



District of Columbia
Interagency Council on Homelessness



July 3, 2018

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- II. Public Comments
- III. 2018 Point-in-Time Results
- IV. Inflow Analysis
- V. Public Comments (*time permitting*)
- VI. Adjournment

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What is the PIT Count?



- ❖ The Point-in-Time Count (PIT) **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 homeless 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, to allocate funding, to track progress toward goals outlined in *Homeward D.C.*, and better understand the needs of our homelessness neighbors.
- ❖ **HUD provides guidelines** for conducting a PIT Count, but every community develops its own methodology.

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

Key Definitions



HUD requirement: A complete count (enumeration) of “literally homeless” families and individuals:

Literally homeless:

1. **Unsheltered** (i.e. persons “on the street”);
2. **Staying in Emergency Shelter** (severe weather, low barrier or temporary); or
3. **Staying in Transitional Housing** facilities.

Note: This does not include persons who are “doubled-up” or who are temporarily residing in institutional settings, i.e. hospitals, justice systems, treatment facilities, foster care, etc.

Household types:

Family:

Adult Families: an adult head of household (18 and older)

Young Families: with a minor head of household (17 and under)

Single:

Unaccompanied (single) Adults (18 and older)

Unaccompanied (single) Minors (17 and under)

2018 Point-in-Time Results



On January 24th, **6,904** people were experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia, or about **1 person out of every 100** District residents.

UNSHELTERED: 600 Persons

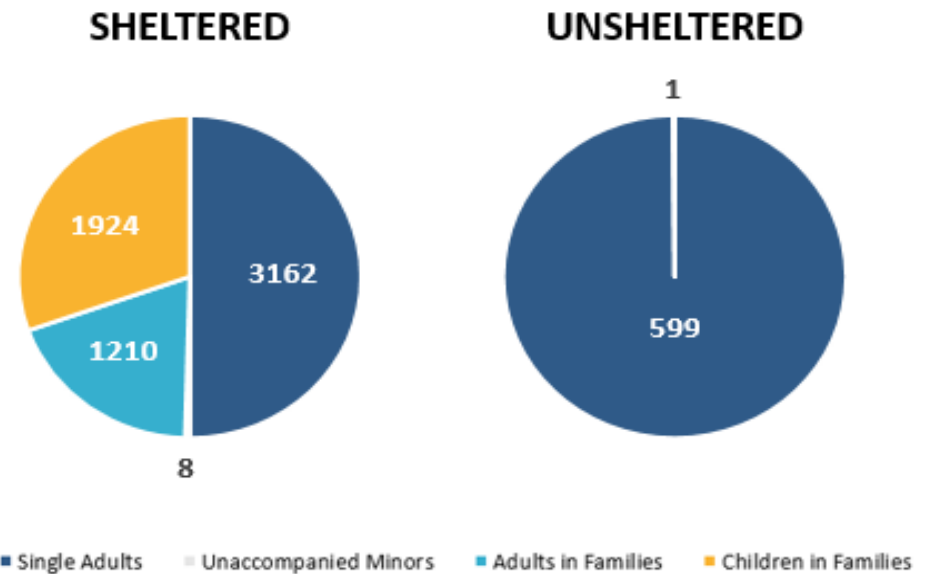
- 599 Single Adults
- 1 Unaccompanied Minor
- No Families

EMERGENCY SHELTER: 5,095 Persons

- 2,467 Single Adults
- 5 Unaccompanied Minors
- 1,010 Adults in Families
- 1,613 Children in Families

TRANSITIONAL HSG: 1,209 Persons

- 695 Single Adults
- 3 Unaccompanied Minors*
- 200 Adults in Families
- 311 Children in Families



* 3 unaccompanied minors are housed in a host homes program and are not living independently.

