve families and individuals with greater housing challenges and barriers with longer-term rental assistance and more intensive supportive services, much like permanent supportive housing. RSSP, like rapid rehousing, provides time-limited rental assistance combined with services to help program participants achieve and maintain housing stability.

The following tables detail the changes in permanent housing beds in the Fairfax CoC by project type and year.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PERMANENT HOUSING INVENTORY (2019 – 2024)								
BEDS BY PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECT TYPE		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	% Change 2023 to 2024
PERMANENT HOUSING  FORMERLY HOMELESS	Rapid Rehousing	361	550	659	455	366	269	-34%
	Permanent Supportive Housing	644	649	669	668	627	639	-1%
	Other Permanent Housing	831	704	317	323	482	306	18%
Total # of Beds		1,836	1,903	1,645	1,446	1,475	1,214	-4%

## 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative Fairfax County, Virginia



April  
2024  
Version 1.0

# Loudoun County 2024 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration Jurisdictional Narrative



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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1. Homeless Services in Loudoun County, Virginia

Established in 1757, Loudoun County, Virginia, is situated within the Washington Metropolitan Area, 25 miles west of the nation's capital, Washington, DC, and covering a total land area of 520 square miles<sup>1</sup>. Characterized by a diverse landscape encompassing mixed-use urban centers, suburban expanses, and rural settings, Loudoun County presents a distinctive environment ripe with myriad opportunities and associated challenges.

During the period between 2000 and 2010, Loudoun County emerged as the sixth fastest-growing county in the United States, witnessing a remarkable 84 percent<sup>2</sup> surge in population. This growth trend persisted from 2010 to 2020, as the county experienced an additional 35 percent increase in population<sup>3</sup>. As of 2023, the county boasts an estimated population of approximately 432,792 residents<sup>4</sup>.

Loudoun County's demographic fabric is woven with densely populated urban locales to the east, juxtaposed against vast expanses of rural and agrarian landscapes to the west, encapsulating a dynamic blend of lifestyles and economic activities. Established in 2006, the Loudoun Continuum of Care (CoC) functions as an unincorporated association dedicated to addressing homelessness in Loudoun County, Virginia. The Governance Board, duly elected by the CoC's General Membership, is vested with oversight and decision-making within the CoC. The Loudoun Department of Family Services, serving as the lead agency, provides indispensable technical, administrative, and logistical support to the CoC.

Collaboratively, the CoC orchestrates a comprehensive array of homeless services tailored to meet the needs of individuals and families facing housing crises. Comprising a network of county and community partners, the CoC operates under a Housing First approach, prioritizing immediate access to stable housing as a foundational step in addressing homelessness and preventing its recurrence. This concerted effort aims to support households currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of housing instability. A description of the Homeless Services and programs provided by the Loudoun CoC are listed below:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/View/176029/FY-2024-Adopted-Budget--Volume-1>, Page i-7

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Loudoun County, Virginia](#)

## 2. Loudoun Continuum of Care Service Components

Component	Description
Coordinated Entry	A single point-of-entry for people experiencing a housing crisis provides fair and equitable access to services. Callers are assessed, referred to, and connected to programs and supportive services based on their strengths, presenting need and program capacity. The Coordinated Entry System operates through a dedicated phone number which is staffed Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm, excluding holidays, and through an online webform which is available at any time. During nights, weekends, and holidays, individuals are connected directly to the emergency shelter for triage and diversion. Coordinated Entry in Loudoun County operates in conjunction with the Information & Referral program, much like a 2-1-1, which allows residents to utilize one number to access homeless services, health and human services including local, state, and federal programs, as well as services provided by nonprofits.
Domestic Violence Emergency Services	A full array of comprehensive services is provided to adult and child survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In addition to emergency shelter for individuals and families actively fleeing intimate partner violence, survivors have access to a host of services specifically designed to meet their needs to include safety planning, counseling, legal services, support groups, advocacy, and community outreach.
Drop-in Day Center	Drop-in day Centers provide services for individuals experiencing homelessness to attend to their daytime needs and access services and support. Meals, showers, laundry facilities, and the opportunity to speak with a case manager are provided on-site. In 2022, Drop-In operating days were expanded to include Saturdays and Sundays. A second Drop-in Day Center was constructed in Sterling and is scheduled to open July 2024.
Emergency Shelter	Designed to provide short-term refuge to Loudoun County residents who are literally homeless <sup>5</sup> , emergency sheltering begins with an initial assessment, which includes diversion. Based on prioritization and capacity, shelter, along with housing-focused case management, employment, housing location assistance, transportation, and other critical services to assist with housing stabilization are provided. Those who are not Loudoun County residents may also be served; however, preference is given to Loudoun residents.
Homeless Prevention & Diversion Services (HPD)	Homeless Prevention and Diversion (HPD) is designed to prevent episodes of homelessness for households at imminent risk of losing their current housing. Services include conducting initial housing assessments, case management, housing stability planning, monitoring and evaluating participants' progress, and referring to community organizations as needed. Financial assistance may be provided as a last resort after non-financial assistance has been leveraged, where possible, to stabilize households in their current residence. These services are designed to mitigate the number of households becoming

<sup>5</sup> [https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition\\_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf)

Component	Description
	homeless.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	HMIS is a locally administered database used to collect client-level information and data on the provision of housing and other services for homeless individuals and families and those at risk of becoming homeless. The Continuum of Care (CoC) collects data using an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards. The system reports aggregate data to assist with program monitoring and evaluation, outcome measurement, and fiscal management. The system is also used to identify trends and model predictive outcomes.
Housing Location	The Housing Location service works with households that are homeless or at risk of losing their housing to quickly find affordable and sustainable housing and acts as an advocate for households with landlords and property managers.
Hypothermia Shelter	Hypothermia sheltering is a seasonal program that operates from November 15 through March 31 of each year. Temporary beds provide residents with a warm place to sleep during winter months. Free transportation from two locations is provided to and from the program, and services include access to showers, laundry facilities, and meals (dinner and breakfast).
Outreach and Engagement	<p>Outreach and engagement are provided to vulnerable, unsheltered individuals (including but not limited to those with serious mental illness) to address their immediate need for housing and connection to resources in the community to meet their basic needs. Staff work to build trust and engagement over time through face-to-face interactions with individuals, regardless of place, with the goal of connecting residents with primary behavioral healthcare, substance use services, and other supports that enhance stability and functioning in the community.</p> <p>Targeted outreach events, such as a monthly on-site presence at the local library branch, provide those who are experiencing homelessness, or may be struggling to remain housed, connect with services right in their communities and in a location that does not carry a stigma, allowing for greater access to information and programming. Staff from various agencies also conduct outreach to local businesses and attend public events to provide information on community programs and services, as well as to connect with patrons who may need services.</p>

Component	Description
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Permanent housing that consists of indefinite leasing or rental assistance, paired with supportive services, is provided for households meeting HUD's definition of chronic homelessness and having a qualifying disabling condition. The PSH program differs from other supportive housing programs due to its federally mandated eligibility criteria, such as a strict definition of chronic homelessness, long lengths of homelessness, and severe service needs such as a serious mental illness, a chronic physical disability, and/or a mental health diagnosis.
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	RRH is an intervention, informed by a Housing First approach, that is a critical part of a community's effective homeless crisis response system. Rapid re-housing rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. RRH programs help families and individuals living on the street or in emergency shelters solve the practical and immediate challenges to obtaining permanent housing while reducing the amount of time they experience homelessness, avoiding a near-term return to homelessness, and linking to community resources that enable them to achieve housing stability in the long-term.
Transitional Housing (TH)	TH is designed to provide individuals and families experiencing homelessness, or who are at-risk of becoming homeless, with time-limited interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing.
Youth Support and Crisis Services	Youth ages 18-24 experiencing a crisis may access a variety of resources such as shelter, housing, and supportive services including re-entry, LGBTQ+ support, and food/nutrition assistance.

## 2.1. Service Changes

In response to the escalating demand for services, specifically during winter months, the Department of Family Services implemented a strategic expansion initiative by utilizing an adjacent facility for seasonal use. This proactive step bolstered the hypothermia shelter's capacity, adding 30 beds to supplement the 26-bed capacity. The decision to expand was prompted by Loudoun County's persistent rise in the number of individuals seeking assistance. During the 2023-2024 season, participants were temporarily housed in a nearby location to accommodate the increased demand. Recognizing the importance of proactive measures in addressing homeless hypothermia prevention services, the CoC is actively engaging with the community to identify more suitable accommodations for future endeavors. This concerted effort reflects our commitment to ensuring the welfare and safety of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

## 3. Point-in-Time Count Survey Analysis

In alignment with Continuums of Care nationwide, the Loudoun Continuum of Care (CoC) diligently

conducted the annual HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on the evening of Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The sheltered count was meticulously executed through a census method, employing either electronic surveys within HMIS or paper surveys administered by staff at homeless services organizations, including various County Departments dedicated to assisting vulnerable populations. These efforts aimed to identify individuals or families experiencing sheltered homelessness on the night of the count.

The unsheltered count was conducted by a dedicated team of approximately forty volunteers, comprising Loudoun County Government personnel, local homeless service providers' staff, Veterans, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness. These volunteers traversed Loudoun County both by vehicle and on foot throughout the night of January 24th, despite inclement weather conditions, which included rain during the day and evening temperatures in the 40s.

### 3.1. Rural/Western Loudoun Outreach

As previously emphasized, Loudoun County encompasses not only densely populated urban areas but also expansive rural regions. The vast expanse of rural areas poses challenges in identifying and quantifying homelessness during the PIT Count. Consequently, homeless outreach workers conducted targeted outreach across rural western Loudoun County, encompassing small towns and incorporated villages.

Individuals camping in wooded or rural areas may not readily identify themselves as experiencing homelessness despite residing in locations that would be deemed unsuitable for habitation in urban settings. Ongoing outreach efforts serve as a crucial strategy to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness and form an integral part of the Loudoun County Point-in-Time Count.

The outreach efforts for this year's PIT Count were significantly enhanced by the active involvement of individuals with lived experience who played pivotal roles in guiding the efforts and conducting surveys among those similarly affected. Their profound familiarity with common locations within rural and western Loudoun proved to be immensely valuable in ensuring the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the data collected.

### 3.2. Collaborative Efforts and Additional Considerations

The Loudoun CoC, alongside its community partners, collaborates tirelessly to document and address the needs of rural households that may be experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. In cases where volunteers noted suspected unsheltered households but were unable to establish contact, dedicated outreach teams were deployed in the ensuing days to connect with and survey individuals who were unsheltered on the night of the count. The deployment of an increased number of outreach teams compared to previous years significantly bolstered our targeted approach to outreach and identification of individuals experiencing homelessness. This enhancement resulted in a noticeable increase in effectiveness, organization, and coordination within our outreach efforts.

It's imperative to acknowledge that the PIT Count serves as an estimate. HUD mandates CoCs to furnish counts of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night, categorized by household types and additional subpopulations such as homeless Veterans, homeless youth, and chronically homeless individuals.

Local jurisdictions, including the Loudoun CoC, gather supplementary information such as native languages spoken, previous or current foster-care involvement, and sources of income, among others. Every individual surveyed retains the right to decline to answer survey questions or respond with 'I don't know'. Consequently, the data may include some unknown or 'declined to answer' responses. HUD advises jurisdictions to extrapolate this unknown data when necessary, utilizing methodologies based on existing data, resulting in minor discrepancies between data reported to COG and data

reported to HUD.

**Table 1** compares the Point-in-Time Count data for the past three years. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness increased by 38% from 2023 to 2024. On the night of the count, 303 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness, out of which 159 individuals, or 52%, reported that it was their first-time experiencing homelessness.

Yearly PIT Totals by Household and Individuals			
	2024	2023	2022*
Overall Total Individuals	303	220	105
Sheltered	175	164	80
Unsheltered	128	56	25
Total Family Households (households with children under 18)	26	21	9
Total Single Adult Households (households with only adults over 18)	212	142	72
Total Number of Persons in Families	91	78	33
Total Number of Adults in Families	38	29	11
Total Number of children in families	53	49	22

*\*Observational Count*

As mentioned previously in the 2023 PIT report, subsequent re-analysis of the raw data for 2022 produced a more accurate count, which is reflected in Table 1.

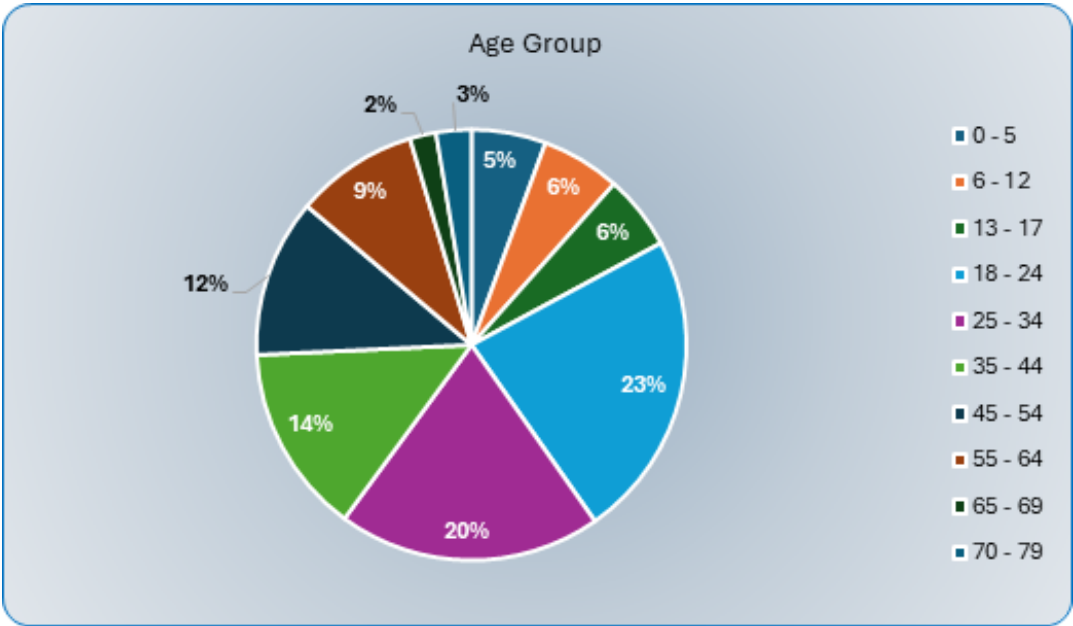
Individuals and families experiencing homelessness can be sheltered or unsheltered. Sheltered individuals and families include those in emergency and domestic violence shelters, hotels/motels paid for by a third party, hypothermia shelters, or transitional housing. Unsheltered individuals include those living in tents, in their vehicles, outdoors, or in any place ‘not fit for human habitation’.

### 3.3 Demographics

The PIT Count serves as a crucial mechanism for gathering demographic data mandated by HUD, enabling comprehensive tracking and assessment of changes over time among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This data not only aids in fulfilling HUD requirements but also empowers local jurisdictions to effectively address community needs, discern emerging trends, and strategically plan for future resource allocation.

**Age:** According to the PIT Count, 17% of those experiencing homelessness were children aged 17 or younger. On the night of the count, 26 family households with children 17 or under were experiencing homelessness of which three were unsheltered. The number of children aged 17 or younger increased by 10% from 2023 to 2024, with staff assisting larger family sizes. Additionally, people aged 25-34 were the second largest demographic, accounting for 20% of those experiencing homelessness. A breakdown of age categories can be found in Chart 1 below.

Chart 1 Loudoun CoC 2024 PIT Count Percentages by Age

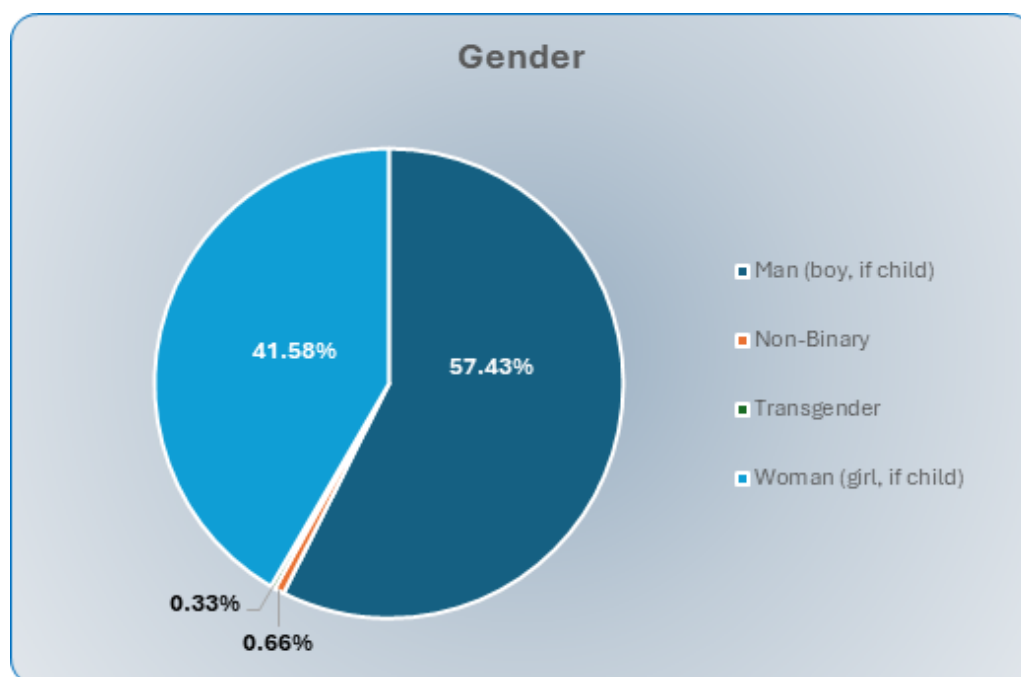


**Gender:** In FY2024 HUD updated the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards to allow for the following response options:

- Woman (Girl, if child)
- Man (Boy, if child)
- Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)
- Transgender
- Non-binary
- Questioning
- Different Identity

As with all survey questions, individuals have the right to choose as many all options which apply to them or decline to answer. In the 2024 PIT Count, 174 people identified as man/boy and among them, 1 was the head of household. Those that identified as woman/girl totaled 126, of which 25 were head of a household. One person identified as transgender, and two identified as non-binary. Chart 2 below provides the percentages. No individuals identified as Culturally Specific Identity, Questioning, or Different Identity.

Chart 2 Loudoun CoC 2024 PIT Count Percentages by Gender



**Race and Ethnicity:** Chart 3 shows the breakdown according to race. Thirty-seven percent of adults surveyed identified as Black, African American, or African, regardless of whether they were single or part of a household. This is an increase of 11% from 2023. Chart 4 shows the percentage of adults identifying as Hispanic, which rose from 27 individuals in 2023 to 76 in 2024. The increase disparity among people of color experiencing homelessness is an alarming trend nationwide that can be tied to poverty, housing discrimination, incarceration, and even access to quality healthcare<sup>6</sup>. The Loudoun CoC has formed the Equality to Equity Committee which is tasked with examining policies and procedures, access, and outcomes for equity.

Chart 3 Loudoun CoC 2024 PIT Count Percentages by Race

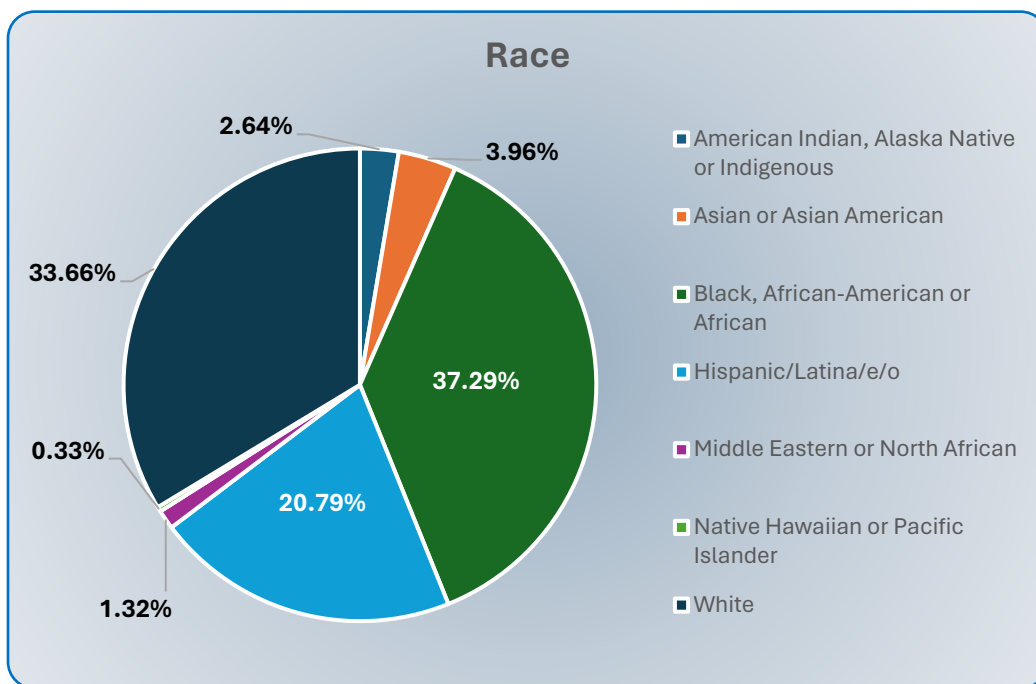
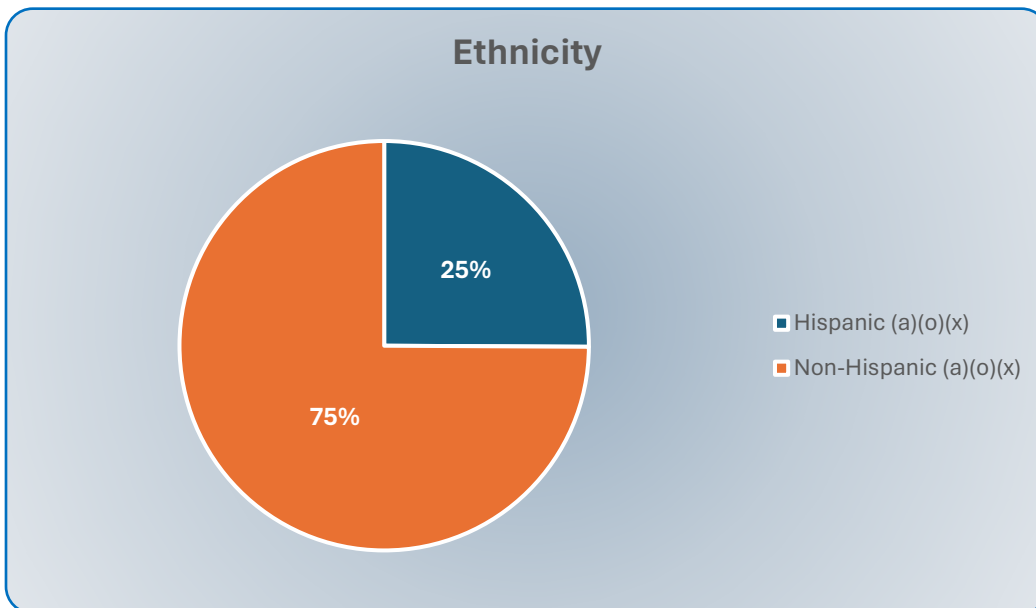


Chart 4 Loudoun CoC 2024 PIT Count Percentages by Ethnicity



<sup>6</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/>

## 4. Subpopulations

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Chronic homelessness, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)<sup>7</sup>, pertains to individuals or heads of households with qualifying disabilities who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness within the past three years, with the cumulative total of those episodes amounting to at least 12 months. The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted in Loudoun County documented 50 individuals meeting the criteria for chronic homelessness, marking a notable increase of 79% from the previous year.

