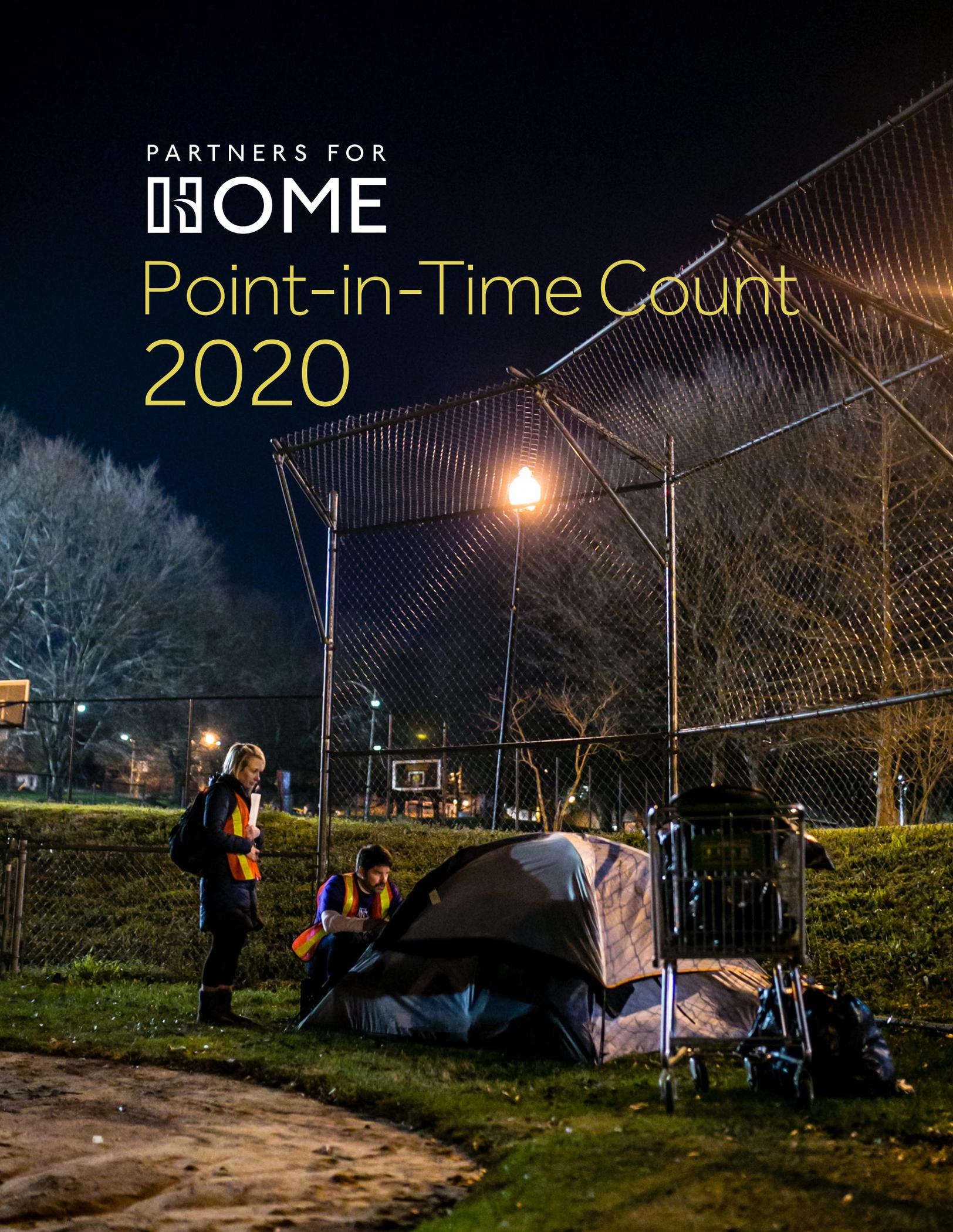# PARTNERS FOR HOME

Point-in-Time Count 2020

Introduction

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that, during the last ten days of January, communities conduct a Point in Time Count (PIT Count) to get an estimate of the number of sheltered and unsheltered people who are homeless on one particular day. The following report is a result of the PIT Count that was conducted in Atlanta.

During the night of January 27, 2020, and into the morning of January 28, 2020, volunteer teams conducted surveys throughout all Atlanta neighborhoods. In addition, during the following week, surveys were given at different service providers around the city. Their goal was to both count the number of people who were homeless and to identify the characteristics of various populations. While volunteers surveyed the entire week, the information gathered was all about people who were homeless on the night of January 27, 2020.

Gathering data allows the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) to make educated decisions about how to best address homelessness. Data driven decisions allow for proper allocation of resources and also help the community find gaps in the system. The Atlanta CoC, which is comprised of over 100 organizations, works together to address homelessness, with the goal to make it rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Through this work, over the years, Atlanta has seen a downward trend of homelessness in the city. This report gives the 2020 data and analyzes the trends between 2015 and 2020.