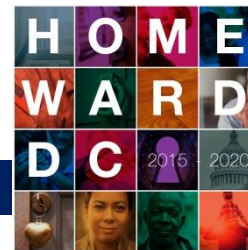
2018 Point-in-Time – Change from 2017



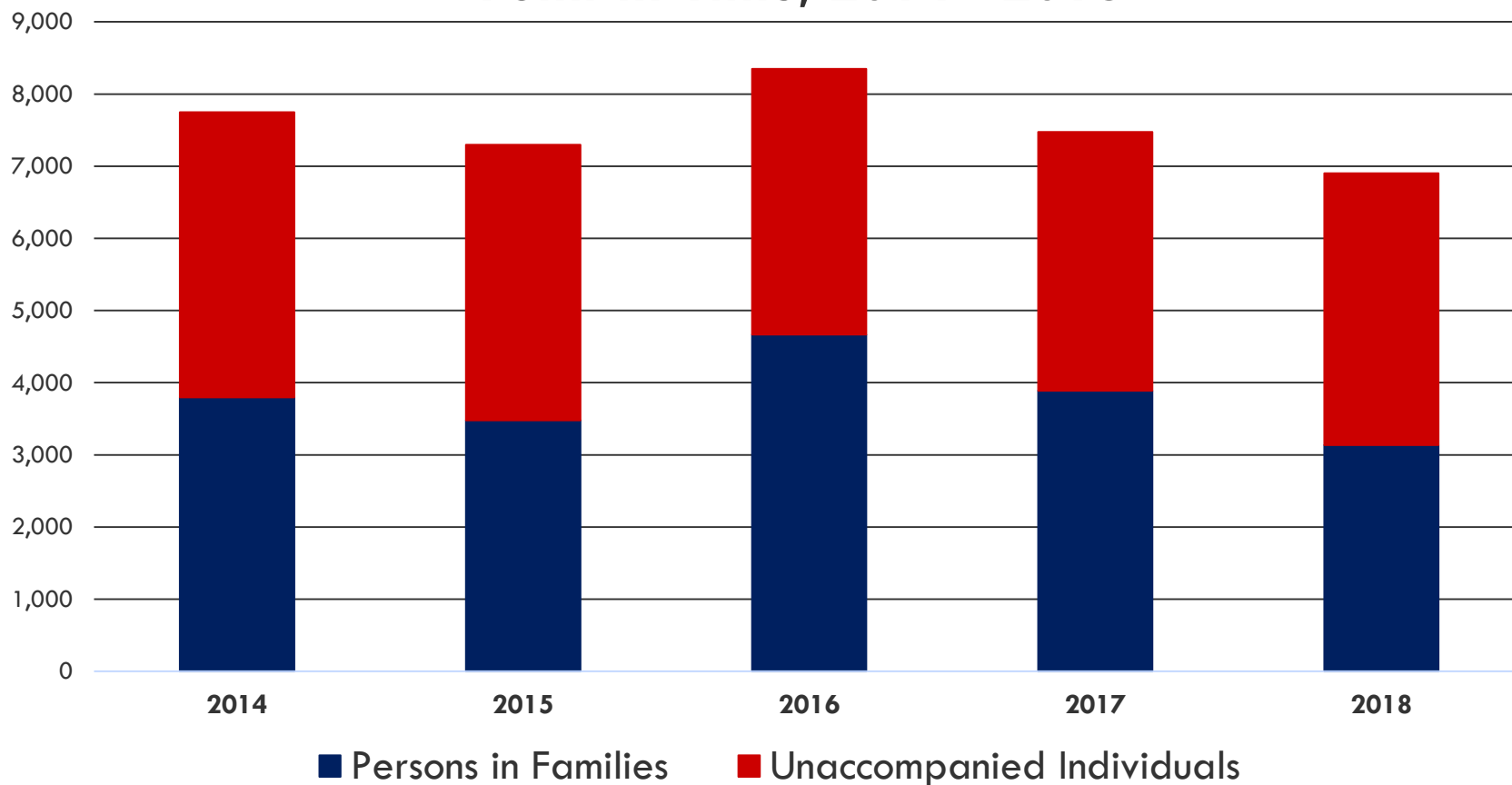
- ❖ Overall, there has been a **-7.6% decrease** in people who are experiencing homelessness in the District from 2017 to 2018.
- ❖ The number of families has **decreased by -20.8%**.
- ❖ However, there has been an **increase of 5.2%** in single households.

Household Type	2018	2017	% Change
Total Persons	6,904	7,473	-7.6%
Singles	3,770	3,583	5.2%
<i>Single Adults</i>	3,761	3,578	5.1%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	9	5	80%
Family Units	924	1,166	-20.8%
Family Members	3,134	3,890	-19.4%
<i>Adults in Families</i>	1,210	1,609	-24.8%
<i>Children in Families</i>	1,924	2,281	-15.7%