In response to this concerning trend, the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, backed by federal and state grants, plays a crucial role in addressing chronic homelessness. This initiative offers housing and intensive case management tailored to the needs of chronically homeless individuals. Within Loudoun County, the Continuum of Care (CoC) oversees 14 PSH beds and continually seeks additional funding to meet the escalating demand within the community.

The surge in first-time homelessness poses another pressing challenge, with data revealing a 20% increase in individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time between 2023 and 2024. Factors such as the cessation of pandemic-related assistance and eviction moratoriums, exacerbated by inflation, escalating rents, and stagnant wages may all play a part in this increase. To mitigate this crisis, the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program offers vital support to individuals and families on the brink of eviction. Eligible applicants facing imminent court-ordered eviction within 14 days can access services encompassing case management, stability planning, and referrals to relevant community organizations. Financial assistance is provided as a last resort following an exhaustive exploration of non-financial interventions. Notably, in the fiscal year 2023, the program extended aid to 11 households through case management and to 15 households through a combination of financial assistance and case management, effectively serving a total of 71 individuals.

Efforts to address veteran homelessness have yielded modest yet significant progress, with the number of veterans experiencing homelessness declining by two in 2024, leaving a total of eight veterans affected. The Department of Veterans Affairs remains committed to combatting veteran homelessness through initiatives like the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, which delivers essential case management and support services to prevent homelessness among veterans and their families. Additionally, the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, integrating HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with comprehensive case management and clinical services from the VA, offers a lifeline to homeless veterans seeking stable housing solutions. Loudoun County's Veterans Service Coordinator plays a pivotal role in linking veterans with tailored community services to address their specific needs.

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<sup>7</sup> [CoC and ESG Homeless Eligibility - Definition of Chronic Homelessness - HUD Exchange](#)

Transition-age youth (18-24) experiencing homelessness represent a rapidly growing segment of the population and are often overlooked. HUD's establishment of a baseline in 2017 for tracking youth homelessness underscores the importance of addressing this issue. The trauma of homelessness, even if short-term, can profoundly impact a youth's future development, manifesting in elevated rates of emotional, behavioral, and immediate and long-term health challenges<sup>8</sup>. The 2024 PIT Count in Loudoun County identified 67 individuals aged 18-24 and three family households experiencing homelessness. These findings underscore the urgency of implementing targeted interventions to support homeless youth and mitigate the adverse effects of homelessness on their well-being and future prospects. Five transition-aged youth identified as having exited the foster care system and 15 indicated serious mental illness. **Table 2** provides a year-over-year comparison of PIT Count totals for transition-age youth.

Table 2 Point-in Time Data for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

PIT Counts Transition Age Youth Experiencing Homelessness			
	2024	2023	2022*
Singles	63	13	3
TAY in Families	9	3	2
Total	72	16	5

\*Observational Count

This subpopulation saw a staggering increase of 338% from 2023 to 2024, indicating a concerning trend of an earlier onset of homelessness among young individuals, which aligns with the data on first-time homelessness.

To address the complex needs of these vulnerable populations, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program collaborates closely with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) to administer the Family Unification Program (FUP). This collaborative effort aims to prevent homelessness among families receiving support from PCWAs and youth transitioning out of foster care. The partnership between the HCV program and PCWAs is instrumental in providing stability and support, ensuring access to safe and secure housing options for those in need.

Moreover, local nonprofit organizations specializing in services tailored to transition-aged youth play a pivotal role in providing essential support. These nonprofits offer a comprehensive range of services customized to meet the unique needs of young individuals, including educational and employment assistance, access to food resources, empowerment programs, mentorship opportunities, and assistance in overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency.

The sustainability of these critical services hinges on a diverse funding landscape, which encompasses allocations from federal, state, and local grants, as well as contributions from public and private donors, and the invaluable dedication of volunteers. This multifaceted funding approach is indispensable in enabling nonprofit organizations to continue their vital work in supporting transition-aged youth, fostering their growth, and facilitating successful transitions into adulthood.

Older Adults (65+): Homeless service programs within the region have noted a discernible uptick in the number of older adults seeking assistance. In response to this trend, the 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) implemented expanded data collection and reporting protocols, particularly focusing on age

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/youth>

demographics. Metropolitan Washington jurisdictions broadened age range categorizations to include individuals aged 90 and above, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of homelessness among aging adults.

The subsequent 2024 PIT Count revealed a notable presence of older adults experiencing homelessness, with 14 individuals aged 65 or older identified. Among these individuals, the two eldest were aged 78. This demographic snapshot underscores the pressing need to address homelessness among aging populations within our communities.

Of significant concern is the varied experiences encountered by older adults facing homelessness. One individual, aged 78, found themselves homeless for the first time, highlighting the vulnerability of aging individuals to sudden housing insecurity. Conversely, the other individual, also aged 78, was classified as chronically homeless, emphasizing the enduring challenges faced by some older adults in securing stable housing solutions.

These findings underscore the critical need for targeted interventions and support services tailored to the unique needs of older adults experiencing homelessness. Efforts of this nature are paramount in preserving the well-being and dignity of aging individuals within our communities, ensuring they receive the necessary assistance and resources for a dignified and secure living environment.

It is important to recognize that older adults experiencing homelessness face significant vulnerabilities. They are twice as likely to fall victim to victimization, have nearly a 2% chance of mortality<sup>9</sup>, and are at elevated risk of depression compared to their housed counterparts.

To address these multifaceted challenges, Adult and Aging case managers play a pivotal role in screening clients to determine eligibility for Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Home placements. Furthermore, eligible clients may benefit from Companion task-based services provided at home. However, it is essential to note that this program currently has a waitlist and is not accepting new applicants.

By recognizing and addressing the unique needs of older adults experiencing homelessness, we can mitigate the adverse effects of homelessness on this vulnerable population, promoting their well-being and quality of life.

**Survivors of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault:** Often characterized as the "shadow of the pandemic," domestic violence has exhibited a disturbing surge in prevalence over recent years. The impact of this distressing trend is underscored by the findings of the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, which illuminated the extent of individuals and families affected by current or previous incidents of domestic or sexual violence. Detailed statistics regarding these occurrences are outlined in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 Point-in-Time Domestic Violence Trends

PIT Count Domestic Violence Trends			
	2024	2023	2022*
Domestic Violence – Current	18	26	7
Domestic Violence - History	16	19	12
Survivors of DV and First-time experiencing homelessness	17	17	18

*\*Observational Count*

<sup>9</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36036902/>

Women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, and sexual assault. In 2019, a review of the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) data conducted by the California Policy Lab indicated unsheltered women have higher rates of physical health, mental health, and substance abuse concerns and, on average, spend more than a decade without the benefit of stable housing. Eighty percent of unsheltered women self-report trauma or abuse as the cause of their homelessness.<sup>10</sup>[homelessness.](https://endhomelessness.org/blog/recognizing-women-experiencing-homelessness-a-womens-history-month-spotlight-on-downtown-womens-center/)

**Table 4** provides year-over-year comparisons gathered from the questions asked in the PIT survey each year. These questions allow the CoC to assess the needs of those experiencing homelessness more deeply and to engage with community partners that serve individuals experiencing these circumstances.

Table 4 Comparison of Subpopulations by Year

Comparison of PIT Subpopulation Totals, 2024 and 2023				
	2024	2023	Percent Change	
Chronic Health Condition	27	31	-13%	▼
Chronically Homeless	50	28	79%	▲
Co-Occurring Disorder	10	28	-64%	▼
Formerly Institutionalized	13	16	-19%	▼
Foster Care History	12	12		
HIV/AIDS	3	3		
Limited English	47	7	571%	▲
Physical Disability	22	22		
Serious Mental Illness	61	56	9%	▲
Substance Use Disorder	18	35	-49%	▼

<sup>10</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/recognizing-women-experiencing-homelessness-a-womens-history-month-spotlight-on-downtown-womens-center/>

## 5. Key Findings

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In 2024, a total of 238 households were experiencing homelessness, according to Table 1. Among these, there were 26 family households and 212 single adult households. This marks a significant 46% increase compared to the previous year's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count in 2023, which identified only 163 households facing homelessness. This overall increase may be attributed to the lingering economic effects of the pandemic and a combination of other factors, such as:

- Inflation
- Expansion of the Silver Line
- Increased rental rates across the region
- Inadequate amount of affordable housing across the region
- Limited funding for ongoing rental assistance

As most individuals return to employment post-pandemic, many lower-income households still find themselves saddled with substantial debts that cannot be swiftly resolved. This often leads to difficult choices between meeting rental obligations or covering other vital expenses such as food or healthcare. Unlike mortgage delinquencies, accurately quantifying rental arrears presents a considerable challenge.

### 5.1. Key Factor: Inflation and Rental Rates

The National Equity Atlas<sup>11</sup> reports that 14% of households in Northern Virginia have rental debt. These are overwhelmingly low-income households consisting of 91% people of color, 63% are unemployed, and 57% are households with children.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition identifies a shortfall of -183,843 affordable and available rental homes in Virginia available to extremely low-income households.<sup>12</sup>

Data from the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University for the same year reveals concerning trends: half of all renter households were spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs, categorizing them as "moderately cost-burdened," while over a quarter were spending more than 50% of their income on housing, classified as "severely cost-burdened." Among renters with annual household incomes below \$30,000—comprising roughly a third of all renters—more than 80% were moderately cost-burdened, and approximately 65% faced severe cost burdens. These financial strains significantly jeopardize the housing stability of the lowest-income renter households.

In 2022, the median cash savings among renter households with incomes below \$30,000 stood at just \$300, leaving many of these renters in the precarious position of choosing between rent payments and meeting other critical household needs, such as sustenance and healthcare expenses.

In Loudoun County, the 2024 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment stands at \$2,240. A household with dependent children earning an annual income ranging between \$30,000 and \$40,000 allocates a substantial portion, between 67% and 90%, of their gross monthly earnings toward rent. This leaves them with minimal financial resources to cover essential expenditures such as food, utilities, and basic necessities.

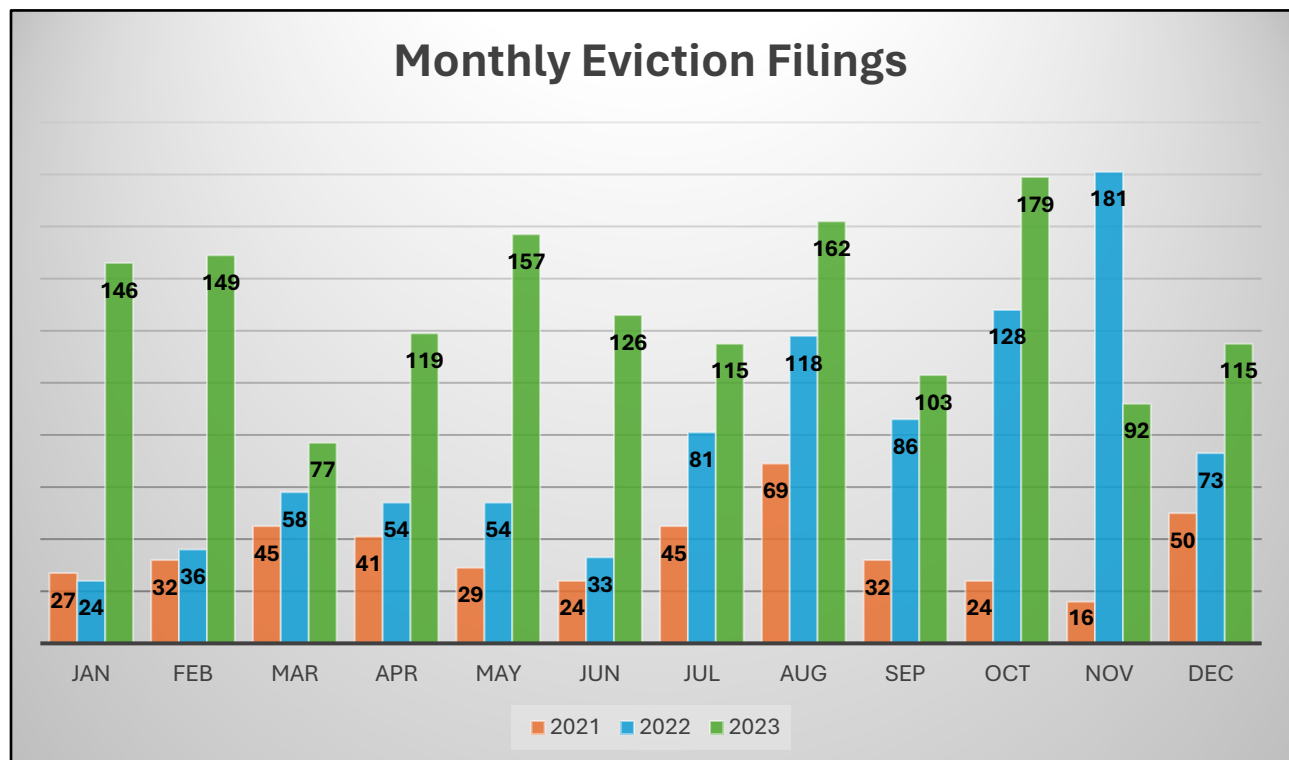
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<sup>11</sup> <https://nationalequityatlas.org/lab/rent-debt>

<sup>12</sup> [Virginia | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#)

As reported by Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, eviction filings across northern Virginia are approaching and, in some areas, surpassing pre-pandemic levels.<sup>13</sup> **Chart 5**, published on April 2, 2024 by the Civil Court Data Initiative, shows the monthly eviction rates over the past three years. With the eviction moratorium in place and pandemic relief available, the filings slowed significantly in 2021 into the beginning of 2022. Beginning in July of 2022, filings began rising as pandemic-related state rental assistance funding was exhausted.

Chart 5 Monthly Eviction Filings in Loudoun County by Year



Even more difficult to quantify are informal evictions. An informal eviction occurs when a household chooses to leave their residence as soon as they are unable to pay their rent or receive notice of delinquency. Many families, especially those with limited English and/or a poor understanding of tenant rights or those wanting to avoid conflict, may choose to vacate rather than contact the court or homeless services system. Regardless of the outcome, an eviction can make it extremely difficult to rent again, as an eviction can follow an individual for years into the future.

Default judgments occur when a tenant does not appear for the scheduled hearing. Under Virginia state law<sup>14</sup>, an automatic ruling is rendered in favor of the landlord if a tenant does not appear in court. A tenant may be unable to appear if they cannot take time off work, if they lack access to childcare or transportation, if they are sick, if they do not understand (due to language barriers), or for any number of other reasons. Having a judgment rendered due to the inability to appear in court disproportionately impacts lower-income tenants; they are more likely to be housing cost-burdened and housing insecure and are less likely to have access to paid leave, transportation, and affordable

<sup>13</sup> [Eviction Trends in Northern Virginia | Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance - Providing Equal Housing Opportunities for All \(nvaha.org\)](https://nvaha.org/eviction-trends-in-northern-virginia/)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf>

childcare<sup>15</sup>. Additionally, not only will the landlord be granted a default judgment in their favor, but the landlord will not need to wait 10 days to get the writ of possession as it can be obtained immediately.

Less rental inventory and higher monthly rents, exacerbated by rising inflation, make finding affordable housing a daunting task for those earning below the area's median income. Often, families are simply unable to find low-income housing, at which point they may have stayed with a friend, paid out of pocket for an extended-stay hotel, slept in their car, or, as a last resort, requested emergency shelter assistance.

## 5.2. Key Factor: Lack of Affordable Housing

According to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), in 2021, Northern Virginia needed 60,500 affordable rental units to meet the demand<sup>16</sup>. The Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development continues to work with developers to add additional affordable housing options.

Table 5: 2023 Rent Affordability in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Region<sup>17</sup>

Rental Housing	Washington-Metro Region D.C., MD, VA (Avg)	Commonwealth of Virginia
Average Renter Wage	\$30.57	\$23.38
Average Monthly Rent for Two bedroom**	\$1,838	\$1,396
Housing Wage Needed for 2 BR**	\$35.35/hr. avg.*	\$26.84/hr.*

\*Assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.

\*\*At Fair Market Rent (FMR)

On a yearly basis, HUD updates the income limits that determine eligibility for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties. The income limits published by HUD in April 2024<sup>18</sup> for the Washington DC Metro Area for a two-person household labeled “very low income” was \$61,900. Rents for LIHTC may be raised at any time if there is what is known as an ‘escalation clause’. Market rents have no cap on an increase but typically can only occur at lease renewal or with proper notice if specified in the lease.

On September 8, 2021, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopted the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP)<sup>19</sup>. The purpose of the UHNSP is to define how the County will address unmet housing needs strategically and systematically over the short and long term. The Loudoun County 2019 General Plan defines unmet housing needs as “the lack of housing options for households earning up to 100 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).”

<sup>15</sup> <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt559.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt559.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [Virginia | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](https://www.virginia.gov/nlihc/)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/mtsp.html>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/View/167024/Unmet-Housing-Needs-Strategic-Plan-Approved-9821-with-Appendices>

The Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP) enters its third year of implementation in FY2024, aiming to introduce new strategies and programs that bolster Loudoun County's approach to addressing housing needs across the continuum.

The Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development regularly furnishes quarterly updates to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors' Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC), offering comprehensive insights into the progress made towards the objectives delineated within the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan.

New housing developments may secure funding through various avenues, including the County's Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program. This program extends gap financing to affordable multi-family rental housing projects and is supported by allocations from the County of Loudoun Housing Trust, in addition to other grant opportunities such as Virginia Housing's Amazon Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing (REACH) Program.

With a targeted goal of achieving 16,000 attainable housing units by 2040, "attainable housing" encompasses any housing available for sale or rent annually that is affordable to families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). As of 2023, the 100% AMI threshold for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area for a family of four stood at \$152,100.

To meet these attainable housing goals, a multifaceted approach is underway, encompassing the creation of new housing units and facilitating access to existing ones through a myriad of programs and strategies. These include the Affordable Multi-Family Housing Loan Program, Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) rental and purchase initiatives, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, provisions for down payment and closing cost assistance, and amendments to zoning and land use ordinances.

In response to pressing housing challenges, an emergency eviction prevention program was initiated in November 2023, leveraging expedited disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to offer renters a crucial financial lifeline, thereby averting homelessness. Moreover, the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development took the proactive step of temporarily opening the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist for the first time in over a decade. Visit [www.loudoun.gov/housingneeds](http://www.loudoun.gov/housingneeds) to find updates regarding the UHNSP and track implementation.

### 5.3. Key Factor: Expansion of the Silver Line

The expansion of the Silver Line has significantly enhanced Loudoun County's accessibility. Among the 303 individuals enumerated in the PIT Survey, 98 reported being from other localities. Given the transient nature of individuals experiencing homelessness and the limited availability of shelter and housing resources, many are compelled to seek services in previously unexplored areas to fulfill their basic needs.

In response to this dynamic, the DFS Homeless Assistance Team collaborates closely with the Loudoun Homeless Services Center to address the emerging needs of newcomers to Loudoun who are in search of temporary stays and critical services. While services are primarily prioritized for Loudoun County residents, non-residents seeking refuge, particularly during the Cold Weather/Hypothermia season, are accommodated with a one-night emergency stay within the Hypothermia Shelter Program.

Case Managers diligently endeavor to facilitate the reconnection of individuals experiencing homelessness with their respective localities of origin, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing their needs and circumstances.

