

**Atlanta Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2022  
Zoom Meeting  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

❖ **Welcome and Introductions, Cathryn Vassell**

❖ **Lead Agency Updates**

○ **Strategic Planning Update – Cathryn Vassell**

- The Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP) and the Mayor’s office hosted a meeting to discuss homelessness in Atlanta. Much of what was fleshed out in that meeting led to a gaps analysis of the homeless response system. Partners for HOME is working to compile the feedback and data from that meeting which will be used to guide the strategic planning sessions in October.
- The original strategic plan, ClearPath, focused on ending homelessness for youth, families, and veterans as well as ending chronic homelessness. The new strategic plan will focus on doubling down on existing strategies and leveraging resources to create housing solutions and exit people from homelessness quickly. Additional focus will be put on encampment closures, securing dedicated revenue, unsheltered homelessness, racial equity, and incorporating the voices of those with lived expertise.
- Chris Womack of Georgia Power has agreed to co-chair the strategic planning committee. Partners for HOME is coordinating and planning for additional committee members. There will be affinity work group sessions that CoC members will be invited to attend.

○ **LIFT 2.0 Update – Melissa Austin**

- LIFT 2.0 is similar to LIFT 1.0 which housed nearly 800 households. LIFT 2.0 will attempt to house 1500 households and will focus on reducing unsheltered homelessness and compassionately closing encampments. Three encampments (Central Avenue, John Wesley Dobbs, and Pryor Street) have been closed as of September 13, and more will be closed in the autumn.
- Outreach teams contracted under LIFT 2.0 have been engaging clients in priority locations and either placing them in the hotel or directly into housing or diverting them. The city has been divided into five quadrants and will likely be further subdivided as capacity grows.
- Partners for HOME is hosting weekly community meetings to give updates about the progress of LIFT 2.0 and to answer questions. These meetings are held on Wednesdays from 9:30 – 10 a.m. CoC members can register for meetings [here](#). Previous meeting recordings and presentations can be found [here](#).
- Next steps for LIFT 2.0 include hotel navigation, unit acquisition, and October encampment closures.

○ **Panel RFP – Melissa Austin**

- Partners for HOME is introducing a panel RFP system that will be used for funding opportunities moving forward. Agencies will submit a single application that will then be kept on file and used when determining funding recipients.
- Sections available for applications include outreach/navigation only, outreach/navigation to rapid rehousing, rapid rehousing case management, rental assistance intermediary, unit acquisition, rapid rehousing, voucher application and navigation, and diversion/rapid exit.
- Panel applications will be reviewed monthly once the process is rolled out.

- **Environmental Reviews – Jasmine Cunningham**
  - Environmental reviews analyze the impact of a project on the surrounding environment and vice versa. This process determines if the property meets environmental standards and ensures that HUD-funded projects provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing.
  - Please review the presentation for more information on the updated process.
- **YHDP Implementation Update – Jasmine Cunningham**
  - YESS will be providing joint transitional housing/rapid rehousing and case management and support services. Hope thru Soap will be providing outreach, navigation, and empowerment advocacy. Projects are expected to kick off on October 1.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing Update – Brianna Flowers**
  - Clients have been moved into several permanent supportive housing units at Adair Lofts, Capitol View, Centra Villa, Dwell at Alcove, and Edgewood Center.
  - Over 50 units will be available by January 2023 through 55 Milton, Intrada Westside, and Stanton Park.
- **System Vitals – Jasmine Rockwell Heard**
  - There have been 155 permanent supportive housing placements and 153 rapid rehousing placements since January 2022. More details can be found in the presentation.
  - Partners for HOME will be establishing a performance committee. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to [Jasmine Rockwell Heard](#).
- **HMIS Updates – Abby Burgess**
  - There will be no data quality submissions for the next two months because of the federal reporting cycle and data clean up.
- **Development Update – Cathryn Vassell**
  - Partners for HOME has secured \$26.6 million for LIFT 2.0 efforts. There is still a \$7 million gap. Summer Duperon and Jack Hardin are leading the fundraising efforts to secure remaining funds.
- **PIT Count Update – Abby Bracewell**
  - The 2023 Atlanta PIT Count will occur at the end of January. The planning process has already begun. CoC members who are interested in joining the planning committee can fill out [this form](#).
- **SOAR Training – Denice Wade**
  - SOAR (SSI/SSDI outreach, access, and recovery) is a program designed to help individuals experiencing homelessness overcome the barriers of applying and getting approved for SSI/SSDI income.
  - Training is available for those looking to become SOAR certified professionals. Once the training and final exam are complete, SOAR certified professionals can access medical records for clients, and SOAR applications are generally given priority, expediting the process.
  - For more information, reach out to [Denice Wade](#) or visit the [SOAR website](#).
- **Youth Action Board (YAB) Updates – Kellie Bryson**
  - The YAB has been working with the PIT survey workgroup to update the youth survey for the 2023 PIT Count. They reviewed the questions from previous years and made recommended changes.
  - Next steps for the YAB include updating their membership model, issuing training materials for new and existing members, updating their bylaws, and becoming more involved in CoC committees.
- **Client Advisory Council (CAC) Updates – Richard DeShields**
  - CAC members have been conducting customer service surveys at emergency shelters. These surveys ask clients questions regarding the quality of shelter and services they've received.

- The CAC is always looking for new members. Members must have previous or current lived experience with homelessness to join. The application can be found on the [Partners for HOME website](#).

#### ❖ Presentations

##### ○ **Senate Study Committee – Elizabeth Appley**

- Legislation has been introduced at the state level that would criminalize homelessness and divert state and federal funds away from permanent supportive housing solutions and into sanctioned encampments. The legislation is being pushed by Cicero, a Texas thinktank.
- Two bills were introduced, but neither one passed. The Senate bill (SB 535) was repurposed into a Senate Study Committee comprised of five senators and four members of the community. A hearing on August 4 saw over eight hours of witness testimony, including statements from Partners for HOME CEO, Cathryn Vassell, Dr. Bambie Hayes Brown of Georgia ACT, and DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn among others. The committee hearing ended with senators stating that there will be new legislation in 2023, but there was no meaningful discussion of new or additional funding.

##### ○ **Monkeypox Update – Sapna Morris**

- Global monkeypox cases are at just over 56,000 as of September 7, 2022. The U.S. has the most at 21,274. Georgia has the fifth highest cases in the U.S. Cases are overall trending downwards toward a plateau.
- Transmission is made by direct contact with the rash, scabs, or body fluids, respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact, touching items (clothing, linens, etc.) that previously touched infectious rash or body fluids, or through placenta in an infected pregnant person to their fetus.

##### ○ **Building Talent Foundation – Derrick Henderson**

- Building Talent Foundation works to get individuals who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness into trade jobs. BTF does work with individuals with nonviolent criminal backgrounds. Anyone who is interested in placing their clients into their program should reach out to [Derrick Henderson](#).

#### ❖ Agency Updates

- Mercy Care will be offering monkeypox vaccines starting October 1 to patients meeting clinical criteria.
- PAD and Partners for HOME are hosting a session on September 22 from 8:30 am to 10 a.m. on Zoom for local service providers, particularly organizations who do street-based outreach, alternative response, etc. and often find themselves navigating gaps in the local mental health crisis care system. Register for the event [here](#).
- [Marshal Rancier's](#) Memorial Service will be held at Central Presbyterian Church (201 Washington St Atlanta, 30303) on Monday, September 19 at 11 a.m. Burial will occur after service at the Lincoln Cemetery (2275 Joseph E Boone Atlanta GA 30314).
- Barred Business is introducing legislation that will make formerly incarcerated individuals a protected class. They will be hosting a protected campaign on September 19 at 1 p.m. More information can be found [here](#).
- Zaban Paradies will begin operating year-round at the end of September.

