



# ***Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Committee***



***May 11, 2021***

# Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Call to Order
- II. Items for Approval
  - ❖ YHDP Project Selections
- III. Discussion Items
  - ❖ 2021 PIT Results & Implications
  - ❖ Federal Funding Update: Emergency Housing Vouchers
  - ❖ ICH “Return to Normal”
- IV. Updates/Announcements
- v. Adjournment

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# YHDP Coordinated Community Plan



- ❖ Since being awarded the YHDP grant in the Fall of 2019, the YHDP Community Workgroup convened over 40 meetings to develop the District's Coordinated Community Plan (a progress update to Solid Foundations DC)
- ❖ The community wanted to use the \$4.28 million to fund a **Site-Based PSH program** and a **Rapid Rehousing /Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing Program**
- ❖ HUD approved the Coordinated Community Plan in Fall of 2020

# YHDP Project Selections



- ❖ October 2020 to November 2020: hosted feedback and listening sessions with DC SHY to gain youth input on RFPs
- ❖ Timeline for RFP Process:
  - January 11, 2021: RFP Released
  - February 1, 2021: Pre-Bidders Conference February 1, 2021
  - February 22, 2021: RFP Applications Due
  - Review Panel/Process from February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021
    - ✓ 2 weeks for review; 2 weeks for interviews
    - ✓ 50% of reviewers were youth
- ❖ Providers selected will be required to give presentations to the DC SHY at 6-month and 12-month intervals to update them and gain feedback on the program

# YHDP RFP Selection Panel



## ❖ Youth Panelists:

- DC SHY Members
- YHDP Youth Fellows

## ❖ Provider Panelists:

- Community of Hope

## ❖ Advocate Panelists:

- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Washington Legal Clinic for The Homeless

## ❖ System Level Panelists:

- DHS
- ICH
- TCP

# Results of YHDP Procurement



- ❖ **PSH RFP:** We did not receive any proposals that scored within the competitive range – meaning there were no proposals for PSH that were eligible for consideration.
- ❖ **RRH/Joint TH-RRH RFP:** There were 3 high scoring proposals received.

## As a result:

- ❖ The RFP selection committee selected the top two scoring proposals under the RRH/Joint TH-RRH RFP.
  - SMYAL will launch a Rapid Rehousing Program
  - Sasha Bruce Youthworks will launch a Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Program

# Executive Committee Approval



- ❖ YHDP grants are funded for a two-year grant term
- ❖ After those two years, projects are considered for renewed funding through the CoC NOFA process
- ❖ The Executive Committee serves as the CoC Governing Board and provides input on the CoC NOFA selection process
- ❖ The YHDP Community Workgroup would like your approval of the selected projects



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# 2021 PIT Count Overview



## Today's Discussion:

- ❖ System Context for the 2021 PIT Count
- ❖ PIT Count Background & Overview
- ❖ 2021 PIT Count Totals and Percentage Changes
- ❖ Demographics, Experiences, and Characteristics of Population
- ❖ Sub-Population Detail
- ❖ Inflow Analysis
- ❖ Spatial Analysis on Unsheltered Persons
- ❖ Discussion

# 2021 PIT Count



## Context

- ❖ As part of the strategy to close DC General in 2019 and end the use of hotels as overflow family shelter in the fall of 2020, around 750 families exited the emergency shelter system in 2020. Most families who exited were housed through the Family Rehousing and Stabilization Program (FRSP), also known as rapid rehousing.
- ❖ DHS's Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) has been an essential resource in the District's work to end homelessness among families. HPP assisted nearly 1,000 in 2020.
- ❖ The District enacted one of the strictest eviction moratoriums in the country early in the public health emergency (May 2020).
- ❖ System inflow, for both unaccompanied individuals and families, tapered throughout 2020.



## System Inflow & Returns to Homelessness

- ❖ TCP conducts quarterly reviews of HMIS data to find households (single persons and families) entering the CoC for the first time and households that are returning to the CoC following previous exits.
- ❖ In FY20, counts of people newly experiencing homelessness in the District decreased by 13% for singles and by 12% among families as compared to FY19. Quarterly figures for FY21 to date indicate that similar decreases may occur for the current year.
- ❖ Also saw fewer singles (unaccompanied adults) return to shelter following an exit to permanent housing as compared to FY19, which is likely also due to the same factors limiting new inflow.
- ❖ Fewer families returned to shelter in FY20 than in FY19, but percentage of families in the system who have returned is higher because the family sub-system is so much smaller than it was previously.
- ❖ Continued work to minimize system inflow through prevention or diversion efforts is key to keep the system (single and family) from growing.

# 2021 PIT Count



## What is the PIT Count?

- ❖ The Point-in-Time Count or “PIT Count” **creates a snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in the District** at a single point in time.
- ❖ **Required of every community that receives federal homelessness assistance funds** from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- ❖ **The Community Partnership (TCP) has coordinated and conducted the count** on behalf of the District of Columbia Continuum of Care since 2001.
- ❖ **PIT Data is used locally** to plan programs, allocate funding, track progress toward goals outlined in *Homeward D.C.*, and better meet the needs of our homeless neighbors.
- ❖ **HUD provides a few guidelines** for conducting a PIT Count, but every community develops its own methodology for implementation.

Creates a Snapshot of Homelessness in the District

Secures Funding

Aids Local Planning Efforts

Helps Us Track Progress

Makes Us More Efficient In Meeting Goals

# 2021 PIT Count



## Planning

- ❖ Began in November
- ❖ Same high standards while ensuring safety
- ❖ 12 community-based teams
- ❖ PIT Count Website
- ❖ Training



Thank you so much to our survey volunteers, outreach teams, and agency partners who helped us complete a successful Point-in-Time Count in 2021!

## PIT Count Website



# 2021 PIT Count



## Implementation

- ❖ Jan. 27 9pm-2am
- ❖ Volunteer Waivers and COVID-19 Screenings
- ❖ Using Survey 123
- ❖ Feedback from Team Leaders:
  - 96% said the count went extremely well or very well
  - Keeping changes for next year

2021 Point-in-Time Surveyor Screening

Your Name:\*

Your Email:\*

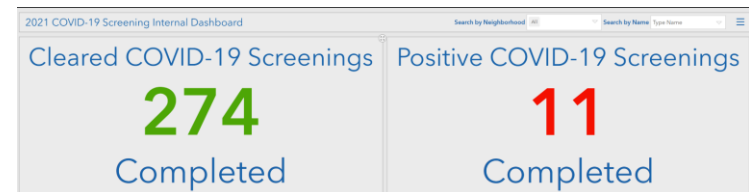
Which neighborhood will you be volunteering in?

Are you exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, and new loss of taste or smell?\*

Yes

No

Do you have a new fever (100.4°F or higher), or a sense of having a fever?\*



COVID-19 Screening and Internal Dashboard used to monitor screening completion and positive screenings.

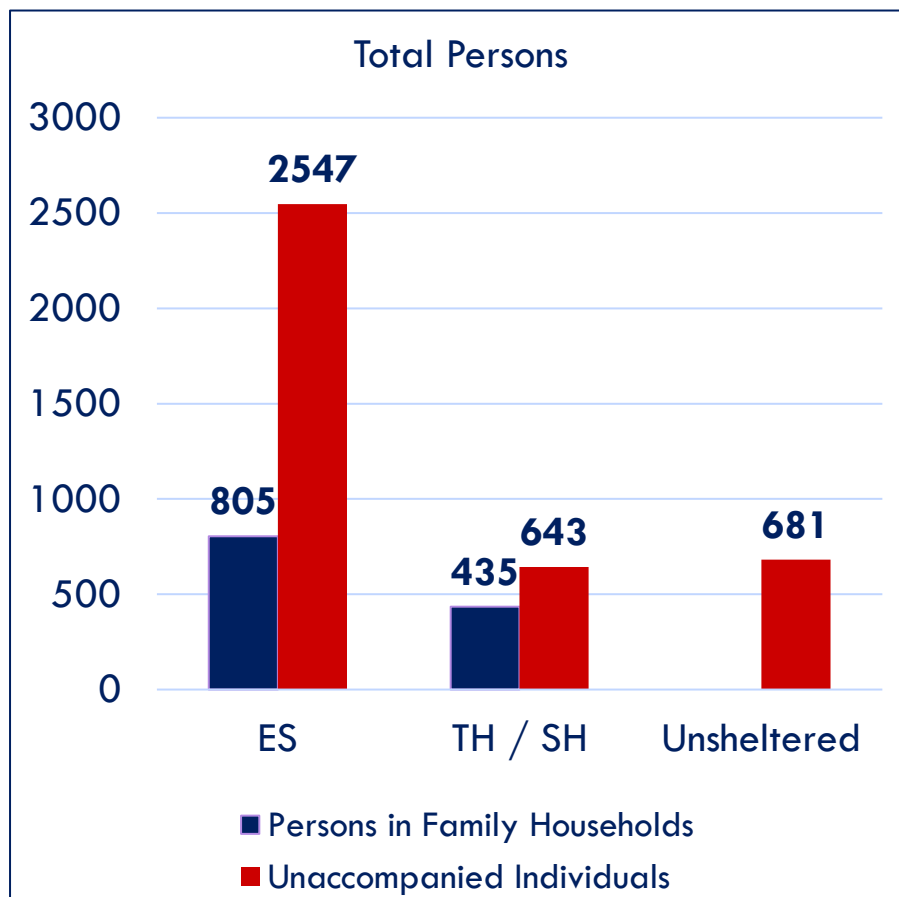


# 2021 PIT Count



## Changes From Last Year

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 5,111 people were experiencing homelessness in the District.



