



2022 Point-in-Time Count

City of Atlanta, GA

INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, Partners for HOME has served as the Atlanta Continuum of Care's lead agency in developing and implementing strategies to end homelessness in the City of Atlanta. As a best-practice city, Partners for HOME conducts the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count in the City of Atlanta. The PIT Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated and carried out locally.

The Atlanta Continuum of Care's **ClearPath** strategic plan includes a key priority of aligning public and private resources to create permanent pathways to housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. To answer this call, **Home First** — a partnership between the City of Atlanta, the United Way Regional Commission on Homelessness and Partners for HOME — was launched using \$22 million of the \$50 million **Home First** funds to create 550 new units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless and other marginalized people.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a new opportunity to launch an aggressive rapid rehousing strategy designed to stably house 2,000 households impacted by homelessness in the City of Atlanta. **LIFT** used an infusion of federal stimulus funds, coupled with private philanthropic dollars, to operate a non-congregate hotel to serve as shelter for households who were experiencing homelessness and tested negative for COVID-19, and an isolation hotel for those households

experiencing homelessness who tested positive for COVID-19. **LIFT** has enabled Partners for HOME to rapidly rehouse 795 households and divert an additional 440 households from the homeless housing queue since 2020. In addition to housing placements, **LIFT** increased outreach and navigation capacity in the City, helping to improve

2022 KEY FINDINGS

- Homelessness has decreased in the City of Atlanta since 2020.
- Overall homelessness across tracked subpopulations has decreased.
- The total of chronics in Emergency Shelter was reduced in 2022.
- Emergency Shelter utilization was low.
- Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds are reduced across the City.
- Utilization of beds was reduced across the local homeless ecosystem.

assessments of individuals experiencing homelessness and data quality surrounding their information in the Homeless Management Information System.

We highlight these efforts, and the ongoing collaboration between Atlanta Continuum of Care around strategic solutions, as the foundation for the successes you will see in our 2022 PIT Count results. In our local homeless ecosystem, we know housing is the solution to ending homelessness. The increase in housing interventions since the onset of the pandemic, demonstrate the impact that housing can have on making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring across

tracked subpopulations — chronic, family, youth and veterans. However, housing only is not enough. Racial disparities in homelessness continue to exist in the City of Atlanta, with 86% of the population of people experiencing homelessness in the City identifying as Black. In 2017, the Atlanta Continuum of Care released a racial equity report that identified two key structural changes to address racial equity in our local homeless ecosystem:

1. Expand and prioritize affordable housing for people of color with 0-30% average median income.
2. Reduce the number and impact of evictions among families of color.
3. Educate funders and healthcare systems to influence improvement in culturally competent care for people of color.
4. Increase healthcare coverage for people of color through a Medicaid 1115 waiver.

The Atlanta Racial Equity Alliance (AREA) serves as a formal committee of the Atlanta Continuum of Care and provides trainings within the local homeless ecosystem to help reduce systemic barriers for persons of color to exit homelessness. As we look to the future, our work must continue to incorporate a lens of equity to help reduce racial disparities and help our community move past systems that unfairly impact one group over another.

There is also a need for enhanced behavioral and mental healthcare as well as addiction support services to address individuals in need. In the “Other Characteristics” table, there are a significant number of individuals surveyed are in need of healthcare services and assistance with substance abuse. While some of the individuals surveyed could be represented in both categories, the data shows an increased investment in housing — coupled with wraparound support services — not only ends one’s homelessness, but can equip them with the resources necessary to achieve lasting self-sufficiency.

While there is an opportunity to celebrate the overall decline in homelessness, there is still more work to do. We hope this

report guides stakeholders on not only the work we’ve done, but the work that remains to be done to continue to help our vulnerable neighbors achieve the housing stability they deserve. We cannot do this work alone, and want to thank stakeholders who have remain committed to the goal of ending homelessness in the City of Atlanta.

METHODOLOGY

The data collected in this report provides a best estimate of the City of Atlanta’s number of sheltered and unsheltered people who are experiencing homelessness on the night of the Count. Data informs decision-making by local, state and national stakeholders to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring within the local homeless ecosystem.

Partners for HOME worked with over 250 stakeholders within the Atlanta Continuum of Care to survey and collect data for the 2022 PIT Count. The Atlanta Continuum of Care covers the entire geography within the City of Atlanta limits. This includes 242 neighborhoods located in both DeKalb and Fulton Counties.

Partners for HOME uses HUD’s definition of homelessness when including individuals and families in the annual PIT Count. Those surveyed were individuals and families staying in shelters or places not meant for habitation, as well as individuals and families fleeing domestic violence on the night of January 24, 2022. Online surveys were used to track responses from individuals during the night of January 24, 2022 as well as track responses from clients participating in programs and who may have been missed during the night Count.

Following the night count, data was captured from ClientTrack, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used to document people living in transitional housing and emergency shelters. All survey and HMIS information was then compiled to develop a census of the number of people experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta on the night of January 24, 2022.

OVERALL TRENDS

Partners for HOME has implemented housing interventions that have resulted in a 38% reduction in the total population of people experiencing homelessness since 2020, the last year both a sheltered and unsheltered count were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of people experiencing homelessness is down 1,223 people since pre-pandemic totals, and down 1,555 people since the adoption of the **ClearPath** strategic plan in 2017.

TOTAL: People Experiencing Homelessness by Year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sheltered	2,891	2,336	2,498	2,301	1,996	1,377
Unsheltered	681	740	719	939	N/A*	640
TOTAL	3,572	3,076	3,217	3,240	N/A*	2,017

*HUD waived the unsheltered count requirement in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS TRENDS

Data presented below reflects the 2022 “other characteristics” for sheltered and unsheltered populations residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of January 24, 2022. This includes individuals identifying as having a serious mental illness; substance use disorder; HIV/AIDS; or a survivor of domestic violence. For clarity, some of the people represented in the numbers below, could be included in one or more of the categories listed.

TOTAL: People Identifying with Other Characteristics

Characteristic	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	Total Change 2020/2022*
Serious Mental Illness	290	253	197	740	-260
Substance Use Disorder	213	245	181	639	-359
HIV/AIDS	39	66	20	125	-64
Domestic Violence Survivors	33	3	18	54	-44

*HUD waived the unsheltered count requirement in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUBPOPULATION TRENDS

The Atlanta Continuum of Care's **ClearPath** strategic plan has established priorities of ending homelessness for chronic, family, youth and veteran subpopulations. The following graphs present trends in these respective subpopulations since the adoption of the strategic plan in 2017. The change in totals is compared to 2020 numbers due to the Count for unsheltered populations being waived by HUD in 2021.

Chronic Homeless

HUD defines someone as chronically homeless when they have at least one disabling condition (i.e., a substance use disorder, mental illness, chronic health condition, disability, etc.) **AND** have been consecutively homeless for at least one year **OR** have been homeless at least four times in the past three years, with a cumulative time of at least one year.

