



Chittenden County Homeless Alliance
Working to End Homelessness

2019 Chittenden County Point in Time Count Report

Highlights of the 2019 Point in Time Count

The annual Point in Time count conducted for the night of January 23, 2019 showed an overall decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Chittenden County. The total number decreased from 359 in 2018 to 309 this year.

While the overall decrease is good news, other indicators imbedded in the count demonstrate progress in some areas and backward movement in others. The results showed:

- Fifty fewer people overall experiencing homelessness.
- The percent of people experiencing homelessness for the first time (as opposed to repeated episodes of homelessness) was 37%, down slightly from 39% in 2018.
- Fewer families experiencing homelessness. The number dropped from 33 in 2018 to 25 in 2019. This continues a downward trend in family homelessness.
- Fewer veterans experiencing homelessness. The number dropped from 29 in 2018 to 17 in 2019.
- Fewer people were reported as currently fleeing domestic violence. The number dropped from 41 in 2018 to 35 in 2019.
- 37 unaccompanied young adults between the ages of 18-24 and 5 parenting youth households. Last year, these numbers were, respectively, 23 and 9.
- An increase in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning people living with disabilities who experience extended bouts of homelessness. A consistent downward trend from 2013 to 2018 was significantly reversed this year, with the number rising from 48 in 2018 to 74 in 2019.
- A 46% increase in the number of adults reporting a severe mental illness and a 33% increase in the number of adults reporting a substance use disorder.
- An increase also in the number of people living “unsheltered,” meaning outside or in places not meant for human habitation. This year, there were 48 people reported to be living unsheltered, up from 17 in 2018.

Annual Point in Time Counts

What is a Point in Time (PIT) Count?

Point-in-Time Counts are unduplicated 1-night estimates of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by Continuums of Care nationwide and occur during the last week in January of each year. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development sets the standards for these counts, and collects and publishes the resulting data.

From time to time, HUD changes these standards – for example, in 2015, data began to be collected and reported separately on “unaccompanied youth” and “parenting youth,” and in 2016, the definition of “chronic homelessness” changed. And in 2018, HUD began requiring that data reported on survivors of domestic violence be limited to those who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as opposed to reporting on survivors who have ever experienced these circumstances.

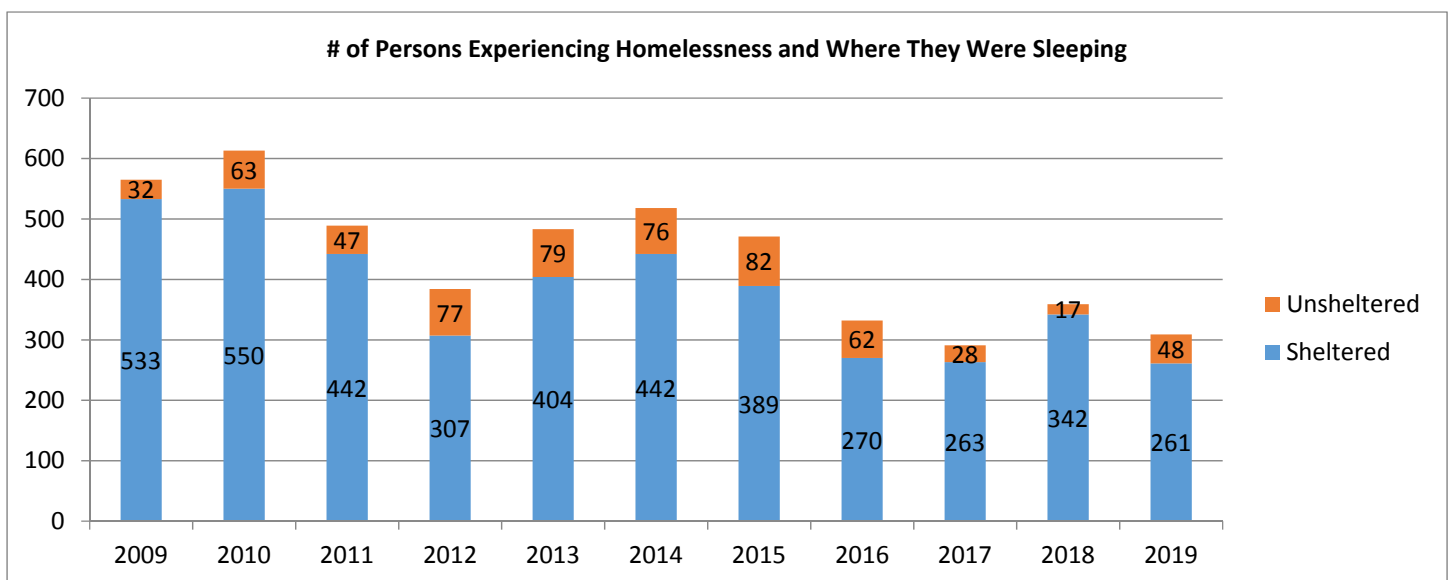
What is a Continuum of Care?