### Percentage Changes

	2020	2021	% Change
<b>Total Persons</b>	6,380	5,111	-19.9%
<b>Unaccompanied</b>	3,947	3,871	-1.9%
<i>Unaccompanied Adults</i>	3,937	3,865	-1.8%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	10	6	-40.0%
<b>Family Members</b>	2,433	1,240	-49.0%
<i>Adults in Families</i>	1,011	494	-51.1%
<i>Children in Families*</i>	1,422	746	-47.5%
<b>Family Units</b>	768	405	-47.3%

\*Includes five (5) children in three (3) Children Only households

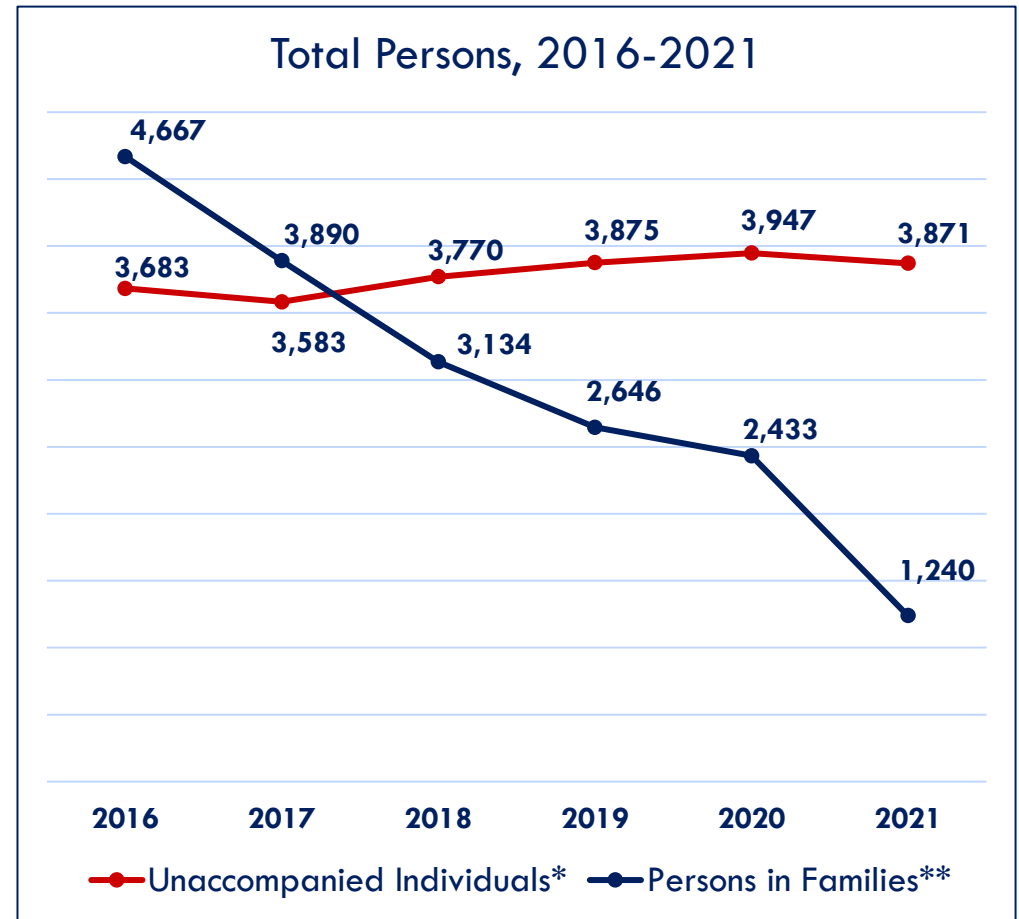


# 2021 PIT Count



## Changes by Year

- ❖ **Since 2016, the count of persons in families has decreased by 73.4%.** The sharp decrease is attributable to rigorous efforts at prevention and the increased availability of housing resources for families since the adoption of *Homeward DC*.
- ❖ **The number of unaccompanied persons, however, has increased by 5.1% during that same time.** The slight decrease seen between 2020 and 2021 is likely a result of the public health emergency & eviction moratorium.



\*Includes nine (9) unaccompanied minors in 2021

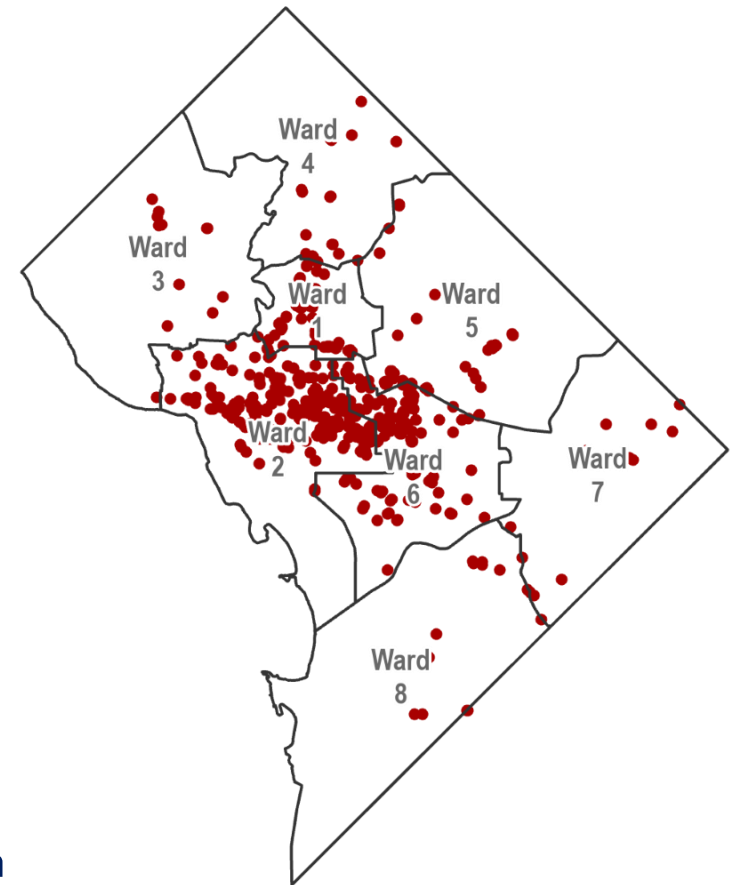
\*\*Includes five (5) children in three (3) Children Only households in 2021

# 2021 PIT Count



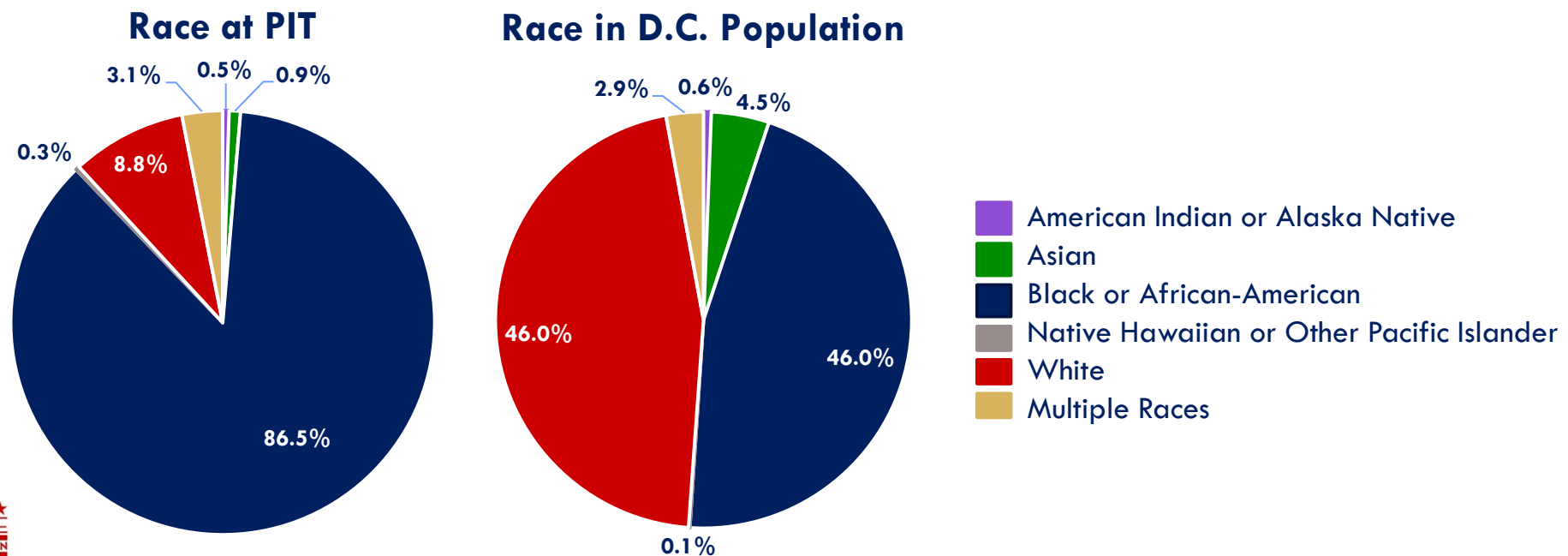
## Unsheltered Persons

- ❖ While the number of unaccompanied persons who were counted has decreased, the number of unsheltered unaccompanied persons has **increased by 4.3%**.
- ❖ **Changes in options.** With an ongoing public health crisis, those entering homelessness or those who used shelter occasionally might view staying in shelter as not an option for them, even considering the extensive safety measures that were implemented.
- ❖ **Changes in unsheltered persons' environment.** Patterns of bedding down quickly changed. Individuals were no longer able to engage with their community in the same way. Sidewalks and parks became places that felt more secluded, like you could stick around. Movement throughout the city became more limited and everyone's interactions with the outside world changed.