GEOGRAPHY COVERED

The Atlanta Continuum of Care covers the entire geography within the city limits. This includes all 242 neighborhoods, which are located in both Fulton and Dekalb counties, covering over 130 square miles.

METHODOLOGY

The 2020 PIT Count utilized a complete census methodology that has been used for several years, which helps when comparing trends from year to year. It employs a thorough process of canvassing the entire CoC's geography, with the goal of not simply collecting a sample, but of surveying all of the people experiencing homelessness within the region.

People who were homeless were interviewed to collect a variety of information regarding their background and homeless situation. All data was self-reported by the participants and entered into the Command Center Application directly.

Personal identifying information was collected only if the interviewee agreed and was only used to remove any duplicates of the surveys that may have been collected. All other information collected and reported on was unidentified.

After all interviews were completed, the data was compiled, deduplicated, and analyzed. The information was submitted to HUD for review and approval (pending) and was used for this report.

HMIS Participating Agencies ensured their evening census was accurate in ClientTrack (HMIS).
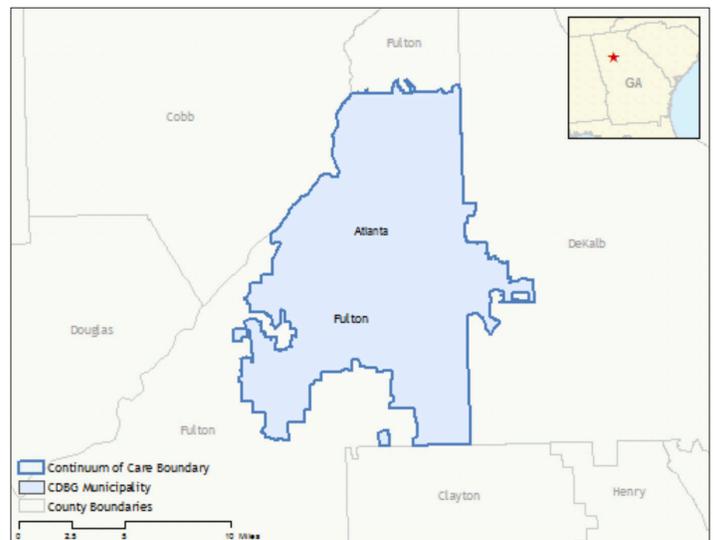
UNSHELTERED NIGHT COUNT

The night of the PIT, volunteers who were trained on how to survey areas known to be visited by people who were homeless, were sent out in teams of six to ten people, led by a seasoned homeless services staff person, to interview all homeless people that they encountered who were willing to be interviewed. This involved about 30 teams of volunteers, covering every city block. This included people who were in parks, on the streets, under bridges, in abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for habitation. To efficiently utilize teams, those in low volume areas were redeployed to high volume areas to ensure thorough coverage.

DAY COUNT

As mentioned previously, in addition to surveying on the night of January 27th, throughout the week that followed, teams of volunteers also went to homeless services centers and other locations where people who are homeless sometimes congregate, such as local libraries, to interview people who slept outside on the night of the PIT. This allows for people who may not have been interviewed on the PIT night to be included in the count. While these interviews occur throughout the week, the information collected is about the night of the PIT, and only information from people who indicated that they slept outside on that night, and had not yet been surveyed, are included in the data.

SHELTERED COUNT

The PIT collects information from people who were sleeping outside on the night of the count, but also from people who were homeless and sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs on that night. This information is primarily collected from an online, secure HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). For agencies that do not utilize the HMIS, teams of volunteers are deployed to interview the residents of the programs who are willing to be interviewed.

For agencies that did not participate in the sheltered survey, total numbers were verified and demographics were extrapolated using HUD's PIT extrapolation tool.

TERMINOLOGY

Child – Under 18

Youth – Age 18-24

Unaccompanied Youth – persons under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Parenting Youth – youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

Family – a parent (s) with at least one minor child

Household – one person or multiple people identifying together

Gender Non-Conforming – not exclusively male or female

Chronically Homeless – either a homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or an individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years that add up cumulatively to at least one year of homelessness.

Youth and veteran data are sub-sets of the total populations throughout this report.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

More than 340 people volunteered for the 2020 Point in Time. This included volunteers who were volunteering for the first time, as well as volunteers who had volunteered for many years.