Table 6 Recent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Properties in Loudoun County

Development	City/Town	Number of LIHTC Units	Status as of Dec. 2023	Completion (*Estimated)
Poland Hill	Chantilly	78	Under Construction	December 2023
Waxpool Apartments	Ashburn	52	Under Construction	December 2023
View at Broadlands	Ashburn	93	Under Construction	December 2023
Woods at West Park	Brambleton	99	Under Construction	November 2023
Tuscarora Crossing, Phase 1	Leesburg	90	In Development	Spring 2025
Tuscarora Crossing, Phase 2	Leesburg	90	In Development	Spring 2025
Avonlea Senior	South Riding	130	In Development	Spring 2026

## 6. Housing Inventory and Services

The Loudoun Continuum of Care (CoC) and local nonprofits rely on funding from key entities such as The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), as well as local grants to sustain programs aimed at aiding individuals experiencing homelessness in securing stable housing and addressing crisis needs. Nevertheless, prioritizing measures to prevent individuals and families from entering the homeless services system is of paramount significance, potentially outweighing the importance of other interventions. Increased funding for rental assistance, such as Housing Choice Vouchers, is needed. Keeping individuals and families housed reduces housing instability, improves health, improves outcomes for children, and prevents homelessness<sup>24</sup>.

### 6.1. Year-round and Winter Inventory of Beds

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is an inventory of homeless services programs within the Continuum of Care that provides beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness. The Housing Inventory reflected in **Table 7** indicates the number of beds on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count. It is important to note that the finalized Housing Inventory Count has yet to be submitted to HUD. Therefore, some data may change slightly before submission.

Table 7 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

Housing Inventory Count		
<i>Year-Round Beds</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>Emergency Shelter</i>	91	57
<i>Overflow Beds</i>	8	50
<i>Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter Beds</i>	12	12
<i>Hypothermia Shelter Beds (November – March)</i>	30	26
<i>Overflow Beds</i>	-	13
<i>Year-Round Beds</i>	6	37
<i>Transitional Housing</i>		
<i>Rapid Re-housing Beds</i>	45	25
<i>Permanent Supportive Housing Beds</i>	14	16

On the night of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, the Hypothermia Shelter efficiently utilized temporary cots to accommodate the heightened demand. However, throughout the standard winter operating months, the Hypothermia Shelter consistently offers 30 dedicated beds, as documented in the Housing Inventory Count.

## 6.2. Permanent Housing Inventory Count

In addition to the year-round beds dedicated to serving individuals experiencing homelessness, the Loudoun Continuum of Care (CoC) administers the Rapid Re-housing (RRH) program. As previously outlined, this initiative aims to promptly secure housing for individuals who are literally homeless, leveraging federal and state funding along with a Housing First approach.

Through a combination of funding allocated across 2023 and 2024, the Loudoun CoC allocates resources to provide 45 Rapid Re-Housing beds to accommodate both individuals and families. Rental assistance under the Rapid Re-housing program must adhere to two essential standards:

- Rent Reasonableness: Ensuring that the rental rate is comparable to or lower than other similar units in the area.
- Fair Market Rent (FMR): Ensuring that the rental cost, inclusive of utilities, does not exceed the Fair Market Rent established by HUD for the respective unit size in the area.

The Loudoun CoC remains committed to securing additional funding to expand support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the RRH program. Moreover, the CoC actively collaborates with landlords to foster open communication and collaboration, thereby enhancing services for vulnerable households within the community.

## 7. Making a Difference

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The most vulnerable and lowest-income households have encountered significant challenges in recovering financially from the repercussions of the pandemic. With pandemic-related assistance winding down, local government, alongside the Continuum of Care (CoC) and nonprofit partners, is steadfast in its commitment to supporting struggling households. The persistent rise in first-time homelessness underscores the imperative for preventive strategies, whether through connecting households to vital public benefits and supports such as the Childcare Subsidy Program (CCSP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or through interventions like the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program (HPD), which furnishes comprehensive case management to stabilize households and avert homelessness.

For instance, consider the case of a family comprising five members, one of whom utilizes a wheelchair, who lost stable housing and sought refuge in an emergency shelter. Dedicated case managers diligently collaborated with the family, placing paramount emphasis on addressing their accessibility requirements to facilitate their transition to permanent housing through the rapid rehousing program. Securing housing that met affordability criteria while accommodating the needs of five family members, including appropriate accessibility features, posed a considerable challenge, necessitating an extensive search in neighboring areas. Ultimately, suitable permanent housing was identified in a nearby jurisdiction. Additionally, the family availed assistance from Loudoun County Public Schools' (LCPS) McKinney-Vento Program, which facilitated the continued enrollment of the young children in their current LCPS schools despite the change in housing location. This case exemplifies the efficacy of dedicated case managers and the impactful interventions orchestrated by programs within the CoC in ensuring individuals and families secure permanent housing or maintain housing stability.

## 8. Lessons for the Future

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The emergency shelter serves as a critical, life-saving crisis intervention; however, the ultimate solution to homelessness is ensuring access to quality, affordable housing, livable wages, and essential services such as affordable childcare, skills training, and food resources. These comprehensive supports contribute significantly to overall housing stability and are pivotal in reducing homelessness within our community. While programs coordinated through the Continuum of Care (CoC) have demonstrated success, it is imperative to recognize that addressing homelessness requires a collective effort beyond the scope of any single entity. Broad community support is essential to ensure that all residents have access to permanent, suitable housing where they can thrive.

Our coordinated system of homeless services faces a range of operational challenges, including constraints related to shelter capacity, staffing limitations, and funding constraints. The substantial increase in rental rates and historically low vacancy rates, exacerbated by the limited availability of affordable housing, have led to heightened housing instability across the Washington metropolitan region.

The ongoing efforts of the Loudoun CoC, local government, and critical nonprofit and faith-based partners remain crucial in preventing a larger crisis from unfolding. Through collaborative initiatives, more individuals and families now have access to safe accommodations and housing resources. However, it is evident that much work remains to address the complex challenges of homelessness effectively. Continued collaboration and commitment from all stakeholders are essential as we strive to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to secure stable housing and thrive.

## 9. Call to Action

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As with Continuums of Care (CoCs) nationwide, the breadth and efficacy of services and programs are heavily reliant on community-based providers, including nonprofits and faith-based organizations. The Loudoun Continuum of Care (CoC) remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding resources by welcoming additional organizations eager to address homelessness within Loudoun County. Recognizing the critical role of collaboration, both federal and state funding opportunities are available to community-based providers seeking to engage in a comprehensive, community-wide solution.

The Loudoun CoC actively encourages local service providers and those interested in offering support services to pursue funding opportunities. To facilitate this process, the Loudoun CoC regularly disseminates information regarding funding opportunities to its membership through an email listserv. This ensures that all stakeholders are informed of available funding streams, empowering them to explore potential avenues for collaboration and resource acquisition in the ongoing effort to combat homelessness within our community. For more information, please visit [Loudoun.gov/CoC](https://loudoun.gov/CoC)

## Montgomery County

### Description of the Homeless Continuum of Care

The Montgomery County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) is a public-private partnership that includes state and local government agencies, non-profit service providers, landlords, and other stakeholders who have a role in preventing and ending homelessness. The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) serves as the CoC's governing board. Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH) is a division of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and is the CoC Lead and Collaborative Applicant for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Members of the CoC work in partnership with one another and are committed to ending homelessness. There is a comprehensive response system in place that aims to prevent homelessness whenever possible, and if it cannot be prevented, the goal is for a household's experience to be rare, brief, and one-time only. Montgomery County integrates the Housing First philosophy throughout CoC services and programs. Housing First recognizes that people are most successful when they have choice in housing, and it seeks to eliminate barriers such as sobriety requirements or treatment compliance. The Montgomery County CoC provides a full range of services to people experiencing homelessness including:

- Prevention and Diversion Strategies
- Outreach and Engagement
- Emergency and Transitional Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

In January 2020, the ICH launched the current strategic plan to end homelessness. This community-wide effort began in February 2019 and involved multiple stakeholders including elected officials, non-profit service providers, representatives from other systems of care, and government agencies. The plan consists of six primary strategies: Reduce Racial Disparities Across the System, Build and Support Strong and Adaptable Programs, Build and Support Affordable Housing Solutions within the Homeless Continuum, Coordinate Effectively Across Other Systems of Care, Increase and Diversify Funding, and Educate and Advocate for Change. Below are some highlights on the implementation of the plan.



### ***Strategy 1: Reduce Racial Disparities Across the System***

The Racial Equity Work Group of the ICH has done extensive work on examining and addressing the racial disparities that exist in the County's homeless population. This work has advanced beyond simply acknowledging that people of color are overrepresented in homelessness to focusing on understanding how structural racism impacts our outcomes.

The CoC partnered with CSH to use their Racial Disparities and Disproportionality Index (RDDI) to gain insight into the unique disparities in the Montgomery County CoC. The RDDI compares the likelihood of one group experiencing an event to the likelihood of another group experiencing the same event. Their research tells us that Black and African American households without children are 5.66 times more likely to experience homelessness and Black and African American households with children are 11.7 times more likely to experience homelessness. Once in the system, they are more likely to receive Rapid Rehousing than other groups. Additionally, White Hispanic/Latino individuals are more likely to exit to permanent destinations, but also more likely to return to homelessness from permanent destinations. These findings led the group to partner with Identity, a local nonprofit serving the Latino community, to conduct a qualitative analysis through focus groups with individuals who have experienced homelessness. The CoC continues to analyze these results and identify areas for improvement within the system to mitigate these discrepancies.

In 2022, Montgomery County participated in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Equity Action Committee to develop a plan to address racial disparities amongst the homeless population. The plan included the strategy of prioritizing peer support and peer advocacy as a central part of the system. Since then, the ICH has steadily worked to recruit more members to the People's Committee, which is comprised of people with lived expertise. The committee has been involved in making key decisions and recommendations for the CoC, such as scoring the HUD CoC

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) applications, providing feedback on applications to project applicants, and most recently, helping to revise the CoC Written Standards. In addition, the inclusion of peer support specialists continues to expand to more programs in the system.

### ***Strategy 2: Build and Support Strong and Adaptable Programs***

Montgomery County continues to respond to the changing needs of the CoC with its range of prevention, crisis response and housing programs. The fully operational Centralized Intake and Diversion program has helped mitigate the increased inflow into the CoC. One key improvement to the program this year was to open a diversion room at the Department of Health and Human Services, where anyone experiencing a loss of housing could access in-person diversion services more efficiently. To meet the demand for shelter caused by the increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness this year, the emergency shelter providers worked with SEPH to expand the number of hypothermia shelter beds, which is reflected in the shelter bed inventory further down in the report. The Youth Drop-in Center continues to serve youth under 24 experiencing, or at-risk of homelessness. On the housing front, the CoC maintains a 98% retention rate for households in permanent supportive housing 24 months after being housed. Additionally, the CoC assisted 790 adults in obtaining permanent housing over the last 14 months as part of the Zero for All Campaign to end homelessness in Montgomery County. These successes are a reflection of the quality of the services provided by the CoC and the effectiveness of the Housing First philosophy.

### ***Strategy 3: Build and Support Affordable Housing***

In April 2023, HUD announced that Montgomery County was selected for funding as part of the Special NOFO to address unsheltered homelessness. This award brings another \$4.8 million to the CoC including 72 new permanent supportive housing units, supported by 30 new housing stability vouchers. The partnership for this project includes local non-profit service providers, two local housing authorities and SEPH.

In March of this year, the CoC hosted a landlord recruitment event to bring together private landlords and commercial property managers to support previously homeless individuals and families in accessing and maintaining housing. SEPH promoted its Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund that is a resource for landlords to submit claims for damage to units or for rental arrears. Representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), including the Office of Landlord - Tenant Affairs, Licensing and Registration, and Code Enforcement were in attendance, along with the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), to provide helpful information to landlords and property managers.

In April of this year, the Montgomery County Council approved the Facilitating Affordable Inclusive Transformational Housing (FAITH) Zoning Text Amendment, which removes barriers for faith-based and educational institutions to build multifamily housing on their properties. This amendment opens the door for new and innovative partnerships with faith-based, mission-driven institutions in the future, as a way to increase affordable housing in our community.



#### ***Strategy 4: Coordinate Effectively Across Other Systems of Care***

SEPH has worked with Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS), another division of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, to improve its centralized intake and diversion process and also to provide behavioral health services in emergency shelters. This past year, BHCS opened a stabilization room in the same building as the diversion room to provide stabilization services to those with behavioral health needs. The Centralized Intake and Diversion team collaborated with the BHCS Crisis Center to help people in need of both shelter and stabilization to access the stabilization room. In addition, BHCS deployed a therapist during specified hours at two of the largest emergency shelter locations in the County.

The CoC has also been collaborating with the Montgomery County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) to ensure returning citizens without housing have access to diversion resources and/or a shelter bed when they reenter the community. This collaboration reduces the level of uncertainty returning citizens face as they work through the details of their transition.

Additionally, Montgomery County is collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions through regular meetings to share data and collaborate on service delivery for households that regularly cross jurisdictional borders.

#### ***Strategy Five: Increase and Diversity Funding***

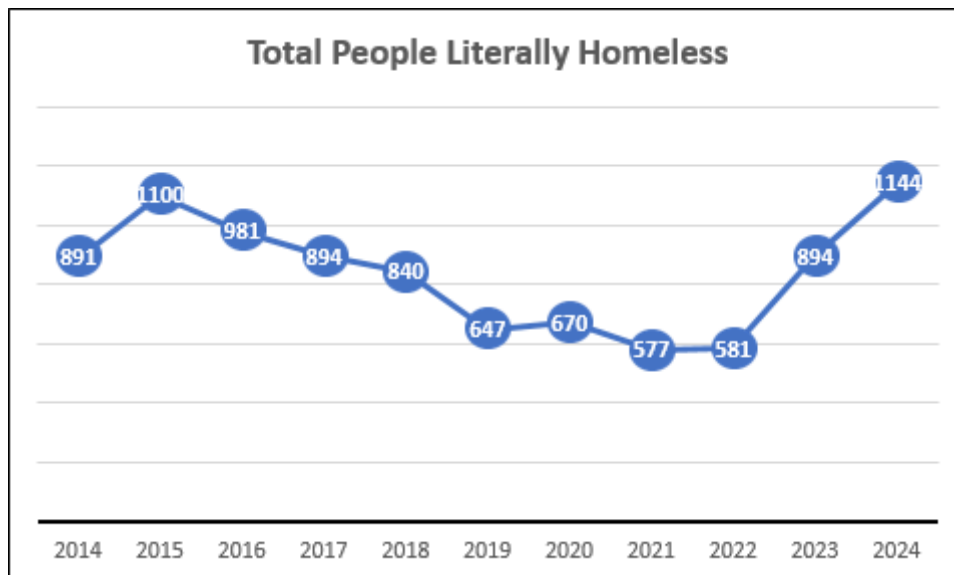
The primary sources of funding for housing in the CoC includes programmatic funds from Montgomery County's General Fund and Housing Initiative Fund, awards from the annual HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the Special NOFO, as well as the expansion of the Medicaid Waiver program and other State funding. The CoC is seeking to expand sources of Medicaid funding for medical respite and low-barrier behavioral health services.

#### ***Strategy Six: Educate and Advocate for Change***

SEPH representatives and outreach partners met with different communities in Montgomery County to hear about their concerns related to the increasing numbers of unsheltered individuals in their neighborhoods. Whenever SEPH engages with community residents and stakeholders, it provides education on the person-centered, trauma-informed practices that are used, the resources and services available in the CoC, as well as the current challenges and efforts to address them.

The CoC has continued to advocate for further understanding of best practices in preventing and ending homelessness. This includes partnering with the County's Intergovernmental Relations Office to create policy changes that promote housing access and security. One of these changes includes amending the State of Maryland eviction laws to codify that landlords must accept a government payment as legal funds to stop an eviction. This change has enabled the County to intervene and prevent more evictions. In addition, as the CoC continues to observe incidents of landlord discrimination, it seeks ways to enforce existing fair housing laws, including the Housing Justice Act and source of income protections.

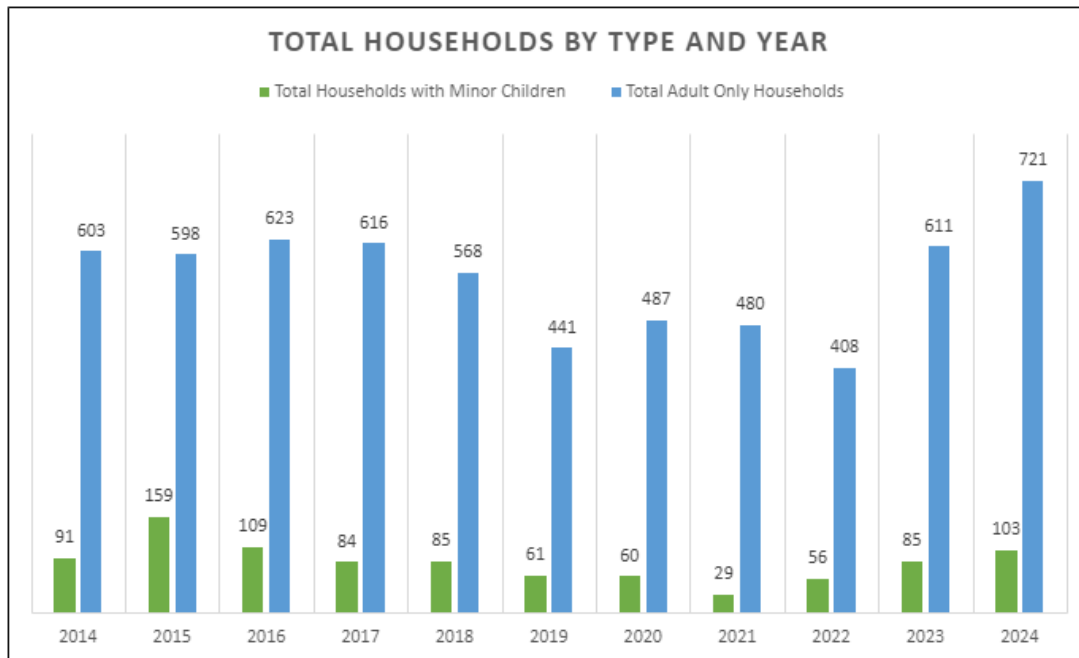
## Point-in-Time Survey Analysis



Montgomery County's Point-in-Time (PIT) survey was conducted on January 24, 2024. The County is so thankful for the support and collaboration of the 137 community volunteers who canvassed over 500 square miles in the County, to count as many individuals as possible. A total of 1144 unhoused individuals were counted that day, an increase of 28% from 2023. This number includes 153 unsheltered individuals, which is an increase of 23% in unsheltered homelessness over the previous year. The increase in the number of people counted in Montgomery County this year is consistent with both a regional and national increase in homelessness.

There are numerous factors contributing to this increase, including the lack of affordable housing in the Montgomery County; continually increasing rents; inflation; denials for housing applications due to criminal or credit history; source of income discrimination by landlords; increased evictions; dwindling eligibility for federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds, which were nearly expended at the time of the PIT; and the significant inflow of unhoused individuals into the County from other jurisdictions. Of the 748 individual adults counted as literally homeless on the night of the PIT, 301 or 34%, were unable to demonstrate loss of housing in Montgomery County or previous Montgomery County residency.

The factors contributing to an increase in homelessness overall have had a particularly adverse impact on families since the pandemic. Overall, there was an increase in the number of people counted in family households from 269 in 2023 to 396 this year, which is a 47% increase. We also counted more families of larger household size this year, with the average household size growing from three people per household in 2023 to four people per household this year. This is consistent with our observation that larger households have struggled to afford rent for larger housing units. The chart below shows a 23% increase in the number of family households experiencing homelessness from 2017 to 2024.



It is important to acknowledge that the annual PIT survey is just a snapshot of that night. We can compare the PIT count with the total number of households served by type each year throughout our CoC. Using the Annual Performance Report (APR) available through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the following chart demonstrates the contrast of the PIT count and the number of households who experience homelessness each year. The PIT reflects less than half of households served as literally homeless each year.

Yearly Totals by Household and Individuals				
ES,TH,SH, SO	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Overall Total</b>	2445	1775	1879	1453
<u>Total Family Households</u>	215	200	159	181
<u>Total Single Adult Households</u>	1605	1575	1720	1272
Total Number of Persons in Families	766	658	500	603
Total Number of Adults in Families	296	252	212	246
Total Number of Children in Families	470	406	288	357
Total Number of Single Adult Persons	1679	1654	1816	1375

## Vulnerabilities and Life Experiences

The ongoing effects of the pandemic are illustrated in the percentage of households reporting vulnerabilities. Of adult-only households surveyed during this year's enumeration, there was a significant increase in substance use: 14% reported substance use disorder, which is a 67% increase from 2023, and 9% reported a co-occurring disorder, which is 106% increase. This increase is consistent with reports from both shelter and housing providers of the rising number of opioid overdoses among those served. In addition, 11% of individuals counted this year were formerly institutionalized, which was a 286% increase from 2023.