## Race and Ethnicity

- ❖ **African Americans are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness in the District. 86.5% of all adults who are experiencing homelessness are Black/African American, yet only 46.0%\*\* of District residents are Black/African American.**
- ❖ Additionally, 4.9% of adults identify as Hispanic or Latinx.



# 2021 PIT Count

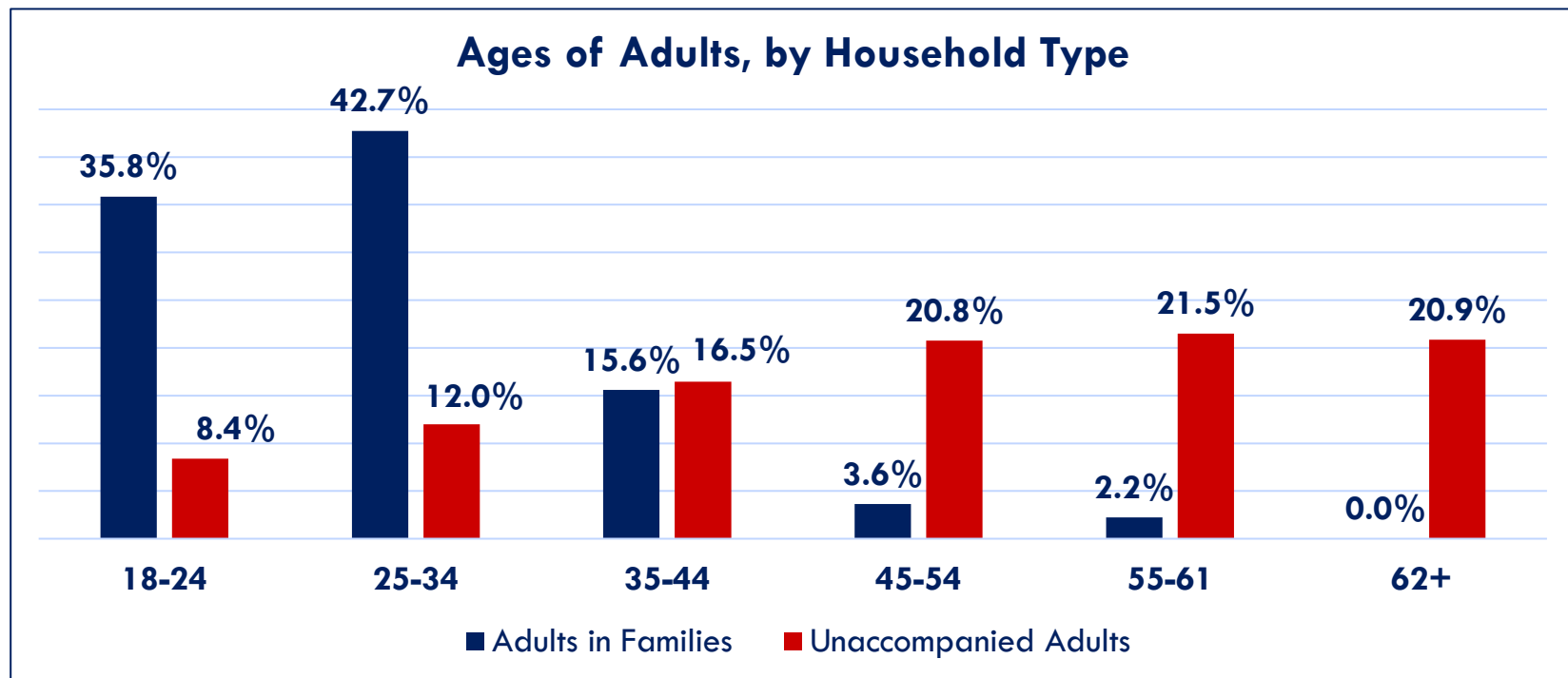


## Ages

**Unaccompanied Adults:** median age is 52 years old, oldest adult is 87 years old.

**Adults in Families:** median age is 28 years old, oldest adult is 61 years old.

**Children:** All unaccompanied minors between the ages 13 – 17, the median age of children in families is 5 years old, children in families make up 60.2% of persons in households.

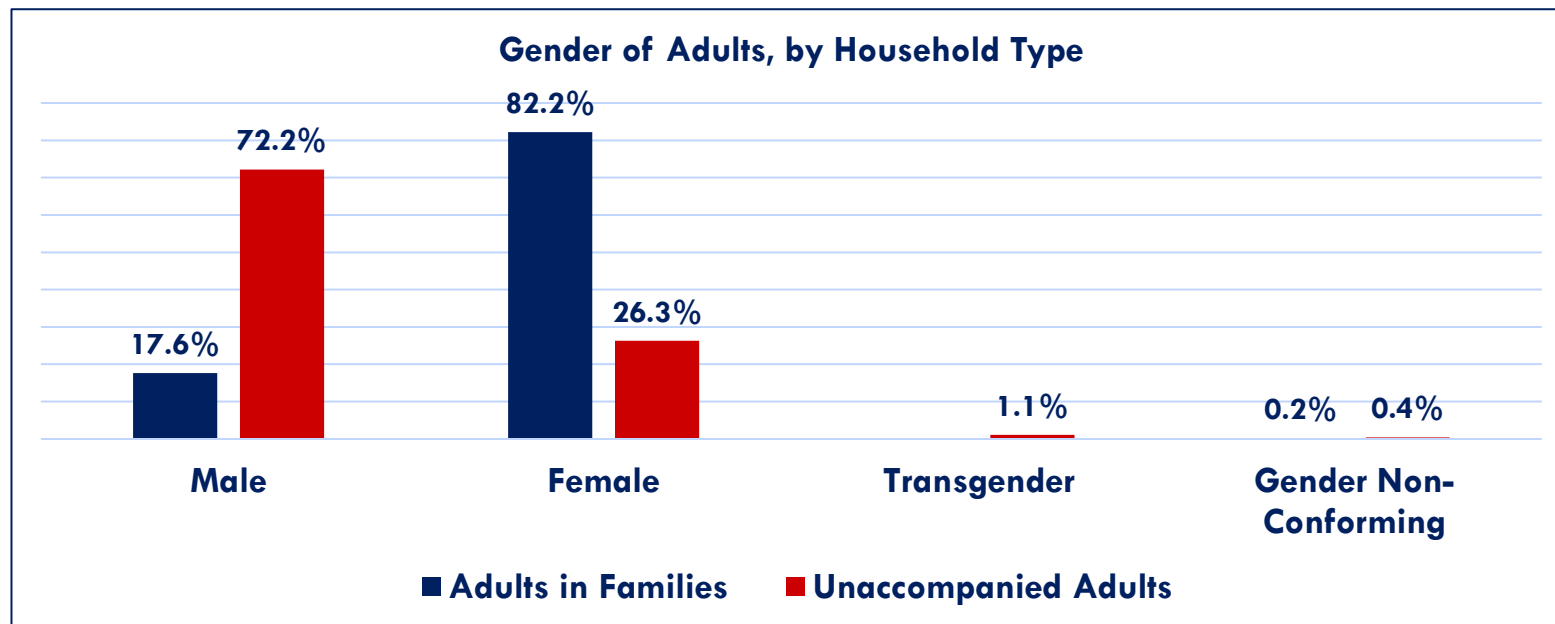


# 2021 PIT Count



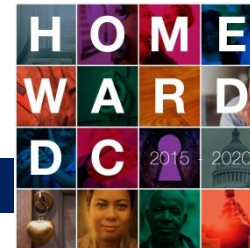
## Gender

- ❖ **Men make up 72.2% and women make up 26.3% of all single adults.** Additionally, 0.2% are trans male (FTM)\*, 0.9% are trans female (MTF)\*, 0.4% are gender non-conforming.
- ❖ **Women make up the greatest share of all adults in family households, at 82.2%.**



\*Includes those persons who self-identified as trans MTF and FTM or those who choose to select a different gender assigned to them at birth from their current gender identity. Others may be counted in “Male” or “Female” if they did not specifically identify as trans or did not provide information about the gender assigned to them at birth.