Family Homeless

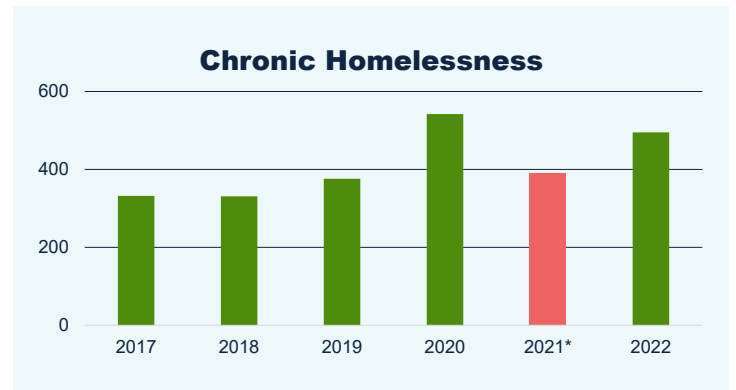
A household consisting of a parent/guardian(s) with at least one minor child (under the age of 18).

Youth Homeless

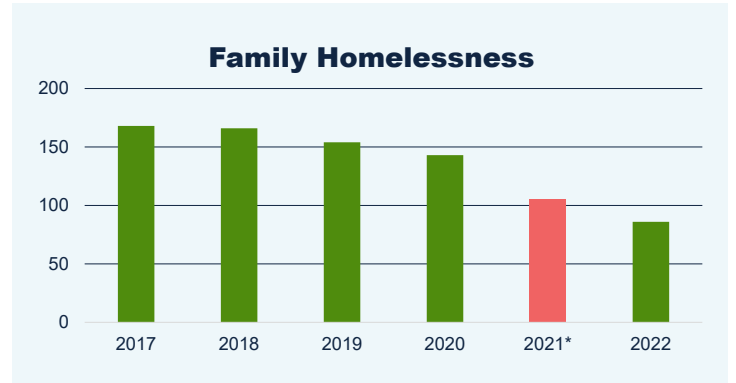
Youth include individuals between the ages of 18-24 who are either unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent/legal guardian) or parenting (the parent/legal guardian of a child) they are living with and where there is no person over the age of 24 in the household).

Veteran Homeless

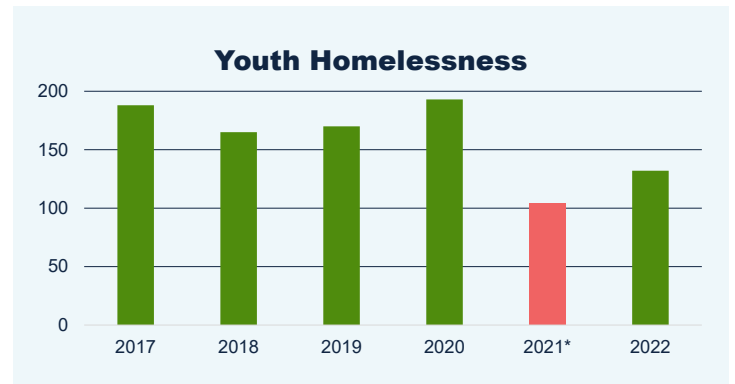
An adult who has indicated they have served in the United States Armed Forces.



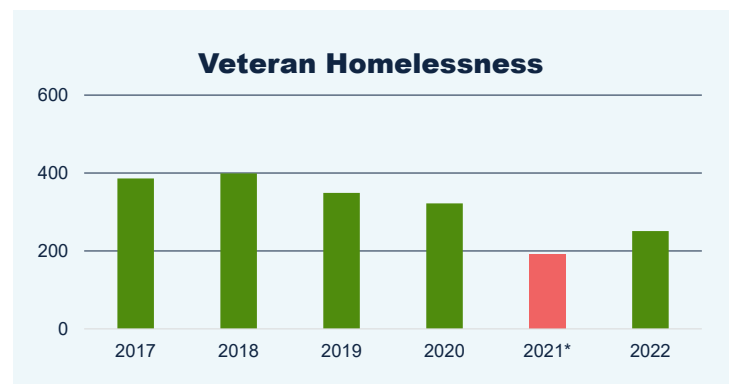
Chronic homelessness has declined since 2020 totals. *2021 data does not include unsheltered count.



Family homelessness (by household) has declined since 2020 totals. *2021 data does not include unsheltered count.



Youth homelessness has declined since 2020 totals. *2021 data does not include unsheltered count.

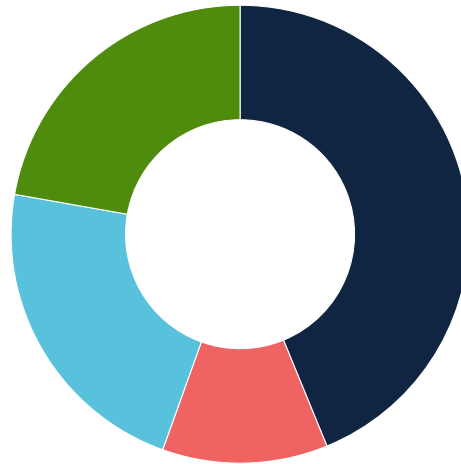


Veteran homelessness has declined since 2020 totals. *2021 data does not include unsheltered count.

TOTALS

Down 1,223 people since 2020 totals.