Households without Children		
Vulnerability/Experience	# Self Reporting	% Of Total
Substance Use Disorder	105	14%
Serious Mental Illness	207	28%
Co-Occurring Disorder	64	9%
HIV/AIDS	5	1%
Domestic Violence History (any time in the past) - DVH	93	12%
Domestic Violence (this episode) - DVC	32	4%
Physical Disability	165	22%
Chronic Health Condition	77	10%
Limited English	33	4%
Foster Care	10	1%
Formerly Institutionalized	85	11%

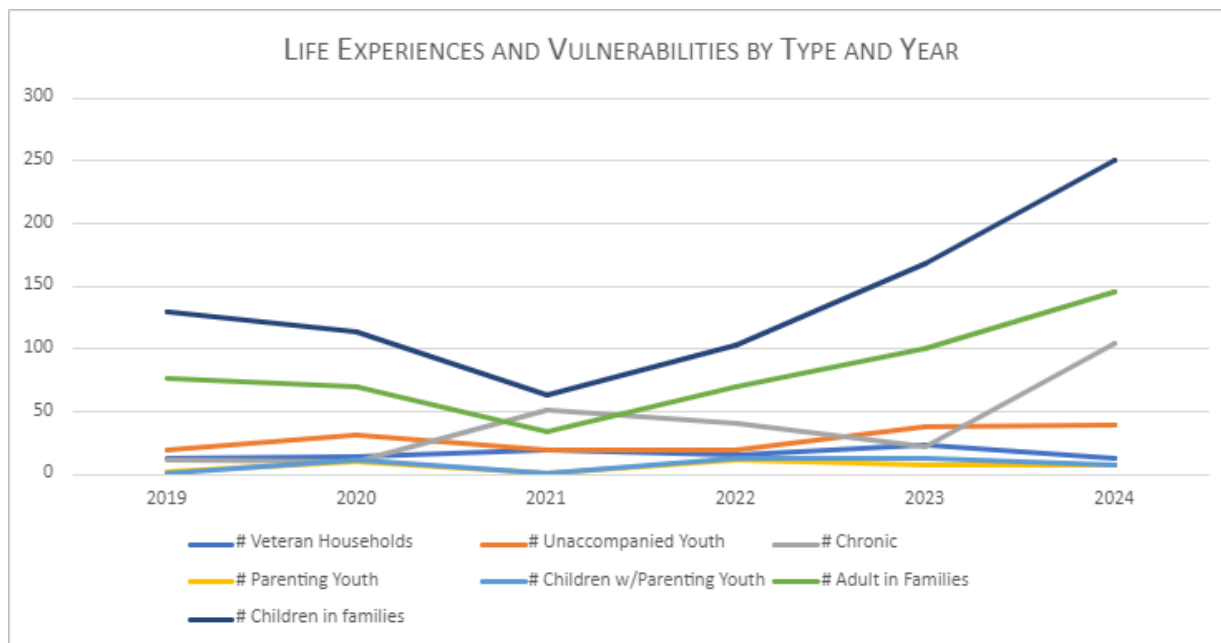
The CoC continues to work with our partnering systems of care, including the behavioral health system (BHCS) and the corrections system (DOCR), to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have ready access to the resources and services they need. The SEPH Health Care for the Homeless Program has expanded the psychiatric services it offers at shelters and permanent supportive housing programs by adding a psychiatric nurse position, in addition to a psychiatrist, that assists with the engagement of those with serious mental illness. SEPH also has a contract to provide peer support to individuals and expects the number of peer specialists working in the CoC to increase. And as described earlier in the report, SEPH is strengthening its partnership with DOCR to support returning citizens that do not have housing upon re-entry to the community.

Adults in Households with Children		
Vulnerability/Experience	# Self Reporting	% Of Total
Substance Use Disorder	4	3%
Serious Mental Illness	24	17%
Co-Occurring Disorder	2	1%
HIV/AIDS	0	0%
Domestic Violence History (any time in the past) - DVH	48	33%
Domestic Violence (this episode) - DVC	17	12%
Physical Disability	18	12%
Chronic Health Condition	11	8%
Limited English	9	6%
Foster Care	2	1%
Formerly Institutionalized	0	0%

Looking at adults among households with children, there was a dramatic increase in the vulnerabilities counted this year. Most strikingly, 12% of adults in families reported a physical disability, which is a 200% increase from 2023. Similarly, 8% reported a chronic health condition, a 175% increase from the previous year. We also continue to observe an increase in self-reports of serious mental illness. This year, 17% of adults in households with children reported a serious mental illness, which is a 60% increase from 2023. Though there were no reports of substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder in 2023, this year 3% reported substance use disorder and 1% reported co-occurring disorder. This underscores again the continued need for adequate behavioral health services and to improve our capacity to support the whole family when the adult is struggling. Previously, we were seeing a rising trend in reports of domestic violence, both history and current episode. Though last year that trend appeared to be reversing, this year, reports of domestic violence history have increased by 100%. The increase in adults having vulnerabilities or a history of domestic violence is a strong indication that stressors for these families continue beyond the pandemic.

#### *Families and Chronically Homeless*

As described above, this year's count marked a dramatic rise in children in families and adults in families, as reflected in the chart below. In addition, adults with disabilities continued to face barriers in accessing housing, causing them to meet the definition of chronic homelessness, which is an episode of homelessness lasting more than one year, or having four episodes of homelessness in three years. These trends show that vulnerable populations tend to be impacted most acutely by the housing crisis.



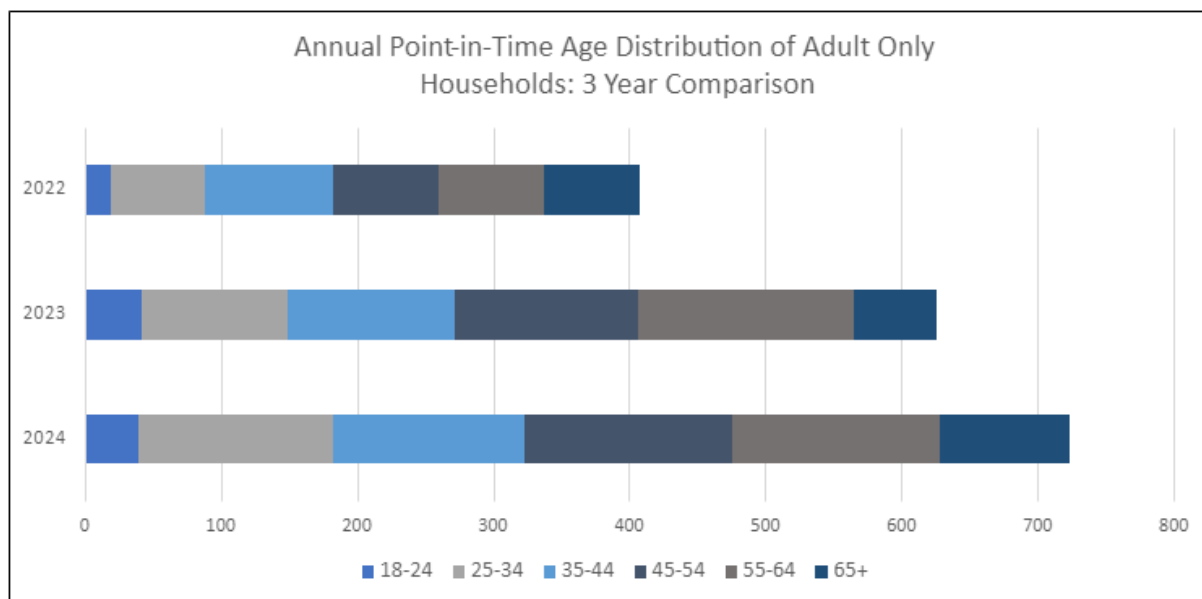
## Veterans

In December 2015, Montgomery County was one of the first four jurisdictions in the country to effectively end Veteran homelessness.

This success was confirmed by HUD, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the Community Solutions Built for Zero Campaign. At the time, “functional zero” was defined as having no more than six Veterans experiencing homelessness at any given time. For the last two years, the average number of Veterans experiencing homelessness each month has increased to 11. The focus continues to be prioritizing Veterans for permanent housing placements and moving as quickly as possible to end their homelessness. Between January 2015 and December 2022, we have ended homelessness for 250 Veterans.

## Age Distribution of Adult-Only Households

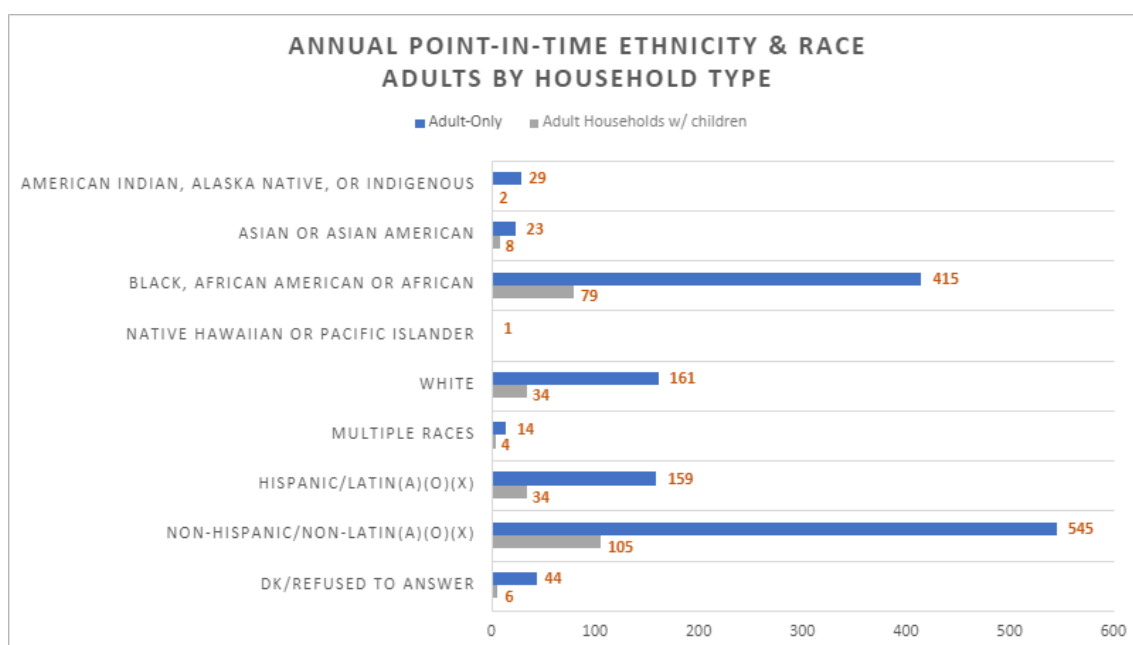
There continues to be a significant number of older adults entering the homeless system. More than half (55%) of all adult-only households were 45 years or older, 33% were 55 years or older, and 13% were 65 years or older. The continued growth of older adults experiencing homelessness in the County is concerning. Studies indicate that people experiencing homelessness die an average of 30 years younger than the average person in the United States. This means that individuals with a history of homelessness age at an increased rate, so those 45 years old may have similar health issues as someone in their 70s. This necessitates increased partnership and access to medical and supportive services for older adults.



### *Income and Racial Disparities*

It is important to note that 60% of adult-only households and 45% of adults in households with children reported having no income in the PIT count. The degree of extreme poverty among those counted demonstrates the need for a sufficient supply of subsidized housing. For adult-only households, SSI/SSDI or retirement/pension programs is the income source for 58% of those with income. This speaks to the challenge for many households of finding housing that is affordable to those on fixed or limited incomes.

We continue to see a disproportionately high representation in our system by people of color. On the night of the PIT, 56% of the people counted identified as Black, African American, or African, despite only 18% of the County's population identifying as such at the time of the 2020 census. In addition, 21% of people counted identified as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x), while 19.7% of the County's population



identified as such. Overall, 87% of those in families and 83% of all those counted identified as people of color. These ongoing racial disparities make it imperative for us to focus on addressing the structural racism that leads to these disparities.

#### Year-Round and Winter Inventory of Beds

The CoC continues to provide emergency shelter to households with minor children through three year-round family shelters, one domestic violence shelter, and limited hotel subsidies used as overflow shelter. During this year's enumeration, a total of 103 households with minor children were residing in emergency, overflow, or DV shelter.

With the opening of the Nebel Street and New Leaf Emergency Shelters and the Medical Respite program in the past two years, emergency shelter capacity for adults without children increased to over 350 beds for year-round capacity. This includes the DV shelter with six beds designated for this household type,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S YEAR-ROUND AND WINTER INVENTORY OF BEDS			
	Households w/o Children	Households w/children	Total Beds
<b>COVID and Overflow Hotel</b>	134	261	395
<b>Year-Round Emergency Shelter Beds</b>	361	127	488
<b>Seasonal Beds</b>	88	4	92
<b>Transitional / Safe Haven Beds</b>	46	21	65
<b>TOTALS</b>	629	413	1042

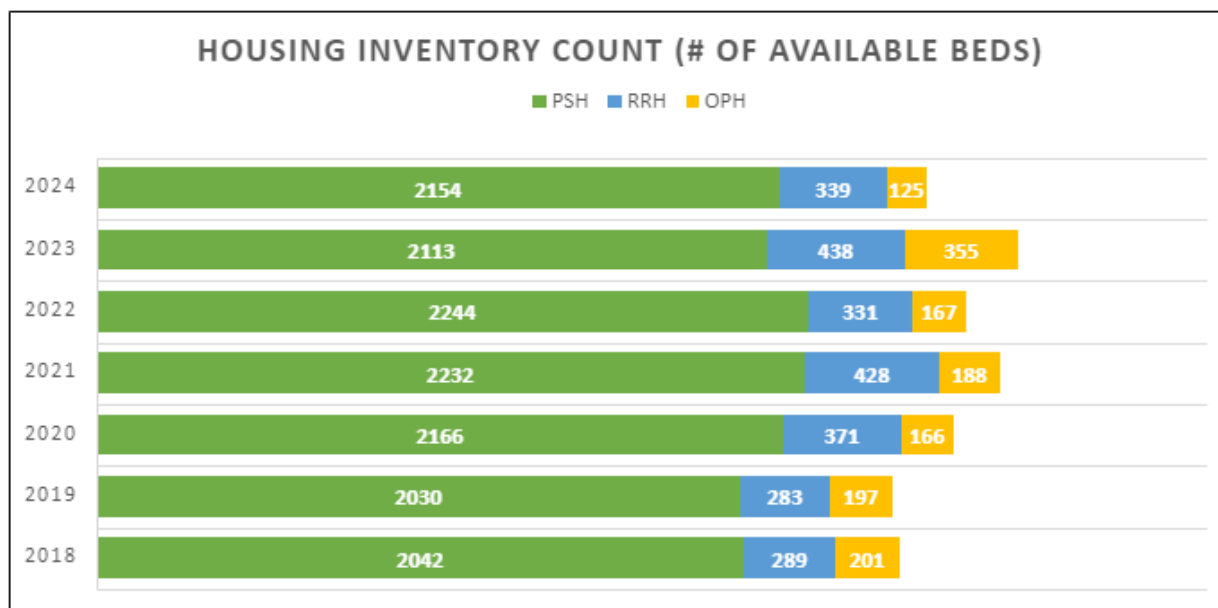
three designated medical beds, and two designated for older adults or people with disabilities. The increase of year-round beds was a permanent shift the CoC implemented during COVID to ensure social distancing and expanded year-round availability at all adult-only shelter facilities. Additionally, we continue to leverage partnerships with local hotels to rent rooms as needed for family overflow and for adults to isolate if they are COVID positive or have other severe respiratory infections.

On the day of the 2024 enumeration, there were 629 emergency shelter and overflow beds occupied by single adults and 413 beds occupied by members of households with children. In total 968 out of 1042 year-round, seasonal and overflow beds were occupied. In 2024, Montgomery County increased the number of year-round, seasonal and overflow shelter beds by a total of 176. This was in direct response to the growing number of households in need of emergency shelter.

#### Permanent Housing Inventory Count

From 2018 to 2024, the number of beds of permanent housing in Montgomery County increased by 3% from 2532 to 2618. It is important to note that the mix of beds available has shifted to align with the assessed needs of the households served in the CoC. However, as noted earlier, households continue to face significant housing barriers. The housing market has become tougher to navigate even with a housing voucher, especially for larger families. With the end of pandemic eviction protections and rent stabilization efforts, landlords have been responding by raising rents, not renewing existing leases, and increasing barriers to housing despite Montgomery County laws on source of income protection and "ban-the-box" on criminal histories. On average, it is taking three months from the time of intake into Rapid Rehousing to signing a lease. Because Maryland does not

have just cause eviction legislation, many households in permanent supportive housing must relocate due to a non-renewal of their leases.



### Effectiveness of the Montgomery County Coordinated Entry System

Coordinated Entry is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. Within a Coordinated Entry System (CES), persons are prioritized for housing based on vulnerability using a data-driven, real-time process. Montgomery County's CES embraces Housing First principles across all programs and services. We provide access to permanent housing without any preconditions, supporting client choice and self-determination. Additionally, supports are individualized and person-driven while focusing on social and community integration. These principles are imbedded into our work and drive new programming and program expansion.

Due to the influx of local, state, and federal resources, Montgomery County was able to shift the CES from only providing housing to those with the greatest needs to creating plans for housing for every household based on their unique needs. Over the last few years, the CoC has dramatically increased the number of housing placements. In 2023 alone, we were able to house 313 adults-only households and 136 households with children.

Notably, since the CoC was able to expand the successful Centralized Intake and Diversion from just serving families to also serving adult-only households, it has been able to assist over 2000 households from entering the homeless system. Flexible funds have enabled us to pay for transportation and/or provide financial incentives directly to family or friends that have committed to supporting the household at risk of homelessness. We have also focused on tenant rights and education for tenants as many households continue to abandon housing thinking they do not have a right to stay. By informing these households of their options we can provide supportive services while they remain housed and develop a longer-term housing plan.

We have also seen tremendous success with the continued investment in minimal support programs designed to empower households in determining the best way to end their experience of homelessness:

- The Short-term Housing and Resolution Program (SHaRP) provides security deposit, first month's rent and additional rental subsidy based on income-rent ratio for up to 12 months to allow sheltered or unsheltered households to move into housing. The program initially provided up to six months in rental subsidy, and in 2022 the program extended the subsidy for up to 12 months. Navigators are available to provide resource connections and monthly check-ins to support households in maintaining their housing. Since its inception in late 2020, SHaRP has assisted over 610 households to move into their own permanent housing with only a 14% return rate.
- The Exit Bonus Program provides direct cash assistance to allow households to resolve their homelessness in the best way they see fit. The program offers \$5000 as a one-time direct cash assistance payment to singles/individuals exiting homelessness, or \$8000 to families. Case management is not provided. This program was originally designed for individuals newly (less than six months) homeless with no known substance or mental health challenges. Given the interest and initial success of the program, we removed the newly homeless criteria. The CoC follows each program participant for at least 12 months and conducts regular surveys to assess their housing stability, food security, income, and other quality of life indicators including general wellbeing. Through April 2024, 180 households have been served through the Exit Bonus program with a 22.8% return rate.
- The County Rental Assistance Program (RAP) is a permanent shallow subsidy for households where at least one household member is either disabled or 55 years or older. Households must be currently experiencing homeless or at imminent risk for homelessness. Monthly payments based on income-rent ratio are provided jointly to the tenant and landlord up to a maximum of \$503 per month. Households complete an annual renewal process to maintain access to the RAP subsidy.

While these programs are effective methods to increase exits to housing, it is also critical that we stem the inflow into the system. We must continue to break down barriers to housing as highlighted above, but also enhance prevention efforts so that the number entering homelessness is less than the average number of households exiting to permanent housing each month.

Over the last two years, we were able to enroll 100 households that had recently exited homelessness in the County's guaranteed income pilot program – MoCo Boost. The pilot program is a public-private partnership that honors a household's resilience by placing trust in their ability to make their own decisions on what is best for their path forward. MoCo Boost is the first of its kind in the State of Maryland and is supported by the Montgomery County Council, Department of Health and Human Services, Meyer Foundation, Montgomery County Collaboration Council, and UpTogether. MoCo BOOST has been providing \$800 a month to a total of 300 Montgomery County households for 24 months. There have been no restrictions on what participants can do with the money received through the pilot. We will be evaluating the success of all 300 families to maintain their housing and look at options to add this to our long-term prevention toolkit.

Additionally, as we closed-out our COVID Rent Relief Program (CRRP), we conducted focus groups to identify areas for improvement in administering eviction prevention programming. CRRP enabled us

to pay rents for up to 18 months, with an average assistance per household of over \$14,000. Prior to CRRP our eviction prevention grants were limited to \$3,000 per a household, assuming they were eligible for both local and state assistance. Previously, we also only provided the minimum to stop an eviction versus any additional funds to ensure housing was stabilized. In addition, households were only eligible for eviction prevention assistance after they received an eviction judgement, which not only provided less time to prevent the eviction but caused households to be in crisis before they could receive assistance. In October of 2023, SEPH changed its eligibility criteria so that households could access eviction prevention assistance when they first receive a court summons for late rent. Moving the eviction prevention work upstream has made our prevention efforts more proactive and effective. Though the CRRP program prevented more than 19,000 evictions, this year's enumeration, underscores the continual need to invest in prevention strategies and reduce barriers to permanent housing.

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

## DESCRIPTION OF HOMELESS SERVICES

The Prince George's County Continuum of Care (CoC) for homeless persons is coordinated through the County's Homeless Services Partnership (HSP); the local Homeless Advisory Board for the County Executive. The mission of the HSP is to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief and non-reoccurring and to that end, the HSP is responsible for needs assessments, gap analysis, service coordination, resource development, drafting and adoption of policy and system performance evaluation of all homeless services. Membership includes over 100 public and private organizations, consumers and concerned citizens with expertise in relevant impact areas including homelessness, education, employment, mental health, substance use, behavioral health services, aging and vulnerable adult services, public safety, street outreach, benefit assistance, youth services, and domestic violence and trafficking which meet monthly and work collaboratively to establish strategic priorities, assess progress, and oversee full implementation of the County's efforts to end homelessness. The Prince George's County Department of Social Services is the lead administering agency for the County's CoC and serves as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrator; the Collaborative Applicant (CA) for the annual HUD Homeless Assistance grant application process; and Co-Chair of the HSP.