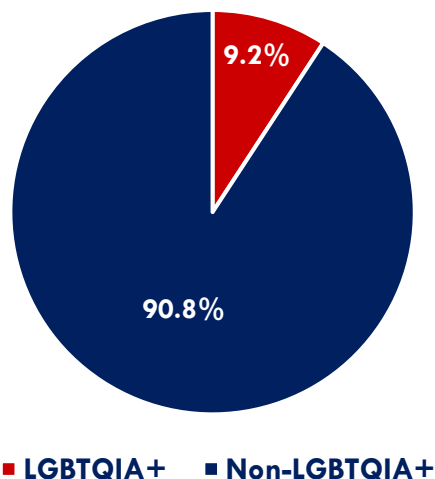
# 2021 PIT Count



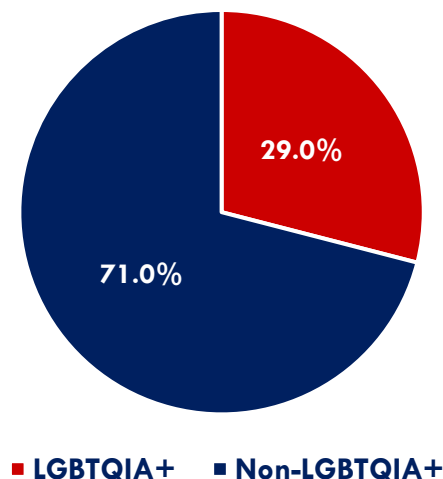
## LGBTQIA+

- ❖ 9.2% of all adults counted at PIT identify as LGBTQIA+, the rate is higher among Transitional Age Youth (ages 18 to 24) where 29.0% identified as LGBTQIA+.
- ❖ 9.5% of all Unaccompanied Adults and 7.3% of Adults in Families identified as LGBTQIA+.

**Total Adults**



**Transitional Age Youth**



# 2021 PIT Count



## Disabilities & Health Conditions

- ❖ Mental health conditions have increased for both unaccompanied adults and adults in families.
- ❖ While substance use has decreased slightly.

## Subpopulations

- ❖ Adults in families showed an increased in rates of past experience of domestic violence, the rate stayed the same for unaccompanied adults. This may be due to decreased size of families counted between 2020 and 2021.

## Benefits and Income

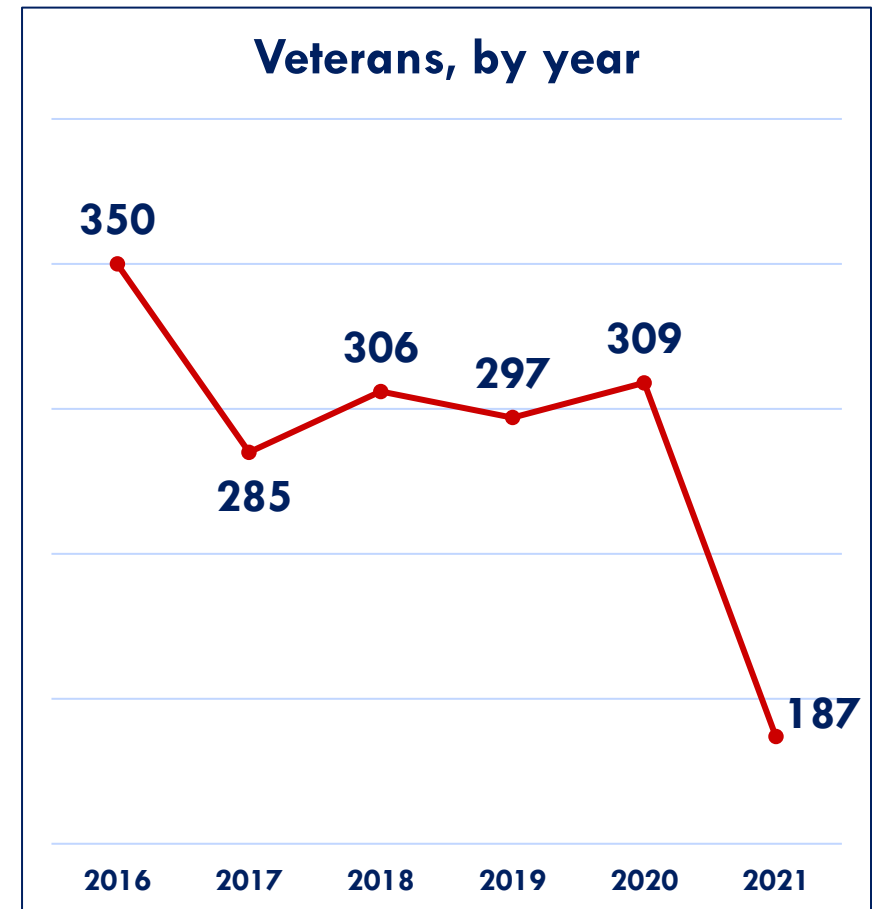
- ❖ Roughly 10% of total adults reported being employed which is an 8.6% decrease from 2020.
- ❖ TANF remains the primary income source for families and SSI/SSDI for unaccompanied adults.

# 2021 PIT Count



## Sub-Population Detail: Veterans

- ❖ Veterans experiencing homelessness **decreased by 49% between the 2020 and 2021 PIT counts.** 3 Veterans counted were persons in families.
- ❖ The total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness is **down by 61% since 2016.**
- ❖ 295 Veterans were housed through PSH, SSVF, and other resources.
- ❖ In 2019, an average of 82 Veterans were identified as newly experiencing homelessness or returning to homelessness each month, compared to an average of 58 Veterans each month in 2020.





# 2021 PIT Count



## Sub-Population Detail: Chronically-Homeless

- ❖ The **rate of chronicity has increased** for both unaccompanied adults and family households between 2020 and 2021.
- ❖ Though the **rate is higher for families, the actual number of families experiencing chronic homelessness is lower**, this is due to the steep decrease in the number of families in emergency shelter.
- ❖ There are indications that inflow into the system has slowed during the pandemic and, at least for unaccompanied adults, housing placements have also been impacted.

Chronically Homeless*	2020		2021	
	%	#	%	#
Unaccompanied Adults	41.5%	1337	50.2%	1618
Family Households	5.7%	33	9.8%	23

\*Data on chronic homelessness includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more in total, either continuous or 4 episodes in the past 3 years and have a disabling condition. Rates of chronicity are calculated out of adults in emergency shelter, safe havens, or those who are unsheltered and do not include adults residing in transitional housing programs.

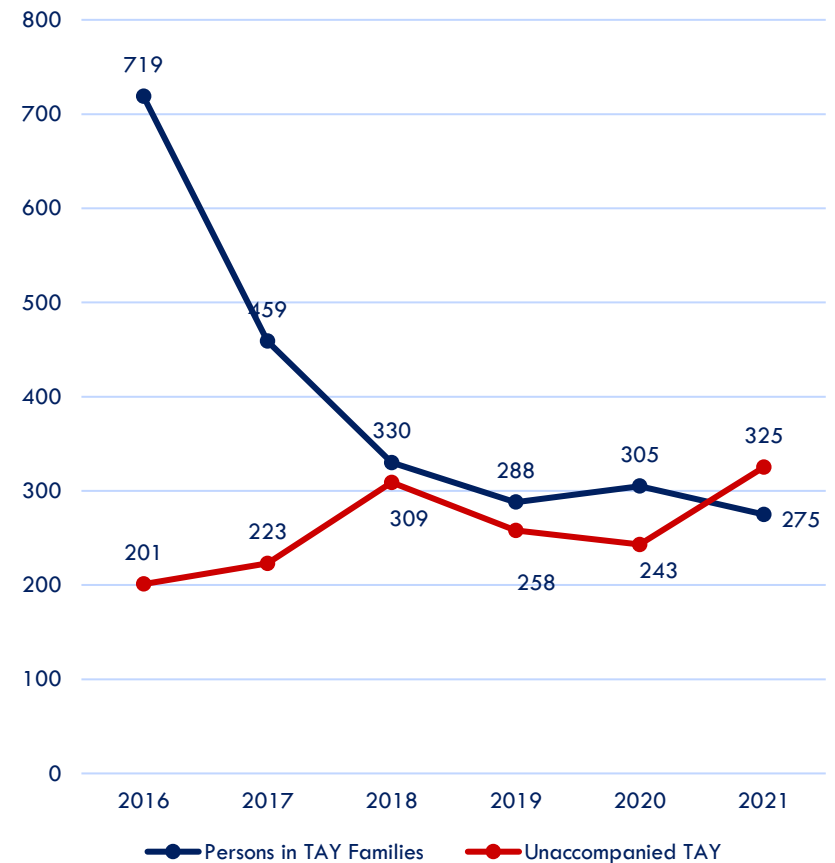
# 2021 PIT Count



## Sub-Population Detail: Youth

- ❖ In the 2021 PIT count, there were 116 family households (275 persons) where the head of household was a Transitional Age Youth (TAY), a 43% decrease from the 202 households counted in 2020. The reduction in youth-headed family households is tied to the overall reduction in the number of families in the system.
- ❖ The increases in unaccompanied TAY and decreases in TAY family households follows trends reported on in the Homeless Youth Census.