Corporations, local colleges and universities, service providers, faith communities, federal employees from HUD and the VA, and the City of Atlanta all contributed volunteers.
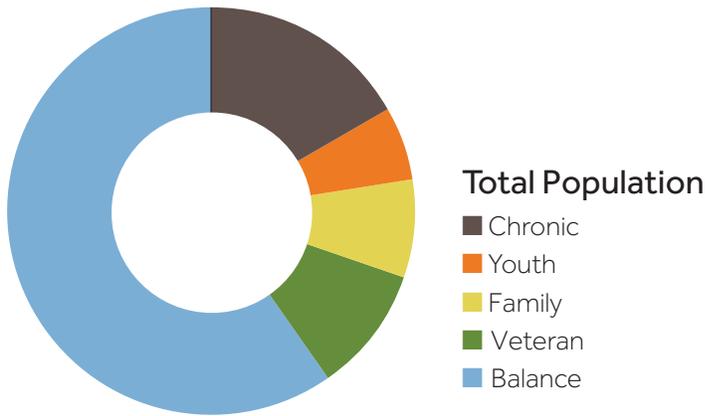
Volunteers were provided a background of the PIT and the importance of the role they play. They were trained on the survey tool, ensuring a consistent method of interviewing.

Over 2500 hours were volunteered for the 2020 PIT.
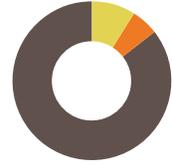
Results
Total Population
Key Sum Totals

Total Population

- Chronic
- Youth
- Family
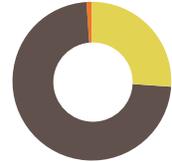- Veteran
- Balance

Total Population
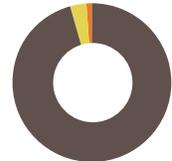
Age
- Under 18
- 18-24
- Over 24

Gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race
- White
- African American
- All other
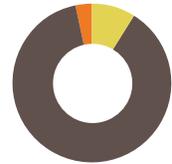
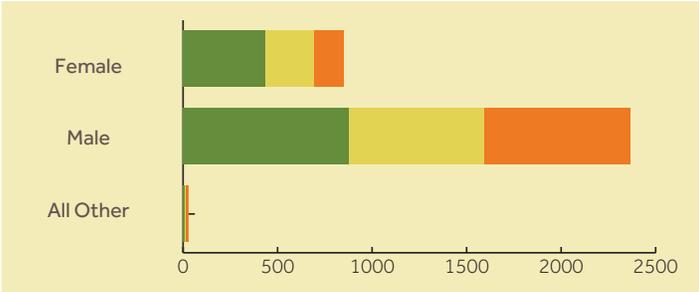|	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL POPULATION	**1319**	**982**	**939**	**3240**	
Sub Populations					
Chronic Total	249	0	293	542	16.7%
Youth Total (Unaccompanied + Parenting)	103	66	24	193	5.9%
Family Total	288	161	0	249	7.6%
Veteran Total	95	126	101	322	9.9%
Balance Not In Sub Populations	584	629	521	1934	59.9%
AGE					
Under age 18	190	103	2	295	9.0%
18 - 24	96	58	22	176	5.4%
Over age 24	1033	821	915	2769	85.0%
GENDER					
Female	435	257	155	847	26.1%
Male	875	720	769	2364	72.9%
Transgender	8	5	13	26	>1%
Other	1	0	2	3	>1%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1277	949	901	3127	96.5%
Hispanic/Latino	42	33	38	113	3.5%
RACE					
White	116	98	80	294	9.0%
African American	1167	862	817	2846	88.0%
Asian	4	4	3	11	>1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	3	9	17	>1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	2	4	11	>1%
Multiple Races	22	13	26	61	1.8%