Continuums of Care (CoC) are local planning bodies recognized by HUD and responsible for coordinating homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state. In Vermont, there are two Continuums of Care: Chittenden County (also called the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance) and the Balance of State (covering all counties other than Chittenden and also called the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness).

Who is Counted?

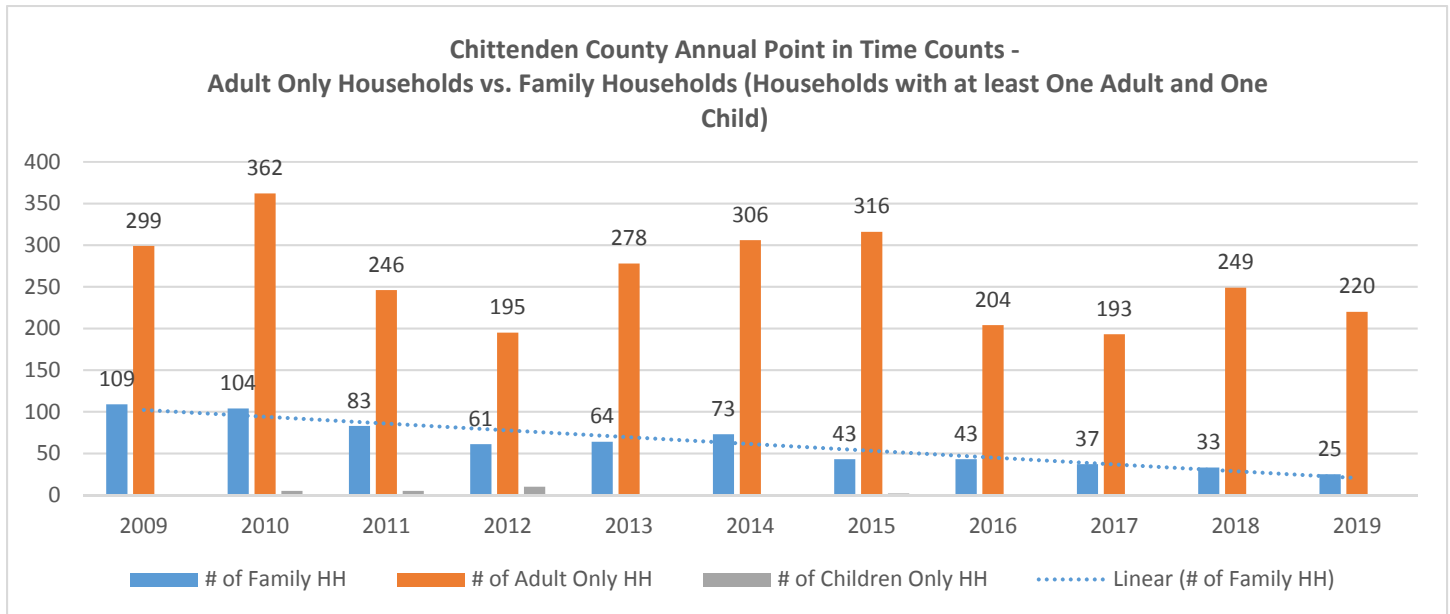
Under HUD standards, people who are living in emergency shelters (and in motels paid by the state or other organization), who are fleeing domestic violence, or who are unsheltered are counted. People who are living in transitional housing are also counted as “sheltered” because their housing is time-limited, not permanent. *People who are “couch surfing” or otherwise unstably housed are not included in the HUD Point in Time data, although the community has good reasons to be concerned about their housing situations.*

- Unsheltered homelessness refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).