Youth, by year



# 2021 PIT Count



## Takeaways

- ❖ The sharp percentage decrease between 2020 and 2021 is driven by ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness among families whenever possible (through programs like HPP and ERAP) and ensure rapid connection back to permanent housing for families that do enter shelter (~750 families exited shelter to housing during the time period).
- ❖ The slight decrease in the count of unaccompanied individuals between 2020 and 2021 may be a result of the public health emergency and eviction moratorium, which could have slowed inflow and returns to the system.
- ❖ The increased number of unaccompanied individuals who are chronically homeless might signal timing-in to chronicity, or better reporting through the PIT Count survey on factors that determine chronic homelessness.

# Inflow Analysis 2021



- ❖ To better understand system inflow and usage patterns in 2021, TCP replicated the inflow analysis first completed in 2018.
- ❖ The intent of this analysis is to better understand the historical CoC system use of the unaccompanied individuals counted in emergency shelter during the PIT Count.
- ❖ By comparing 2018 and 2021, we can see what shifts may have occurred in the past three years.

# Inflow Analysis 2021



- ❖ Just as in 2018, this was done with the intent to look at how many of the individuals were:
  - ✓ Experiencing homelessness again after a previous exit from the CoC to some kind of permanent housing (i.e. placement in PSH, documented exit to housing on their own, etc.);
  - ✓ In their first and only episode of experiencing homelessness; OR
  - ✓ In one of multiple episodes of homelessness over time.
- ❖ The system lookback used entries into the HMIS, from primary records in LBS, ES, TH, or housing programs and supplementary records from CAHP, street outreach, and day service engagements to construct a map of an individual's touchpoints in our system since their first entry until the 2021 PIT Count.

# Inflow: Service Pattern

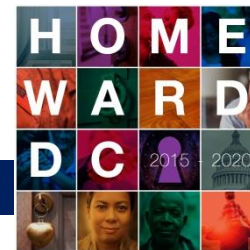


Service Patterns	2021 Single Women	2018 Single Women	2021 Single Men	2018 Single Men
<b>Category #1:</b> Previously housed, but returned to the CoC	7%	5%	3%	4%
<b>Category #2:</b> Multiple episodes (services received more than 1 year apart)	35%	34%	45%	43%
<b>Category #3:</b> First/only episode, has lasted more than 1 year	35%	28%	36%	31%
<b>Category #4:</b> First/only episode, has lasted less than 1 year	23%	33%	17%	22%

# Category #1: Returns from CoC Housing Programs



- ❖ This category includes an individual who had a record of a permanent housing entry and a subsequent entry back into homelessness, it does not include a person who may be matched to a housing resource but has yet to – or never – moved into a unit.
- ❖ 7% of single women and 3% of single men, this is similar to 3 years ago.
- ❖ Though system data from FY20 showed decreases in returns for that period only, this category is for a person's entire history, not just returns in the past year.



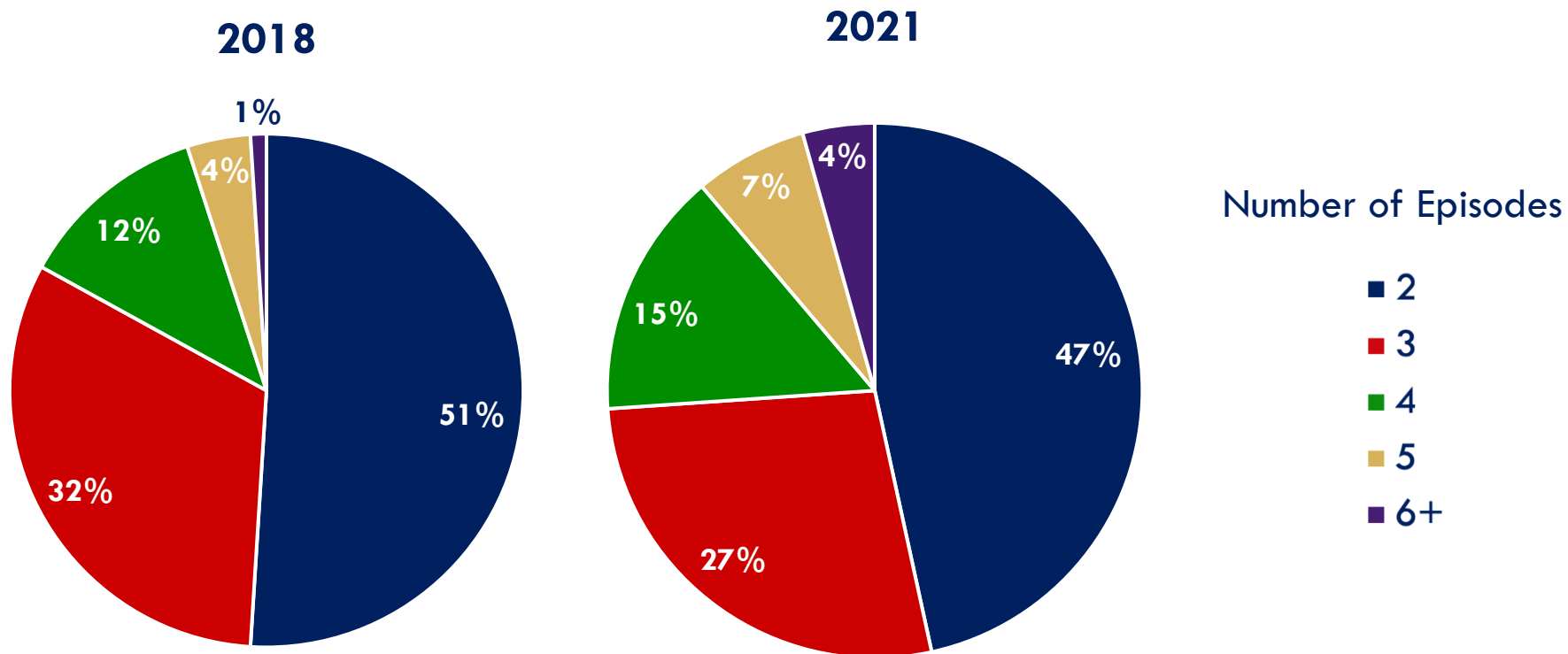
## Category #2: Multiple Episodes

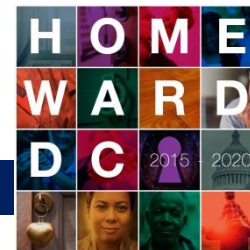
- ❖ Episodes were constructed based on continuous usage at any point in the system with a break of one year or more.
- ❖ 35% of single women and 45% of single men fall into this category, similar to 2018.
- ❖ Most individuals (47%) had only 2 historical episodes.
- ❖ Average amount of time between those with only 2 episodes in their life was around 6 years.