Subpopulations

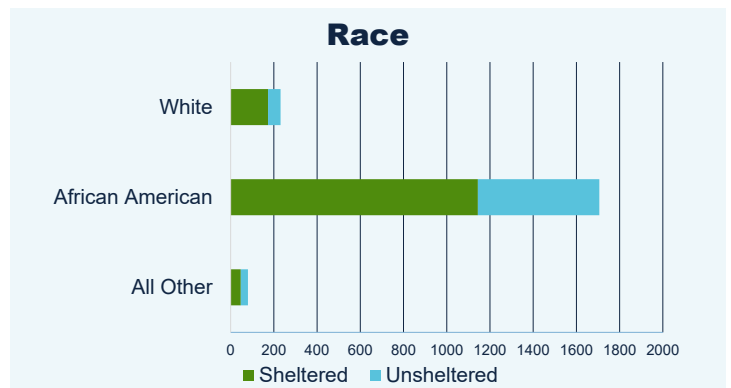
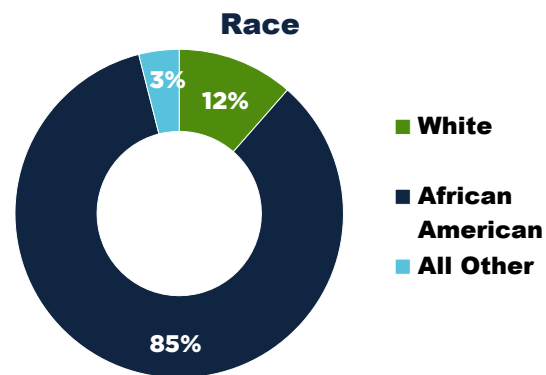
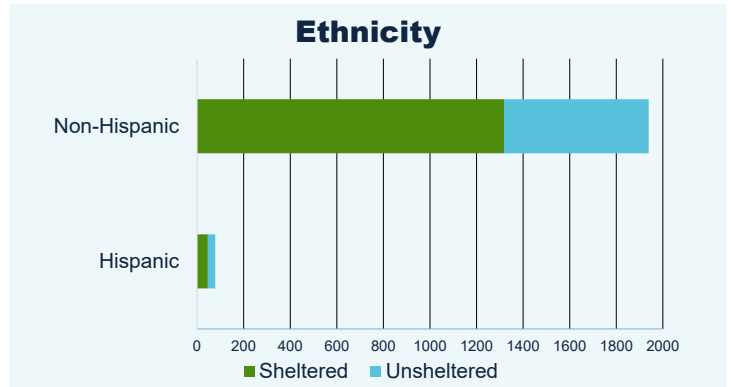
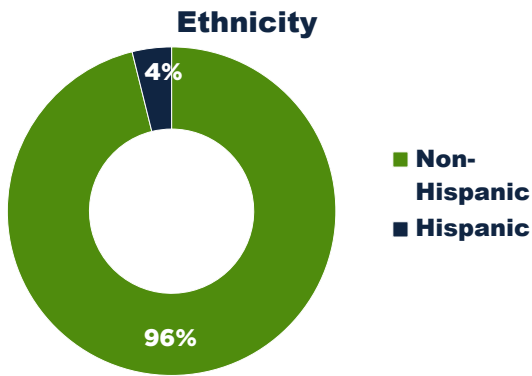
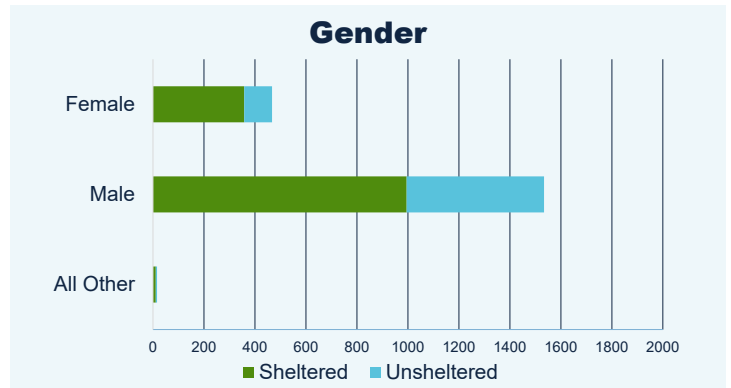
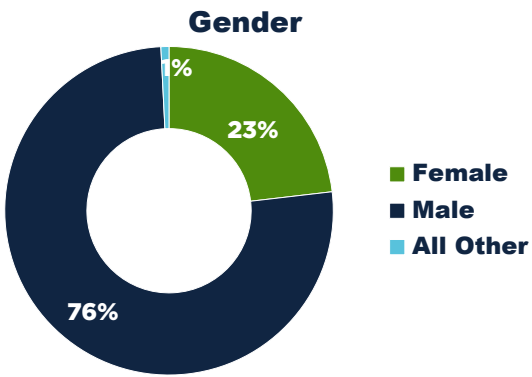
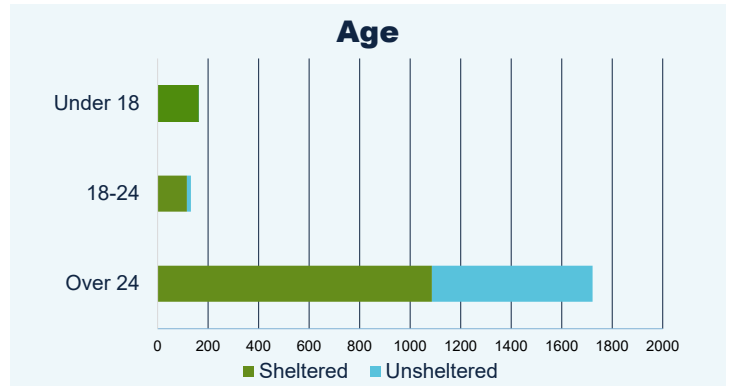
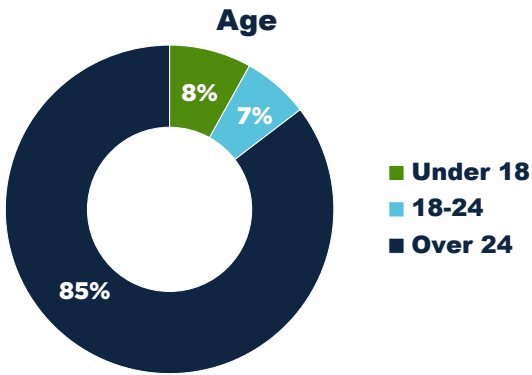


■ Chronic ■ Youth ■ Family ■ Veteran

	Unit	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	% of Total
TOTALS*		724	653	640	2,017	
Subpopulation						
Chronic	Individual	191	0	304	495	24.5%
Youth (Unaccompanied+Parenting)	Individual	70	45	17	132	6.5%
Family	Individual	185	67	0	252	12.5%
Veteran	Individual	56	129	66	251	12.4%
Age						
Under 18	Individual	119	43	1	163	8.1%
18-24	Individual	71	45	16	132	6.5%
Over 24	Individual	534	552	636	1722	85.4%
Gender						
Female	Individual	245	113	109	467	23.2%
Male	Individual	470	525	539	1534	76.1%
Transgender	Individual	6	2	0	8	0.4%
Gender Non-Conforming	Individual	3	0	5	8	0.4%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic	Individual	698	620	621	1939	96.1%
Hispanic	Individual	26	20	32	78	3.9%
Race						
White	Individual	76	97	58	231	11.5%
African American	Individual	627	517	562	1706	84.6%
Asian	Individual	1	6	10	17	0.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Individual	2	6	4	12	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Individual	1	1	1	3	0.1%
Multiple Races	Individual	17	13	18	48	2.4%

*Totals reflect number of people surveyed and not totals by subpopulation.