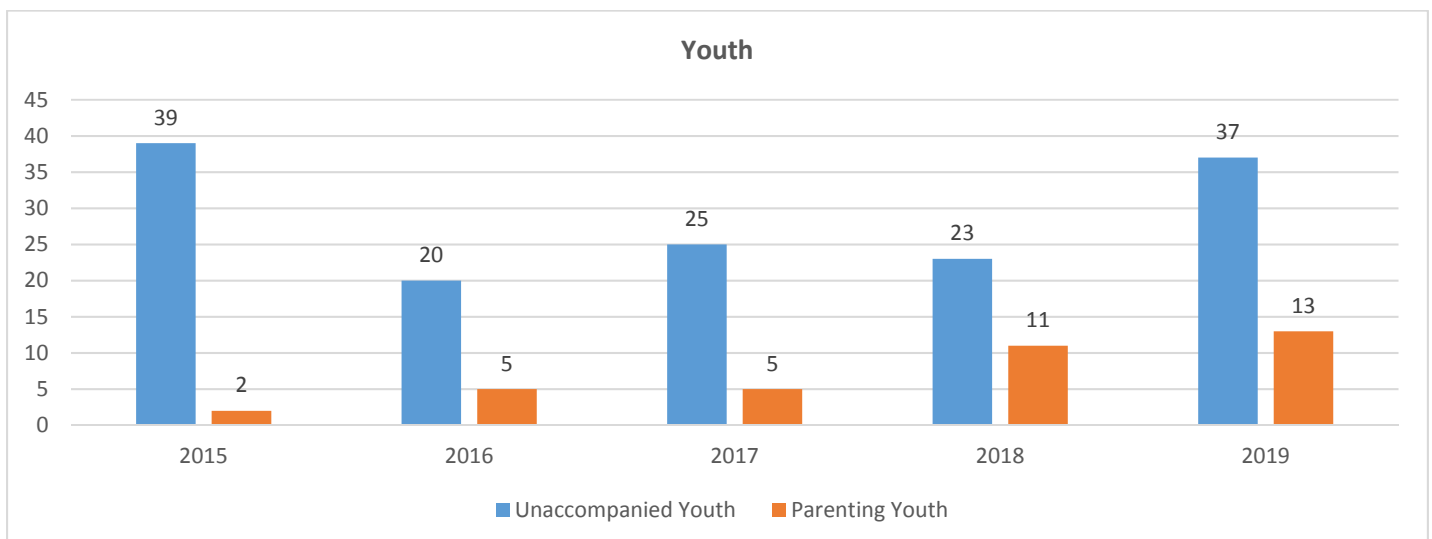
The Point in Time Counts identify three household types:

- Adult Only Households (primarily single adults);
- Households with at least One Adult and One Child (called family households in the chart below);
- Households with Only Children (no one in the household is over age 24).