**The next Atlanta CoC meeting will be November 8 at 10 a.m. Please email Abby Bracewell ([abracewell@partnersforhome.org](mailto:abracewell@partnersforhome.org)) for meeting information.**

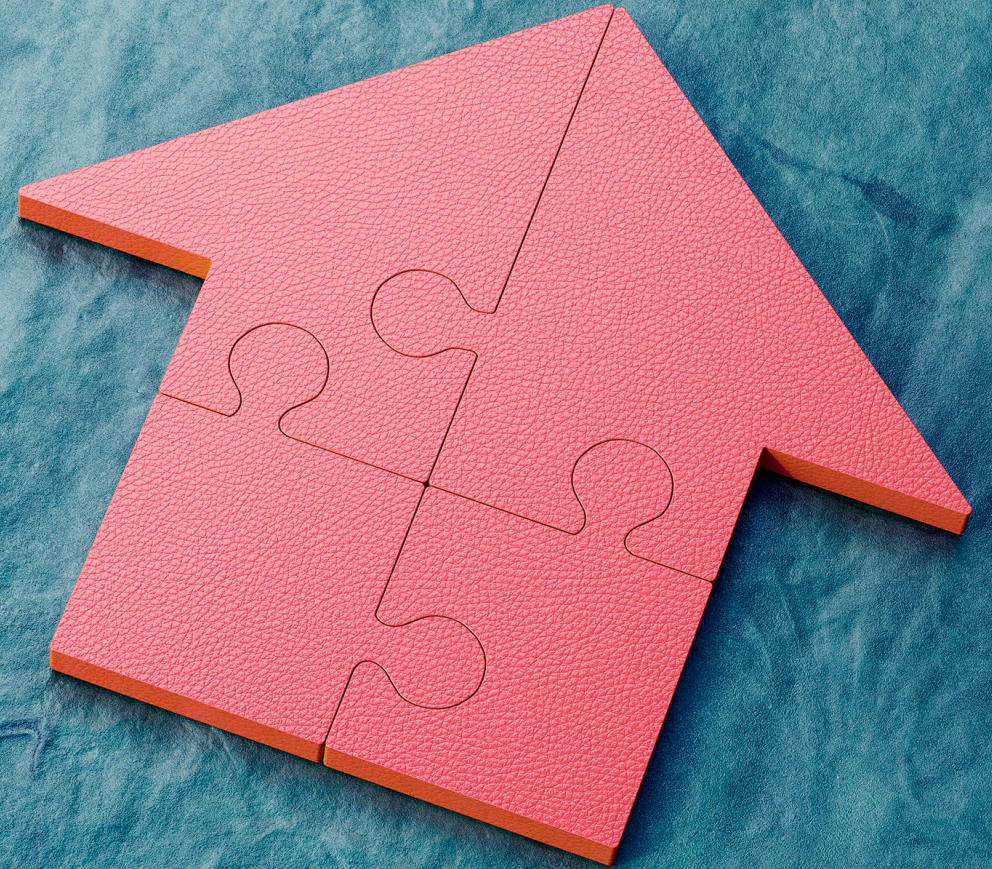
# LIFT 2.0

Partners for HOME's plan to stably house  
1,500 households



# Unsheltered Homeless Plan

- Coordinated plan identifying ways to reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Includes short-term solutions that move people from streets into a bridge to permanent housing (i.e. hotel, low-barrier shelter, etc.)
- Includes long-term solutions that move people to permanent housing through rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing interventions
- Working with Mayor's office to coordinate details



# LIFT 2.0

## Hotel Operator, Outreach to RRH, Unit Acquisition, Rental Assistance Intermediary



Unit Acquisition

Unit Acquisition

Unit Acquisition

Unit Acquisition

**Outreach**-Document readiness, Unit Applications, entitlements, move coordination

**Hotel Operator:** Meals, onsite supports, transportation to appointments, coordinate with outreach as households are navigated to housing

**Rapid Rehousing-Case management, and navigation to post RRH (self sufficiency, voucher, PSH, OPH):** Meals, onsite supports, transportation to appointments, coordinate with outreach as households are navigated to housing



# LIFT 2.0: Current Status

Hotel  
Operational: 108  
room capacity

5 Outreach to  
Rapid Rehousing  
teams

Unit Acquisition:  
No Units

3 Encampments  
Compassionately  
Closed

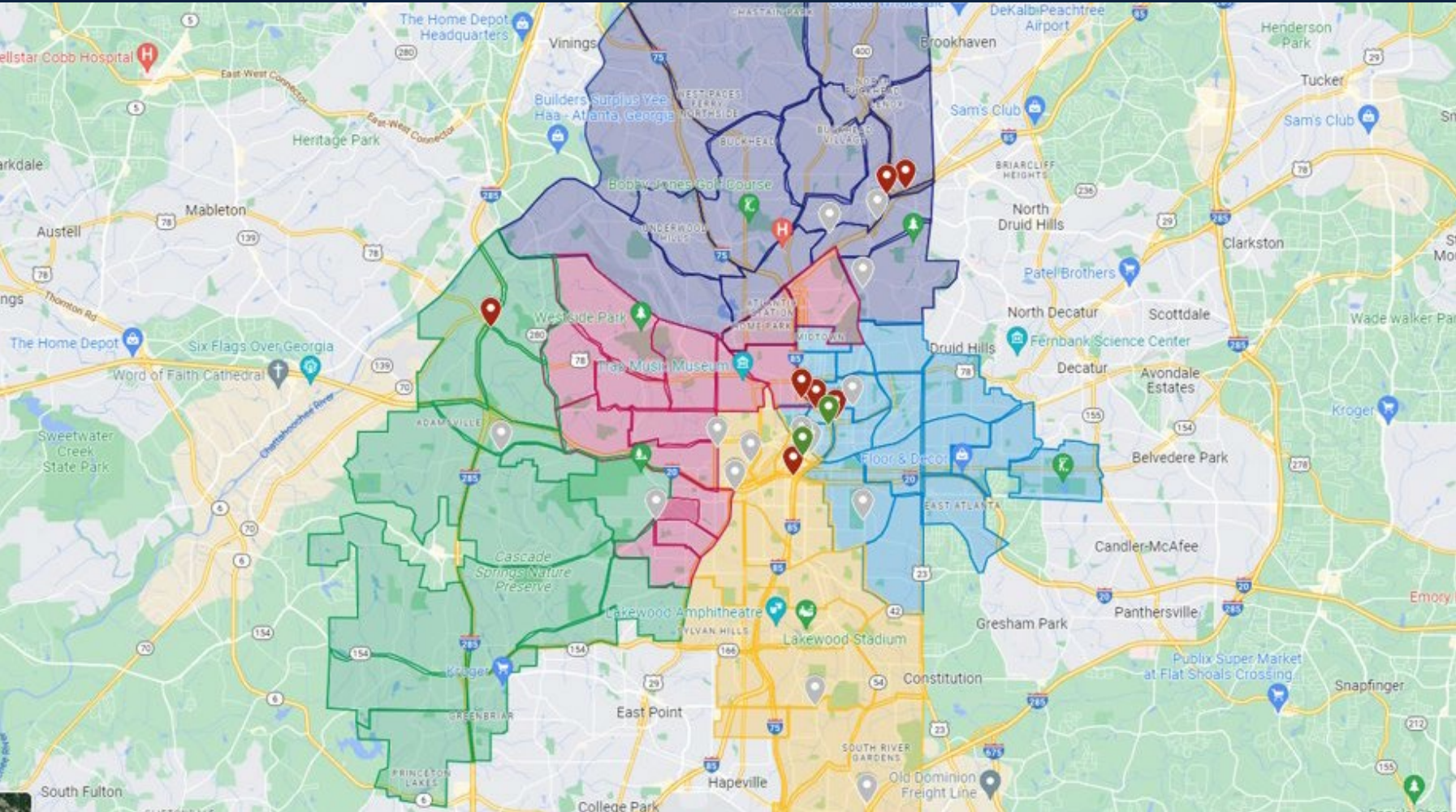
Weekly  
Community  
Update Meetings

RRH Training for  
LIFT 2.0 Teams  
with CSH

Weekly Team  
Lead Meetings



# LIFT 2.0: Outreach to RRH assignments





# Pre-Closure Strategy

## Identification and engagement

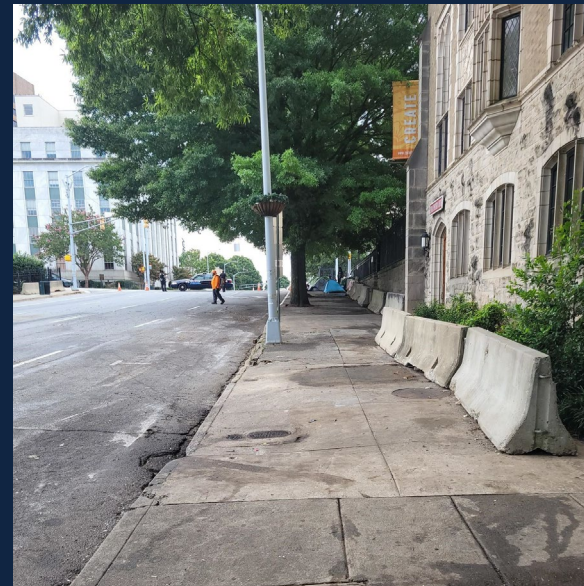
- Encampment “hot spots” identified with Mayor’s office, APD and DPW
- Outreach to RRH teams assigned to quadrants of the city and encampment “hot spots”
- Outreach teams visit encampment 2-3x/week in the 3-4 weeks leading up to closure
- Outreach partnered with Diversion for real time solutions to exit homelessness quickly