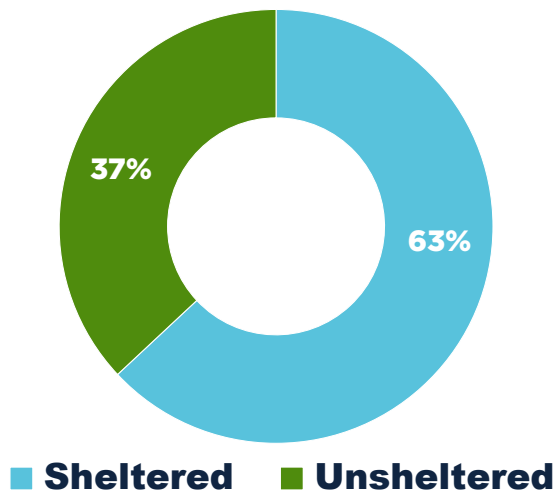
SUBPOPULATION TOTALS



ADULTS

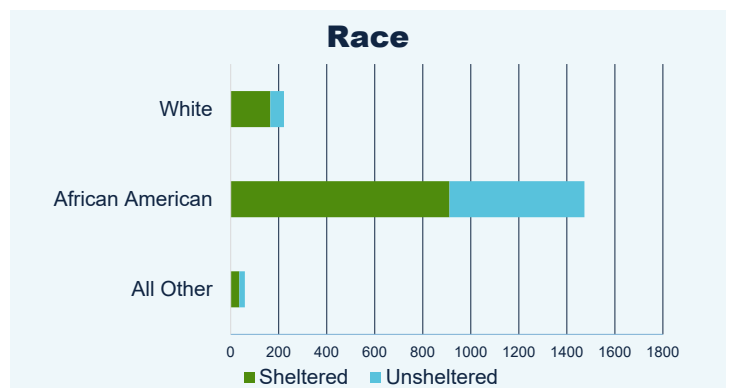
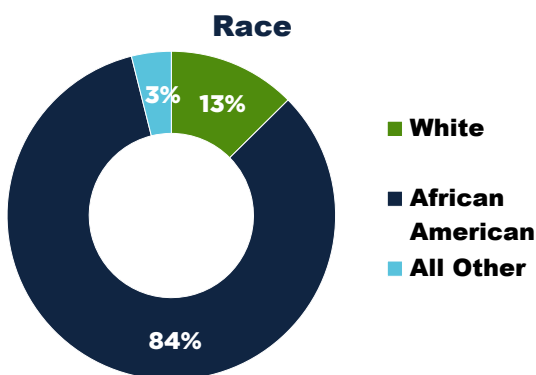
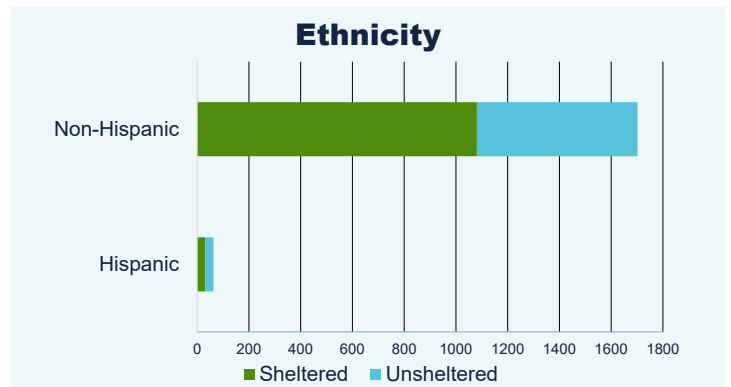
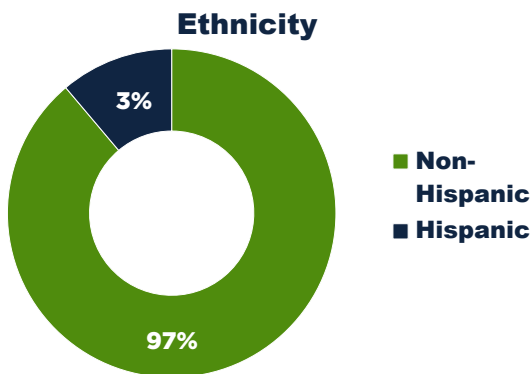
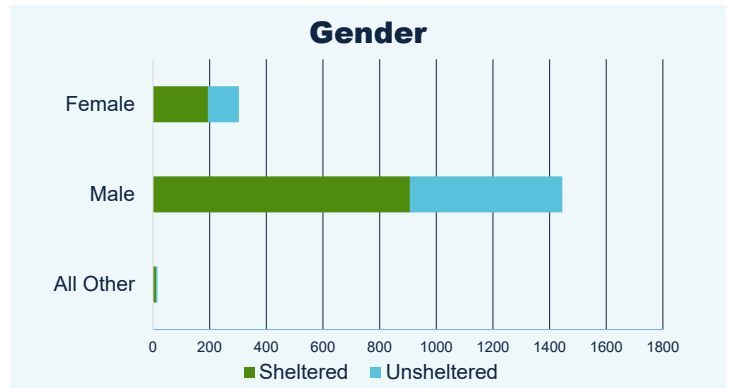
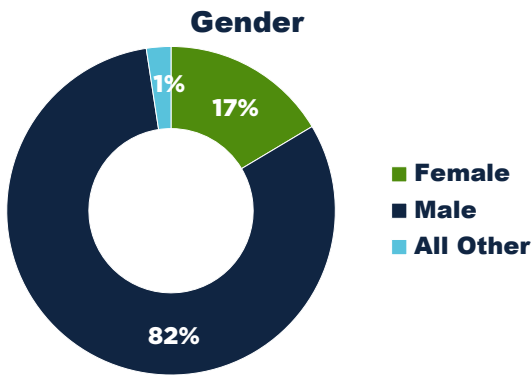
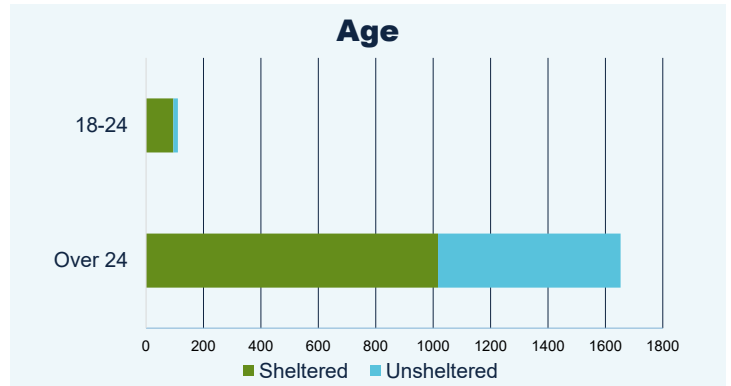
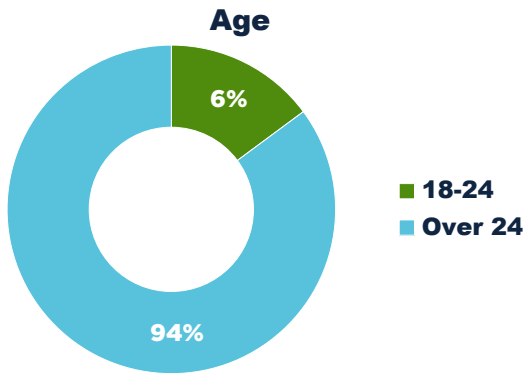
Down 1,025 adults since 2020 totals.