2018 Point-in-Time – Change Since 2014



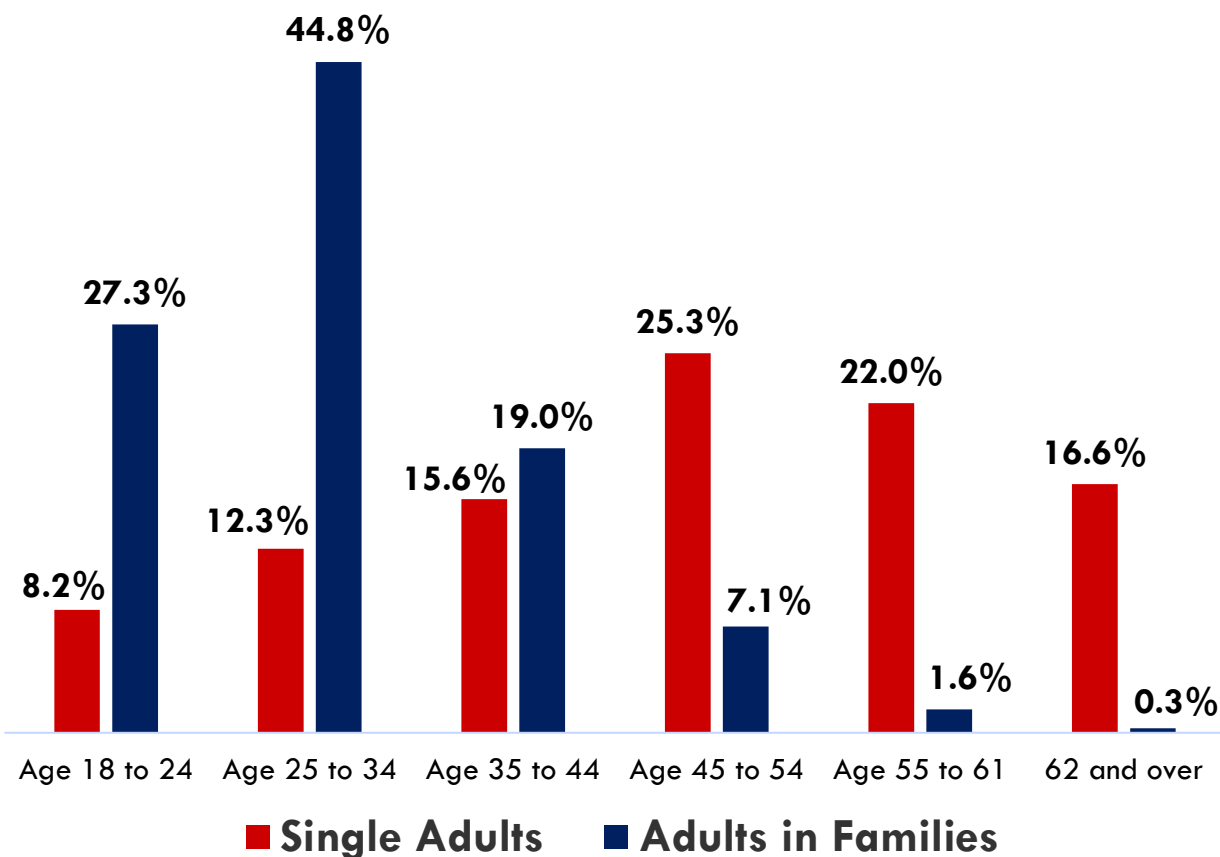
Point-in-Time, 2014 - 2018



2018 Point-in-Time – Age



Age Ranges of Single Adults and Adults in Families



Singles:

Median Age: 51 years old
Oldest Adult: 89 years old
Unaccompanied Minors: All between the ages 13 – 17

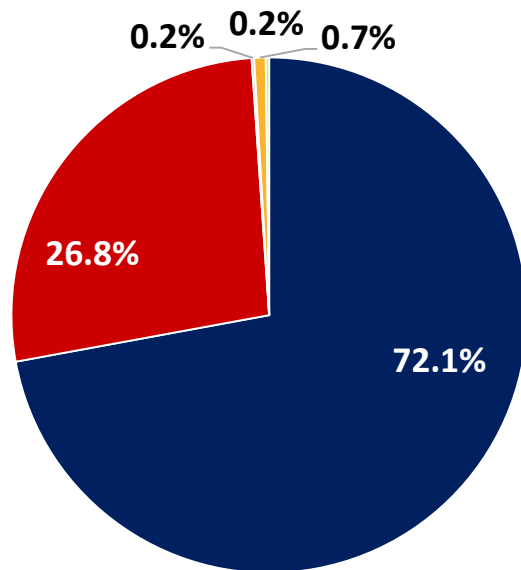
Families:

Median Age (Adults): 29 years old
Oldest Adult: 83 years old
Median Age of Children in Families: 5 years old

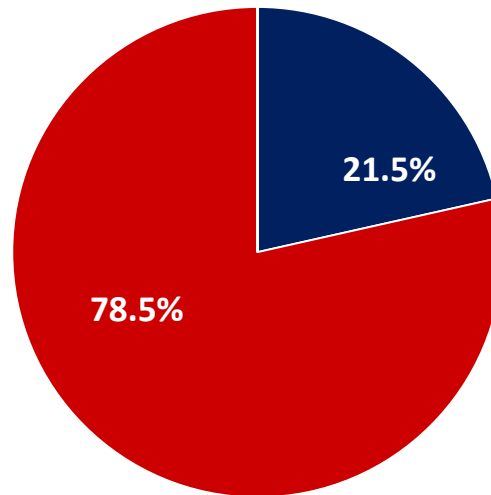
2018 Point-in-Time – Gender



Gender, Single Adults



Gender, Adults in Families



Single Adults:

- ❖ Men make up 72.1%
- ❖ Women make up 26.8%
- ❖ Additionally, 0.7% are trans female (FTM), 0.2% are trans male (FTM), and the remaining 0.2% are gender non-conforming.