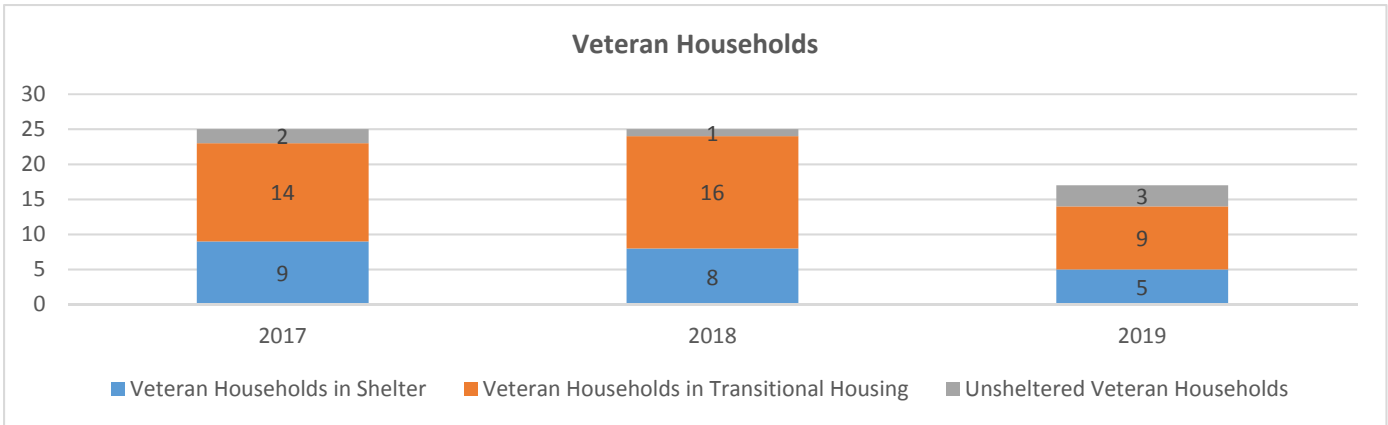


More Definitions:

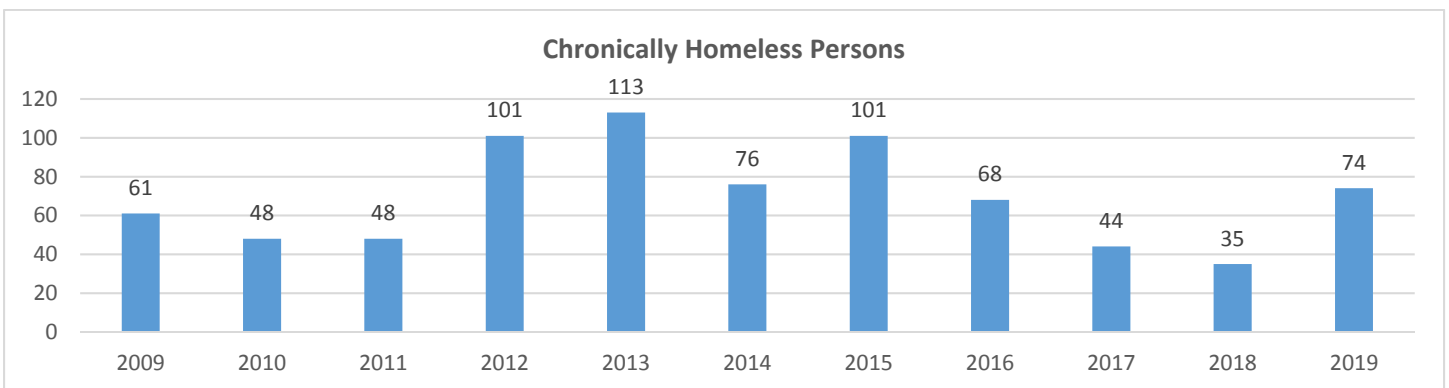
- Unaccompanied youth are people under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian or their own children. They are a subset of Households with Adults Only or (if under 18), Households with Only Children.
- Parenting youth are youth under age 25 who identify 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. They are a subset of Households with Children or (if the parent is under 18), Households with Only Children.



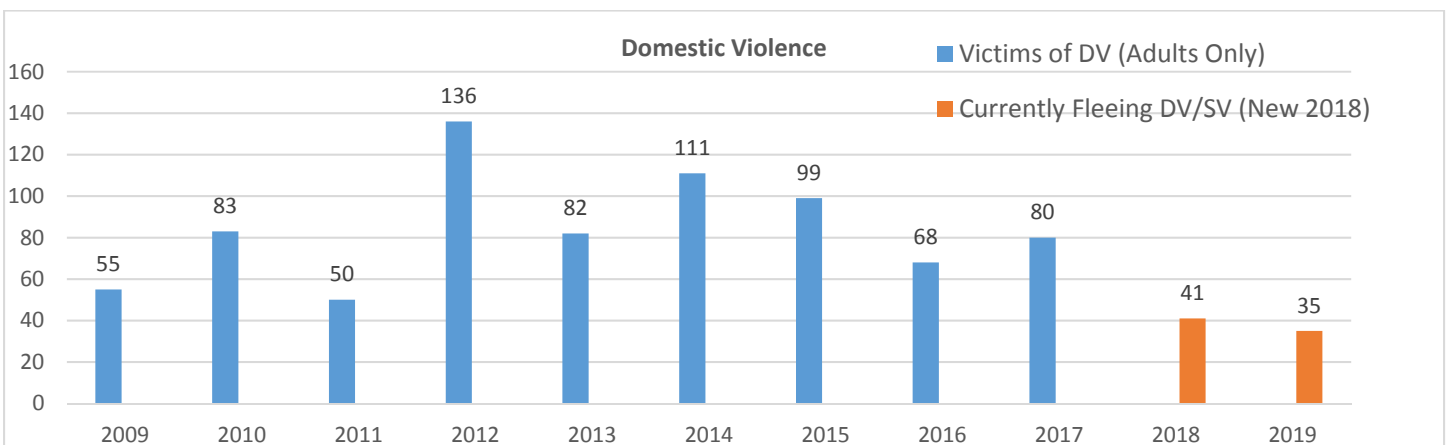
- **Veteran** refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. This includes Reserves and National Guard members who were called up to active duty.