Location



	Unit	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	% of Total
TOTALS		539	573	652	1764	
Subpopulation						
Age						
18-24	Individual	61	34	16	111	6.3%
Over 24	Individual	478	539	636	1653	93.7%
Gender						
Female	Individual	123	71	109	303	17.2%
Male	Individual	407	500	538	1445	81.9%
Transgender	Individual	6	2	0	8	0.5%
Gender Non-Conforming	Individual	3	0	5	8	0.5%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic	Individual	523	558	621	1702	96.5%
Hispanic	Individual	16	15	31	62	3.5%
Race						
White	Individual	69	96	57	222	12.6%
African American	Individual	456	455	562	1473	83.5%
Asian	Individual	1	6	10	17	1.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Individual	1	5	4	10	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Individual	1	1	1	3	0.2%
Multiple Races	Individual	11	10	18	39	2.2%

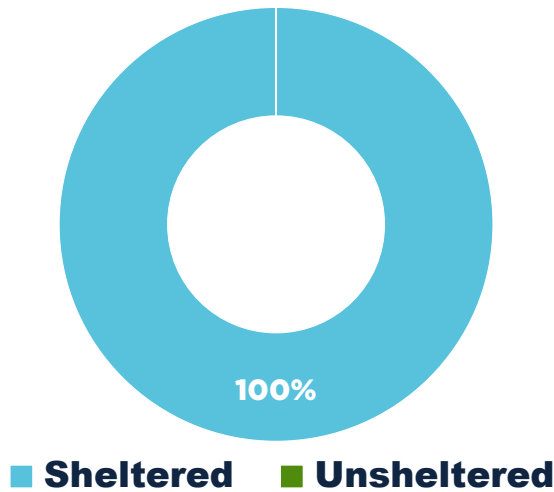
ADULTS



FAMILIES

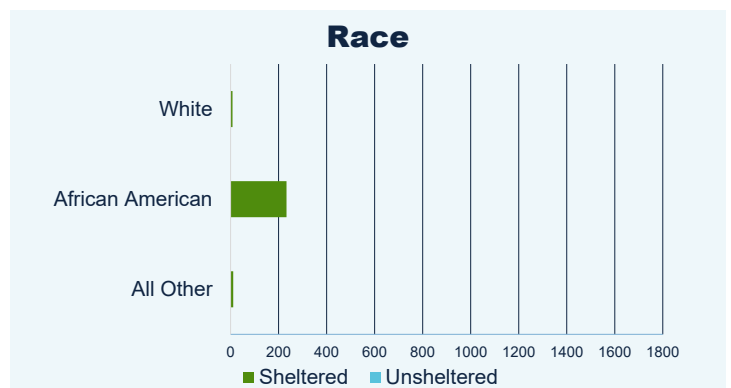
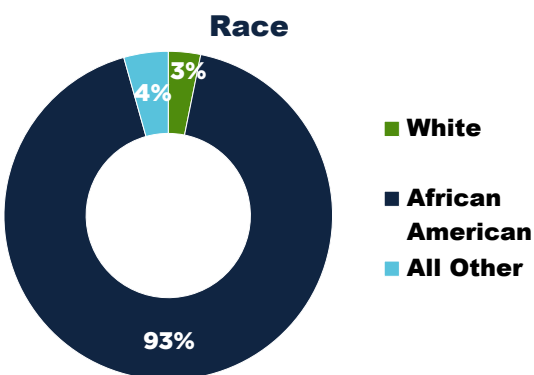
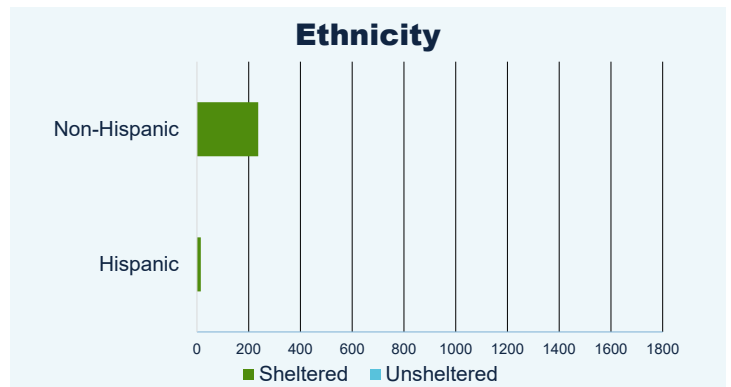
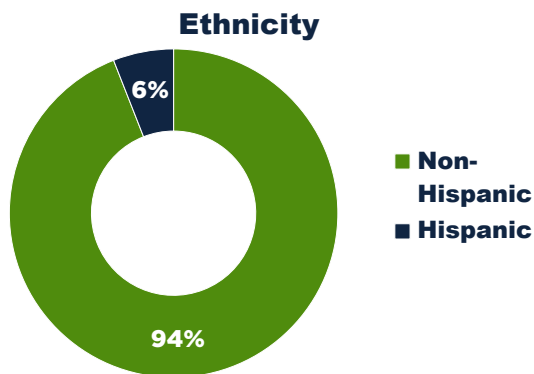
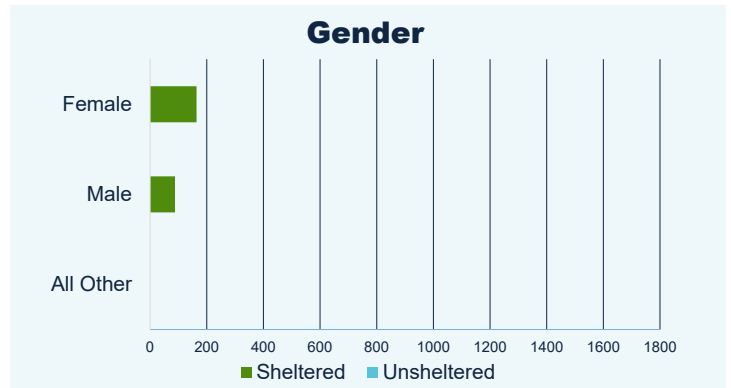
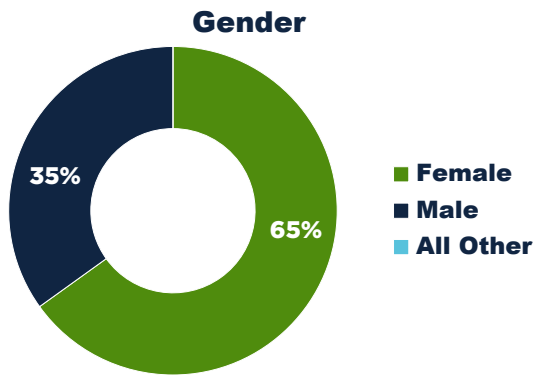
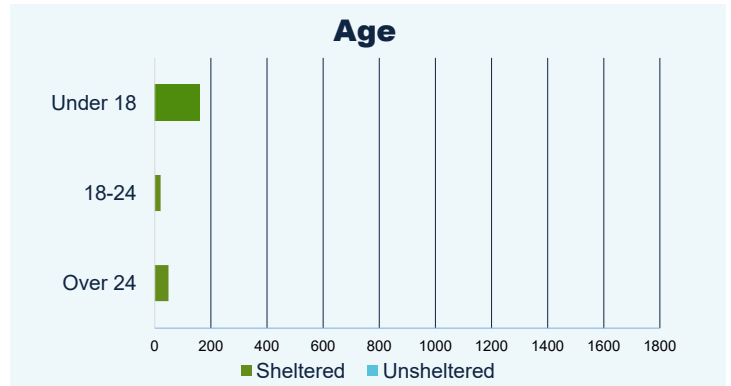
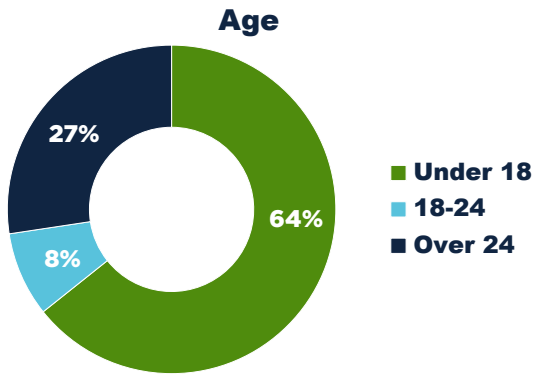
Down 57 families since 2020 totals.