Family Households:

- ❖ Women make up 78.5% of adults in family households
- ❖ Men make up 21.5%.

2018 Point-in-Time – Service Needs



<i>Disabilities & Conditions</i>	<i>Single Women</i>	<i>Single Men</i>	<i>Adults in Families</i>
Chronic Substance Abuse (CSA)*	19.7%	32.2%	1.7%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)*	44.8%	28.2%	7.4%
<i>Dual Diagnosis (subset living with both CSA & SMI)</i>	16.3%	14.0%	1.2%
Chronic Health Problem	26.3%	23.2%	1.5%
Developmental Disability	5.6%	4.8%	1.5%
Physical Disability	20.3%	17.2%	3.1%
Living with HIV/AIDS	3.9%	4.0%	0.2%

* CSA & SMI are not mutually-exclusive and include those with both (Dual Diagnosis).

2018 Point-in-Time – Service Needs

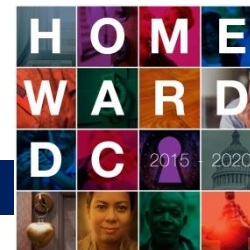


<i>Experiences & Characteristics</i>	<i>Single Women</i>	<i>Single Men</i>	<i>Adults in Families</i>
Domestic Violence (DV) History	39.5%	10.6%	33.6%
<i>Homeless Due to DV (subset of those w/ DV History)</i>	43.9%	31.2%	55.5%
Formerly resided in Institutional Setting*	36.9%	51.1%	22.2%
<i>Became homeless at discharge from Institutional Setting (subset of those formerly residing Institutional Settings)</i>	56.2%	73.1%	59.1%
Formerly in Foster Care	9.4%	7.5%	11.4%
U.S. Military Veteran	3.0%	9.9%	0.3%
Chronically Homeless**	50.5%	51.7%	19.3%
Limited English Proficiency	3.6%	4.2%	1.7%

* Institutional settings include: foster care, juvenile justice, and adult justice systems; residential detox/rehabilitation; residential mental health institutions; and long-term hospital stays.

** Chronically homeless includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness continuously for one year or more, or 4 episodes in the past 3 years, AND have a disabling condition.

2018 Point-in-Time: Institutional Discharge



<i>Formerly Resided in Institutional Setting and Discharge Caused Homelessness, by Institutional Setting Location</i>	<i>Single Women</i>	<i>Single Men</i>
Foster Care	24%	11%
Nursing Home	6%	3%
Hospital/Medical Facility	48%	33%
Juvenile/Adult Justice Systems	45%	70%
Mental Health Treatment	52%	34%
Substance Abuse Treatment	38%	38%

2018 Point-in-Time – Families



- ❖ Count of families in Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing **down 21%** from 2017, and **down 38%** from peak in 2016
 - ✓ No unsheltered families identified.
- ❖ Families experiencing **chronic homelessness is down 53 percent** from 2017 alone
- ❖ Inflow into the system has normalized due to year-round access and prevention resources
- ❖ Exits are happening in greater numbers and more quickly than in previous years – 520 families exited ES to some type of permanent destination between PIT 2017 and 2018

2018 Point-in-Time – Single Adults



- ❖ Count of unaccompanied individuals (single adults) is **up 5%**, to 3,761 people.
 - ✓ This increase is despite having assisted over 1,200 single adults to exit the streets or shelter to permanent housing between PIT 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ Likewise, the number of individuals experiencing **chronic homelessness is up 8%** from 2017.

2018 Point-in-Time – Veterans



- ❖ Between PIT 2014 and PIT 2017, the District saw a 30% decrease in homelessness among veterans.
 - ✓ Decrease attributed to increased federal and local housing resources and continuous improvement efforts of the District’s CAHP team.
- ❖ Similar to the general single adult population, however, we saw a 7% increase in the number of Veterans counted between 2017 and 2018.
 - ✓ At PIT 2017, our Veteran count was 285. At PIT 2018, the count had increased to 306 – despite having helped 449 Veterans exit to permanent housing during the same time period.
- ❖ Increase is due to continued high levels of inflow at the same time dedicated Veteran housing resources declined.
 - ✓ The District is seeing, on average, 120 new or returning veterans seeking assistance per month.

2018 Point-in-Time – Unaccompanied Youth



- ❖ Number of Unaccompanied Transition Age Youth counted increased 36% from 2017, but is still less than the number of youth identified during our annual Homeless Youth Census
 - ✓ PIT count has historically not been as accurate a tool for unaccompanied youth, who often opt out of the adult shelter system and remain more hidden.
 - ✓ New programmatic resources via Solid Foundations DC mean more youth are now accessing available services and therefore being counted as HUD-defined “literally homeless” (and thus captured in the PIT).