# Category #2: Multiple Episodes

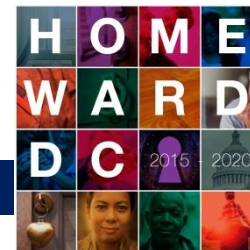
Distribution of multiple episodes





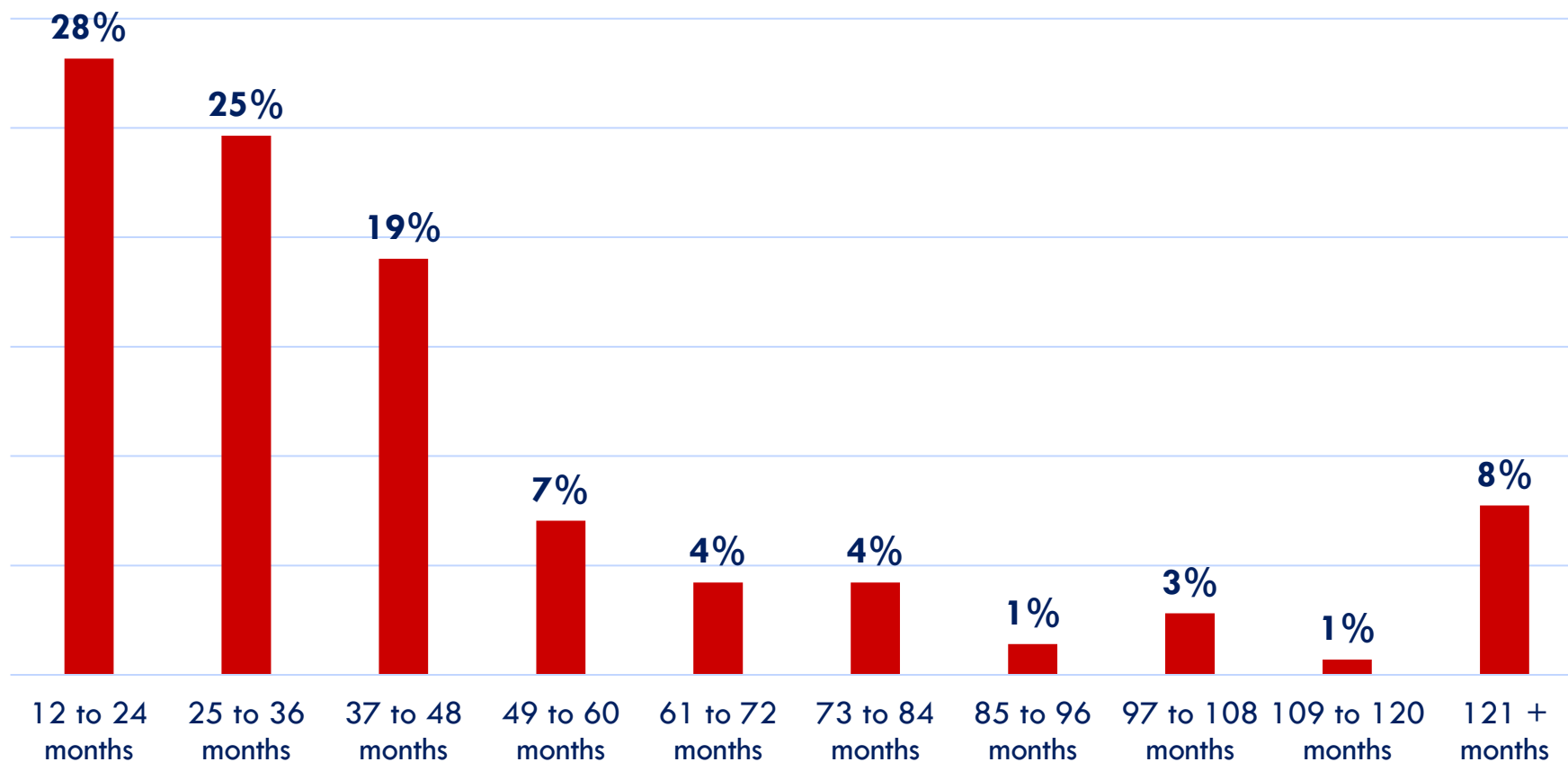
## Category #3: First/Only Time Homeless (>1 yr)

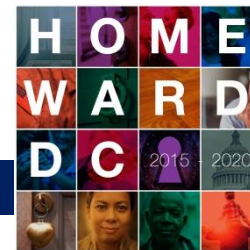
- ❖ The 2021 analysis found an increase in this category overall, 35% of women and 45% of men.
- ❖ The median length of time since first entry for this category was just under 3 years (35 months).
- ❖ 28% are between 1 and 2 years.
- ❖ 47% have been experiencing homelessness for 3 or more years.



# Category #3: First/Only Time Homeless (>1 yr)

Time Since Beginning of Only Episode of Homelessness, >1





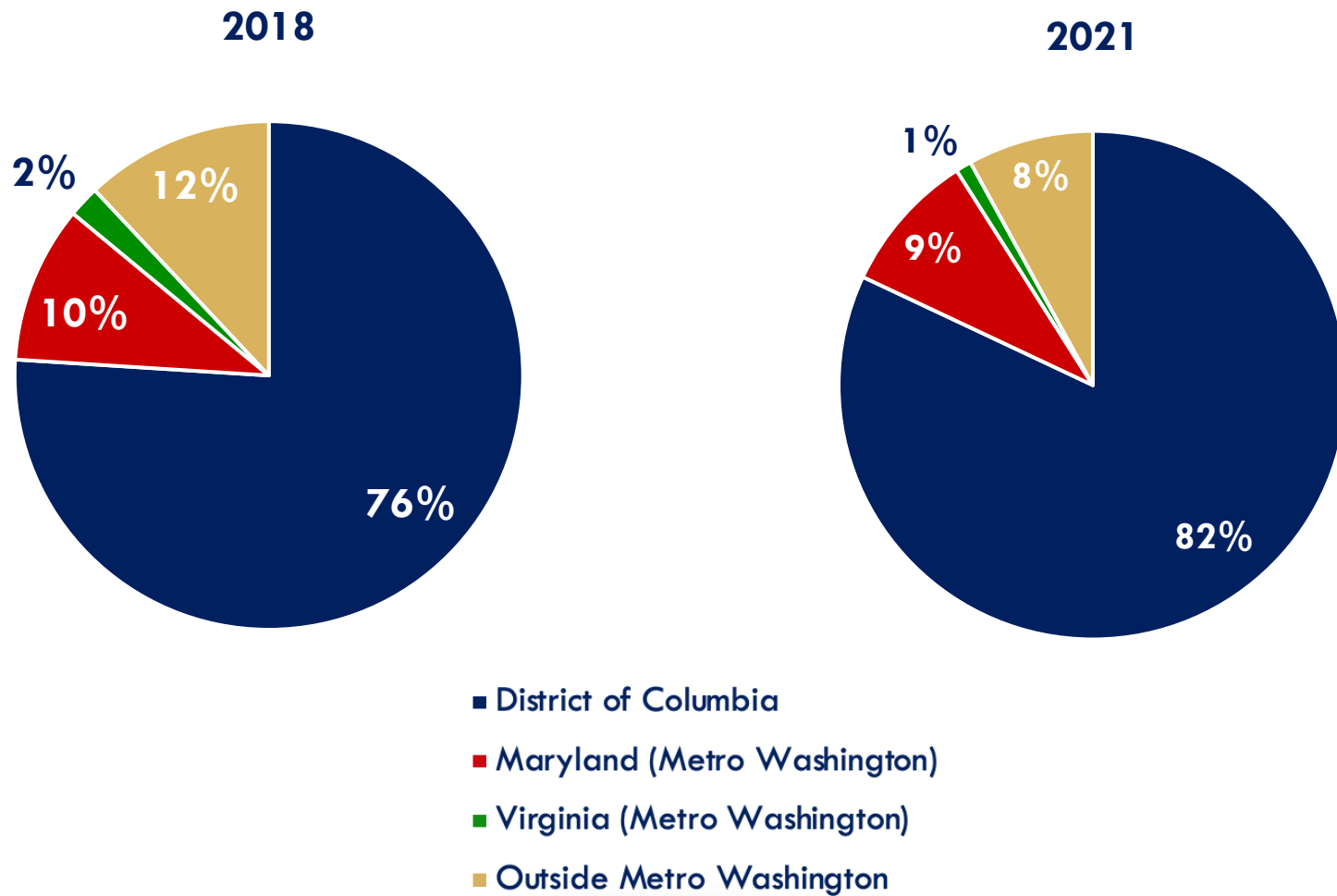
## Category #4: First/Only Time Homeless (<1 yr)

- ❖ Between the 2018 and 2021 analyses, there was a decrease in the number of individuals counted whose only episode of homelessness began less than a year prior.
- ❖ This tracks with decreased inflow into the system over FY20 and the beginning of FY21 and decrease at PIT.
- ❖ 23% of women and 17% of men are in this category.

# Residency



## Zip Code of Last Place of Residency At Shelter Intake



# Takeaways



- ❖ System usage looks similar to 3 years ago.
- ❖ The slight increases in the number of people who are counted in their first episode lasting more than a year tracks with increases in chronicity overall.
- ❖ With new inflow slowed, due to the public health emergency, there is an opportunity to focus on some of the most vulnerable individuals in the system: those with several years' history and multiple long episodes.

# Spatial Analysis



- ❖ To better understand the demographics and characteristics of those counted as unsheltered, TCP completed a spatial analysis using GIS data collected during the street surveys.
- ❖ Go to: <https://arcg.is/9enmq> to follow along.

# 2021 PIT Count



***Thank you for helping us complete the 2021 Street Count!***

## ***Government Partners:***

DC Department of Human Services (DHS)  
DC Interagency Council on Homelessness (DCICH)  
Executive Office of the Mayor, Muriel Bowser

## ***Community Organizations:***

Community Connections  
Everyone Home DC  
Foundry UMC  
Friendship Place  
HER  
HIPS  
LAYC  
Miriam's Kitchen  
National Community Church  
Pathways to Housing DC  
VA Community Resource and Referral Center





# 2021 PIT Count



## TCP Contacts:

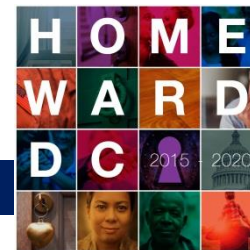
**Tom Fredericksen** | *Chief of Policy & Programs*  
tfredericksen@community-partnership.org

**Elisabeth Young** | *Senior Analyst*  
eyoung@community-partnership.org

**Molly Vetter** | *Analyst*  
mvetter@community-partnership.org

**Tyrell McQueen** | *Analyst*  
tmcqueen@community-partnership.org

# Discussion



- ❖ Any questions about the data presented today?
- ❖ Any additional questions for analysis?
- ❖ Any changes to strategies you are thinking about based on this data?