Total Population

Age

Bar chart — Age:
- Under 18
- Age 18-24
- Over Age 24

x-axis: 0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000

Gender

Bar chart — Gender:
- Female
- Male
- All Other

x-axis: 0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500

Ethnicity

Bar chart — Ethnicity:
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

x-axis: 0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500

Race

Bar chart — Race:
- White
- African American
- All Other

x-axis: 0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000
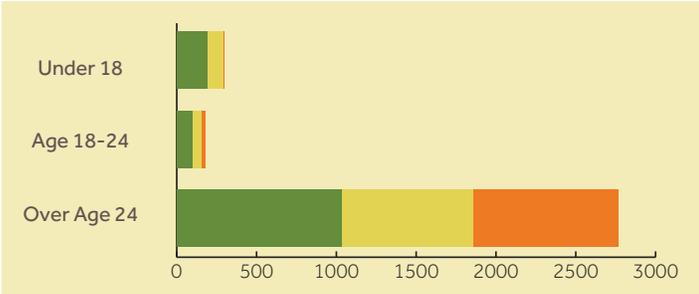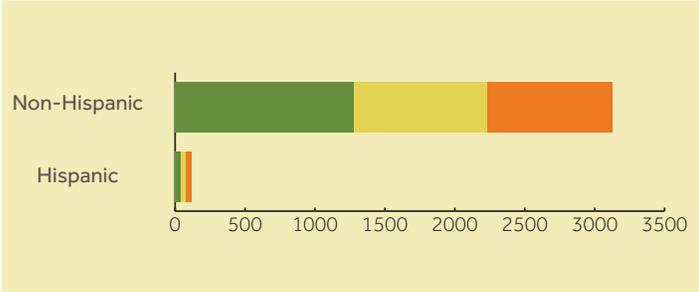
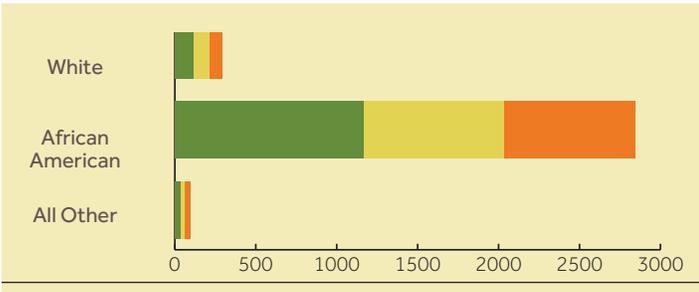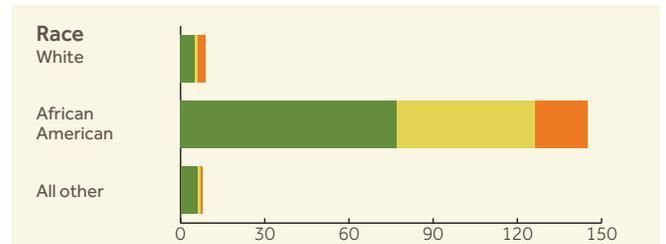Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Shelter
- Unsheltered

Unaccompanied Youth

88
Emergency Shelter

51
Transitional Shelter

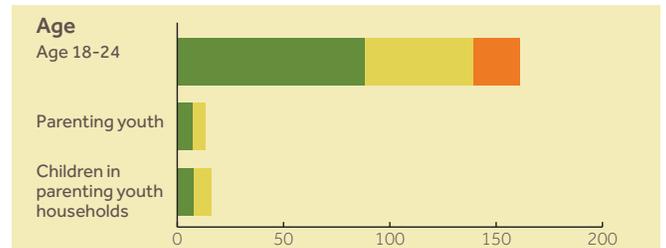**24**
Unsheltered

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	**88**	**51**	**24**	**163**	
AGE					
Under age 18	0	0	2	**2**	1.2%
18 - 24	88	51	22	**161**	98.8%
Parenting youth	7	6	0	**13**	
Children in parenting youth household	8	8	0	**16**	
GENDER					
Female	26	16	6	**48**	29.0%
Male	56	33	17	**106**	65.0%
Transgender	5	2	1	**8**	5.0%
Other	1	0	1	**1**	1.0%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	79	48	23	**150**	92.0%
Hispanic/Latino	9	3	1	**13**	8.0%
RACE					
White	5	1	3	**9**	5.5%
African American	77	49	19	**145**	89.5%
Asian	0	0	0	**0**	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	1	**1**	>1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	**0**	0
Multiple Races	6	1	0	**8**	4.9%

Table 1-Demographic information for unaccompanied youth
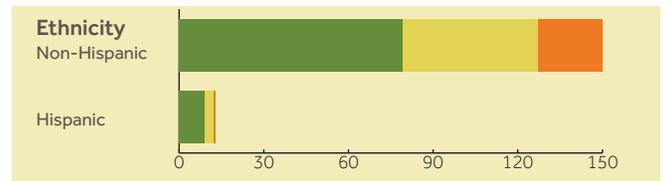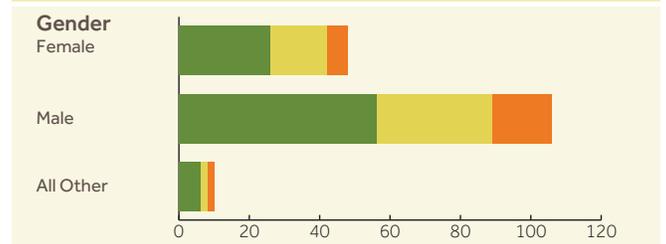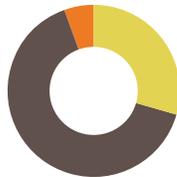
Age
Age 18-24
Parenting youth
Children in parenting youth households

Gender
Female
Male
All Other

Ethnicity
Non-Hispanic
Hispanic

Race
White
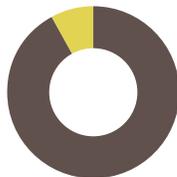African American
All other

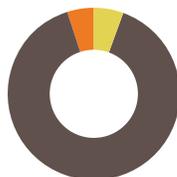Gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race
- White
- African American
- All other

■ Emergency Shelter   ■ Transitional Shelter   ■ Unsheltered

Adults Only

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	**1031**	**821**	**937**	**2789**	
AGE					
18 - 24	88	51	22	**161**	5.7%
Over age 24	943	770	915	**2628**	94.3%
GENDER					
Female	257	144	155	**556**	20.0%
Male	765	672	767	**2204**	79.0%
Transgender	8	5	13	**26**	>1%
Other	1	0	2	**3**	>1%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	999	792	899	**2690**	96.5%
Hispanic/Latino	32	29	38	**99**	3.5%
RACE					
White	107	96	80	**283**	10.1%
African American	894	707	815	**2416**	86.6%
Asian	4	4	3	**11**	>1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	3	9	**16**	>1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	1	4	**10**	>1%
Multiple Races	17	10	26	**53**	2.0%