2018 Point-in-Time: Key Takeaway



- ❖ There is steady “inflow” of people either newly experiencing or re-experiencing homelessness into the CoC.
 - ✓ Particularly among single adults, we have people entering the shelter system faster than we can help people exit.
 - ✓ Among unaccompanied individuals, just 28% of men and 27% of women counted at PIT 2018 were also counted at PIT 2017.
 - ✓ If we are to fulfill the Homeward DC vision of making homelessness “rare, brief, and nonrecurring” – we need to move upstream and address root causes.

Pause for Questions



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Inflow Analysis: Single Adults



In order to intervene sooner, we need to understand where people are coming from and what their experiences have been, including:

❖ Service Patterns

- ✓ How many people experience homelessness for the first time each year?
- ✓ How many people have experienced multiple episodes?
- ✓ Of those that are episodic, how many are returning after “self-resolving,” and how many are returning after being served in one of our programs (e.g., RRH or PSH)?

Inflow Analysis: Single Adults



- ❖ Are there discernible differences among these groups?
 - ✓ Gender
 - ✓ Age
 - ✓ Disabling Condition
 - ✓ Past Experience with Other Systems/Institutions
(Criminal Justice, Psychiatric, Child Welfare)

- ❖ Where are people coming from?
 - ✓ DC vs. surrounding counties (MD/VA) vs. other states

Methodology



- ❖ To better understand system inflow and usage patterns, TCP reviewed lifetime use of the homeless services system among unaccompanied individuals counted in emergency shelter during PIT 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.

Methodology



- ❖ In analyzing system utilization, it became clear that many people have multiple, short breaks in service throughout their service history.
 - ✓ The length of breaks suggests people are still likely experiencing homelessness but just not accessing shelter.
 - ✓ Accordingly, we treated the cumulative time as a single episode.

- ❖ With this in mind, TCP broke the persons served at PIT 2018 into one of four cohorts based on their unique service patterns:
 - ✓ Previously housed, but returned to the CoC
 - ✓ Multiple, distinct episodes (services received a year or more apart)
 - ✓ First/only episode that has lasted more than one year
 - ✓ First/only episode that has lasted less than one year

Inflow: Service Pattern



<i>Percent of Single Persons Counted in Shelter at PIT 2018, by Service Pattern</i>	<i>Single Women (n=650)</i>	<i>Single Men (n=1802)</i>
Category #1: Previously housed, but returned to CoC	5%	4%
Category #2: Multiple episodes (services rec'd a year or more apart)	34%	43%
Category #3: First/only episode, has lasted more than one year	28%	31%
Category #4: First/only episode, has lasted less than one year	33%	22%



Category #1: Returns from CoC Housing Programs

- ❖ Defined as men and women who have a documented exit from the CoC to a permanent housing destination but who have returned to shelter.
- ❖ 5% of women and 4% of men served at PIT
 - ✓ Consistent with the District's high performance on HUD's Housing Stability measure among PSH programming.
- ❖ Of those returning:
 - ✓ Most were returning after an exit from PSH (as opposed to RRH or housing on their own)
 - ✓ High prevalence of disabling conditions in this category, as expected.