## By Name List and bridge housing

- Outreach captures identifying information of those in encampment each visit – submits to PfH
- PfH collates encampment resident information – identifies those in encampment over multiple visits to build by name list
- Clients on by name list prioritized for hotel bridge housing
- Diversion and shelter services for those not going to hotel



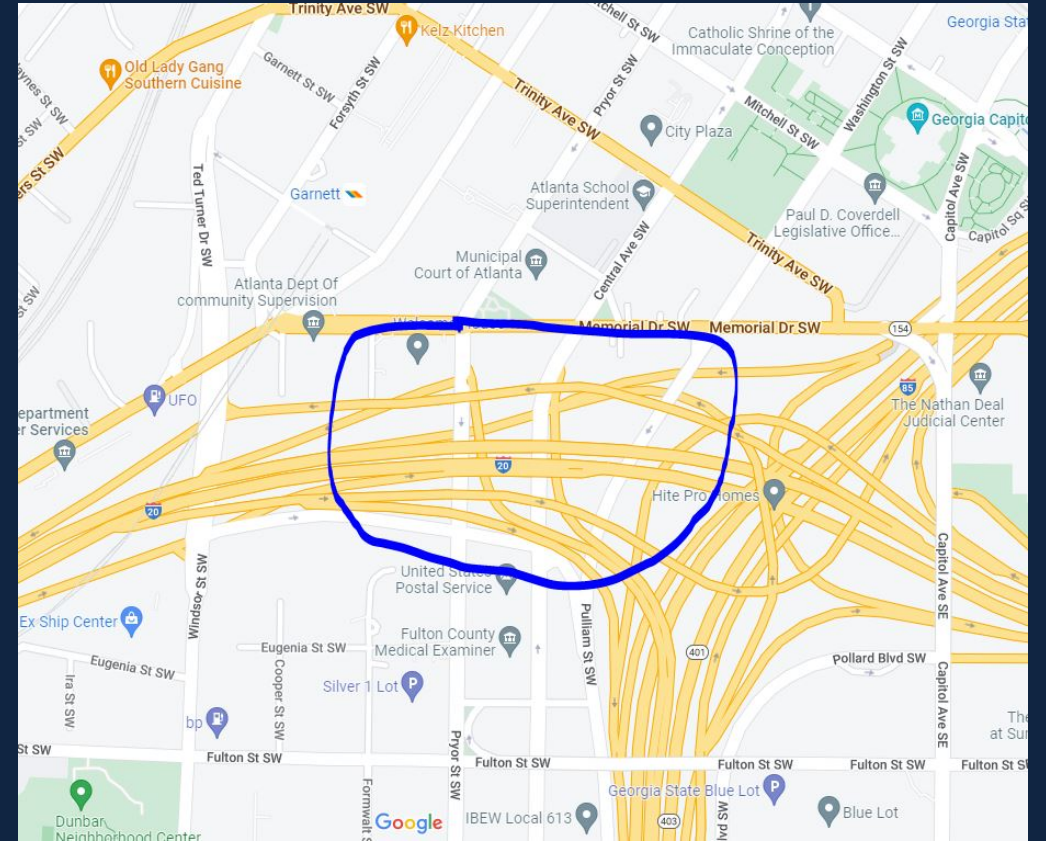
# Central Avenue Encampment Closed 8/3



# Closed Encampments (8/3): 75/85 @ John Wesley Dobbs



# Current: Pryor Street Encampment Closed 9/8



# Encampment decommissioning numbers to date

108

Rooms in hotel

139

Individuals in hotel

103

Rooms occupied

|                               | Central  | Dobbs | Pryor |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|-------|
| Hotel                         | 29   | 9     | 39    |
| Shelter                       | 5  | 1     | 9     |
| Declined Services             | 3  | 0     | 10    |
| Diverted                      | 5  | 0     | 31    |
| Not present on day of closure | 6  | 0     | 12    |
| Total                         | 128/159 assisted with housing solutions prior to closure |       |       |



\*hotel numbers also reflect clients from previous encampments: Central in February, Metropolitan Pkwy, Clifton  
 \* 5 rooms empty due to maintenance concerns –actively being addressed by hotel management

# Next Steps



Hotel Navigation



600 Unit Acquisition



October Closure



Panel RFP



# Next Steps: Panel RFP

- Outreach and Navigation only
- Outreach and Navigation to Rapid Rehousing \*
- Rapid Rehousing Case Management only
- Rental Assistance Intermediary only
- Unit Acquisition (Minimum 100 units)
- Rapid Rehousing (Case Management, Unit Acquisition, and Rental Assistance) \*
- Voucher Application and Navigation
- Diversion and Rapid Exit





# PSH Pipeline Update

September 13, 2022





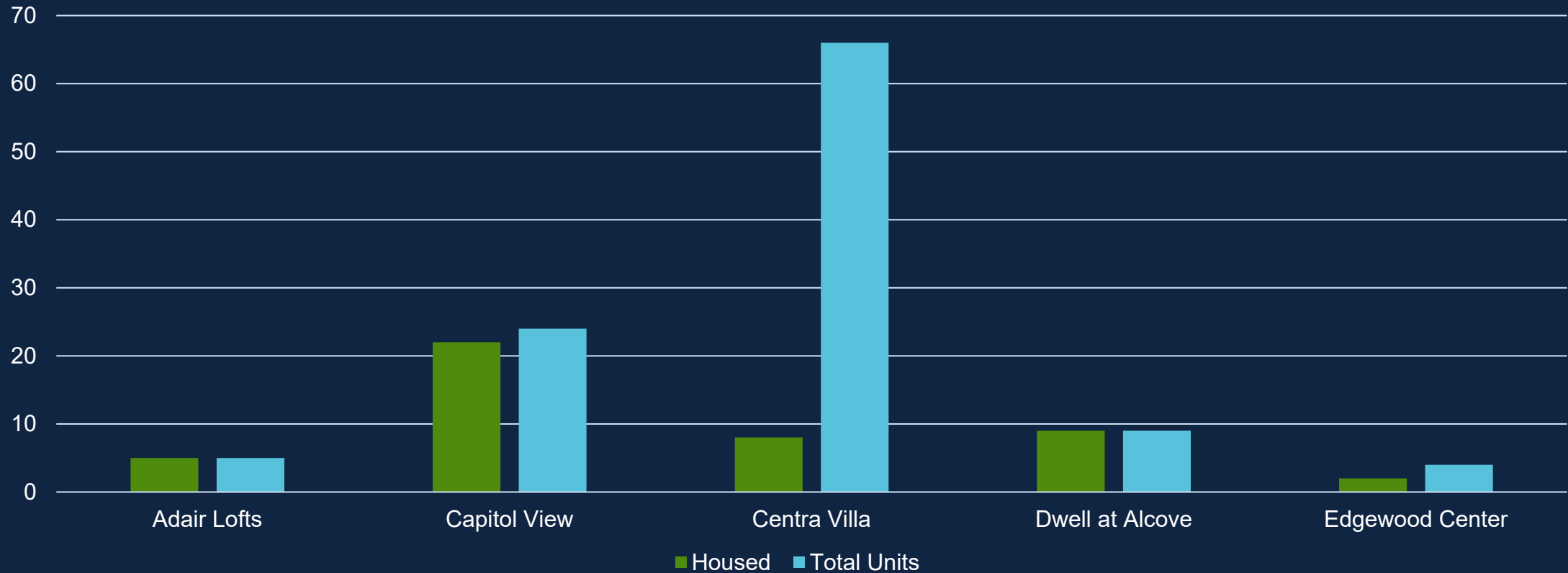
# Fulton County BDHDD/River Edge



- Offer services to **550** PSH pipeline units.
- **Services Offered:**
  - Individual case management
  - Care coordination
  - Group sessions
  - Community referrals

# Current PSH Projects

## PSH Pipeline Move-Ins



# Dwell Alcove

Completed 1-bedroom developments located in Grove Park/Dixie Hills that includes:

- 9 PSH units out of 19 units total.