The County has a comprehensive network of programs designed to provide a coordinated and systemic response to persons identified as at risk of, and/or, literally homeless as well as a coordinated entry system that ensures prioritization of those who are most vulnerable. All CoC services are coordinated through a central call center allowing persons in need to gain services and shelter without having to navigate multiple systems. The system currently includes:

- Street Outreach, Mobile Crisis and SOAR;
- 24/7/365 access through the "Homeless Hotline" and Coordinated Entry;
- Integrated Diversion and Homeless Prevention Services;
- Emergency and hypothermic overflow shelters including beds specifically for veterans, DV / trafficking survivors, and unaccompanied youth and young adults;
- Transitional Housing - Rapid Re-Housing combination programs;
- Rapid Re-Housing programs; and
- Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

The County's strategic plan focuses on six (6) key strategies that have proven to be effective in reducing homelessness: 1. coordinated entry, 2. prevention assistance, 3. shelter diversion, 4. rapid re-housing, rapid exit and "moving on", 5. permanent housing, and 6. improved data collection and performance measures. In addition, the County has prioritized six subpopulations to systemically target the unique barriers to housing experienced by these groups: 1. Vulnerable elderly and aging; 2. Unaccompanied youth/young adults; 3. Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other violent crimes; 4. Returning Citizens, 5. Veterans; and 6. Chronic homeless and other homeless with severe somatic and behavioral health challenges (SMI, SUD and COD). All strategies have been carefully designed to achieve purposeful and intentional reduction in the incidents of homelessness and collectively they form a plan that enhances system accountability, builds on current success, and provides continued flexibility to quickly shift resources to meet newly emerging needs. System success is measured in part by expansion of sustainable permanent housing resources as well as positive movement in several key indicator areas including: Change in income, Recidivism, Length of Stay in Homelessness, Exits to Permanent Housing, and Reduction in new entry of first time homeless.

	Beds for Individuals*	Beds for Families	Year-Round Beds
Emergency Shelter	133	293	426
TH / RRH	109	181	290
TOTAL	242	474	716

*\*includes beds for unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 13-24*

## HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME RESULTS

The Prince George's County homeless point-in-time count was conducted on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The survey counted and interviewed unsheltered homeless persons living on the streets and sheltered individuals and families in NCS response shelters, 24-hour emergency shelters and joint transitional housing rapid re-housing programs. Due to the continued safety implications of COVID-19, this year's count continued to rely on the support of experienced providers and other professional homeless services teams to plan and develop revised strategies for conducting the count. Virtual sessions were conducted to ensure staff could be universally trained regardless of location and availability and ensured consistency of survey application on the day of the actual PIT count.

The County's homeless management information system (HMIS) was used to conduct the sheltered count and to minimize safety risks. The unsheltered count was conducted this year entirely by professional street outreach teams and paid provider staff targeting 9 County zones. Prior to the night of the PIT count, the Street Outreach team led a December Outreach Blitz which allowed for real time identification of known and unknown "hotspot" locations within each County zone which included known encampments, shopping malls, metro stations, libraries, soup kitchens and other areas where people experiencing homelessness have been known to gather. The PIT count teams were disbursed from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am on the night of January 24, 2024 and 4:00 am until 6:00 pm on January 25, 2024 and January 26, 2024. The participants included teams from Police, Fire/EMS mobile integrated health, community health workers, CoC Lead agency personnel, and CoC Street Outreach and PATH teams. The 2-day post canvassing by the street teams allowed for comprehensive coverage and counting of the unsheltered homeless in this year's PIT.

The unsheltered count included an interview component (an electronic and manual PIT Survey) to gather pertinent demographic, subpopulation, employment and other relevant data used to generate comparable data for this report and a command center was established as a point of contact for team leaders to call with any questions, emergencies, supply needs or assistance during the count. During the PIT Count, the observation methodology was added to our count approach to allow the teams to count the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness even when some preferred not to take the survey or were unable to take the survey. The observation methodology also aided in deriving sub-population counts as well as assisting with the deduplication process. The County's Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Survey (PIT) Committee in collaboration with the County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Administrator used iPads, iPhones, tablets, and had paper surveys available to conduct the 2024 unsheltered count. Training sessions not only prepared PIT staff to effectively use the electronic devices but enabled them to review and provide feedback about the survey questions in advance of the count.

A total of 658 homeless adults and children were counted in Prince George's County, Maryland; (292 single adults, 143 adults with 220 children in adult families, and 1 single and 1 parent with 1 child in minor headed households) reflecting a >1% increase from 2023. Of this number, 550 (84%) were sheltered and 108 (16%) were unsheltered and living on the streets and public places not meant for human habitation. The following charts provide a comparison of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 counts.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY				
Category	2024	2023	2022	% Change – 2022 to 2024
Total Number Counted	658	659	571	15%
Total Number of Singles	292	273	273	7%
Total Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-24	74	85	47	58%
Total Veterans	15	7	8	90%
Total Number of Families	115	119	103	12%
Total Number Persons in Families	363	376	298	22%
Total Adults in Families	143	154	118	21%
Total Number of Children in Families	220	222	180	22%
Total TAY– Head of Household	7	14	19	(175%)
Total TAY– Children in Household	7	20	21	(67%)
Total Veterans – Head of Household	3	1	0	300%
Total Veterans – Children in Household	5	2	0	500%
Total Children w/ONLY Children (under 18)	3	10	0	300%

The following chart provides a summary of those surveyed by income type. As in prior years, the largest source of income remains employment (50.7%) for the sheltered population, followed by SSI / SSDI (14.9%). For unsheltered, a lack of income is dominant at 71.3% however of those with income, employment (44.8%) and SS/Retirement (20.7%) are the largest source of income.

HOMELESS COUNT BY INCOME TYPE – ADULTS ONLY				
Category	Sheltered		Unsheltered	
	Individuals	%	Individuals	%
Total Number of Adults	334		101	
Income	148	44.3%	29	28.7%
Employment	75	50.7%	13	44.9%
Social Security /Retirement	13	8.8%	6	20.7%
SSI / SSDI	22	14.9%	4	13.8%
TANF / Public Assistance	18	12.2%	1	3.4%
Other Sources *	20	13.4%	5	17.2%
Don't know / refused / no income	186	55.7%	72	71.3%

\*other sources include unemployment, child support, and panhandling.

This following chart provides a summary of barriers impacting sheltered and unsheltered adults surveyed on the night of the count. Of those that reported barriers, *significant somatic and behavioral health challenges* and *domestic violence* present the greatest barriers to permanent housing and independence. Of particular note is that the County is currently a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and 2024 represented the second full year of program implementation. Unaccompanied youth and young adults represented nearly 25.3% of all singles served, further underscoring the continued need for programs that target young adults under the age of 25.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SUB-POPULATIONS – SINGLE ADULTS AND ADULTS IN FAMILIES					
Category	Adults in Families		Single Adults		Total
Population	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Unsheltered	ALL
Number of Adults (includes TAY)	139	4	195	97	435
Chronic Homeless *	7	2	84	30	123
Veteran	6	0	11	4	21
TAY	6	1	70	4	81
Substance Use Disorder	45	0	4	0	49
Severe Mental Illness	44	0	46	27	117
Co-occurring Disorder	24	2	6	0	32
HIV/AIDS	2	1	2	7	12
DV History ( <i>any time in the past</i> )	37	2	21	21	81
Domestic Violence ( <i>this episode</i> )	37	1	5	5	48
Physical Disability	45	1	8	25	79
Chronic Health Condition	38	4	9	50	101
Limited English	5	1	2	25	33
Foster Care**	3	0	2	16	21
Former Institutionalized***	13	0	0	20	33

\*Adults meeting the HUD definition

\*\*Adults who have been in foster care at any time.

\*\*\* Adults who were discharged directly into homelessness from prison or jail, hospitals, psychiatric facilities or other care facilities.

## PERMANENT AND PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

While the County has experienced significant success with unsubsidized and non-traditional permanency efforts, there remain individuals and families who require a more structured and supportive housing plan; the greatest of which is the need for expanded rapid re-housing and new supportive housing beds for high risk singles which represent the largest population of the County's known chronic homeless unsheltered population. In addition, there is a significantly growing sub-population of people newly experiencing homelessness who are aging/elderly or have a disabling condition and for whom social security, SSI and/or SSDI benefits are insufficient to secure or maintain market rent housing in the region. In addition, the Continuum of Care continues to maintain focus on strategies to increase long term stable housing opportunities for these and other priority sub-populations; including partnerships with the local Housing Authorities, local landlords, provider partners, and health/human services agencies to maximize rental concessions, prioritize access to public housing and vouchers, explore property ownership/project conversion for *deeply* affordable housing, and apply for new funding opportunities as they become available.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	% Change
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Beds	369	369	319	310	310	+19%

## OTHER NOTEWORTHY CONTINUUM OF CARE ACTIVITIES

The County identified six (6) homeless sub-populations for targeted program development and has made significant progress as a result of that intentional focus:

1. *Survivors of Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Sexual Assault*
2. *Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult ages 13-24*
3. *Chronic and other homeless persons experiencing severe behavioral and somatic health challenges*
4. *Veterans*
5. *Returning Citizens*
6. *Vulnerable elderly and aging*

County 2024 highlights include but are not limited to:

1. Launched **Thrive Prince George's**; the County's new Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot in collaboration with the Greater Washington Community Foundation, Prince George's County Government, and the Meyer Foundation.
2. Became a Built for Zero community with a local focus on ending unsheltered homelessness by the end of 2025 and expanded as a member of the COG regional initiative to include a focus on ending veteran homelessness.
3. Selected as one of 11 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Prevention Demonstration Program sites testing secondary crisis intercepts for youth and youth adults at risk of experiencing a housing crisis with a special focus on complex traumas impacting LGBTQIA+ and Latino/a youth.
4. Awarded 2 SAMSHA grants targeting the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents:
  - *\$1M for System of Care SOC Expansion and Sustainability*: This program provides resources to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth, birth through age 21, at risk for or with SEDs, and their families; and
  - *\$750K for Healthy Transitions, Improving Life Trajectories for Youth and Young Adults with Serious Mental Disorders Program*. This program improves and expands access to developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate services and supports for transition-aged youth and young adults (ages 16–25) who either have, or are at risk for developing, serious mental health conditions.
5. Awarded 1 new expansion Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project and 1 new Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) project for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking.
6. Launched a \$1M Senior Rental Assistance Pilot focused on preventing homelessness for residents 65 years of age and older who have lived in the County for at least 5 years and have income at or below 40% of AMI.
7. Conducted a full system assessment (Phase 1) and began community work on development of the new 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness in Prince George's County.



## **2024 Point in Time (PIT) Count**

### **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC)**

#### **Prince William Area Jurisdictional Narrative**

#### **About Our Continuum**

The Prince William Area Continuum of Care (PWA CoC) is comprised of nonprofit, faith-based, and government agencies throughout Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The Prince William County Department of Social Services (PWC DSS) serves as the administrative and fiscal lead agency for the PWA CoC, manages the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and coordinates the local homeless services continuum. The PWA CoC operates a comprehensive homeless response system and works collaboratively through various committees to review policies and procedures, establish best practices, and monitor program performance.

Programs within the PWA CoC include prevention, diversion, street outreach, drop-in centers, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and housing location services. Providers work together to coordinate and increase access to services such as housing, employment, benefits, education, health, and wellness.

The PWA CoC uses a centralized and systematic homeless response system called the “Coordinated Entry System (CES)” to manage entry into the local system via a coordinated intake process. CES is operated by trained PWC DSS staff who work to assess barriers and refer persons experiencing a housing crisis to services. CES assists persons actively experiencing homelessness as well as those who may be at risk of homelessness. CES serves as the “front door” to services, as all persons in need of assistance are prioritized for resources based on intake assessments conducted by CES staff.

The PWA CoC includes forty-five (45) member organizations and eighteen (18) funded homeless service providers; twelve (12) of which contribute data into the CoC’s HMIS. The PWA CoC was recently awarded \$1.6 million dollars in HUD CoC Program funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. This is the single highest fiscal year award in PWA CoC’s history and represents a 5% increase in funding since FY23 and a more than 100% increase in funding since FY2020.

#### **What is the Point in Time (PIT) Count?**

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of persons experiencing *literal homelessness* on a single night in January each year and is conducted by homeless services continuums across the country as required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT provides a “snapshot” of the nature and extent of homelessness and provides valuable information used to inform local funding decisions, support services and resource planning, as well as to raise public awareness about homelessness on the local and national level. Persons that are *literally homeless* are those living in emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, or places not meant for human habitation (such as a vehicle or somewhere outside) the night of the conducted count.

### **How is the Point in Time Count Conducted?**

The annual Sheltered Count was conducted throughout the day and night of Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The Unsheltered Count was conducted the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> with supplemental counts occurring through Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The Sheltered Count is completed by the staff of each participating emergency shelter and transitional housing program. The following organizations and programs participated in the 2024 Sheltered Count:

- Action in Community Through Service – Beverly Warren and Domestic Violence Shelters
- Good Shepherd Housing Foundation – Housing Partnership Program
- Manassas Baptist Church – Hypothermia Shelter
- Northern Virginia Family Service – SERVE Shelter
- PWC Adult Protective Services – Overflow Emergency Shelter
- PWC Child Protective Services – Overflow Emergency Shelter
- PWC DSS – Ferlazzo Shelter and Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center
- PWC Office of Housing and Community Development – Dawson Beach Program
- Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries – Hypothermia Shelter, Supportive Shelter, and Transitional Housing Program

The Unsheltered Count is completed through the support of CoC members, community organizations, and, most importantly, volunteers. In 2024, more than seventy members of the community came together to complete this count. Volunteers worked with street outreach staff to complete surveys with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This is also an opportunity for street outreach staff to ensure the safety of those sleeping outside as well as connect them to available services. The following organizations participated in the 2024 Unsheltered Count:

- 3MT, LLC
- Casa BruMar Foundation
- Centro de Apoyo Familiar
- City of Manassas Dept. of Social Services
- City of Manassas Park Dept. of Social Services
- Friendship Place
- Manassas Hope for the Homeless
- NOVA Bulls Organization
- Northern Virginia Food Rescue
- PWC Community Services
- PWC Dept. of Fire & Rescue
- PWC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
- PWC Dept. of Social Services
- PWC Office of Community Safety
- PWC Office of Executive Management
- PWC Police Department
- Prince William County Community Foundation
- Saved Hands Foundation
- Serving Our Neighbors
- Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries

PIT Count methodology remained largely the same from 2023 as the applied changes were proven effective in ensuring more accurate counts of our literally homeless population. The PWA CoC continued to ensure best practices by providing Personal Protective Equipment, safety equipment, and online training for all participating volunteers and staff. PIT data analysis excludes missing responses and is extrapolated where possible.

*Sheltered Count Methodology:* The methodology for the Sheltered Count remains unchanged from 2023. Survey data was entered into a separate analysis tool and compared to HMIS to ensure accuracy and to complete any missing data. The CoC did not add any new sheltered projects to the 2024 count.

*Unsheltered Count Methodology:* The methodology for the Unsheltered Count continues to be improved from year to year as the CoC learns more about the community. This year the CoC partnered with the PWC Park Rangers and Sheriff departments to conduct surveys in places CoC staff normally cannot access on their own due to safety concerns. The CoC also partnered with PWC Community Services to provide Naloxone training and supplies to all volunteers and participating staff. Lastly, the CoC created a PIT Planning Committee and increased its partnerships with Persons with Lived Experience. This committee pre-canvassed sites to confirm if persons are currently sleeping there as well as to inform current residents of the upcoming count. The CoC continued to provide gift cards and hot meals to survey participants.



*Volunteers and CoC staff preparing to launch the 2024 Unsheltered Count*

## Point in Time Count Outcomes

### 1. Persons Served

The literally homeless count increased by 6% from 2023 to 2024. The count of persons in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs increased by less than 5% (1% and 4%, respectively), and the count of unsheltered persons increased by 22%.

The unsheltered count increased due to improved PIT Count methodology as well as continued CoC efforts to expand street outreach services. The CoC is seeing unsheltered numbers closer to those recorded pre-pandemic due to these efforts.

Table 1.0 below reports the count of persons from 2020 – 2024 while Table 1.1 reports the percent change from 2023 to 2024.

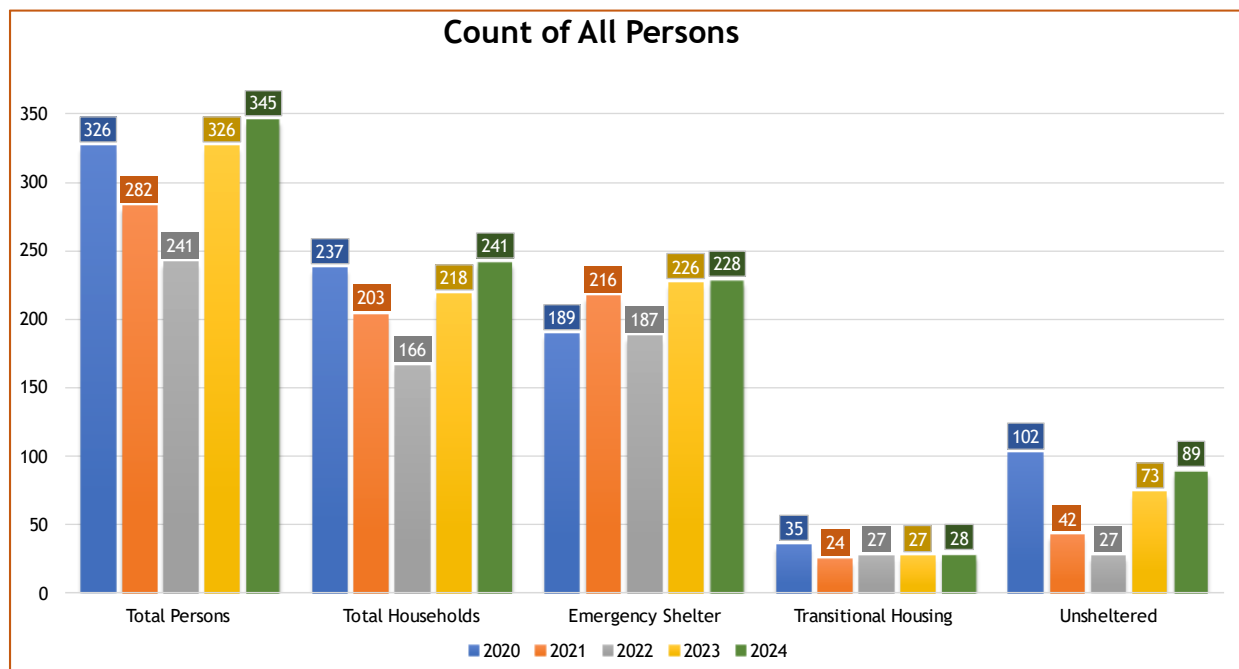


Table 1.0 – Count of All Persons (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.1 – Percent Change from Previous Year

## Unsheltered Homelessness

The unsheltered count increased by 22% from 2023 to 2024. One of the CoC's priorities over the past few years has been to improve and expand street outreach services. This increase is indicative of the success of these efforts as well as the success of the improved PIT Count methodology. The partnerships the CoC developed with various county departments allowed the CoC to reach persons they normally cannot. The pre-canvassing of sites also increased our count as relationships with persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness were developed over the months preceding the count and unsheltered persons were well-informed of the process.



*Photo of an encampment located in the Prince William Area CoC*

## Households with Children

The number of persons in households with children increased by 3% from 2023 to 2024. The household count also increased by 3%. These changes are nominal when compared to the number of persons and households served (e.g., Households in Transitional Housing increased by 17%, however, that is only a difference of one household). The PWA CoC continues not to encounter households with children who are unsheltered during the count.

Table 1.2 below reports the counts of households with children from 2020 – 2024, while Table 1.3 reports the percent change from 2023 to 2024.

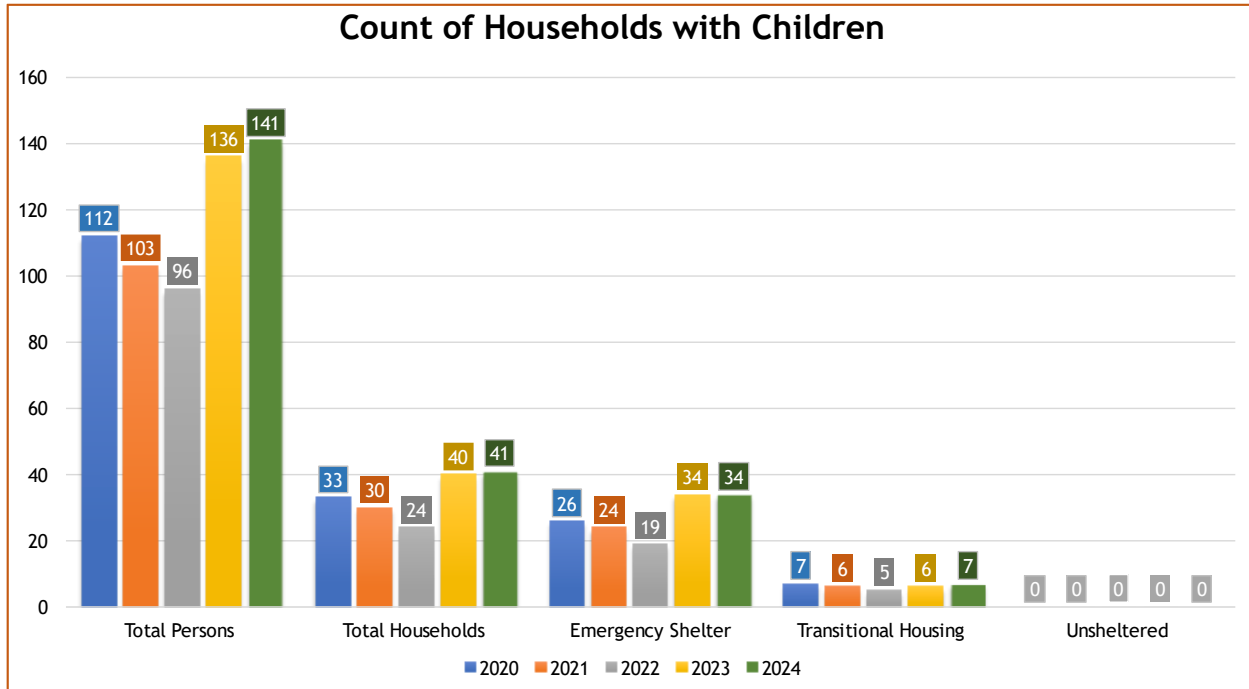


Table 1.2 – Count of Households with Children (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.3 – Percent Change from Previous Year

## Adult-Only Households

The number of persons in adult-only households increased by 8% from 2023 to 2024. The increase in this population is contributed to the increase in unsheltered households. Adult-only households continue to be a vulnerable population in the PWA CoC and represent 100% of the unsheltered population and 83% of all households counted.