Category #2: Multiple Episodes

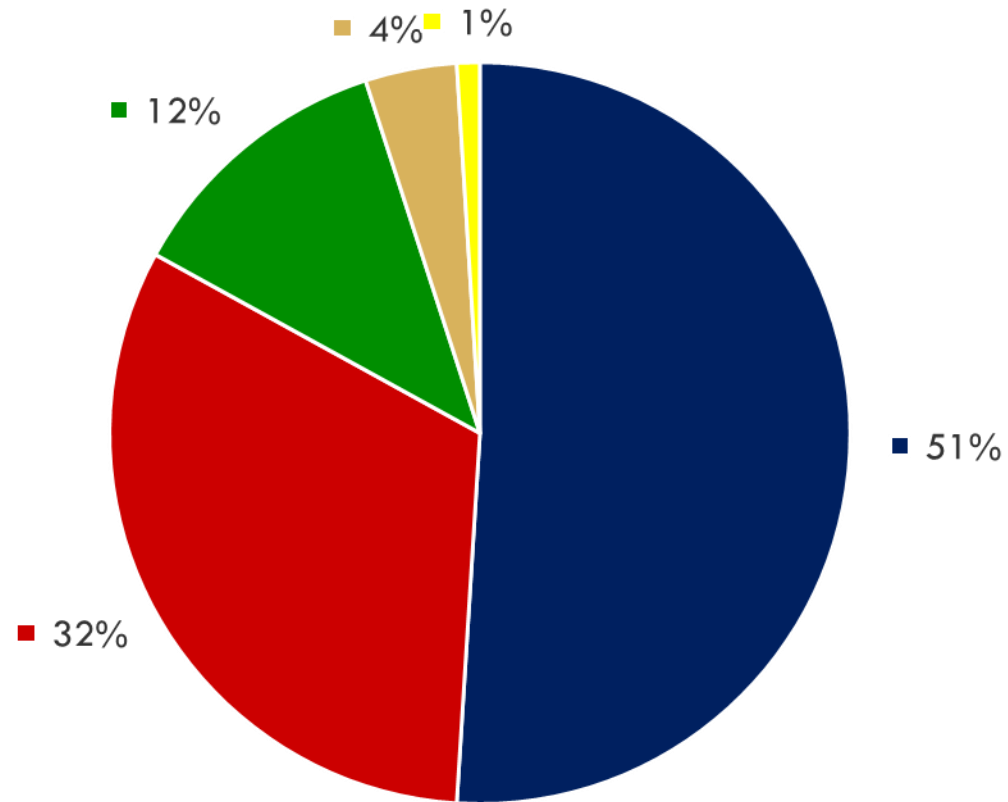


- ❖ Defined as men and women who were in shelter at PIT with histories of experiencing homelessness, but with breaks of 12 months or more between receiving services.
- ❖ 34% of women and 43% of men served at PIT were in this category.
- ❖ 51% people in this category had 2 distinct episodes over time; others had as many as 6.
- ❖ Of those with 2 distinct episodes, the average span of time between the episodes was 4 years, though breaks as long as 11-12 years were seen as well.

Category #2: Multiple Episodes



Distribution of Number of Episodes for Persons in Multiple Episodes Group



■ 2 Episodes ■ 3 Episodes ■ 4 Episodes ■ 5 Episodes ■ 6 Episodes

Category #2: Multiple Episodes



<i>Episodic Group, Time Between Episodes, in months</i>	<i>Avg. between 1st & 2nd episodes</i>	<i>Avg. between 2nd & 3rd episodes</i>	<i>Avg. between 3rd & 4th episodes</i>	<i>Avg. between 4th & 5th episodes</i>	<i>Avg. between 5th & 6th episodes</i>	<i>Max</i>
Persons with 2 Episodes	49	-	-	-	-	139
Persons with 3 Episodes	38	38	-	-	-	118
Persons with 4 Episodes	25	25	40	-	-	87
Persons with 5 Episodes	36	35	26	31	-	82
Persons with 6 Episodes	33	12	33	15	14	33