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# HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers



- ❖ Mayor Bowser to release FY22 budget on May 27.
  - More information on both local investments and American Recovery Plan (ARP) investments will be shared at June Executive Committee meeting.
- ❖ In the meantime, HUD just released more information on the Emergency Housing Vouchers funded in the ARP.
  - District is getting an estimated \$11.7M for EHV.
  - Implementation Guidance is provided in [PIH Notice 2021-15](#)

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# Return to Normal



- ❖ Overview of Survey Questions
- ❖ Summary of Results:
  - Who took the survey
  - Meeting Preferences
  - Feedback
- ❖ Recommendations & Discussion

# Survey Questions



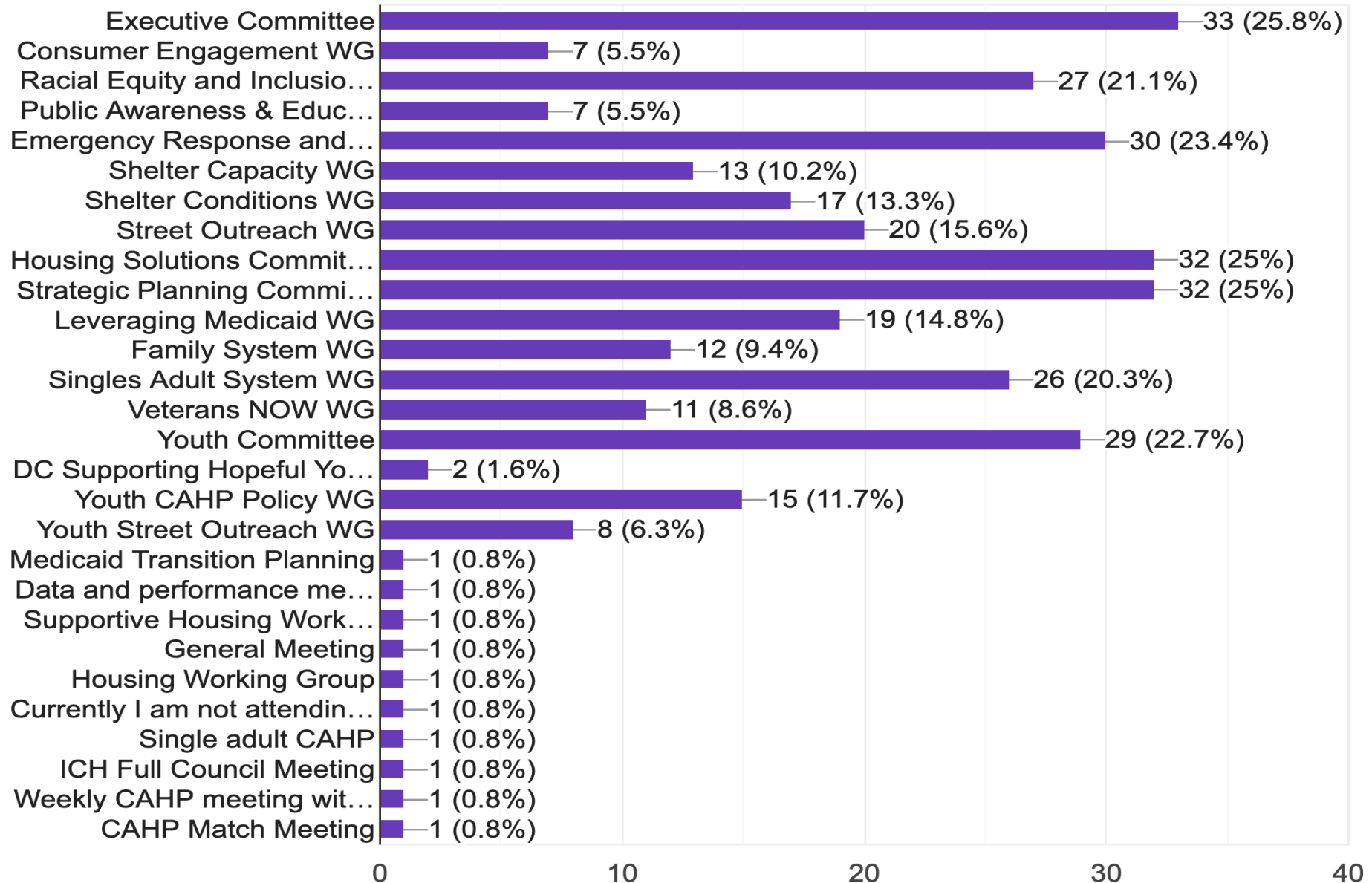
- ❖ Overall, how do you prefer to meet?
  - If preference depends on Committee/WG, additional questions to determine how preference maps to specific committees/WGs
- ❖ Likelihood of attending in person
  - if virtual is an option?
  - if virtual is not an option?
- ❖ Feedback on Virtual Meetings
  - What is working well? What is not working well?
  - Recommendations and other comments/feedback?
- ❖ Who are you?
  - What constituent of the ICH do you represent?
  - Which meetings do you regularly attend?

# Context: Who took the survey?



Which meetings do you regularly attend (virtual or in person)?