# Capital View

Completed 1 and 2-bedroom development located in Capital View that includes:

- 24 PSH units out of 120 units total.



# Upcoming Pipeline Projects

| Approx. Placed in Service Date | Project Name                                | Applicant                   | Project Type     | Location   | PSH Units | Total Units |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ongoing                        | 55 Milton                                   | Prestwick                   | New Construction | Summerhill | 18        | 156         |
| Nov-22                         | Intrada Westside (formerly DHP development) | Vecino Group                | New Construction | Westside   | 25        | 163         |
| Jan-23                         | Stanton Park                                | Parallel Housing/Woda Group | New Construction | Summerhill | 10        | 56          |



# Any Questions?

If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email at [bflowers@partnersforhome.org](mailto:bflowers@partnersforhome.org).



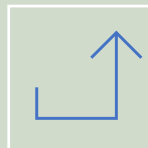
# System Performance Vital Signs



Housing placements



Housing retention



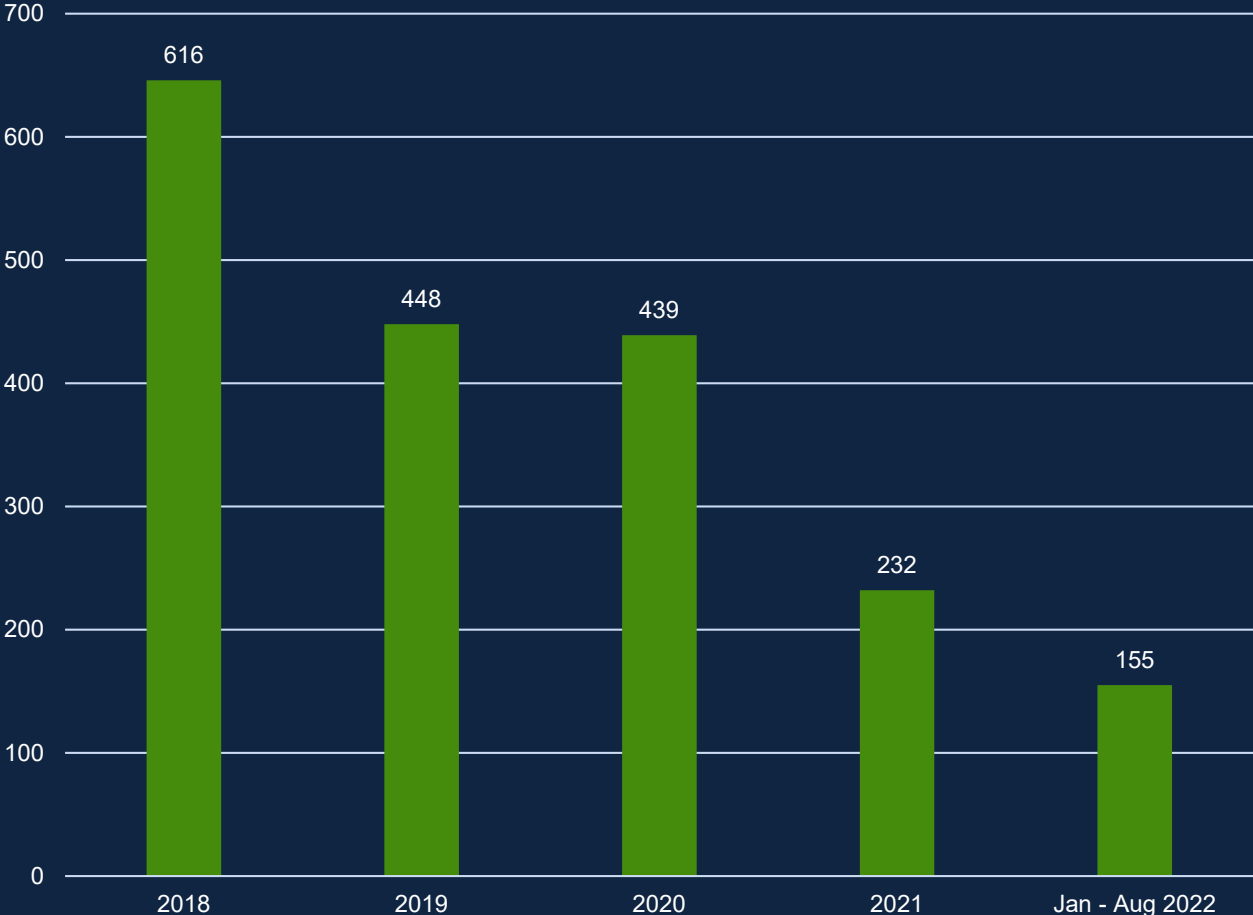
Returns to homelessness



# PSH Housing Placements



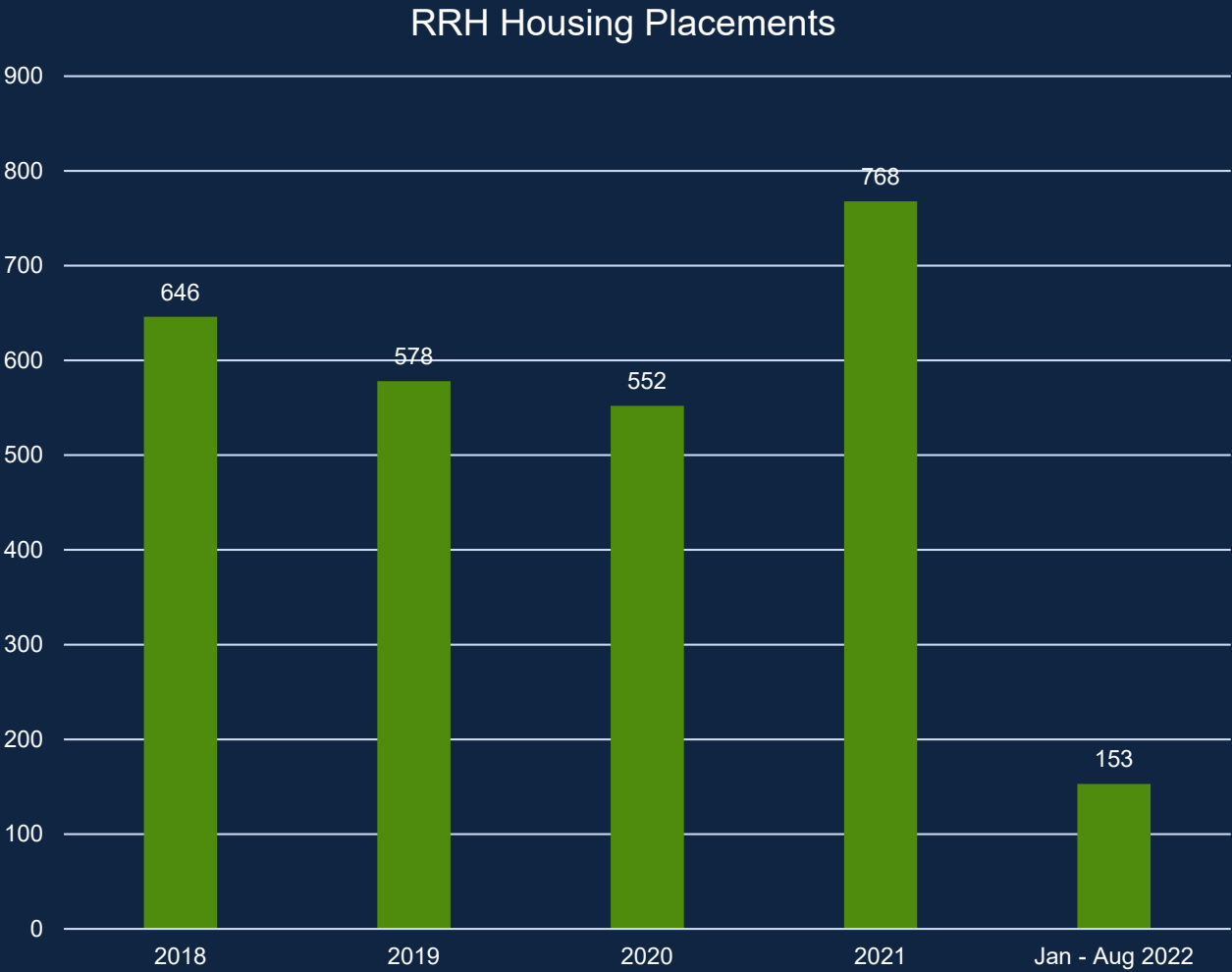
PSH Housing Placements



Source data: HMIS



# RRH Housing Placements



Source data: HMIS

# PSH Retention and Returns Q2 (Apr - Jun 2022)

% of individuals that Met the Milestone that either Retained PSH (Stayers) or Exited to a Permanent Housing Solution in Q1