Table 2-Demographic information with adults only

1031
Emergency Shelter

821
Transitional Shelter

937
Unsheltered

Age
Age 18-24
Over age 24

Gender
Female
Male
All Other

Ethnicity
Non-Hispanic
Hispanic

Race
White
African American
All other

Age
■ 18-24
■ Over 24

Gender
■ Female
■ Male
■ All Other

Ethnicity
■ Non-Hispanic
■ Hispanic

Race
■ White
■ African American
■ All other

■ Emergency Shelter ■ Transitional Shelter ■ Unsheltered
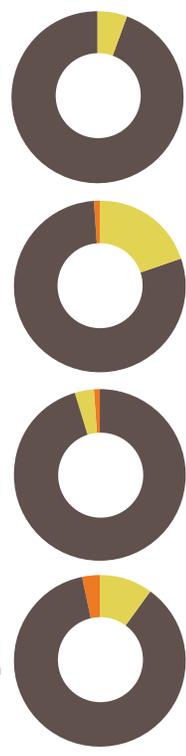
Adults & Children Households

88
Emergency Shelter

55
Transitional Shelter

0
Unsheltered

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	**88**	**55**	**0**	**143**	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	**288**	**161**	**0**	**449**	
AGE					
Under age 18	190	103	0	**293**	65.2%
18 - 24	8	7	0	**15**	3.4%
Over age 24	90	51	0	**141**	31.4%
GENDER					
Female	178	113	0	**291**	64.8%
Male	110	48	0	**158**	35.2%
Transgender	0	0	0	**0**	0
Other	0	0	0	**0**	0
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	278	157	0	**435**	96.8%
Hispanic/Latino	10	4	0	**14**	3.2%
RACE					
White	9	2	0	**11**	2.4%
African American	273	155	0	**428**	95.3%
Asian	0	0	0	**0**	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0	0	**1**	>1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	1	0	**1**	0
Multiple Races	5	3	0	**8**	1.8%

Table 3-Demographic information for adult and children households

Age
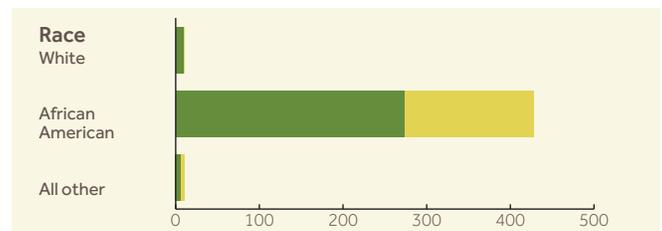- Under Age 18
- 18 - 24
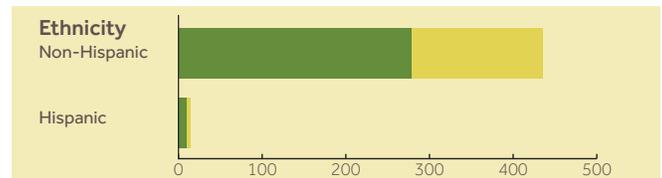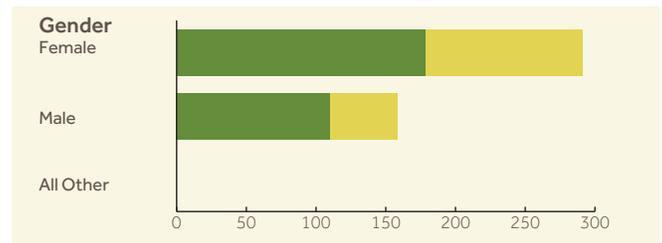- Over Age 24

Gender
- Female
- Male

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
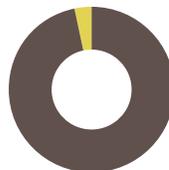
Race
- White
- African American
- All other

Age
Under age 18
Age 18-24
Over age 24

Gender
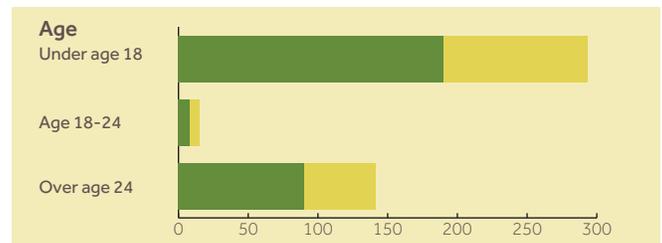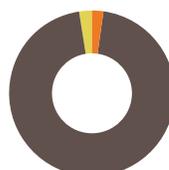Female
Male
All Other