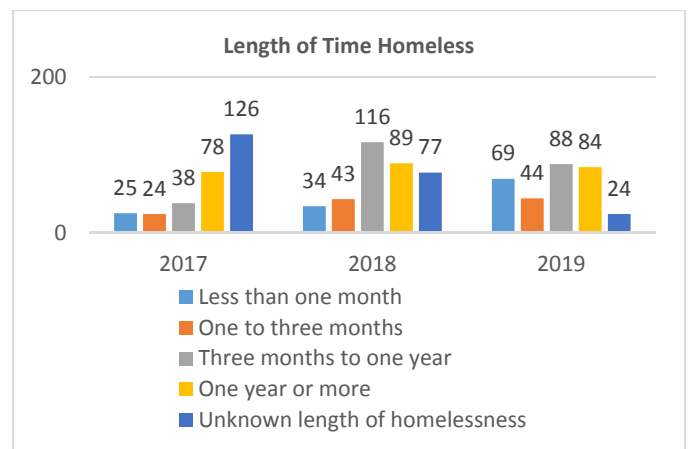
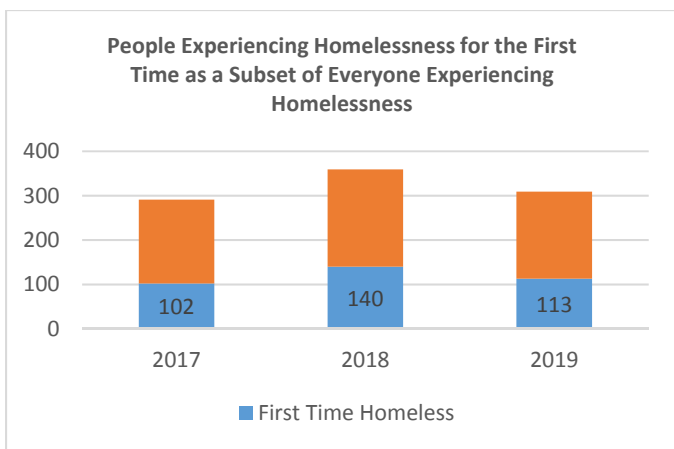
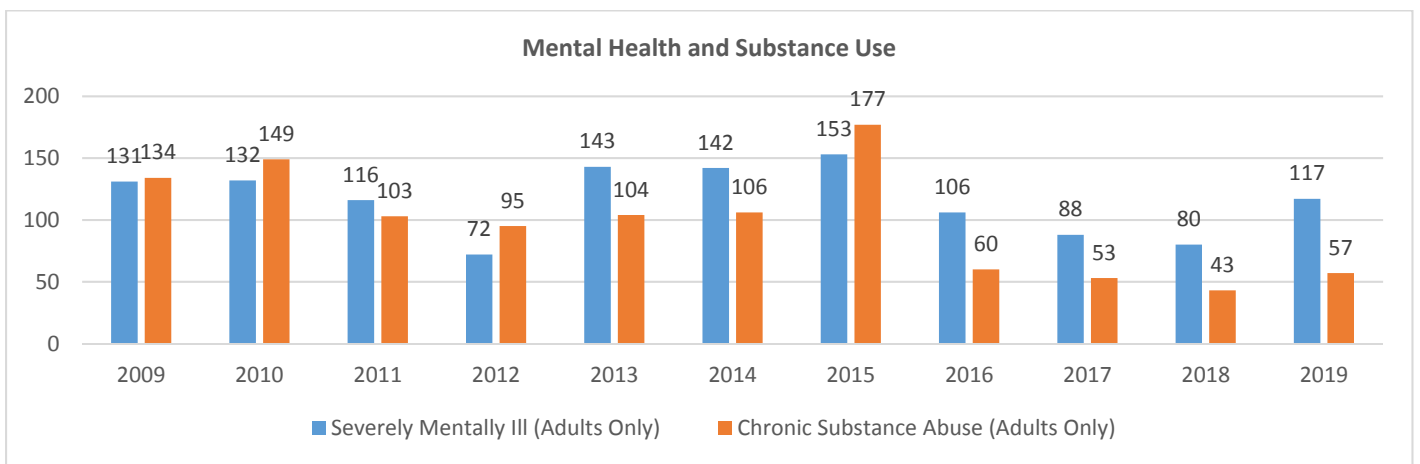
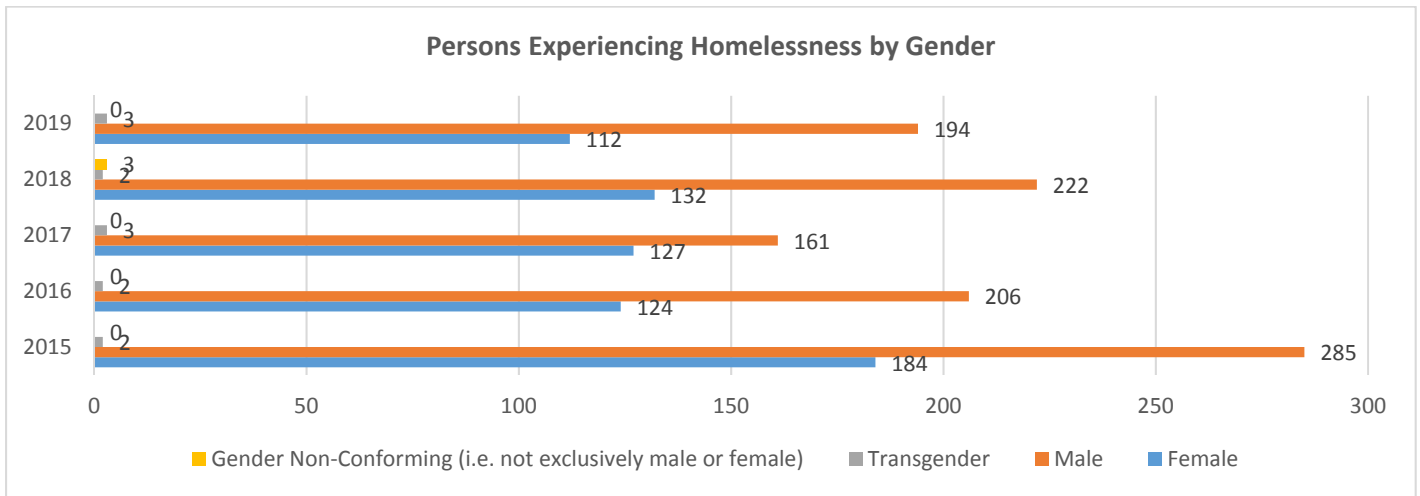
- **Chronically homeless** means an individual (or, for families, head of household) who is living with a disability and who has been homeless for an extended period of time - a year or more, either continuously or through a combination of at least 4 episodes over the last three years. There are further very specific federal requirements for meeting this definition – for example, “episodes” of homelessness must be separated by at least seven days – and documenting “chronic” status can be difficult. That’s important because “chronic” status means eligibility for specialized resources meant to increase housing stability for highly vulnerable individuals and families.



- **Domestic Violence:** The 2018 change in who is counted under the domestic violence category resulted in fewer people counted in this category. The former count included people with domestic violence, and its associated trauma, in their history, as opposed to those currently fleeing domestic violence.



Other Demographics:



Are There Other Data Sources?

Yes. Our Homeless Alliance has a community master list of people experiencing homelessness that is updated weekly. And, the U.S. Department of Education counts children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” as homeless for purposes of eligibility for services under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. This is a broader definition than the one used by HUD, and captures people whose housing is insecure in addition to those who are “literally homeless” for purposes of the Point in Time count.