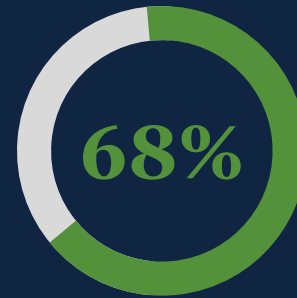
% of Individuals that Exited PSH & Returned to Homelessness: 2 Year lookback during Q1



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# RRH Retention and Returns Q2 (Apr - Jun 2022)

Exits to Permanent  
Housing 68%

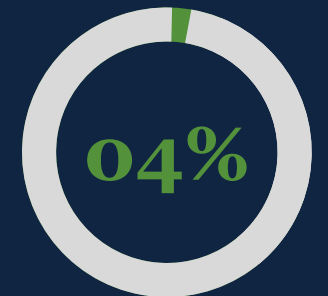
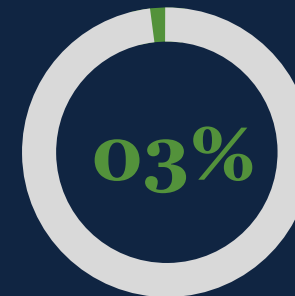
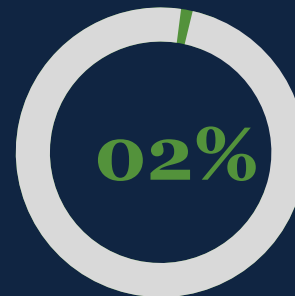


06 months

12 months

24 months

% of Individuals that  
Returned to  
Homelessness: 2 Year  
lookback during Q2



# SOAR

A Brief Overview

HOME

# What is SOAR?

- SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
- Program specifically designed to help individuals experiencing homelessness overcome the barriers of applying and getting approved for SSI/SSDI income
- Trains outreach workers and those working specifically with homeless population to apply for SSI/SSDI and walk them through the process until they are approved
- Helps expedite application process



# Why SOAR?

Barriers for persons experiencing homelessness to be approved for SSI/SSDI:

- No consistent mailing address for follow up paperwork
- No consistent telephone to be contacted about interviews/disability evaluation appointments
- Having to move to different locations frequently
- In and out of hospitals/institutions
- Sporadic medical care – making accessing medical records challenging



# Why SOAR? (continued)

- SOAR Certified outreach workers act as representative for client
- Outreach workers are able to locate clients and keep them up to date on application status and what is needed to continue in the process (additional documents/interviews/appointments) and to meet deadlines



# Why SOAR? (continued)

- SOAR Certified professionals are able to access medical records for clients
- SOAR helps trained outreach workers and case workers to help SSA see SSI/SSDI applicant as a more dimensional human being through the Medical Summary Report (MSR)
- Applications marked as SOAR applications generally are given priority





# How to become SOAR Certified

- Online training
- Individual training at own pace
- Consistency is KEY!



# Training Format

## 1. Modules with quizzes and assignments that cover:

- Comprehensive information about SSI/SSDI and SSA's disability determination process
- SOAR *Critical Components* of completing and submitting comprehensive and high quality SSI/SSDI applications

## 2. FINAL EXAM:

- Trainees will be assigned a fictitious person experiencing homelessness for whom to complete a SOAR Application
- Application is graded by a real person at the SOAR program and if the student passes, they receive an electronic certificate.
- If person doesn't pass, they can keep trying until they pass



# For More Information

To find out more about SOAR and to access the FREE training:

<https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>

Questions?

Please Contact Denice Wade, Project Manager for Outreach &  
Diversion

[dwade@partnersforhome.org](mailto:dwade@partnersforhome.org)



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# Youth Action Board Update





## PIT Survey Revision

- The YAB has been working with the PIT Committee to update the supplemental youth survey for the annual Point in Time Count.
- We reviewed last year's survey questions and analyzed some of the raw data collected from the youth in order to determine how to best approach next years survey.



## PIT Survey Revision

Some of the things the YAB Considered during our revision

- CCP
- Previous survey results
- Quality of Care
- Age factors

## Examples of “Desired Services” Added

- peer support groups
- youth specific DV services
- affordable quality individual therapy/counseling
- cooking classes/life skills classes
- cell phone service
- childcare

## Examples of Items Left Off Survey

- Level of education achieved
- Employment status
- Information collected through HMIS



## YAB Next Steps

The ATL YAB has gone through a series of structural changes over the past few months with aim to play a more active part in our city's CoC

### YAB System Renovations

- Membership model
- Training materials for new & existing members
- Scope of work
- Bylaws

### Upcoming System Renovations

- Recruitment plan
- CoC Committee involvement



## YAB Next Steps

### Youth Provider Focus Groups

- YAB will coordinate and host focus groups at youth shelters in the city of Atlanta as a part of our investment in the continuous quality improvement of the system
- We plan to orchestrate focus groups with a number of youth providers and use the data collected to determine gaps in service, how youth are being treated and how youth are being navigated through the system. We'll work together with the providers to locate, develop or administer any trainings necessary





## YAB Next Steps

### CQI

- Youth provider focus groups are one part of a CQIP that the YAB is developing as a part of our CCP action steps
- CQI training Sep 29 2022
- Update Oct 2022

The background features a collection of 3D rectangular blocks in various colors including teal, red, orange, and pink. These blocks are arranged in a way that suggests a city skyline or a complex architectural structure. The blocks have black outlines and are set against a light teal background.

# **HOMELESSNESS IS A HOUSING PROBLEM**

Meeting the Challenge in the Georgia Legislature

Atlanta Continuum of Care Meeting  
September 13, 2022  
Elizabeth J. Appley, Esq.

# A Proposal to Hide Rather than House People

- **HB 713 (2021)** Proposed to divert all state and federal funds for homelessness away from permanent supportive housing and into parking lots for homeless people with cars, sanctioned camps for people without cars, and short-term cabins for up to six months conditioned on work. Locales that failed to reduce homelessness below state averages would lose funding.
- **SB 535 (2022)** Proposed to create a new state law criminalizing street sleeping/camping (\$5,000 fine and/or up to one year in jail), require local enforcement or lose state funding, and relocate homeless to sanctioned encampments to parking lots with a fence, potable water, and job johnnies.

# Big Bucks Backing Bad Policy

- **Cicero Action** – founded by a Texas tech billionaire and venture capitalist introducing his template bill across the country. Passed in AZ and TX so far.
- 501 c3 and c4 – political money available...
- Hired gun in Georgia Capitol – same lobbyist leading on Buckhead succession legislation.
- Multiple hearings on legislation driven in part by encampments surrounding the capitol and downtown.