Table 1.4 below reports the counts of adult-only households from 2020 – 2024, while Table 1.5 reports the percent change from 2023 to 2024.

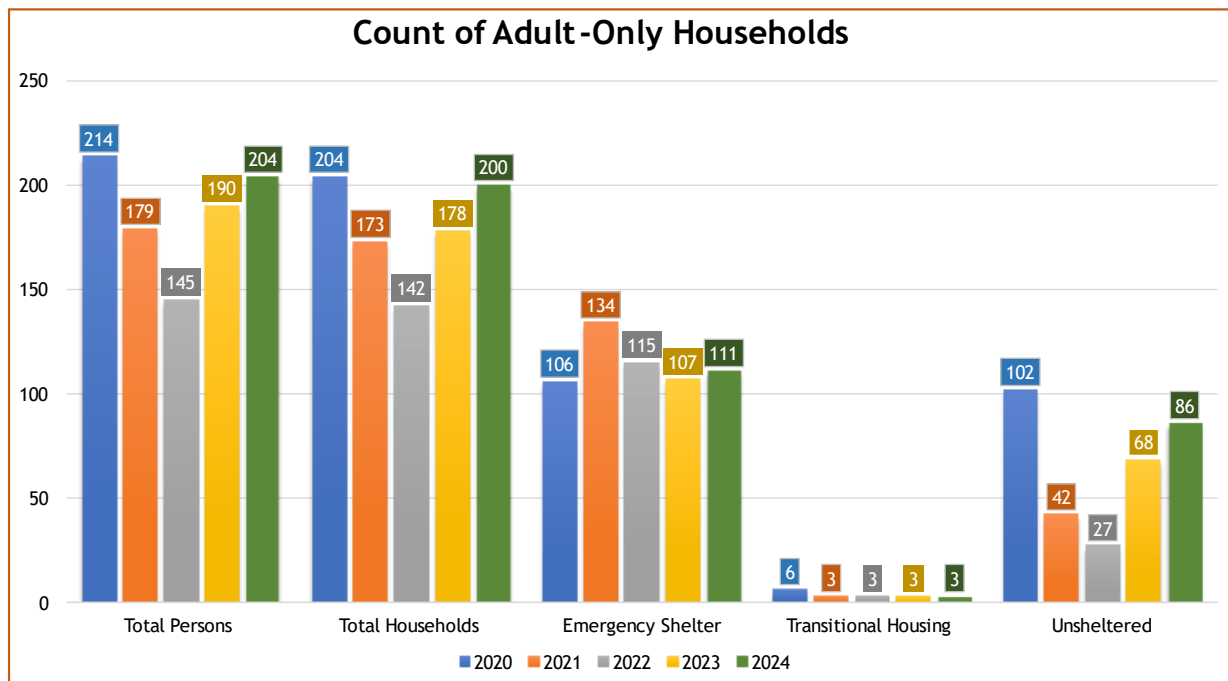


Table 1.4 – Count of Adult-Only Households (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.5 – Percent Change from Previous Year

## Race & Ethnicity of Persons Served

The PWA CoC strives to provide services in a manner that is equitable and free of discrimination. Participation in regional projects as well as increasing partnerships with persons with lived experience are key in addressing racial inequity.

The way race and ethnicity data are collected and reported significantly changed as of October 2023 due to updates to HUD's HMIS Data Standards. These changes are an attempt to better analyze and report this data for people experiencing homelessness.

This means, at this time, CoC's cannot provide comparative data. However, the greatest disparity in the PWA CoC's PIT data continues to exist among persons identifying as Black, African American, or African, as they represent 55% of all persons counted.

This disparity is concerning when compared to 2020 US Census Data as only 20% of the PWA CoC's general population identifies as Black, African American, or African. This means people in this category are 2.7 times more likely to experience homelessness in the PWA.

Table 1.6 below reports the percentage of persons counted by race and ethnicity for 2024.

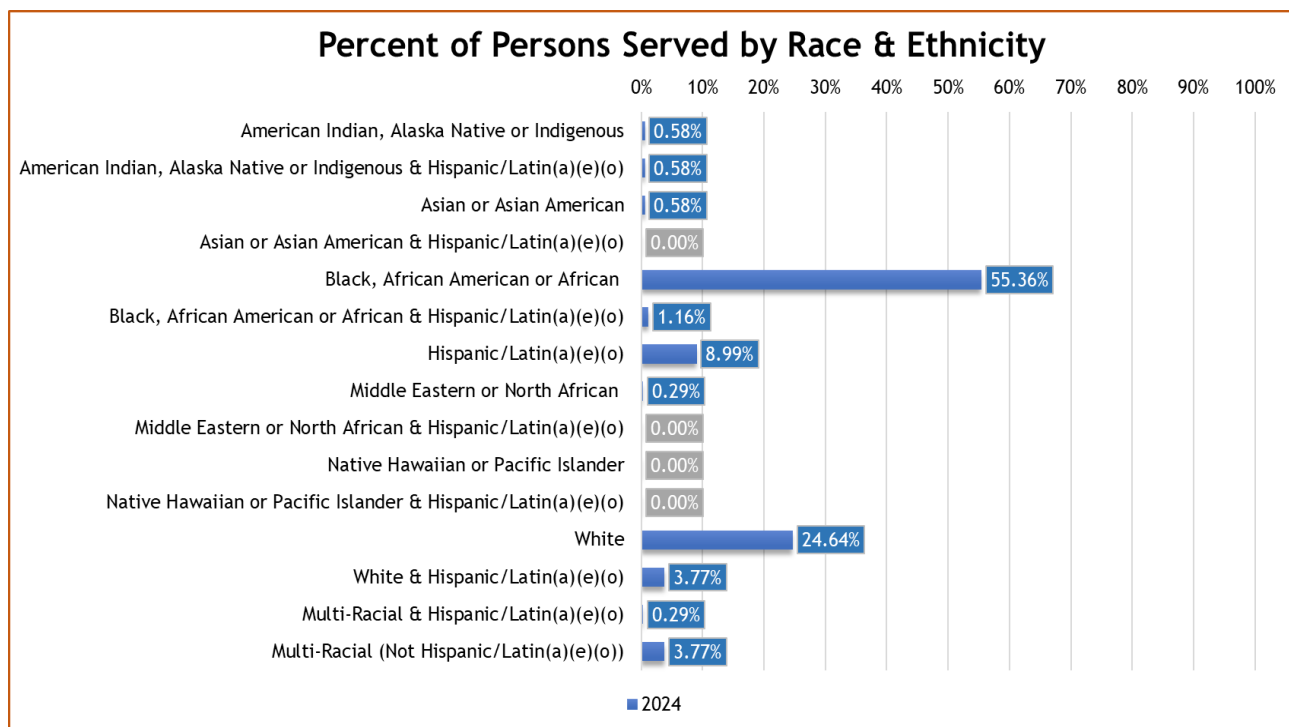


Table 1.6 – Percent of Persons Served by Race & Ethnicity (Current Year)

## 2. Income & Employment

Data on income and employment is provided for all adults counted on the night of PIT. The count of persons reporting income remains the same as 2023 (50%) and the percentage of employed adults increased by 7%.

Table 2.0 below reports the percentage of adults reporting any type of income while Table 2.1 reports the percentage of adults who are employed.

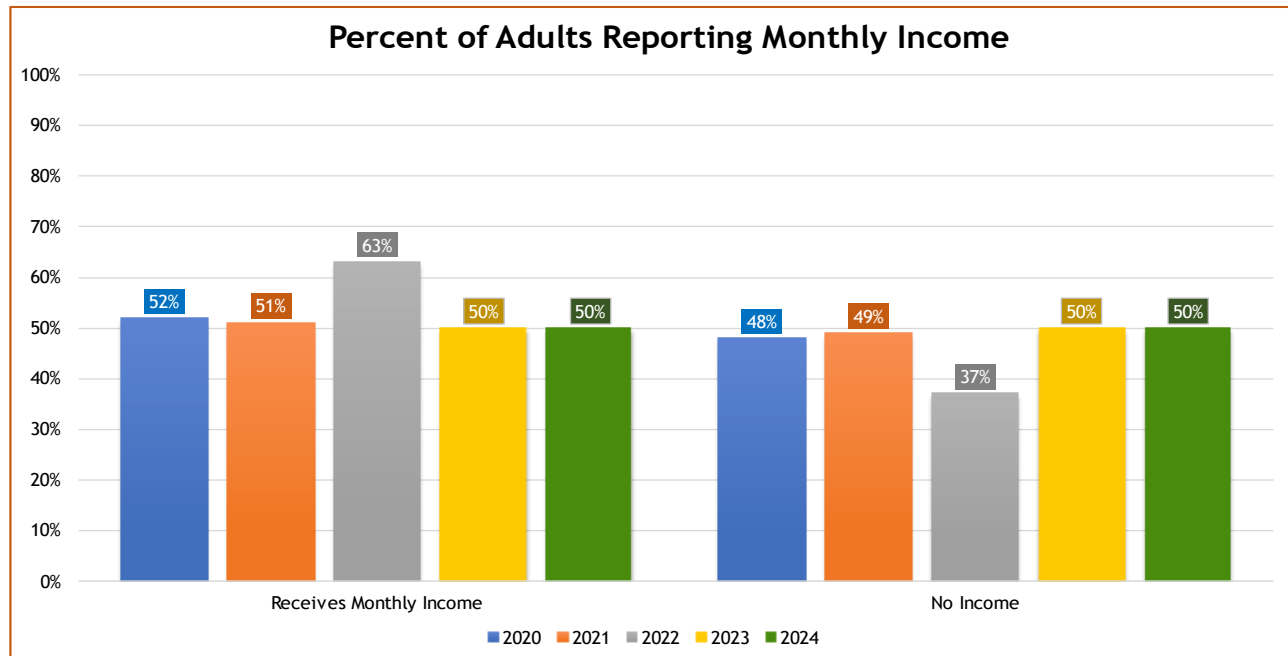


Table 2.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Income (Five Year Comparison)

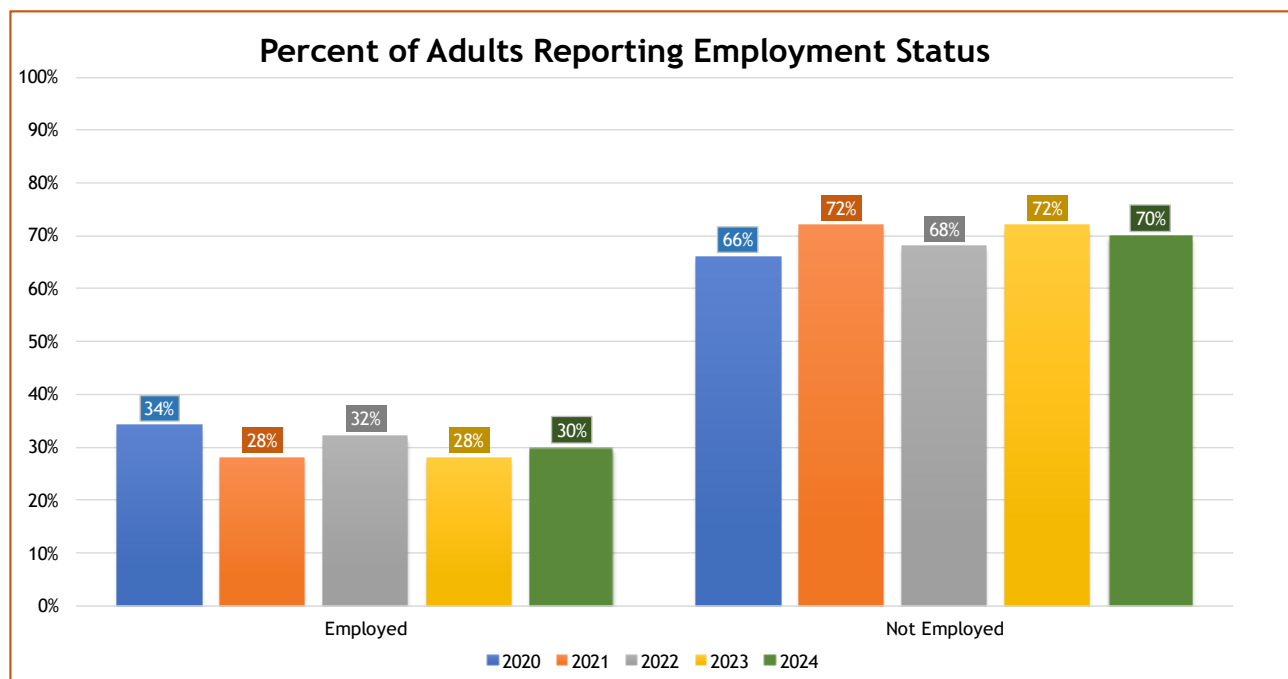
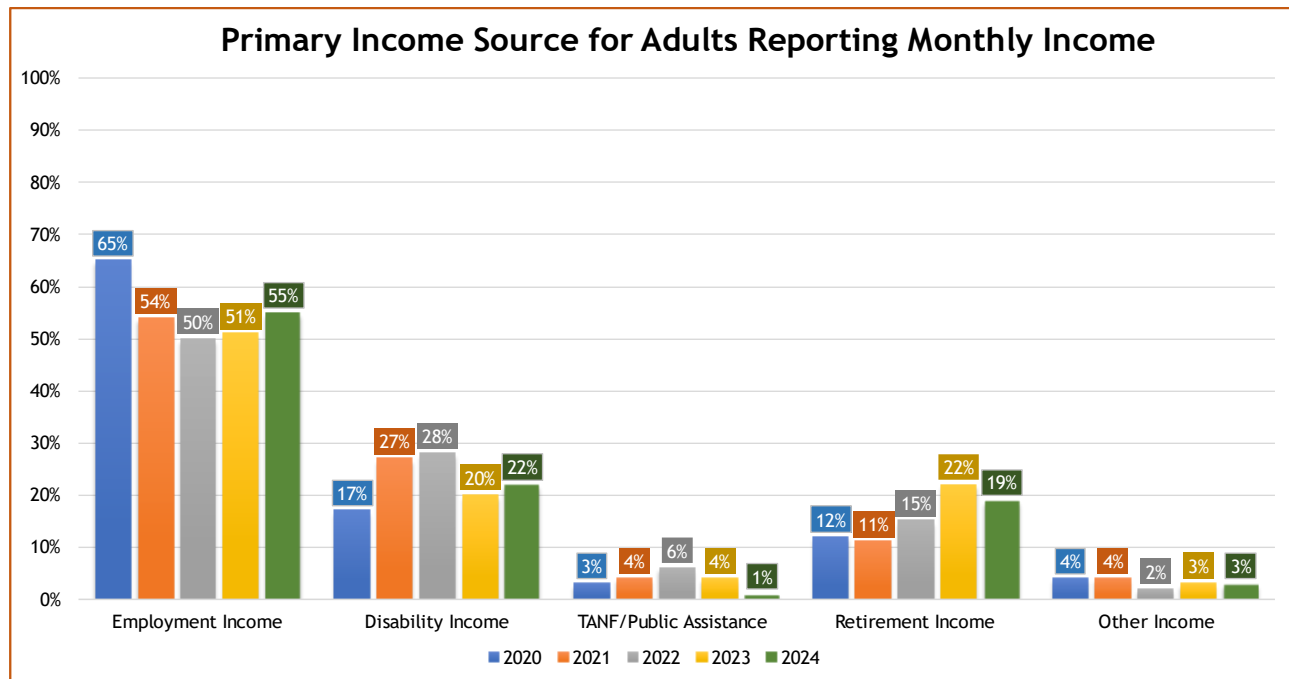


Table 2.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Employment (Five Year Comparison)

Table 2.2 below reports the “primary income source” for all adults surveyed. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude persons not receiving income to provide more accurate outcomes. On average, 56% of adults report their employment income is their primary source.



*Table 2.2 – Percent of Households Reporting Primary Income Source (Five Year Comparison)*

### 3. Priority Populations

Priority Populations are additional homeless populations that are overrepresented in the CoC's overall homeless population when compared to national and/or local averages.

Table 3.0 below reports the percentage of adults that fall under one or more of this priority population categories. This data helps the CoC shape which populations they will work to prioritize:

*Disabling Condition(s):* Person reports living with one or more disabling condition that impacts their day-to-day life; with or without a formal diagnosis.

*Domestic Violence Survivor:* Person experienced domestic violence recently or any time in the past.

*Foster Care History:* Person was in foster care recently or any time in the past.

*Formerly Institutionalized:* Person is homeless due to a release from an institution which includes medical/psychiatric facilities, substance use facilities/detox centers, jail/prison/juvenile detention facilities, long-term care/nursing facilities, and foster care/foster care group homes.

*Limited English Proficiency:* Person has limited or no ability to understand/read/write the English language.

There were increases in all five priority populations represented in the table below for 2024.

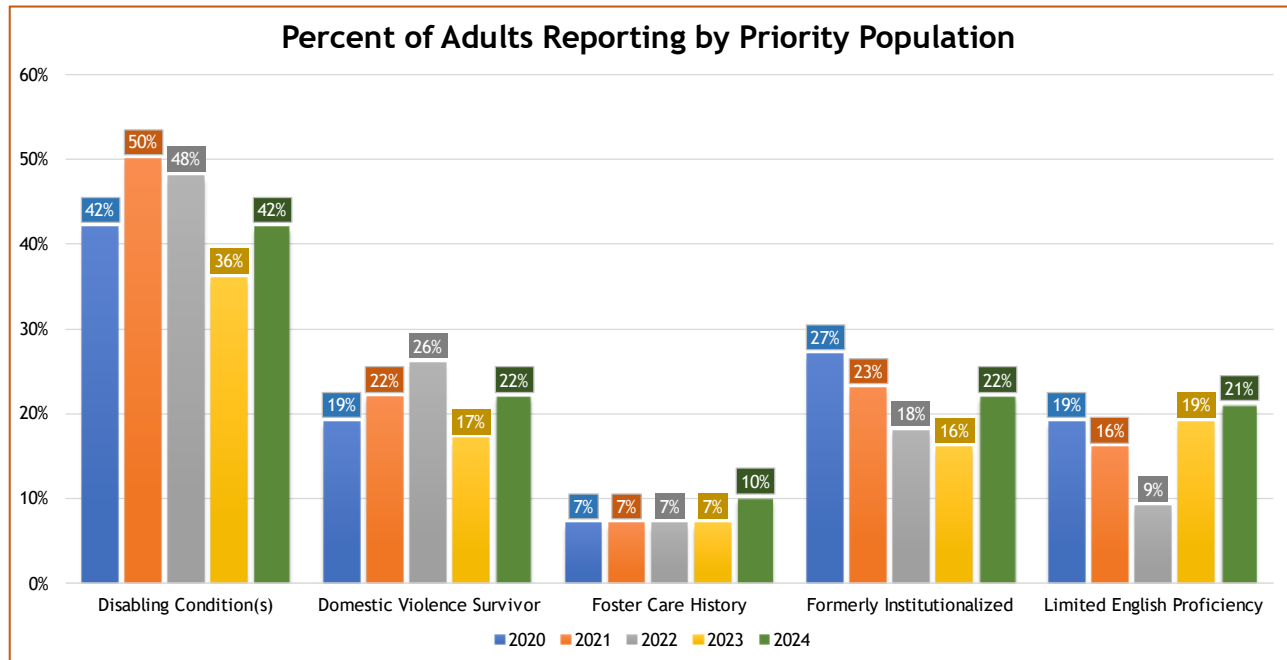


Table 3.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting by Priority Population (Five Year Comparison)

## Disabling Conditions

Table 3.1 below reports the percentage of adults reporting one or more disabling conditions by project type. On average, 45% of adults report living with one or more disabling conditions each year. There was a 17% increase in reported conditions for adults in emergency shelter, a 29% increase for adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and a 59% decrease for adults in transitional housing. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude children to provide more accurate outcomes.