Ethnicity
Non-Hispanic
Hispanic

Race
White
African American
All other

Emergency Shelter   Transitional Shelter   Unsheltered

Veterans

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	**95**	**126**	**101**	**322**	
GENDER					
Female	13	10	11	**34**	10.5%
Male	82	116	90	**288**	89.4%
Transgender	0	0	0	**0**	0
Other	0	0	0	**0**	0
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	91	122	93	**306**	95.0%
Hispanic/Latino	4	4	8	**16**	5.0%
RACE					
White	15	14	12	**41**	12.7%
African American	79	109	87	**275**	85.4%
Asian	0	0	0	**0**	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	1	0	**2**	>1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	**0**	0
Multiple Races	0	2	2	**4**	1.2%

Table 4-Demographic information with veterans only

95
Emergency Shelter

126
Transitional Shelter

101
Unsheltered

Gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
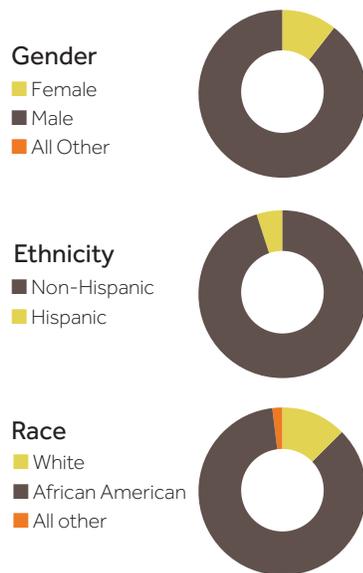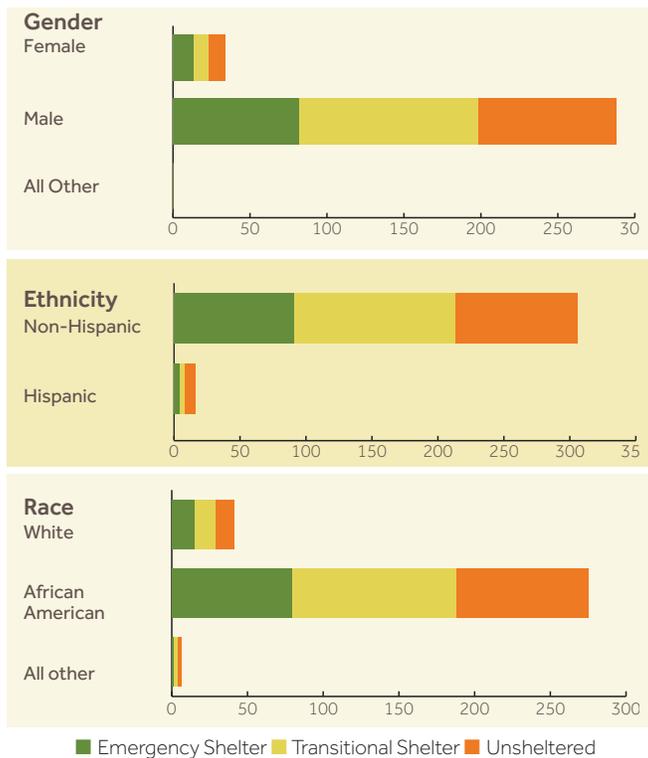
Race
- White
- African American
- All other

■ Emergency Shelter ■ Transitional Shelter ■ Unsheltered

Trends
Overall

The annual Point in Time Count identifies people who were homeless on one particular night in January. The information and data collected provides a snapshot of what the homeless population looks like in the community. This is compared to what the homeless population looked like in previous years.

HOMELESSNESS
Total Number of Homeless from 2015-2020

YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2015	3280	1037	4317
2016	3225	838	4063
2017	2891	681	3572
2018	2336	740	3076
2019	2498	719	3217
2020	2301	939	3240

.007%↑
Increase in homelessness since 2019

25%↓
Decrease in homelessness since 2015

8%↓
Decrease in sheltered homelessness since 2019

30%↓
Decrease in sheltered homelessness since 2015

31%↑
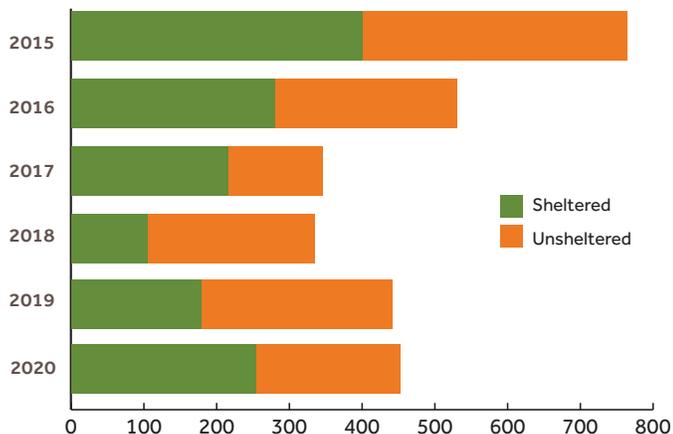Increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2019