# Senate Study Committee

- Neither Bill passed House or Senate. (SB 535 passed Committee by Substitute.)
- Senate Study Committee passed with amendments.
  - 5 Senators – 3 Republicans and 2 Democrats
    - Sen. Carden Summers (R-Cordele) – author of SB 535
    - Sen. Mike Dugan (R-Carrolton) – Senate Majority Leader
    - Sen. Randy Robertson (R-Cataula) – Former Law Enforcement Background
    - Sen. Kim Jackson (D-Stone Mountain) – Episcopal Priest serving homeless
    - Sen. Gail Davenport (D-Jonesboro) Real Estate professional
  - Hon. Beau McClain- Judge and sponsor of Forsythe County homeless encampment
  - Commissioner of DBHDD – designee (Maxwell Ruppensburg)
  - Commissioner of DCA – designee (Daphne Walker)
  - Alena Green, Central Atlanta Progress

# First Hearing: 8 Hours on August 4

## Overwhelming Evidence: Powerful Testimony

- One witness spoke for the legislation: “Judge” Glock, Cicero Action
- All other witnesses spoke in support of Housing First and PSH:
- Commissioner of DCA Christopher Nunn
- Director, DBHDD Office of Supportive Housing, Maxwell Ruppensburg
- Georgia ACT, Bambi Hayes Brown
- Cathryn Vassell, Partners for Home
- Kenyatta Mitchell, City of Atlanta
- Shannon Terrell-Gordon, River Edge
- Kelley Girtz, Mayor of Athens

- Demetrius Causer, Georgia Municipal Association
- Isabel Otero, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Neal Richardson, Safe House Ministries
- Pat Frey, United Way Home for Good, Columbus
- Gary Cornell, Central Presbyterian Church
- Jack Hardin, Attorney and Homeless Advocate
- Richard DeShields, Person with Lived Experience
- Matthew Elder, HomeFirst Gwinnett
- Jerry Miller, Capitol Hill Development Corporation
- Moki Macias, Atlanta Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiatives (PAD)
- Paul Bolster, Trinity United Methodist Church
- Natallie Keiser, House ATL Director
- Tracy Woodard, Intown Collaborative Ministries
- Anthony Holt, Person with Lived Experience
- Elizabeth Appley, Enterprise Community Partners, Georgia Supportive Housing Association, Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, Georgia ACT
- Darlene Schultz, Georgia Works
- Deirdre Bolden, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
- Mariel Sivley, Georgia Supportive Housing Association
- Lauren Waits, Project Community Connections, Inc.

# Written Testimony

- Texas Homelessness Network
- Law Enforcement Action Partnership
- National Homelessness Law Center
- National Coalition for the Homeless
- National HealthCare for the Homeless Council
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Funders Together to End Homelessness
- National Low Income Housing Coalition
- A Way Home America
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans



# What Did the Witnesses Say?

- Homelessness is not a crime and should not be treated as one.
  - Focus should be on housing, outreach, and criminal diversion, not arrest
- Homelessness is a housing problem. It is a problem statewide.
- Georgia has a dire shortage of affordable housing, especially for extremely low income. Home prices and rent prices are soaring creating the most pressure on those at the bottom of the economic ladder.
- Georgia's investment of state funds in housing affordability, permanent supportive housing, etc. is minimal and should be increased
- Housing First works. It is the proven, data driven, best practice to address homelessness. Encampments do not end homelessness.
- Partners for Home has demonstrated the efficacy of outreach, closing camps, moving people into hotels, rapid rehousing and then into permanent housing.
- Examples of successful programs across Georgia.
- Challenges with using housing vouchers should be addressed.

# What Did the Witnesses Say?

- The State Housing Voucher Program under DOJ/DBHDD Settlement Agreement should be strengthened – more vouchers, more landlord incentives, more case management, strengthen support for voucher holders to access apartments, bridge funding, etc.
- Issues of access to ID, mental health services, substance use treatment, healthcare, etc. need to be addressed.
- Significant new and additional federal funds are available through CARES Act, ARPA, SLFRF to state, counties and cities, DCA, etc. that are available to strengthen housing and homeless services.

# What Did the Committee Say?

- SB 535 is off the table but there will be new legislation in 2023.
- Will not propose new criminal statute/won't criminalize (?)
  - *But it is an unanswered question whether the bill require enforcement of 98 city ordinances on sleeping and camping or lose state funding???*
- Some Committee members said that the current system is not working: “You are the experts and people are still homeless, walking around with vouchers they can't use, money on the table not being spent, people camping/sleeping on the street in large numbers...”
- Some Committee members see sanctioned encampments as a more “humane” way to deal with unsheltered homeless, though it does not provide shelter and the bill proposes no funding.
- No meaningful discussion of new or additional funding.

# Other Actions on State Homeless Policy

- **Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission**
  - **Court Diversion Committee**
    - Familiar Faces Advisory Committee working on housing- support growth for State Housing Voucher Program? More resources for SOAR?
  - **HB 1013: Mental Health Parity Act** direction for BHRIC to study homelessness, unsheltered homelessness, relationship to MH and SUD, best practices, and recommend policy and funding solutions
- **Need to advocate for increased funding for affordable housing, housing preservation, permanent supportive housing, homelessness prevention and supports, etc.**
  - Record state surplus FY 2022 - \$6 Billion plus
  - Enormous federal funds available for housing and homelessness

# Election Outcomes Will Determine the Future

- **Who we elect will determine Georgia's commitment to housing affordability, ending homelessness, community development, equity and diversity, and the opportunities for growth and prosperity we will face.**
- **What issues and priorities will rise to the top?**
- **Next 2 months will decide who leads Georgia at every level:**
- **November 8, 2022 Elections Decide**
  - **U.S. Senate Seat from Georgia held by Sen. Raphael Warnock**
  - **All Members of U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia**
  - **Georgia Governor and All Constitutional Officers: Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Commissioners of Labor, Education, Agriculture, and Insurance**
  - **All Members of Georgia House and Senate (with new district maps)**

# Questions? Comments?

Elizabeth J. Appley  
Attorney and Public Policy Advocate  
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eja@appleylaw.com

# MONKEYPOX

## Monkeypox Updates and Information for Congregate Settings



# Agenda

- Overview of Monkeypox
  - Current Monkeypox Outbreak
  - Signs and Symptoms
  - Transmission, Prevention, & Vaccination
  - Testing and Treatment
- Monkeypox Prevention in Congregate Settings
- Managing Cases and Exposures
- Q & A



# Monkeypox Overview

# Overview

- Monkeypox is related to smallpox
- Typically causes a milder infection than smallpox
- Few cases outside African countries prior to 2022
  - Previous cases linked to travel or animals
- World Health Organization declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern on July 23, 2022
- United States declared Public Health Emergency on August 4, 2022