Location



	Unit	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	% of Total
TOTALS	Household	62	24	0	86	
TOTALS	Individual	185	67	0	252	
Subpopulation						
Age						
Under 18	Individual	119	43	0	162	64.3%
18-24	Individual	10	11	0	21	8.3%
Over 24	Individual	56	13	0	69	27.4%
Gender						
Female	Individual	122	42	0	164	65.1%
Male	Individual	63	25	0	88	34.9%
Transgender	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Gender Non-Conforming	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic	Individual	175	62	0	237	94.0%
Hispanic	Individual	10	5	0	15	6.0%
Race						
White	Individual	7	1	0	8	3.2%
African American	Individual	171	62	0	233	92.5%
Asian	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Individual	1	1	0	2	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Multiple Races	Individual	6	3	0	9	3.6%

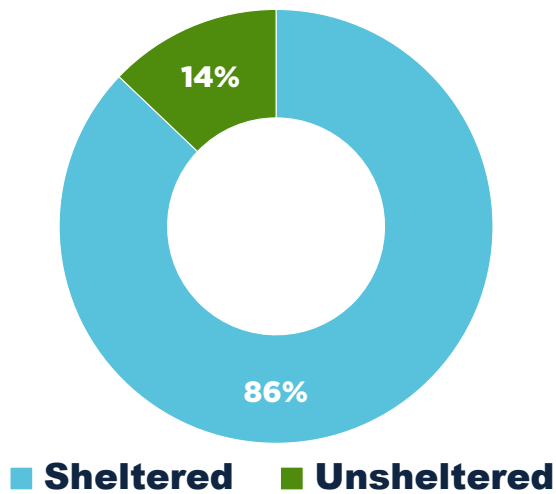
FAMILIES



YOUTH

Down 61 youth since 2020 totals.

Location

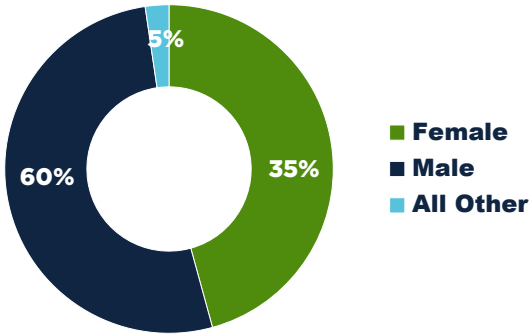


	Unit	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	% of Total
TOTAL*	Individual	61	34	16	112	
Age						
Under 18	Individual	0	0	1	1	0.9%
18-24	Individual	61	34	16	111	99.1%
Parenting Youth*	Household	9	11	0	20	17.9%
Children in Parenting Youth Household	Individual	17	14	0	31	27.7%
Gender						
Female	Individual	20	13	6	39	34.8%
Male	Individual	36	20	11	67	59.8%
Transgender	Individual	0	1	0	1	0.9%
Gender Non-conforming/Questioning	Individual	5	0	0	5	4.5%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic	Individual	57	32	14	103	92.0%
Hispanic	Individual	4	2	3	9	8.0%
Race						
White	Individual	7	2	2	11	9.8%
African-American	Individual	50	30	13	93	83.0%
Asian	Individual	0	1	0	1	0.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Individual	0	1	0	1	0.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Multiple Races	Individual	4	1	0	5	4.5%

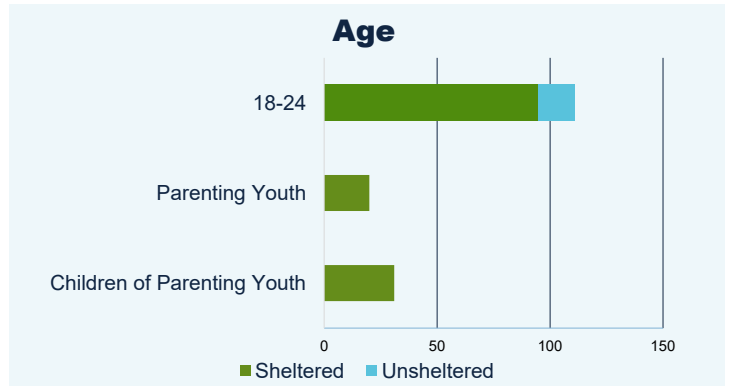
* Parenting Youth included in Family totals and not Youth totals.