128 responses



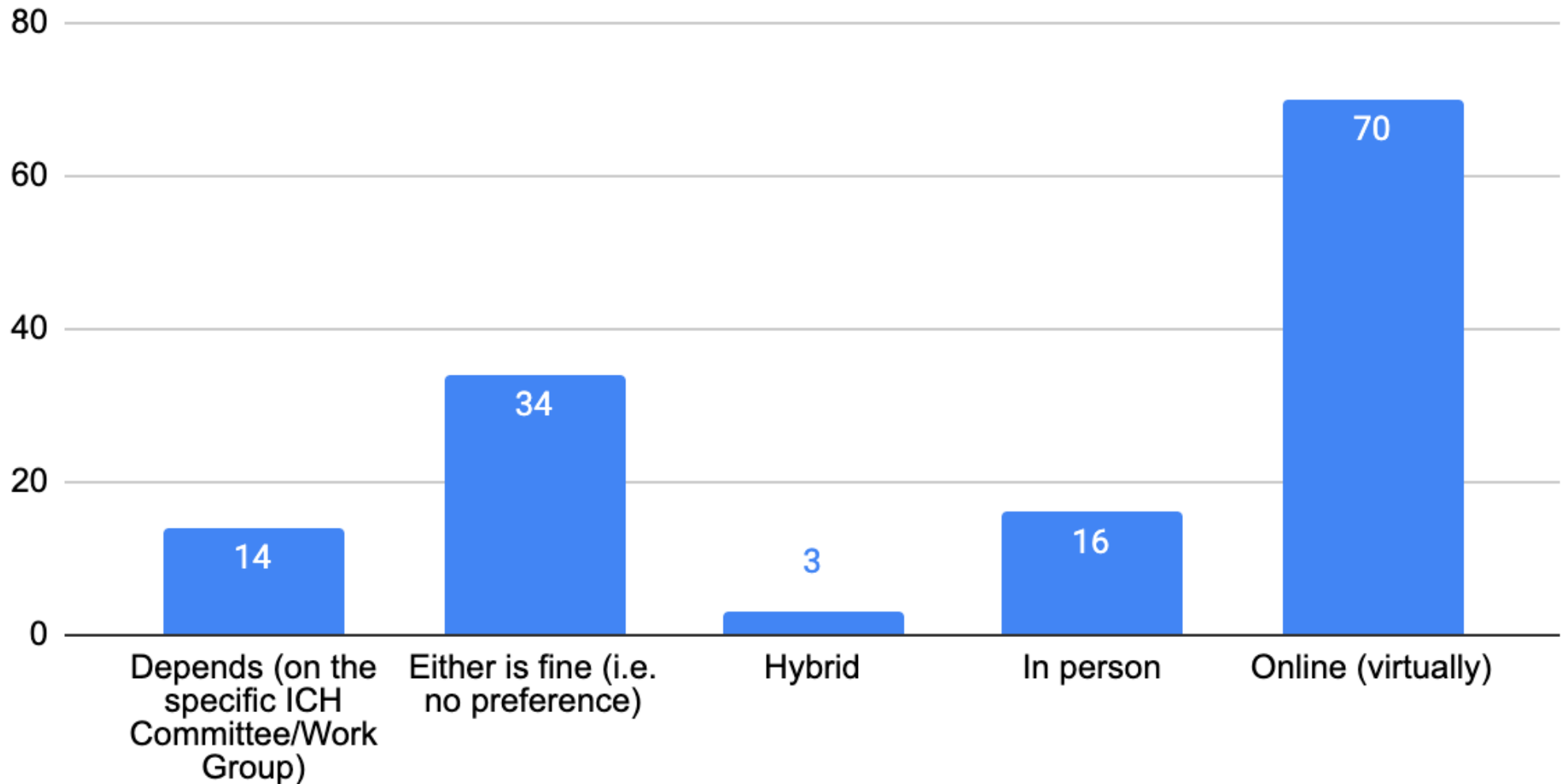


# Results for Overall Preference



## Overall, how do you prefer to meet?

Total of 137 Survey Respondents

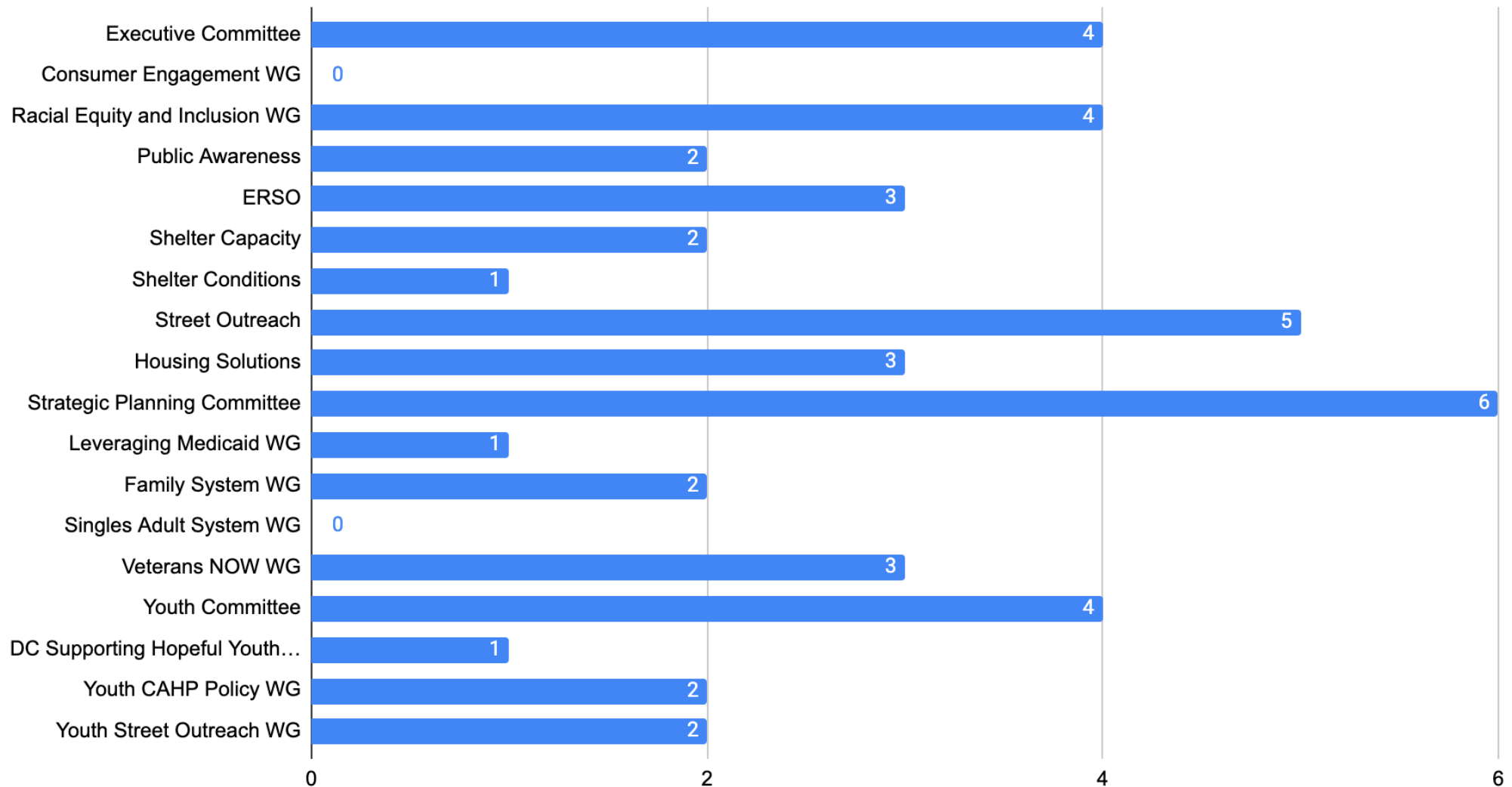


# Deeper Dive on In Person Preference



## Meetings regularly attended by respondents with in person preference

16 responses

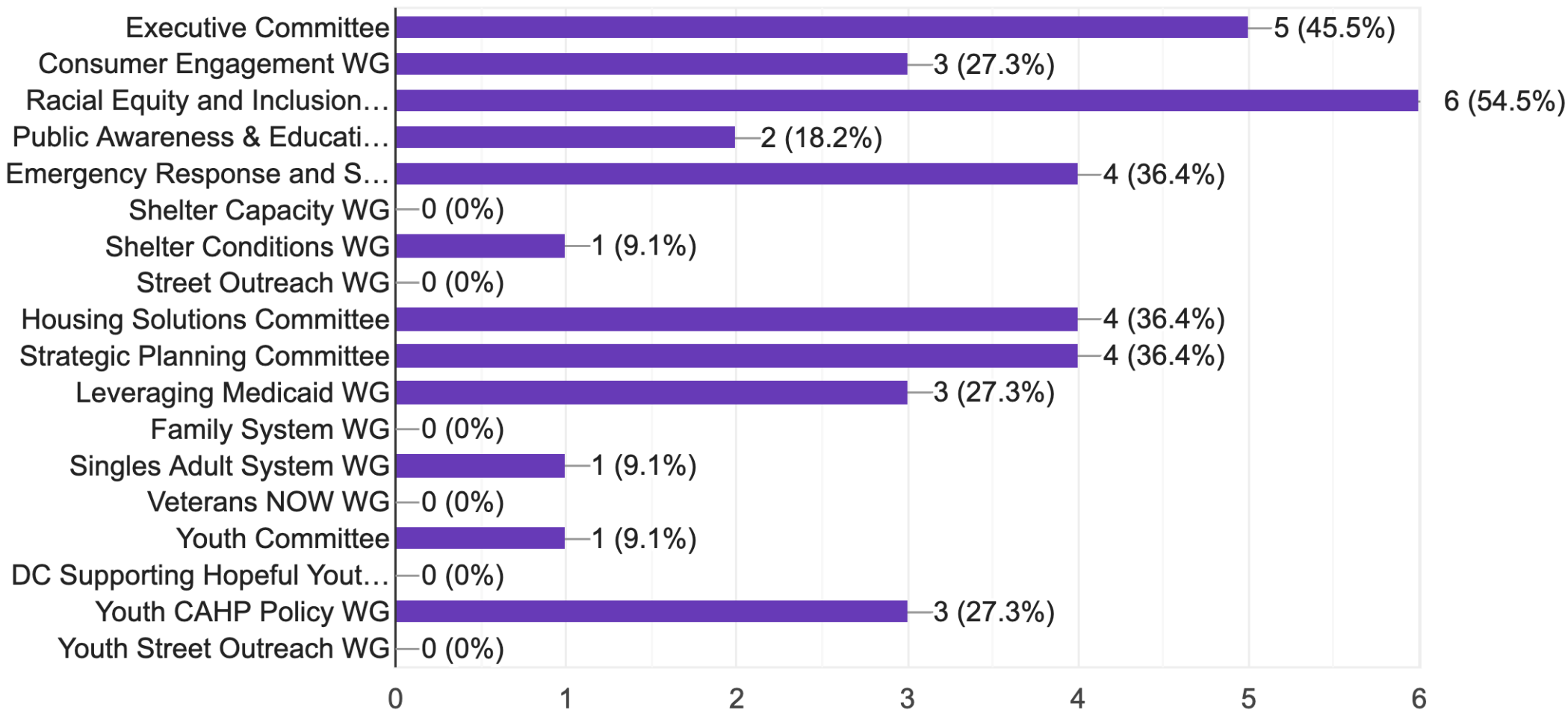


# Deeper Dive on Depends Preference



Which ICH Committee/Work Group do you prefer to meet in person?

11 responses





## ❖ What's Working Well

- Chat function
- Breakout groups
- Sound quality
- increased participation from broad range of staff

## ❖ What's NOT Working Well

- personal connections & synergy
- too many presentations, less discussion/dialogue
- lack of understanding in some working mtgs b/c so many new participants
- harder to moderate b/c can't read body language

## ❖ Tools to Improve Meetings

- Zoom & Teams > WebEx
- white and jam board
- covenant for virtual meetings. E.g.:
  - ✓ cameras on,
  - ✓ conventions for chat and raise hand functions,
  - ✓ facilitation to ensure frequent talkers do not crowd the space and to queue those who have not contributed.

# Recommendation & Discussion



- ❖ Given survey results, may make sense to
  - continue with virtual mtgs
  - test recommended tools & covenants
- ❖ Check-in again with another survey 6 months from now (in Sept/Oct) to re-evaluate



# Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Call to Order
- II. Items for Approval
  - ❖ YHDP Project Selections
- III. Discussion Items
  - ❖ 2021 PIT Results & Implications
  - ❖ Federal Funding Update: Emergency Housing Vouchers
  - ❖ ICH “Return to Normal”
- IV. Updates/Announcements**
- v. Adjournment

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