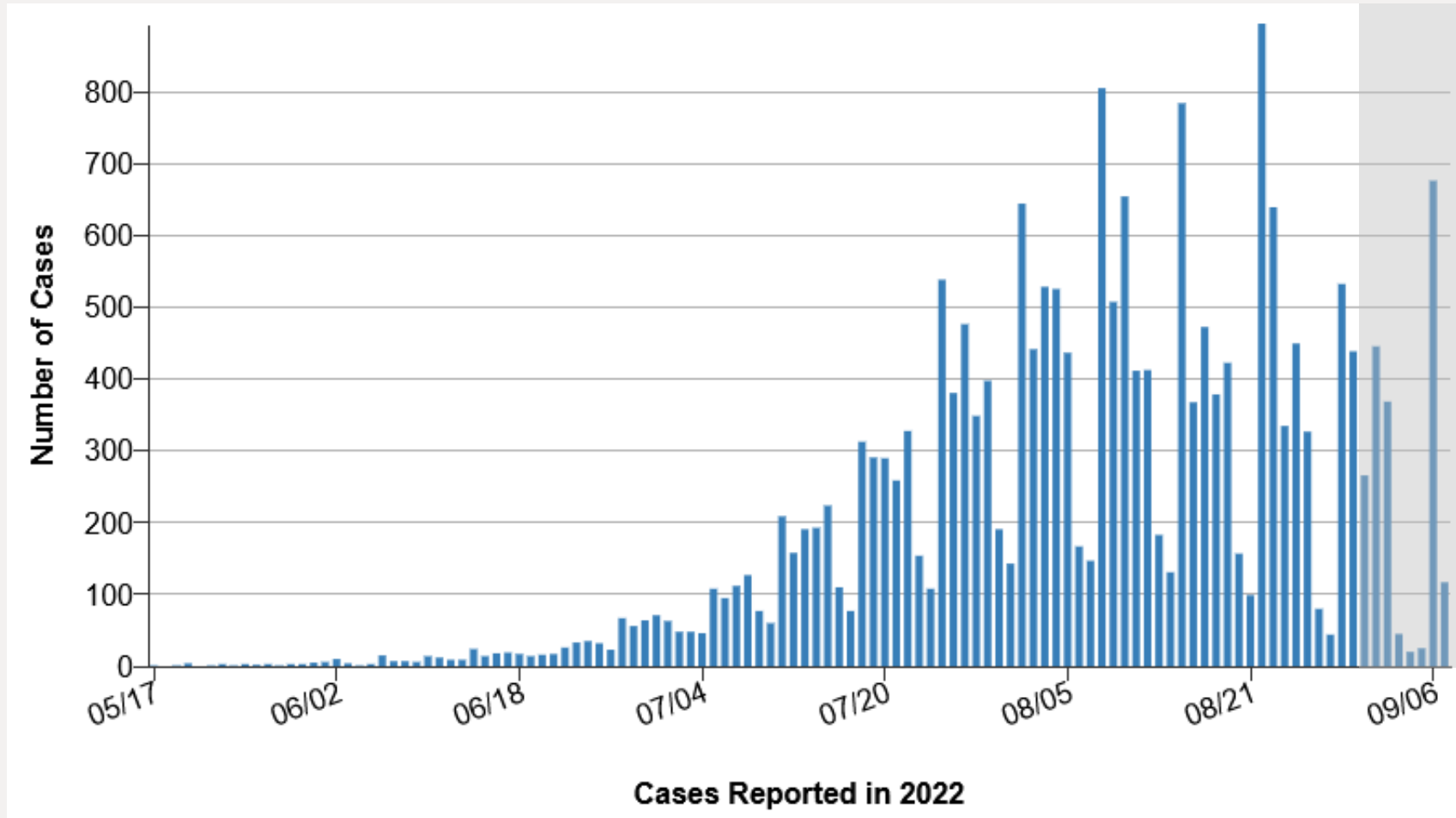
# Current Monkeypox Outbreak

# Current Outbreak in the U.S.

- Over 21,985 cases identified in the U.S. as of 9/12/2022
- Primarily affecting gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, but anyone who has been exposed to monkeypox can get it
- Death from monkeypox is very rare in the current global outbreak
- Location of lesions is different than prior outbreaks (genital and perianal)
  - Opportunity for testing for other STIs and HIV

# U.S. Monkeypox Case Trends Reported to CDC

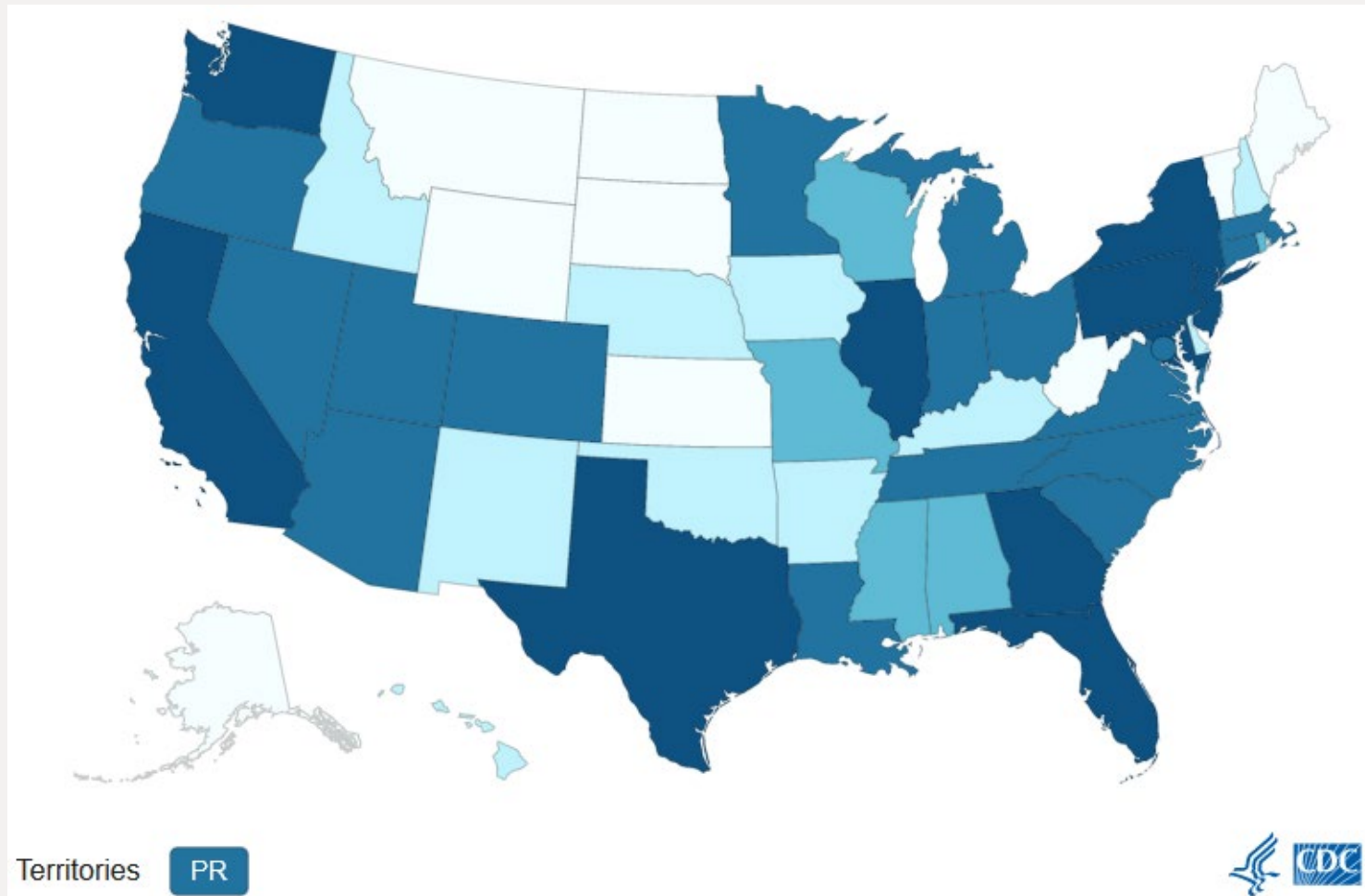
As of September 7, 2022



Available from <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/mpx-trends.html>