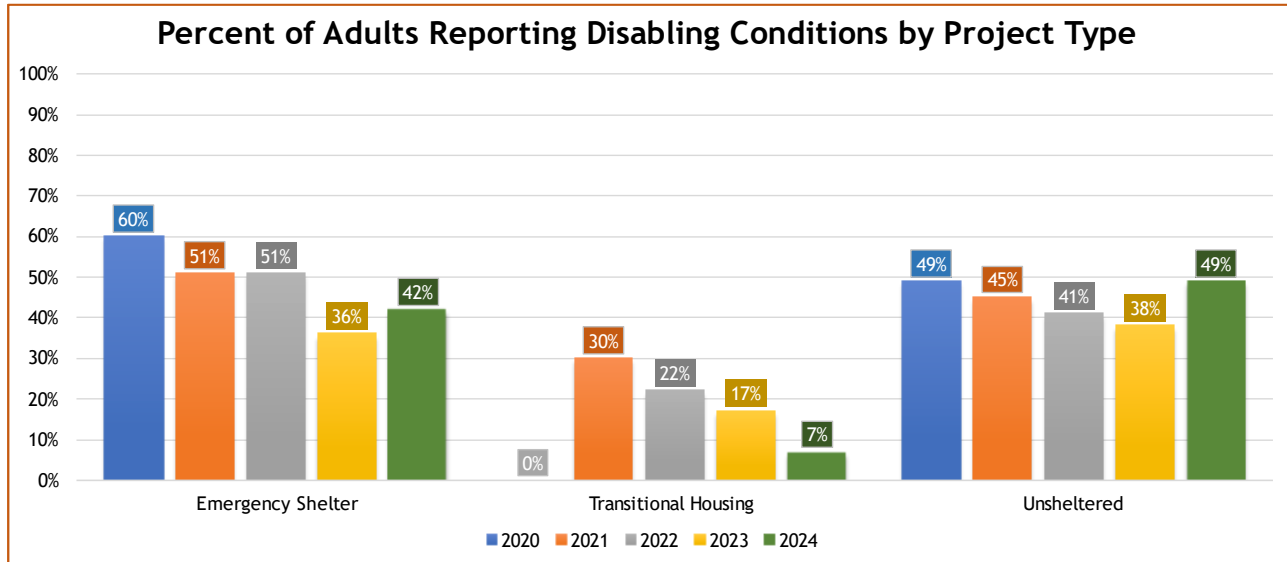


Table 3.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting One or More Disabling Conditions (Five Year Comparison)

Table 3.2 below reflects the types of disabilities reported. Persons may report living with one or more of these conditions. There was more than a 100% increase in adults reporting they live with both mental health and substance use disorders (i.e., “co-occurring disorder”).

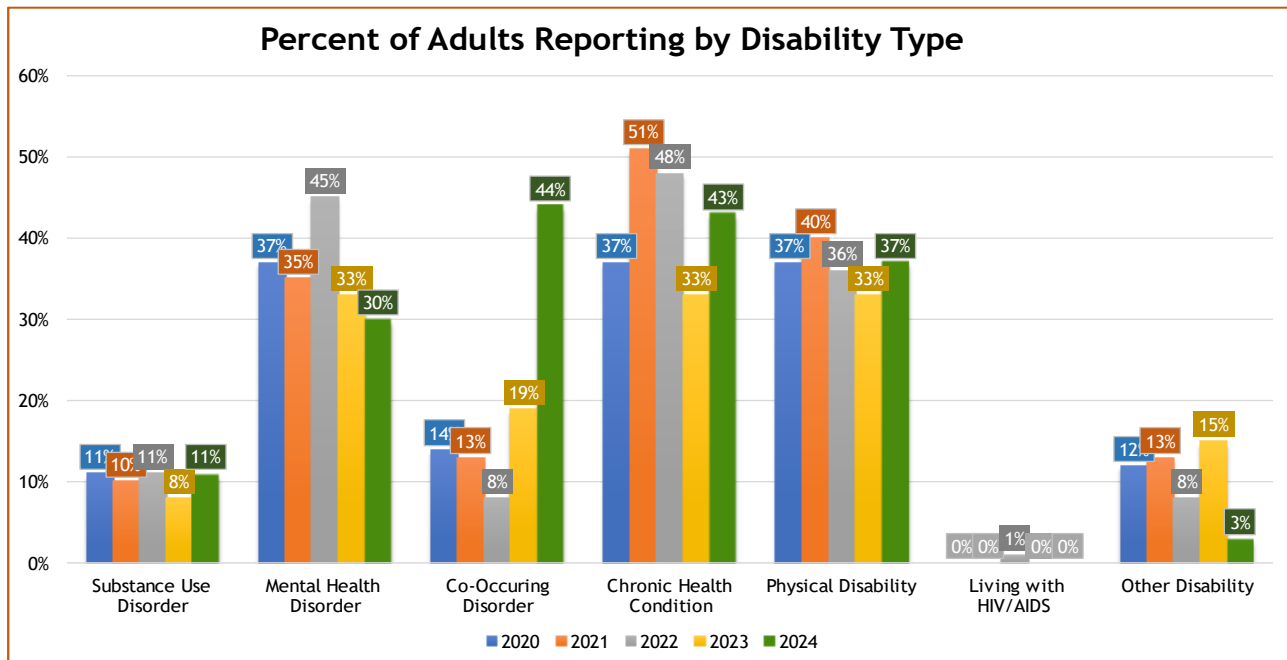


Table 3.2 – Percent of Adults Reporting by Disability Type (Five Year Comparison)

## Chronic Homelessness

Chronically homeless persons are persons with a diagnosable disability in combination with long-term episodes of literal homelessness. Persons that meet the definition of chronically homeless are typically prioritized for long-term housing with supportive services such as the CoC's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude children and persons in transitional housing to ensure more accurate outcomes. Persons in transitional housing are not considered chronically homeless under the HUD definition.

Table 3.3 below reports the percentage of chronically homeless adults by project type. Unsheltered adults are more likely to be chronically homeless than those in emergency shelters.

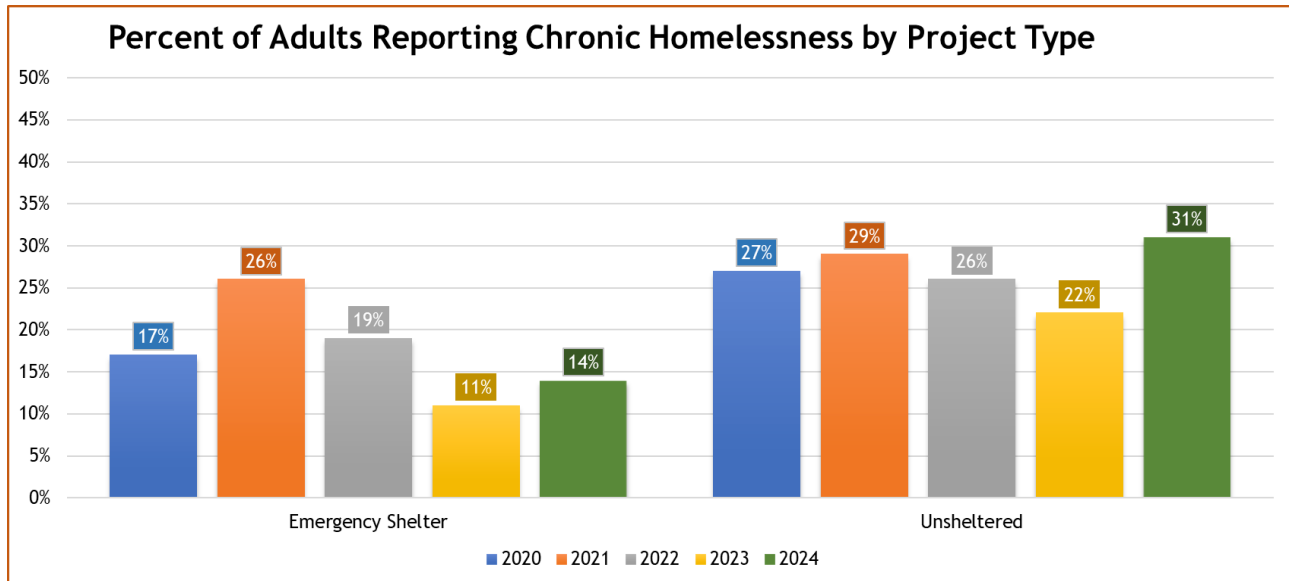


Table 3.3 – Percent of Adults Reporting Chronic Homelessness by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)

Table 3.4 below reports the total percentage by reporting year. On average, 20% of adults counted are chronically homeless each year. There was a 43% increase in chronic homelessness among adults from the previous year.



Table 3.4 – Percent of Adults Reporting Chronic Homelessness by year (Five Year Comparison)

## Domestic Violence Survivors

Table 3.5 below reports the percentage of adults reporting a domestic violence experience recently or any time in the past by project type. On average, 19% of adults report a history of domestic violence each year. There was a 44% increase in adults reporting domestic violence history in emergency shelters and a more than 100% increase in adults reporting domestic violence history in transitional housing programs. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude children to provide more accurate outcomes.

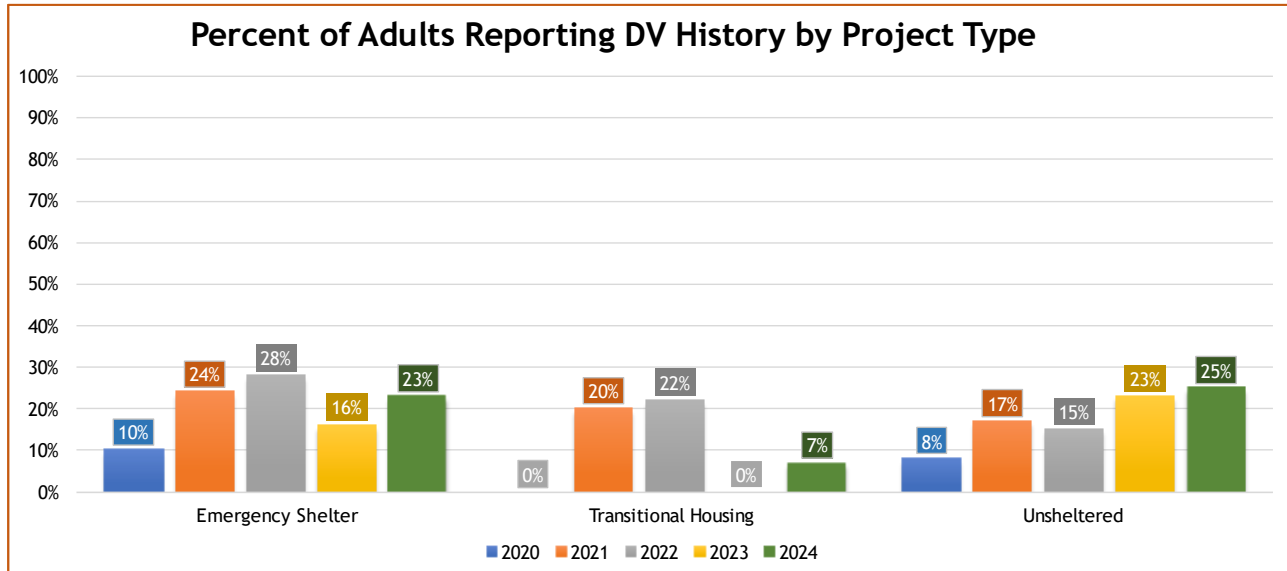


Table 3.5 – Percent of Adults Reporting Domestic Violence History by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)

Table 3.6 below reports the percentage of adults reporting their current episode of homelessness is due to fleeing a domestic violence experience by project type. On average, 57% of adults reporting a history of domestic violence are homeless due to fleeing a recent experience. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude children to ensure more accurate outcomes.

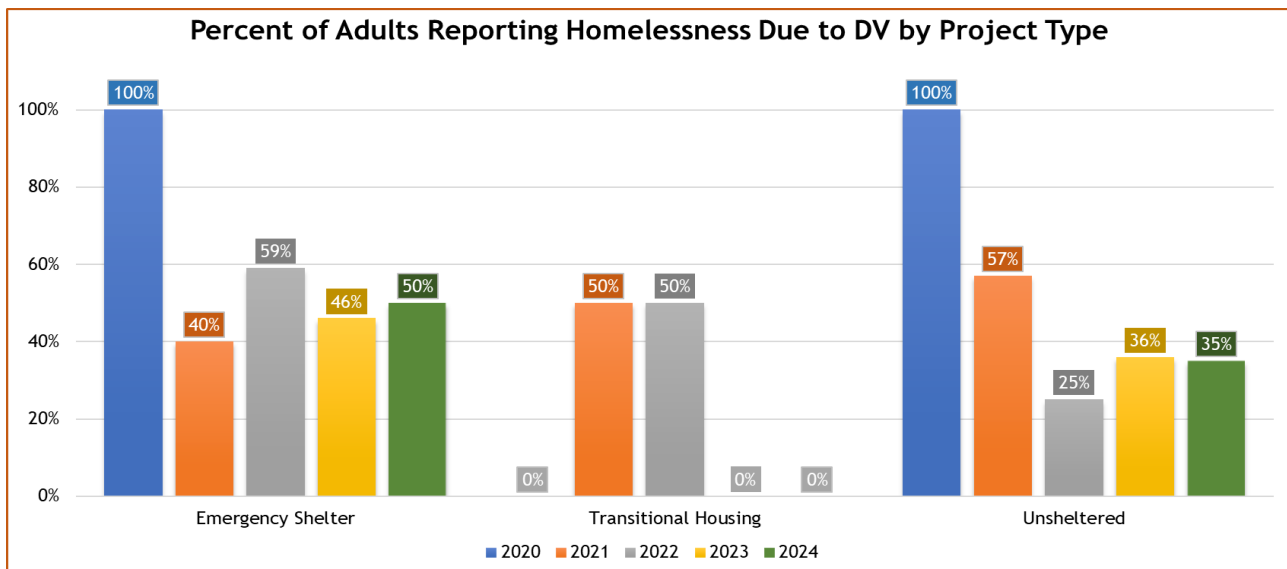


Table 3.6 – Percent of Adults Reporting Homelessness Due to Fleeing Domestic Violence by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)

## Other Populations

Other priority populations of focus are:

*Transitional Age Youth (TAY):* Adults 18 to 24 years of age

*Veterans:* Adults who have served in any branch of service regardless of discharge status

*Aging Adults:* Adults who are age 55 or older

Table 3.7 below reports the percentage of adults reporting under one or more of the above priority populations over the past five years. There was a 22% increase in the number of adults that are 55+ from the previous year. Data for this measure was updated in 2024 to exclude children to ensure more accurate outcomes.

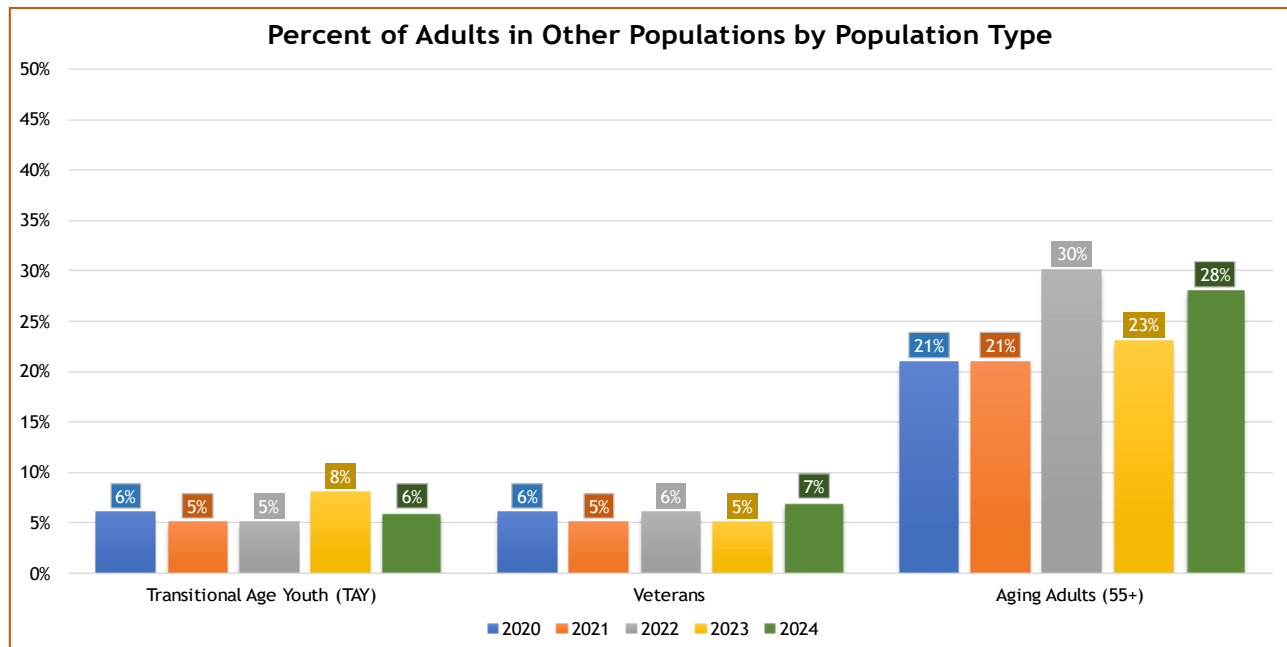


Table 3.7 – Percent of Adults Reporting in Other Priority Populations by Population Type (Five Year Comparison)

## 4. Inventory & Utilization

### Sheltered Inventory

The PWA CoC had a total of 323 sheltered beds (emergency shelter and transitional housing) available the night of the 2024 PIT count and is only a change of one (1) bed from the 2023 count. This results in a utilization rate of 79% based on the 256 persons served in sheltered projects (same utilization as 2023).

Table 4.0 below reports the total available beds by year, project type, household type, and availability (emergency shelter only) as well as the change in beds and the percent change from the previous year.

BED COUNTS BY YEAR							
Project Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in Beds 2023 - 2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
<b>Emergency Shelter (ES)</b>							
Total Beds	270	277	232	281	282	1	0.36%
Beds for AO HH	120	148	126	136	126	-10	-7.35%
Beds for AC HH	150	129	106	145	156	11	7.59%
<i>Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter</i>							
Total Beds	21	21	23	18	18	0	0.00%
Beds for AO HH	3	3	5	3	3	0	0.00%
Beds for AC HH	18	18	18	15	15	0	0.00%
<i>ES Beds by Availability</i>							
Year-Round Beds	230	211	180	235	236	1	0.43%
Overflow Beds	0	2	2	2	2	0	0.00%
Seasonal Beds	40	64	50	44	44	0	0.00%
<b>Transitional Housing (TH)</b>							
Total Beds	41	33	41	41	41	0	0.00%
Beds for AO HH	6	3	3	3	3	0	0.00%
Beds for AC HH	35	30	38	38	38	0	0.00%
Total Beds	311	310	273	322	323	1	0.31%

Table 4.0 – Sheltered Inventory (Five Year Comparison)

Table 4.1 below reports the counts of inventory and persons served in sheltered beds as well as the utilization of those beds as of the 2024 PIT Count. Bed utilization is consistent with 2023 outcomes: 81% of emergency shelter beds were in use (compared to 80% in 2023) and 68% of transitional housing beds were in use (compared to 66% in 2023). This table also provides counts based on household type (AO = Adult-Only Households; AC = Adult/Child Households)

BED UTILIZATION							
Emergency Shelter (ES)	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	164	282	145	228	151	77	81%
AO Households	126	126	111	112	112	0	89%
AC Households	38	156	34	116	39	77	74%
Transitional Housing (TH)	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	14	41	10	28	14	14	68%
AO Households	3	3	3	3	3	0	100%
AC Households	11	38	7	25	11	14	66%
All Sheltered Projects	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	178	323	155	256	165	91	79%
AO Households	129	129	114	115	115	0	89%
AC Households	49	194	41	141	50	91	73%

Table 4.1 – Utilization of Sheltered Inventory (Current Year)

## Permanent Housing Inventory

The PWA CoC has multiple members who operate Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects. The PWA CoC also collaborates with the Veteran's Administration and the PWC Office of Housing and Community Development to identify eligible participants for their programs such as VASH and Housing Choice Vouchers. Additionally, they collaborate with several nonprofit and faith-based organizations that operate affordable housing programs within the community. There were 282 persons physically in housing the night of PIT compared to 233 persons in 2023 which represents a 21% increase.

Table 4.2 below reports the total available permanent housing beds by year, project type, and household type as well as the change in beds and the percent change from the previous year.

BED COUNTS BY YEAR							
Project Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in Beds 2023 - 2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
<b>Other Permanent Housing (OPH)</b>							
Total Beds	9	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	9	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b>							
Total Beds	171	166	166	166	216	50	30%
Beds for AO HH	86	86	87	87	115	28	32%
Beds for AC HH	85	80	79	79	101	22	28%
<b>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</b>							
Total Beds	133	156	132	82	88	6	7%
Beds for AO HH	39	50	45	25	26	1	4%
Beds for AC HH	94	106	87	57	62	5	9%

\* Table includes HUD/VASH program

Table 4.2 – Permanent Housing Inventory (Five Year comparison)

Table 4.3 below reports all non-HUD/VASH (i.e., PSH for veterans and their families) permanent housing beds by year, project type, and household type as well as the changes in beds and the percent change from the previous year.

BED COUNTS BY YEAR							
Project Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change in Beds 2023 - 2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
<b>Other Permanent Housing (OPH)</b>							
Total Beds	9	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	9	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b>							
Total Beds	46	41	41	41	66	25	61%
Beds for AO HH	36	36	37	37	40	3	8%
Beds for AC HH	10	5	4	4	26	22	550%
<b>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</b>							
Total Beds	133	156	132	82	88	6	7%
Beds for AO HH	39	50	45	25	26	1	4%
Beds for AC HH	94	106	87	57	62	5	9%

\* Table excludes HUD/VASH program

Table 4.3 – Non-HUD/VASH Permanent Housing Inventory (Five Year comparison)

### Other Permanent Housing

A PWA CoC member operates two (2) “other” permanent housing projects that are privately funded. These projects offer nine (9) permanent housing beds to single individuals with or without a disability as well as supportive services.

### Permanent Supportive Housing

Three PWA CoC members operate permanent supportive housing projects that receive funding from the HUD CoC Program. Inventory for these programs was increased in FY24 and a new state funded PSH project for households with children was onboarded which added an additional 22 beds to our inventory. Totally, these projects offer 66 permanent housing beds to chronically homeless persons and their families as well as supportive services.