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

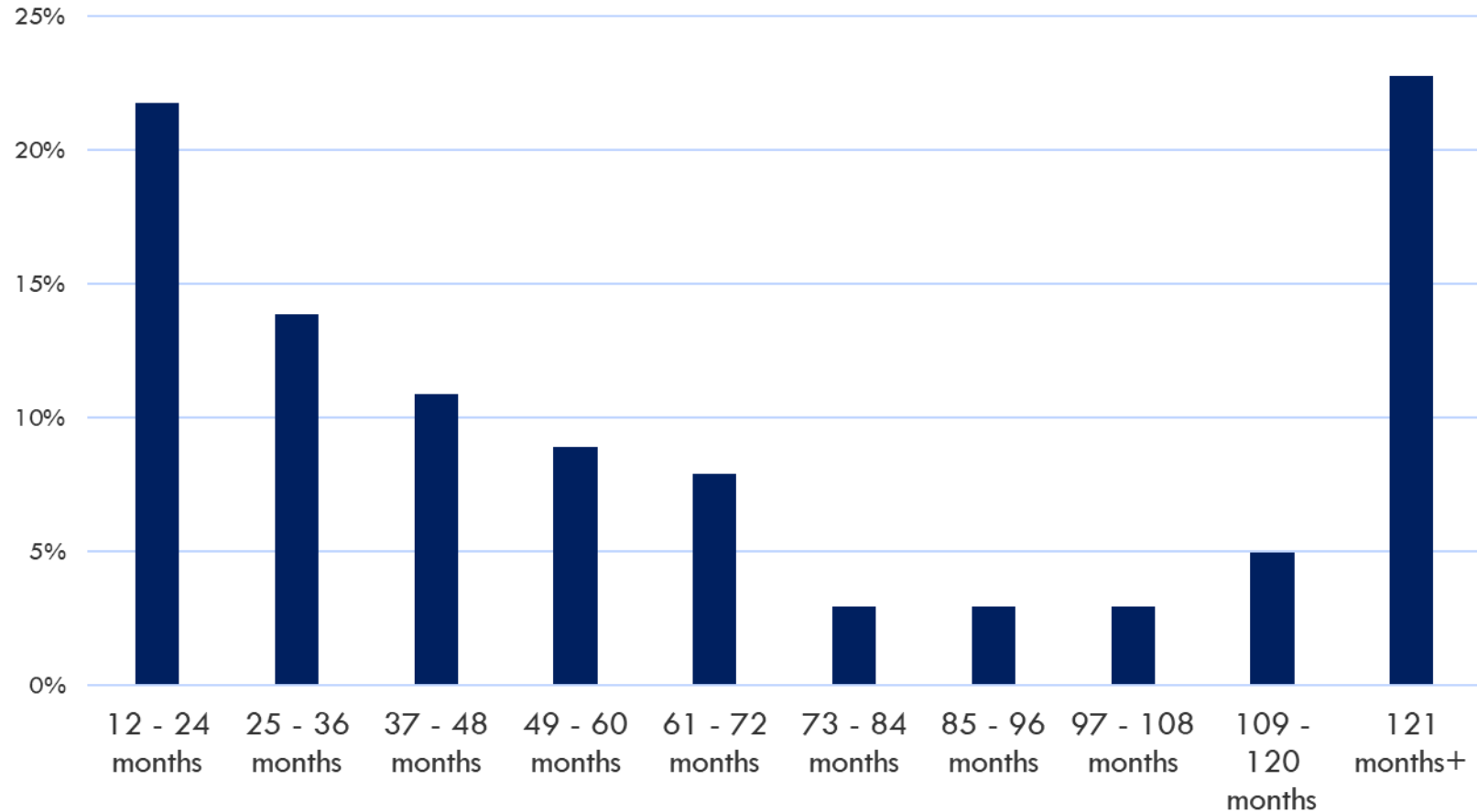


- ❖ 28% of women and 31% of men served at PIT
- ❖ Half of the men and women in this category are age 55 or older
- ❖ Greater prevalence of reported disabling conditions
 - ✓ This increases even further when looking at the persons who are age 55+ (as compared to younger men and women also in this service pattern category).
 - ✓ More significant barriers means lower likelihood for self-resolution, greater need for longer term housing supports.

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



Length of Time Since First Entry, in Months

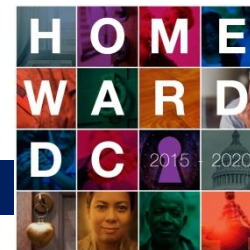


Category #4: First/Only Time Homeless (< 1 yr)



- ❖ 33% of women and 22% of men served at PIT were in their first year of their first episode
 - ✓ Equates to approximate 500 new women and 1,495 new men each year.
- ❖ Based on this analysis and other length of stay analyses, we estimate that 12% of this group will “self-resolve.”
 - ✓ The majority will end up in one of the other three categories unless we provide assistance.
 - ✓ Original modeling for Homeward DC assumed we could prevent/divert 10% of individuals entering shelter and that 30% would self-resolve with a short shelter stay.
 - ✓ This has significant implications for resource needs.
- ❖ Men in this category reported lower rates of disabling conditions than other categories; underscores the importance of employment assistance.

Causes of Homelessness

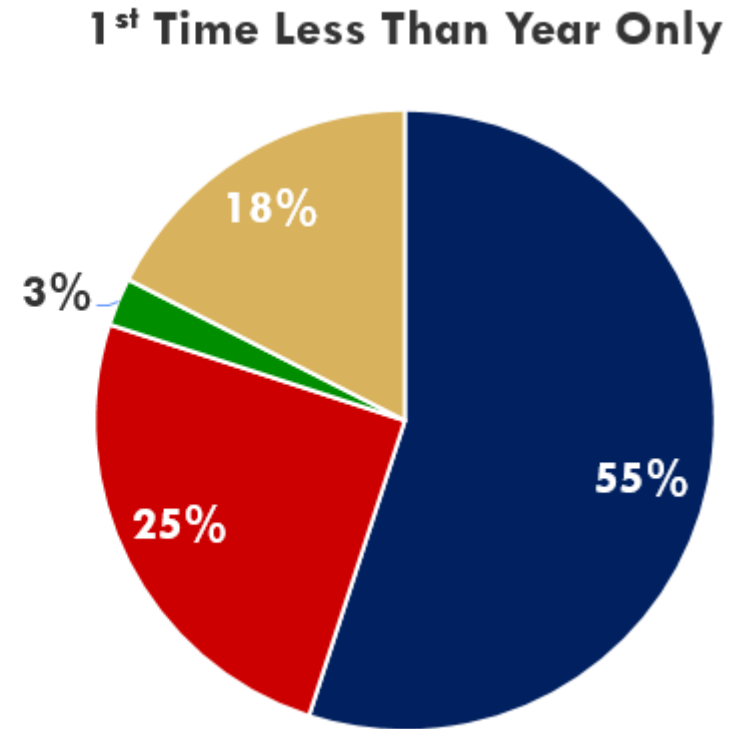
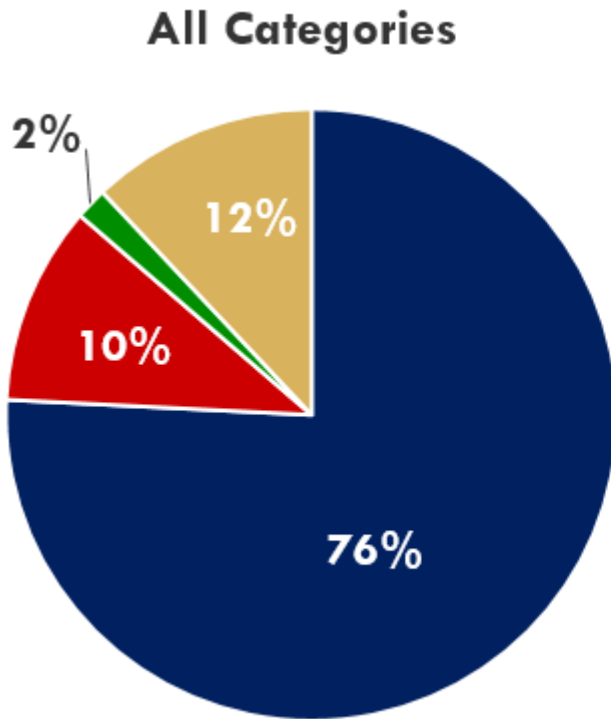