10%↓
Decrease in unsheltered homelessness since 2015

Subpopulation Trends

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Number of Chronic Homeless from 2015-2020

Chronic homeless has decreased 39% since 2014 but increased 44% since 2019. In December 2019, Partners for Home hosted a Chronic Homelessness Data Quality Training for CoC partners to increase accuracy in correctly categorizing individuals as chronically homeless.
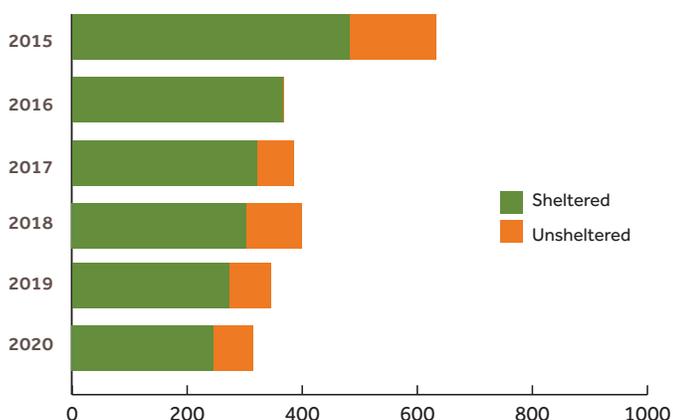
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Number of Unaccompanied Youth from 2015-2020
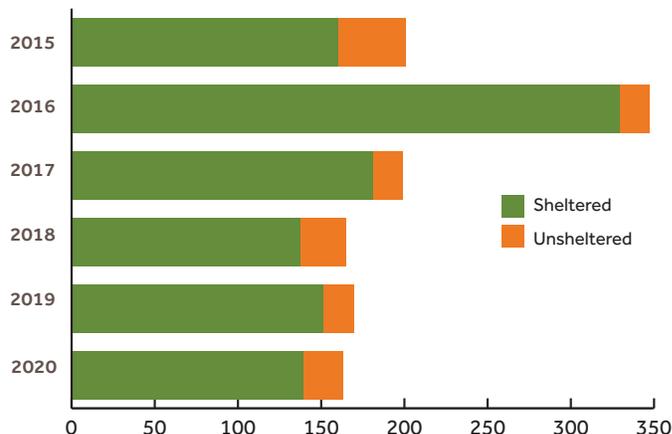
Unaccompanied youth homeless has decreased 4% since 2019 and 19% since 2015.
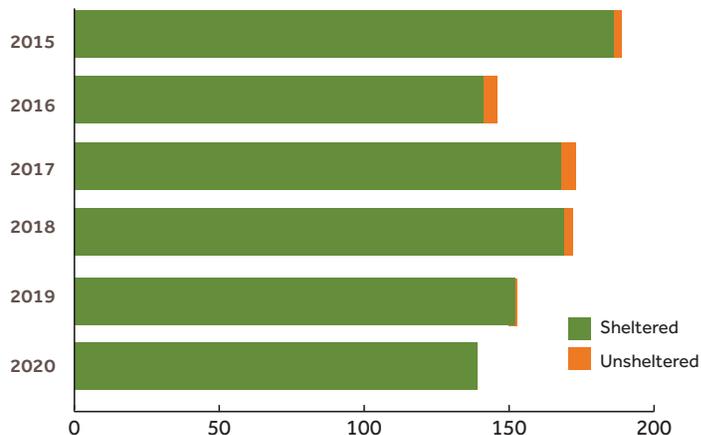
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Veterans from 2015-2020

The overall number of veterans who were homeless has decreased by 7.8% since 2019 and by 68% since 2015.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Families from 2015-2020

The overall number of families who were homeless has decreased by 7.2% since 2019 and by 25% since 2015.

Other Characteristics[1]

The overall number of people who identify with having a serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse continues to hover around 30%.

The homeless population with HIV/ AIDs decreased 35% from 2019.

The number of people who identified as survivors of domestic violence who are homeless has decreased by 20% since 2015 and has decreased by 12% since 2018.
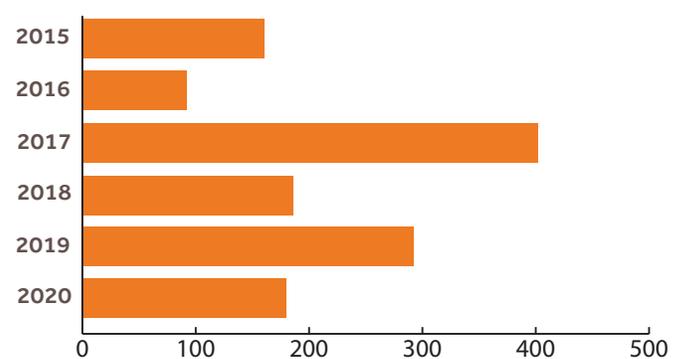
Other Characteristics 2020
Adults 18 and over