The PWC Office of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with the DC Veteran’s Administration, operate the HUD/VASH program which offers 100 vouchers to disabled veterans and their families in addition to supportive services. The CoC was awarded an additional 25 vouchers in August 2023.

### Rapid Rehousing

Six PWA CoC members operate rapid rehousing projects that receive funding from various sources such as HUD and the Commonwealth. Inventory for rapid rehousing is calculated differently than other projects as there are typically not a set number of units and beds. In Table 4.3, the number of beds for rapid rehousing reflects the number of persons physically in housing the night of the count while the number of units reflects the number of households.

There were 88 persons in housing the night of the count which represents a 7% increase from the previous year (82 persons in 2023). The CoC was able to increase the number of persons housed in RRH projects despite the loss of additional COVID funding. This may be due to the CoC’s increased efforts to develop relationships with landlords and property management companies through incentive programs and the development of a centralized database for affordable housing.

### Permanent Housing Utilization

Table 4.4 below reports the counts of inventory and persons served for the HUD/VASH PSH program as well as the utilization of this inventory as of the 2024 PIT Count. There were 121 persons in CoC housing programs the night of the count which resulted in a utilization rate of 81% (compared to 83% in 2023).

HUD/VASH PSH UTILIZATION							
HUD/VASH Program Counts	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	100	150	65	121	84	37	81%
AO Households	75	75	48	57	57	0	76%
AC Households	25	75	17	64	27	37	85%

\* There are currently 100 vouchers available to the CoC (increased from 75 as of August 2023)

Table 4.4 – Counts of Inventory & Persons Served in the HUD/VASH Program (Current Year)

Table 4.5 below reports the counts of inventory and persons served for all other permanent housing programs as well as the utilization of this inventory as of the 2024 PIT Count.

*Other Permanent Housing:* There were nine (9) persons in housing the night of the count which results in a utilization rate of 100% (compared to 89% in 2023).

*Permanent Supportive Housing:* There were 64 persons in housing the night of the count which results in a utilization rate of 97% (compared to 95% in 2023).

*Rapid Rehousing:* There were 88 persons in housing the night of the count which represents a 7% increase from the previous year (82 persons in 2023). Utilization for RRH is always 100% due to how the data is reported.

BED UTILIZATION							
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	9	9	9	9	9	0	100%
AO Households	9	9	9	9	9	0	100%
AC Households	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	48	66	46	64	48	16	97%
AO Households	40	40	38	38	38	0	95%
AC Households	8	26	8	26	10	16	100%
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	46	88	46	88	53	35	100%
AO Households	25	26	25	26	26	0	100%
AC Households	21	62	21	62	27	35	100%

\* Table excludes HUD/VASH program

\* Utilization for RRH is always 100% due to how the data is reported

Table 4.5 – Counts of Inventory & Persons Served in Permanent Housing (non-HUD/VASH) Programs (Current Year)

## 5. Local Measurements

The PWA CoC collects certain data for local use in addition to data collection requirements set forth by HUD and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). This data helps the PWA CoC better understand the experiences and needs of their local homeless population.

### Prior Year Participation

This measure collects information from all adults on whether they participated in the prior year's count. This information is important as it indicates the effectiveness of PWA CoC efforts to quickly move persons from homelessness to housing as well as concerns with rates of housing retention/recidivism.

Table 5.0 below reports the percentage of adults that participated in the prior year's count. There has been a 13% increase in the number of adults reporting they participated in the prior year's count. Data for this measure was compared to data for the previous year in 2024 to ensure more accurate outcomes.

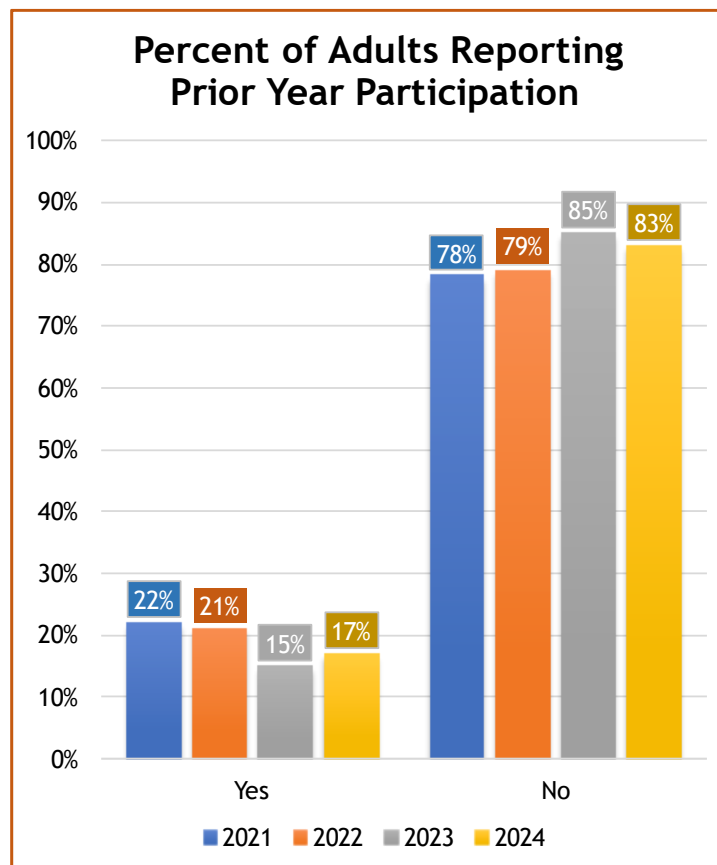


Table 5.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation (Four Year Comparison)

Table 5.1 below reports the number of adults that participated in the prior year's count by project type. There was a 33% increase in adults reporting prior-year participation in emergency shelter projects and a 30% decrease in prior-year participation for the unsheltered population.

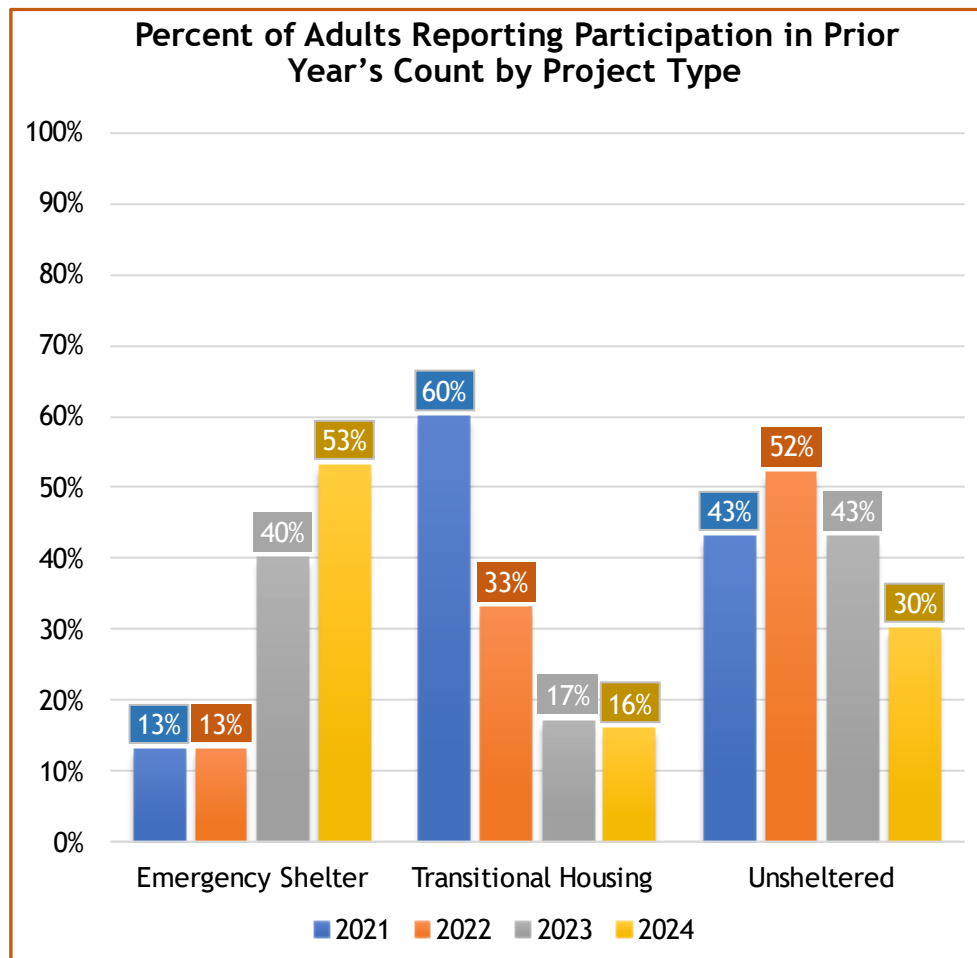


Table 5.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation by Project Type (Four Year Comparison)

## Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness

Table 5.2 below reports the last permanent residence of adults where they lived for 90 or more consecutive days prior to their current episode of homelessness. Permanent housing is defined as any form of rental (including rooms) with or without subsidy, home ownership, or long-term stays with family or friends. Data remains consistent with the previous year and suggests that 86% of adults surveyed in 2024 reported living in permanent housing within the PWA prior to becoming homeless. It is a common misconception that people experiencing homelessness are largely transient when they are usually residents of the CoC from which they request services.

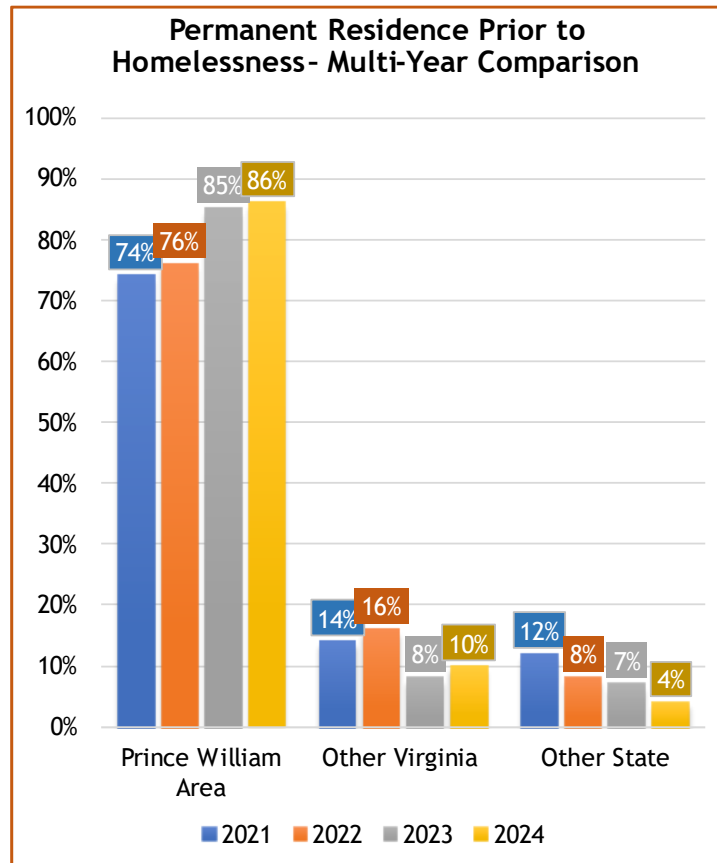


Table 5.2 – Percent of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness (Four Year Comparison)

Table 5.3 below reports the last permanent residence by specific area. 82% of adults surveyed reported living in Prince William County prior to their current episode of homelessness. Manassas City represents 4% of this data and Manassas Park represents 1%.

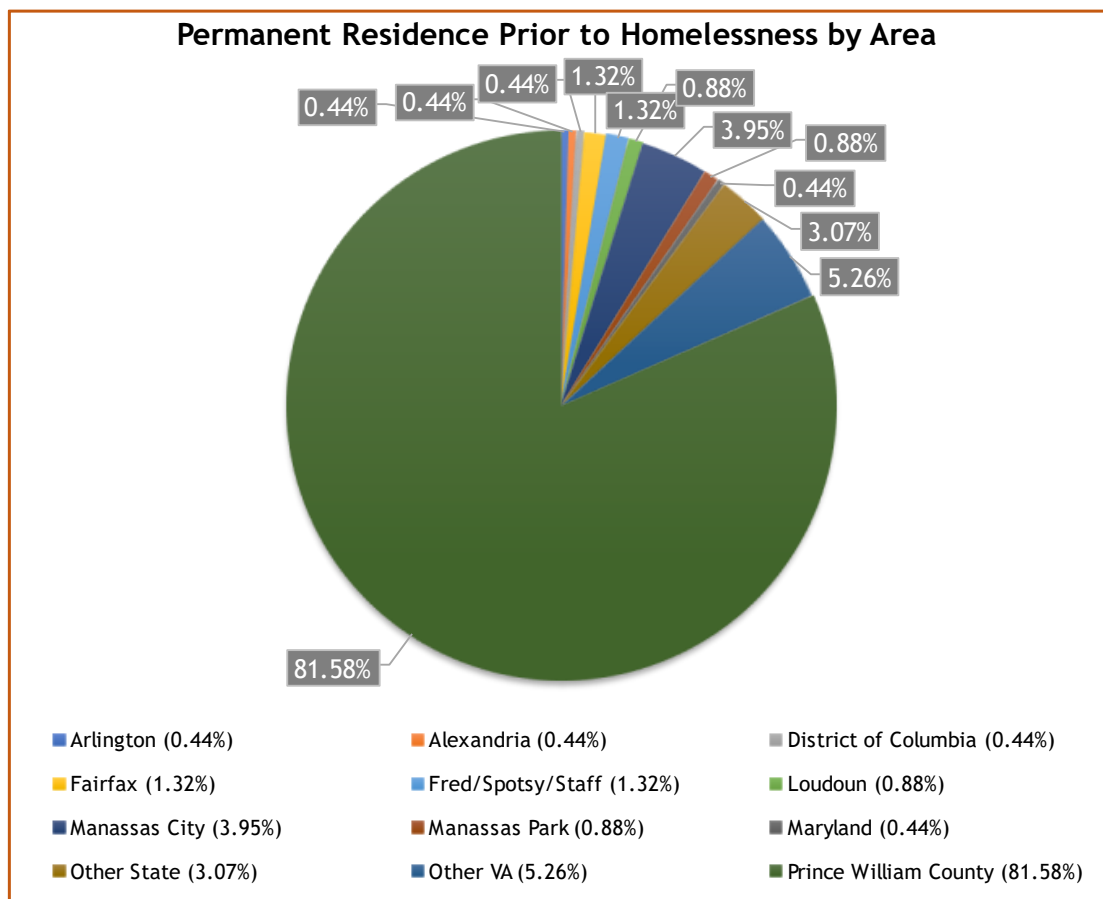


Table 5.3 – Count of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness by Area (Current Year)

## Level of Housing Assistance Needed to Resolve Homelessness

This question was added to the 2022 PIT Survey with the intention of better understanding the level of housing assistance people would need to resolve homelessness and regain independence. This data is reported for all adults surveyed.

The levels of housing assistance are defined as follows:

- One-Time Housing Assistance (deposit and first month's rent)
- Short-Term Housing Assistance (up to 3 months of rental assistance)
- Medium-Term Housing Assistance (up to 6 months of rental assistance)
- Long-Term Housing Assistance (up to 18 months of rental assistance)
- Housing with Long-Term Subsidy (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (long-term subsidy and supportive services for disabled persons)

Table 5.4 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type. Data suggests persons would benefit most from some form of housing with long-term rental assistance (21%) and benefit least from one-time rental assistance (8%). Response data to this question supports the notion that there is not a "one-size fits all" solution to resolving homelessness.

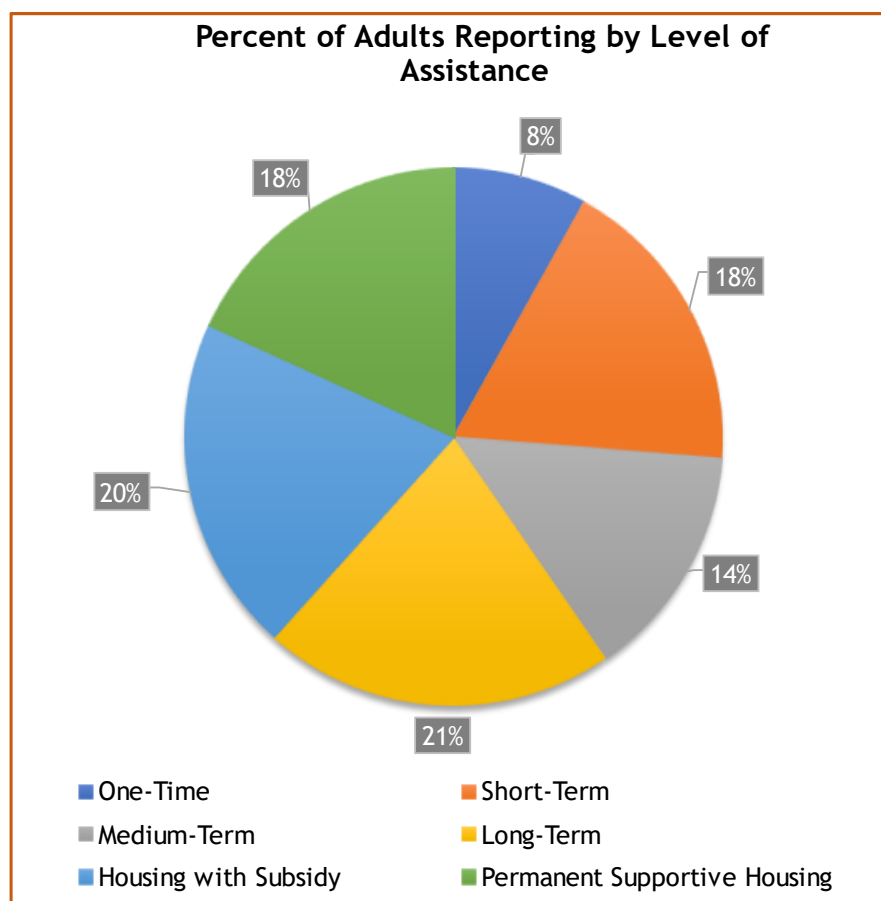


Table 5.4 – Percent of Households Reporting Level of Housing Assistance (Current Year)

Table 5.5 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type and project type. The data suggest responses vary greatly depending on the project type. The data also suggests people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are more likely to need longer-term assistance to resolve their homelessness.

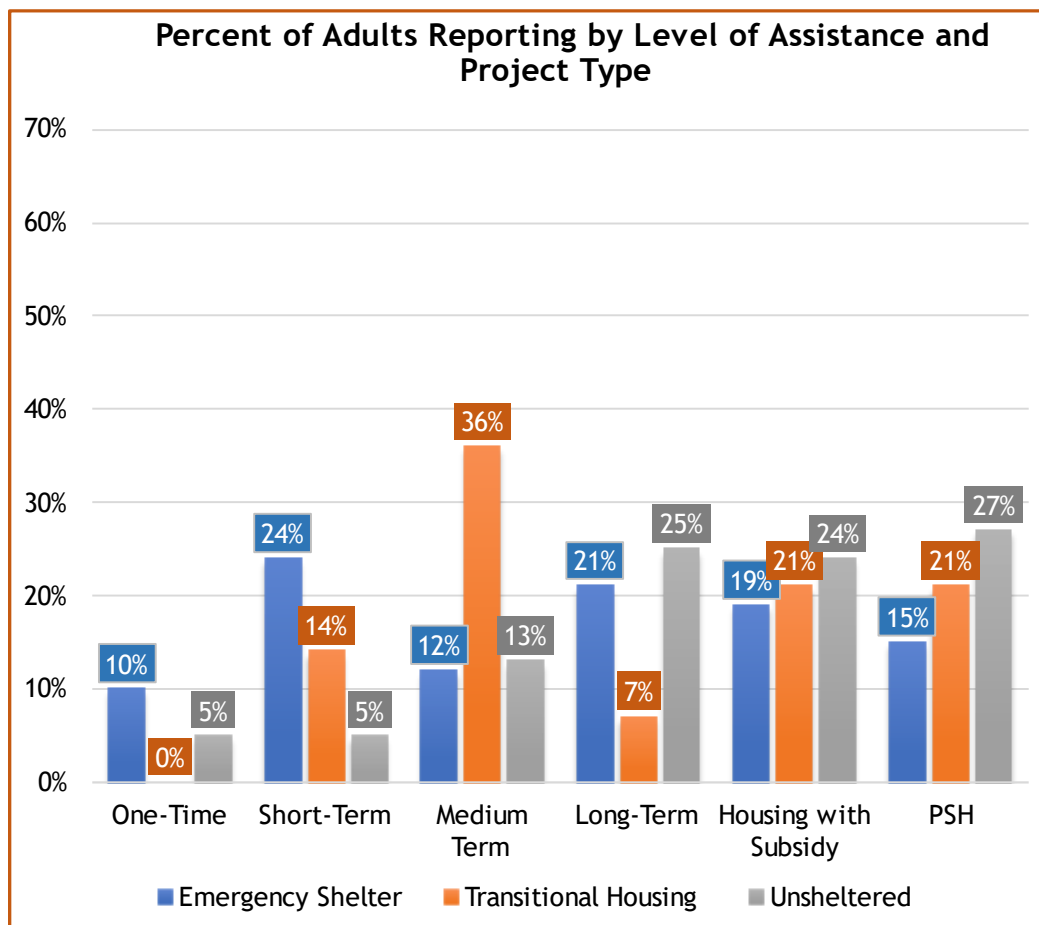


Table 5.5 – Percent of Households Reporting by Level of Assistance and Project Type (Current Year)

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