- ❖ There is limited information on what may have caused a person's homelessness; it is often the result of several interrelated factors.
- ❖ TCP identified 4 areas where persons in shelter report that either something specifically caused their experience or could have been a factor:
 - ✓ Unemployment/no income
 - ✓ Institutional Discharge
 - ✓ Disabling Conditions/Poor Health
 - ✓ Domestic Violence
- ❖ No large/significant distinctions across the four categories.

Residency



Zip Code of Last Place of Residency At Shelter Intake



- District of Columbia
- Maryland (Washington Metro Area)
- Virginia (Washington Metro Area)
- Outside Washington Metro Area

Key Takeaways



- ❖ The Good News: The majority of people served through CoC housing programs are remaining stably housed.
- ❖ The Bad News: Very few people are able to resolve their homelessness on their own.
 - ✓ Very different from the original assumptions used in the Homeward DC modeling.
 - ✓ Has significant implications for resources needed for the plan.

Key Takeaways



- ❖ Small numbers of people coming from multiple different counties have a significant impact on DC
 - ✓ Nearly half of our *new* entries each year appear to be coming from outside of the District.
 - ✓ Surrounding counties may not have shelter capacity but have more housing stock (and often more affordable stock).
 - ✓ Stronger regional coordination required.

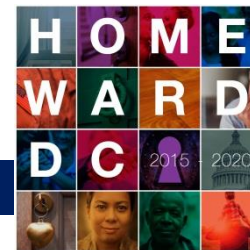
- ❖ The small breaks in shelter usage suggests many people may have other places they are already accessing for periods of time
 - Diversion efforts likely need to be paired with more intensive supports to ensure arrangements are longer-lasting.
 - Jobs are critical; too many jobs are temporary, seasonal, or part-time.

Key Takeaways



- ❖ Significant number of returning citizens enter the shelter system each year.
 - ✓ Given criminal history, returning citizens struggle to find housing and employment on their own.
 - ✓ However, homeless services system allocates limited housing resources based on medical vulnerability and length of time homeless.
 - ✓ Would be much more cost effective to intervene with this population earlier.
 - ✓ Reentry system needs housing resources that it can allocate based on a separate set of criteria (e.g., risk of of recidivism, risk of homelessness)

Next Steps – Data Analysis



- ❖ Client interviews over the summer to learn more about:
 - ✓ What first drove someone into shelter, and what could have altered that path?
 - ✓ When we see short breaks in service patterns, where are people going?
 - ✓ When people arrive from another county/state, what factors influenced their decision to come to the District? (Were they originally from the District and are returning to be closer to family? Were they denied shelter in their home jurisdiction?)
- ❖ Data match with Montgomery County to understand how people move between DC and Montgomery County
 - ✓ Very high non-response rate on the residency question among low-barrier shelter users.
 - ✓ Data sharing agreement with MC already in place; will give us a better sense of the number of people touching both systems.

System Reforms Funded in FY19 Budget



- ❖ Begin work to transform the “front door”
 - ✓ Funding for a new 801 East Men’s Shelter
 - ✓ Funding for a diversion program for single adults

- ❖ Continue work on “back door” strategies
 - ✓ Additional funding for RRH, TAH, & PSH
 - ✓ Improved targeting of permanent housing resources

Additional Needed Changes



- ❖ Stronger alignment with the workforce system
 - ✓ Pairing diversion and RRH assistance with employment assistance
 - ✓ More Learn & Earn employment opportunities needed
 - ✓ More full-time employment opportunities needed (seasonal & part-time jobs leads to significant income volatility)
- ❖ Additional housing resources for reentry system
 - Reentry Portal offers opportunity to test a “coordinated entry”-like system for returning citizens



Questions/Discussion

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