YOUTH

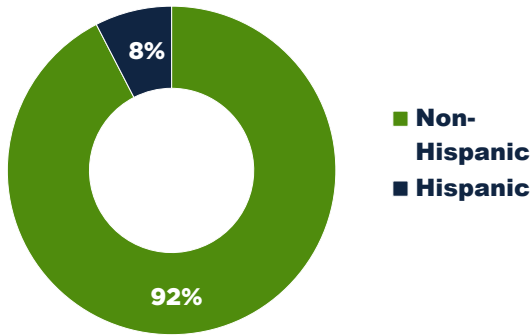
Gender



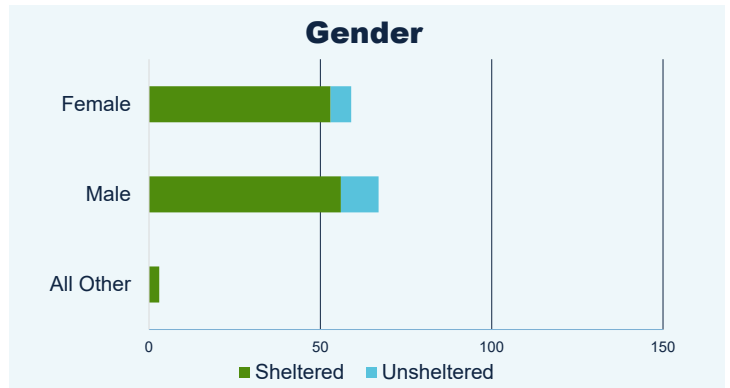
Age



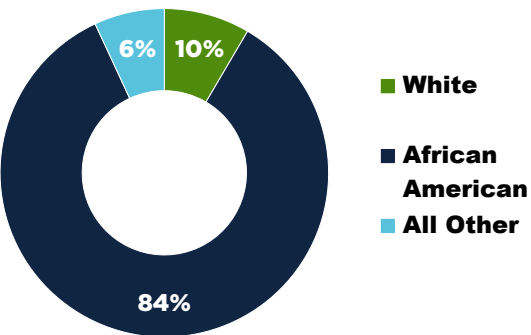
Ethnicity



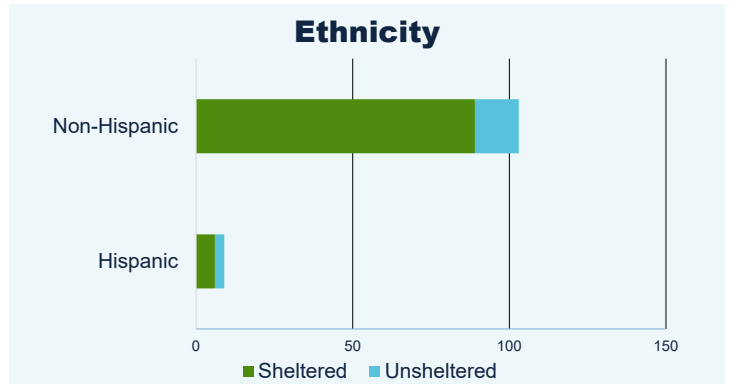
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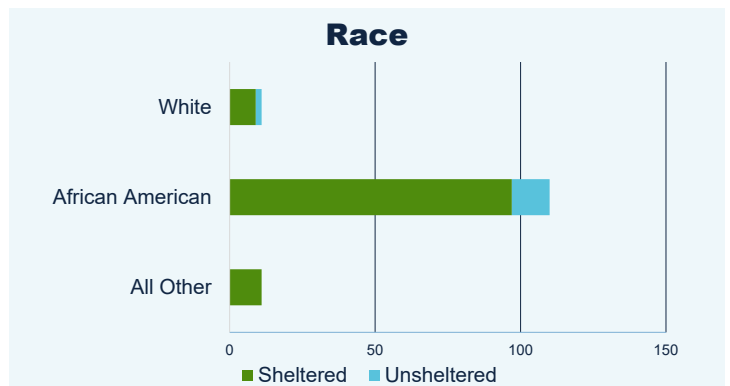
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Ethnicity



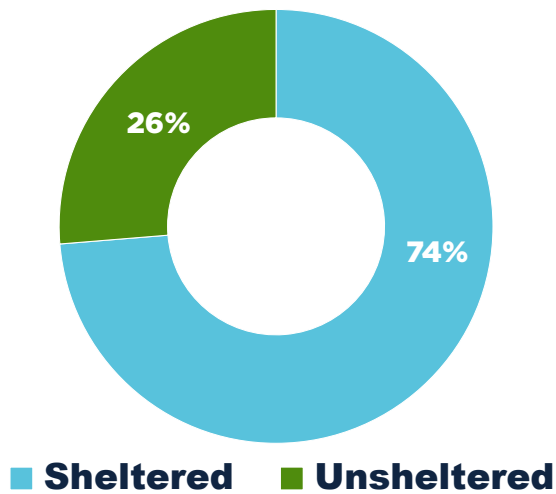
Race



VETERANS

Down 71 veterans since 2020 totals.

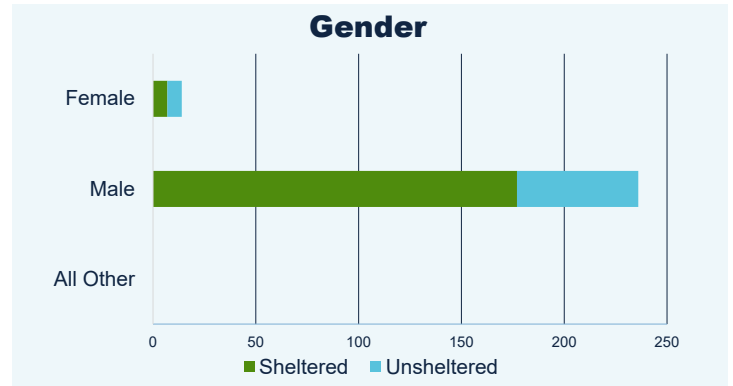
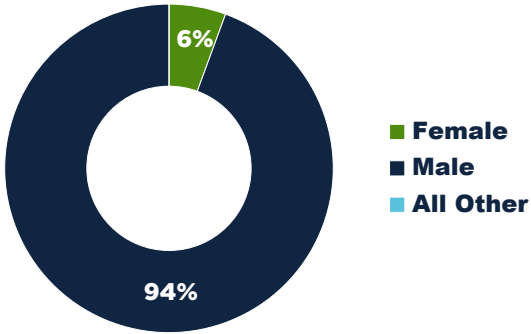
Location



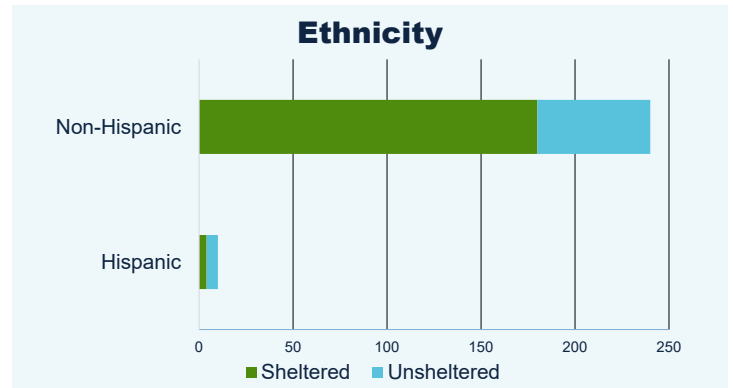
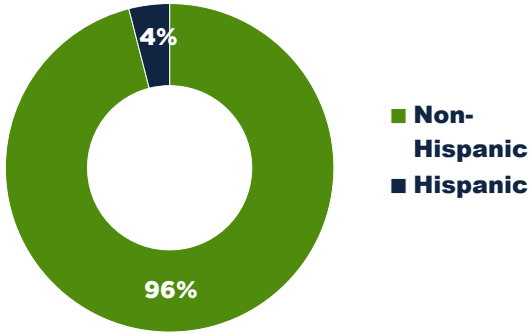
	Unit	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	% of Total
TOTALS		56	129	66	251	
Subpopulation						
Gender						
Female	Individual	6	1	7	14	5.6%
Male	Individual	49	128	59	236	94.0%
Transgender	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Gender Non-Conforming	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic	Individual	55	125	60	240	95.6%
Hispanic	Individual	0	4	6	10	4.0%
Race						
White	Individual	4	20	6	30	12.0%
African American	Individual	49	105	54	208	82.9%
Asian	Individual	0	0	1	1	0.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	Individual	0	2	2	4	1.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Individual	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Multiple Races	Individual	2	2	3	7	2.8%