	Sheltered Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Serious Mental Illness	505	289	206	**1000**
Substance Use Disorder	348	459	191	**998**
HIV/AIDS	57	82	50	**189**
Survivors of Domestic Violence	18	8	72	**98**

Found in homeless population[2] 2015 - 2020
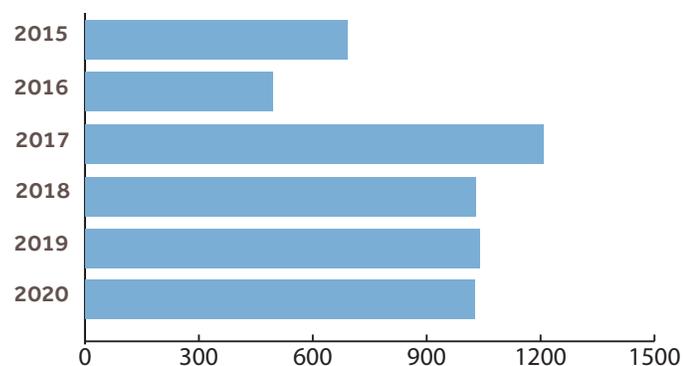
Severe Mental Illness
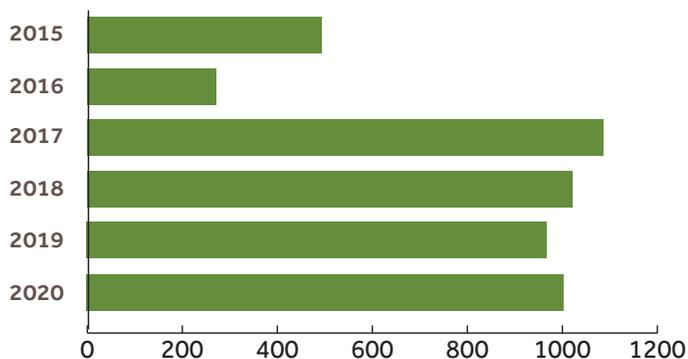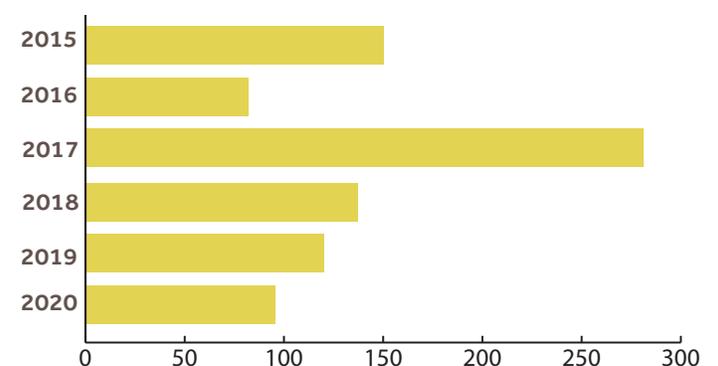

HIV/AIDS

Chronic Substance Abuse

Victims of Domestic Violence[3]

[1]Self-reported

[2]Although there were PIT Counts in previous years, the methodology used for some subpopulations was not consistent, therefore the data is not necessarily reliable.

[3]In 2018, HUD changed the parameters regarding domestic violence and homelessness. In previous years, data was collected on people who experienced domestic violence, at any time. This year, HUD asked CoCs to capture information regarding people who attributed their current homelessness to a domestic violence situation.

Conclusion

The 2020 PIT Count collected data that has been, and will continue to be, helpful in assessing the needs of the homeless population in Atlanta. The surveys that were conducted by volunteers detailed not only population size but also various characteristics of the population allowing for a direct impact on those experiencing homelessness.

The 2020 Point in Time Count showed a slight increase in the number of people who identified as homeless.

Nationwide, communities are seeing increases in unsheltered homeless individuals. While this is also true for Atlanta CoC, our community has invested significant resources in street outreach, diversion and permanent supportive housing that will continue to support the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

The 2020 PIT Count could not have been accomplished without the large numbers of volunteers who came to help on a cold night in January. Through continuing to use the census method of counting, the Atlanta CoC can trust that the data is both accurate and able to be used for allocation of resources within the community. The data collected will continue to help work towards the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in the Atlanta Continuum of Care.

DATA ENTRY: Once all surveys were collected and organized, the data was entered into a web-based survey software.

DE-DUPLICATION: To prevent duplicate entries, data was cross-referenced with HMIS and Housing Inventory Count data for the sheltered count. For the unsheltered count, de-duplication occurred by comparing identification information. Further data preparation was conducted by discarding surveys of individuals who do not meet the HUD homeless definition.

PARTNERS FOR
HOME