# 2022 U.S. Map Total Cases

As of September 12, 2022



## Case Range

○ 1 to 10

○ 11 to 50

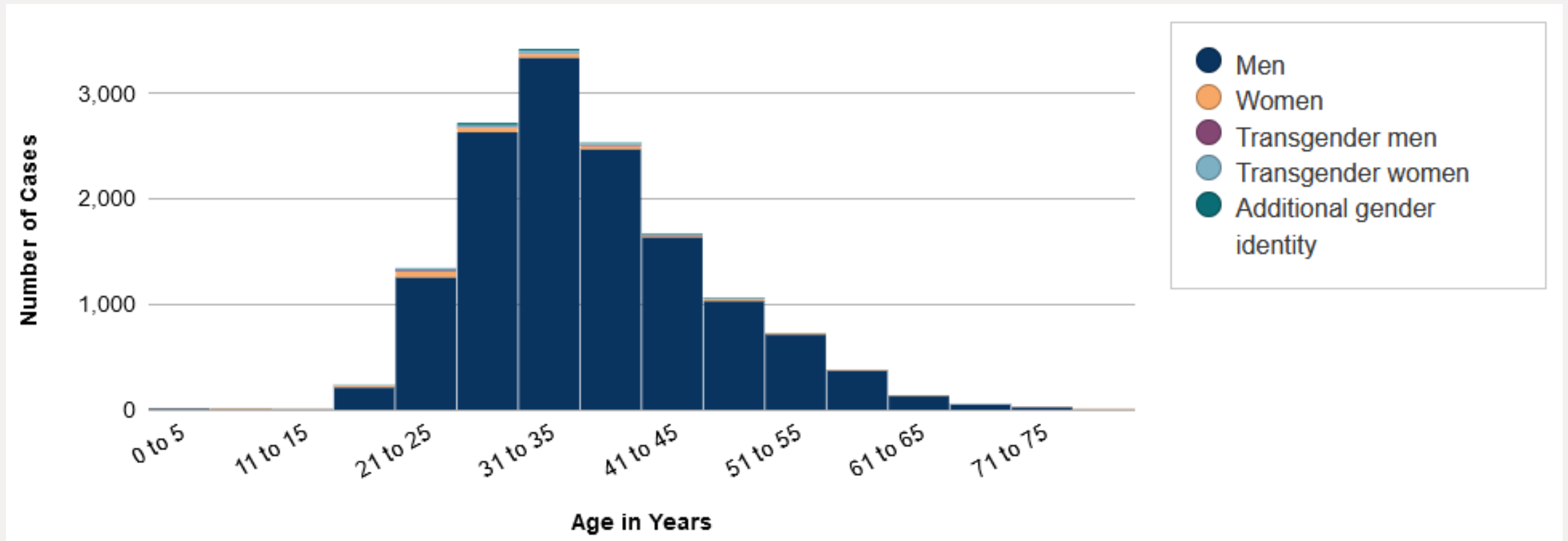
● 51 to 100

● 101 to 500

● >500

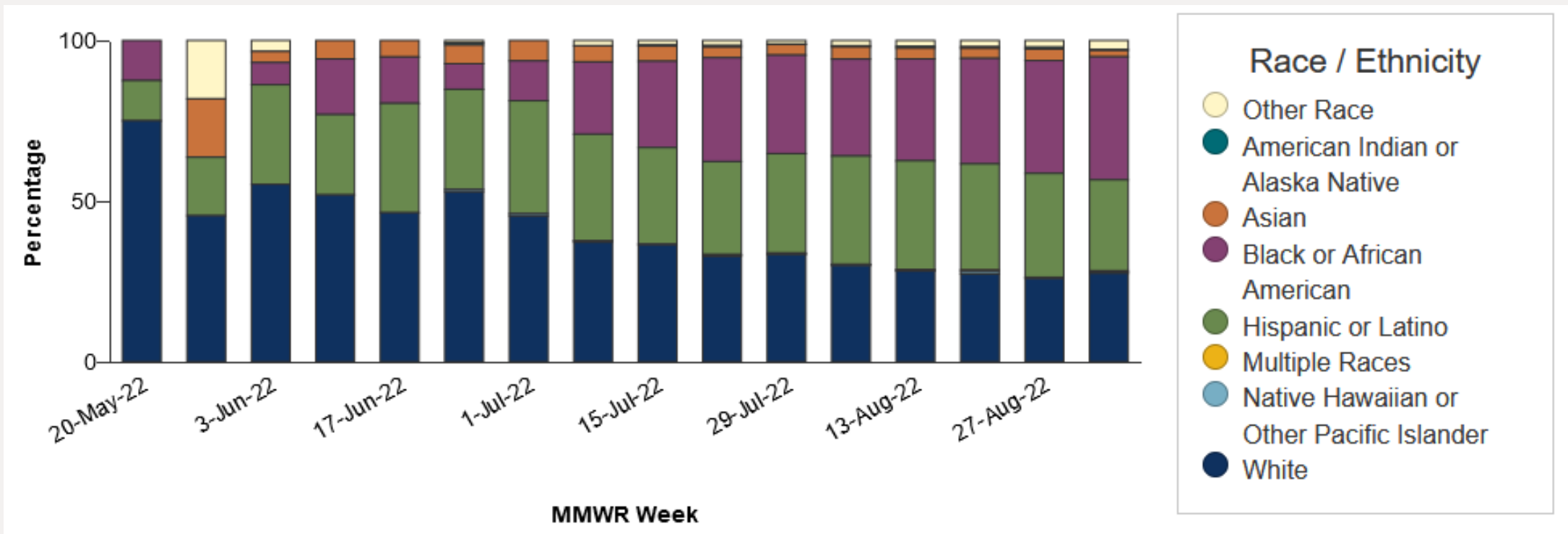
# U.S. Monkeypox Cases by Age and Gender

As of September 8, 2022



# U.S. Monkeypox Cases by Race and Ethnicity

As of September 8, 2022



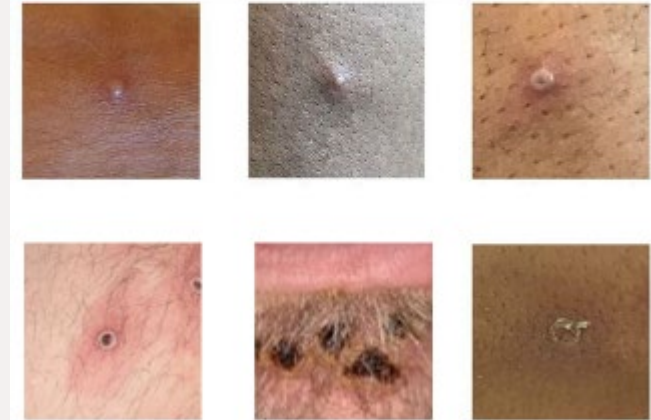


# Signs and Symptoms of Monkeypox

- Incubation period (3–17 days)
  - ↳ Early symptoms and rash
  - ↳ Rash progression (2–4 weeks)
- Severity of outcomes
  - Unlikely to cause death
  - Might be more severe among
    - ❖ People who are pregnant
    - ❖ People who are immunocompromised
    - ❖ People with atopic dermatitis or eczema
    - ❖ Young children (<8 years of age)

## Examples of Monkeypox Rashes

Photo credit: UK Health Security Agency



## Key Characteristics of Monkeypox Rash



## More Monkeypox Rash Photos

Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network



# Transmission of Monkeypox

- Monkeypox can spread to anyone through
  - Direct contact with monkeypox rash or scabs
  - Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
  - Contact with respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact
- Monkeypox can be spread during intimate contact, including
  - Oral, anal, and vaginal sex, or touching the genitals or anus of a person with monkeypox
  - Hugging, massage, or kissing
  - Touching things that were used by a person with monkeypox (bedding, towels, fetish gear, sex toys)

# Preventing Monkeypox Overview

- Get **vaccinated** if you are at high risk.
- **Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact** with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Avoid contact with **objects and materials** that a person with monkeypox has used.
- **Wash your hands** often.

# Vaccination for Monkeypox

- People more likely to get monkeypox include
  - People identified by public health authorities who are known contacts to someone with monkeypox
  - People with a recent sex partner in the last 14 days had monkeypox
  - Certain gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, or transgender and gender diverse people who have sex with men
- JYNNEOS is the preferred vaccine
  - Two doses given 28 days apart
  - Maximum immunity starts 14 days after the second dose
- People can contact their health care provider or local health department to ask about vaccine eligibility and access

# Testing for Monkeypox

- Currently, testing is only recommended if someone has a rash (i.e., lesions) consistent with monkeypox.
- Only a healthcare provider, including at public health departments, can order a monkeypox test.
- People with suspected monkeypox should wear a mask, cover the rash, and remind the provider that monkeypox virus is circulating

# Treatment for Monkeypox

- There are no treatments specifically for monkeypox
- Treatments for smallpox, like tecovirimat, may be used to prevent and treat monkeypox
- Oral and IV formulations
- Consult with physician for treatment options

# Preventing Monkeypox in Congregate Settings

# Preventing Monkeypox

- Continue normal operations for infection prevention
  - Encouraging staff to stay home when sick
  - Providing handwashing supplies
  - Cleaning and disinfecting regularly
  - Identify space to isolate someone who is sick
  - Having personal protective equipment (PPE) available
- Locker rooms, gyms, and towels
  - No evidence that this is a common source of transmission
  - Routine cleaning and laundry





# Identifying and Responding to Cases in Congregate Settings

# Managing Cases

- Clean and disinfect areas where the person with monkeypox spent time
- Isolate the individual
- Communicate with the public health department
- Communicate with staff and guests
  - Keep messages fact-based to avoid introducing stigma
- People should isolate until the scabs have fallen off and a fresh layer of healthy skin has formed
  - Typically, 2-4 weeks after symptoms begin
- Staff caring for the individual should wear a respirator; avoid touching the rash; use gowns, gloves, and eye protection; wash hands

# Managing Exposures



- Continue routine activities if no signs or symptoms
- Monitor for symptoms for 21 days
- If someone who was exposed develops symptoms, follow isolation guidelines
- The health department will determine whether someone is eligible for post-exposure vaccination

More information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/monitoring.html>

# Resources

- Reducing Monkeypox Transmission in Congregate Living Settings  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/specific-settings/congregate.html>
- Safer Sex, Social Gatherings, and Monkeypox  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/sexualhealth/index.html>
- What You Need to Know about Monkeypox if You are a Teen or Young Adult  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/teens-young-adults.html>
- Cleaning and Disinfection – EPA’s List Q  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/disinfectants-emerging-viral-pathogens-evps-list-q>

**Questions?**



**For more information, contact CDC**

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.