VETERANS

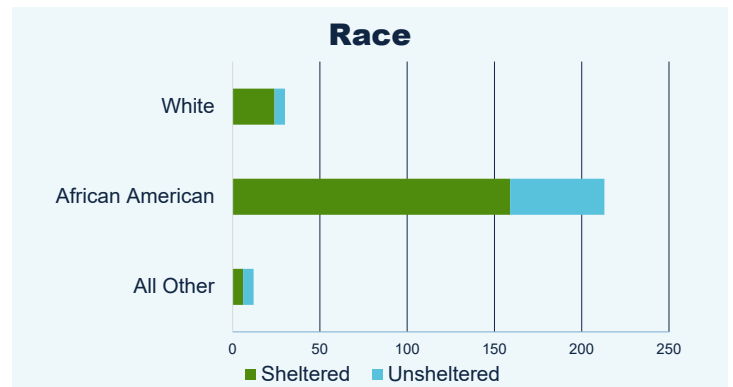
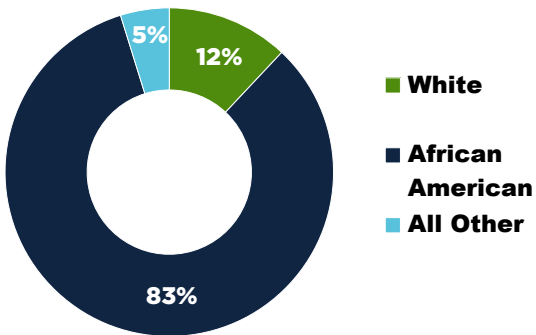
Gender



Ethnicity



Race



HOUSING

In addition to an assessment of people experiencing homelessness, housing is tracked to inform the community on the number of beds available and used during the PIT Count; national occupancy rate trends; and housing placement by housing intervention type. These data points help share a more complete picture of the local homeless ecosystem and resources used by clients.

Housing Inventory Count

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness (and, for permanent housing projects, were homeless at entry, per the HUD homeless definition). It is categorized by four program types in the City of Atlanta, including Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing + Other Permanent Housing, and Rapid Rehousing.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is a HUD report to the U.S. Congress that provides nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. The report is based on Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data about persons who experience homelessness during a 12-month period, point-in-time counts of people experiencing homelessness on one day in January, and data about the inventory of shelter and housing available in a community.

AHAR: Occupancy Rates

HOUSING INVENTORY TYPE	2020	2021
Emergency Shelter	83.2%	73.7%
Safe Haven	85.9%	68.3%
Transitional Housing	78.2%	71.5%
TOTAL	82.1%	73.2%

TOTAL: Beds and Utilization Rate

HOUSING INVENTORY TYPE	BEDS USED	TOTAL BEDS	% Utilization
Emergency Shelter	782	1,484	53%
Transitional Housing	582	920	63%
Permanent Supportive Housing + Other PH	918	1,124	82%*
Rapid Rehousing	1,024	1,024	100%
TOTAL	3,306	4,552	73%

*Lower utilization due to closed projects being represented in the report and tenants being assigned housing vouchers but not moved in at time of data collection.

TOTAL: Housed by Housing Intervention*

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Permanent Supportive Housing	1,763	1,786	1,404	1,472	1,879	1,775
Other Permanent Housing	0	0	162	182	53	135
Rapid Rehousing	177	652	683	710	956	1,024

*Data reflects number of people in housing at the time of data collection and not total program enrollment numbers.

IMPLICATIONS

COVID-19 Response

During the pandemic, the local homelessness ecosystem analyzed trends, developed a strategy and responded in a way that produced positive outcomes for vulnerable neighbors. The use of a hotel to serve as a bridge to housing allowed multiple stakeholders to collaborate on encampment closings and introduce landlords to a new opportunity to aid in reducing unsheltered populations. Over 1,200 households have been served through **LIFT**, a number that reflects the reduction in numbers from 2020. Placements into housing serve as a viable framework for reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in the City.

Eviction Moratoriums

It is unclear whether we will see increases in family homelessness due to fall 2021 eviction moratoriums being lifted. It can take a family 1-3 years to enter into the homeless system, typically after exhausting all other resources available to them.

Data Quality

There was a significant delay in quality, data submissions for the 2022 PIT Count. However, the use of a new data quality tracker allowed our HMIS partners to quickly identify inconsistencies between information submitted by providers and what was in HMIS, as well as reach out to providers to update records to ensure data was more accurate and complete.

Shelter Bed Utilization

Both Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds continue to be underutilized, a trend that may be the result of barriers that limit access to beds. This can include, but is not limited to, lack of identification, sobriety and mental health treatment compliance and background checks.

NEXT STEPS

Despite total homelessness decreasing since 2020, the City of Atlanta is experiencing an increase in the visibility of unsheltered homelessness. Theories for this higher visibility include a lack of affordable housing options to house neighbors in need; limited supply of landlords willing to accept clients that may reside on streets; the migration of people experiencing homelessness outside downtown areas due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and good Samaritans stepping in to provide tents and basic needs that become more visible when a public street is your home.

In spring 2022, Partners for HOME secured over \$23 million in funds from the City of Atlanta and State of Georgia American Rescue Plan funds, as well as the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Emergency Solutions Grant funds to scale and build upon the success of **LIFT**. In this new phase of the COVID-19 rehousing strategy, Partners for HOME will use three hotel properties as temporary, bridge housing to target people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the City. The goal is to provide rapid rehousing placement for nearly 1,500 households with the infusion of stimulus funds through expanded outreach and navigation, unit acquisition in partnership with local area landlords and intensive case management for those who have obtained housing through the new phase of **LIFT**. Hotel operations are scheduled to start in summer 2022.

Additionally the Atlanta Continuum of Care is embarking on its next five-year strategic plan to end homelessness for tracked subpopulations; identify new public-private partnerships that will create permanent supportive housing interventions; enhance partnerships with local landlords to expand rapid rehousing interventions; and strengthen communications to engage local stakeholders in a unified and collaborative approach to positively impact the local homeless ecosystem. Partners for HOME will lead strategic planning sessions and coordinate key government, business, community and provider stakeholders with a goal of releasing the 2022-2027 plan in November 2022.

PARTNERS FOR HOME

Partners for HOME serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) — a HUD program that promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness and provides funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and state and local governments to quickly rehouse people impacted by homelessness.

We bring together government, nonprofit, business and community stakeholders to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

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