



District of Columbia
Interagency Council on Homelessness



Inflow Analysis
COG Homeless Services Subcommittee
July 19, 2018

2018 Point-in-Time – Change from 2017



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

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

2018 Point-in-Time – Single Adults



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

Inflow Analysis



- ❖ In order to intervene sooner, we need to understand:
 - ✓ How many people experience homelessness for the first time each year, are episodically-homeless, or return after being housed in one our programs (e.g., RRH or PSH)?
 - ✓ How long have they been accessing services in our CoC?
 - ✓ What led to their homelessness?

- ❖ TCP conducted a “look-back” of historical CoC system-use of unaccompanied individuals counted in emergency shelter during PIT 2018 to better understand system inflow and usage patterns.

- ❖ This was done with the intent to look at how many of the individuals were:
 - ✓ Experiencing homelessness again after a previous exit from the CoC to some kind of permanent housing (i.e. placement in PSH, documented exit to housing on their own, etc.);
 - ✓ In their first and only episode of experiencing homelessness; OR
 - ✓ In one of multiple episodes of homelessness over time.

Inflow Analysis



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

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

Inflow: Service Pattern



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

Category #1: Returns from CoC Housing Programs

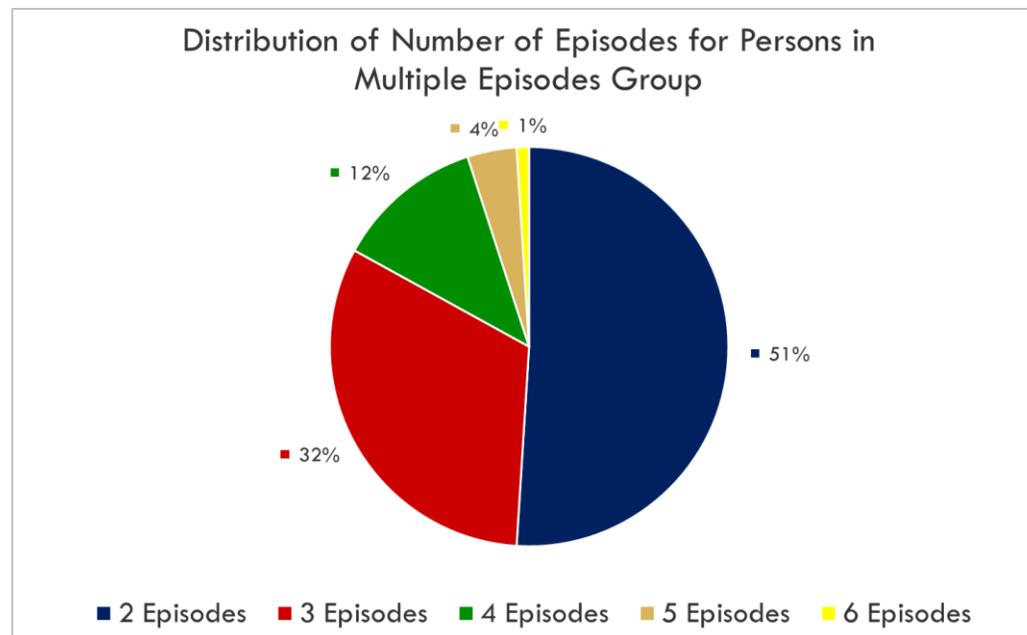


- ❖ Defined as individuals who have a documented exit from the CoC to a permanent housing destination but who have returned to shelter.
- ❖ Roughly equates to our high performance in Housing Stability among PSH programming
- ❖ Of those returning:
 - ✓ Most were returning after an exit from PSH (as opposed to RRH or housing on their own).
 - ✓ High prevalence of disabling conditions in this category, as expected.

Category #2: Multiple Episodes



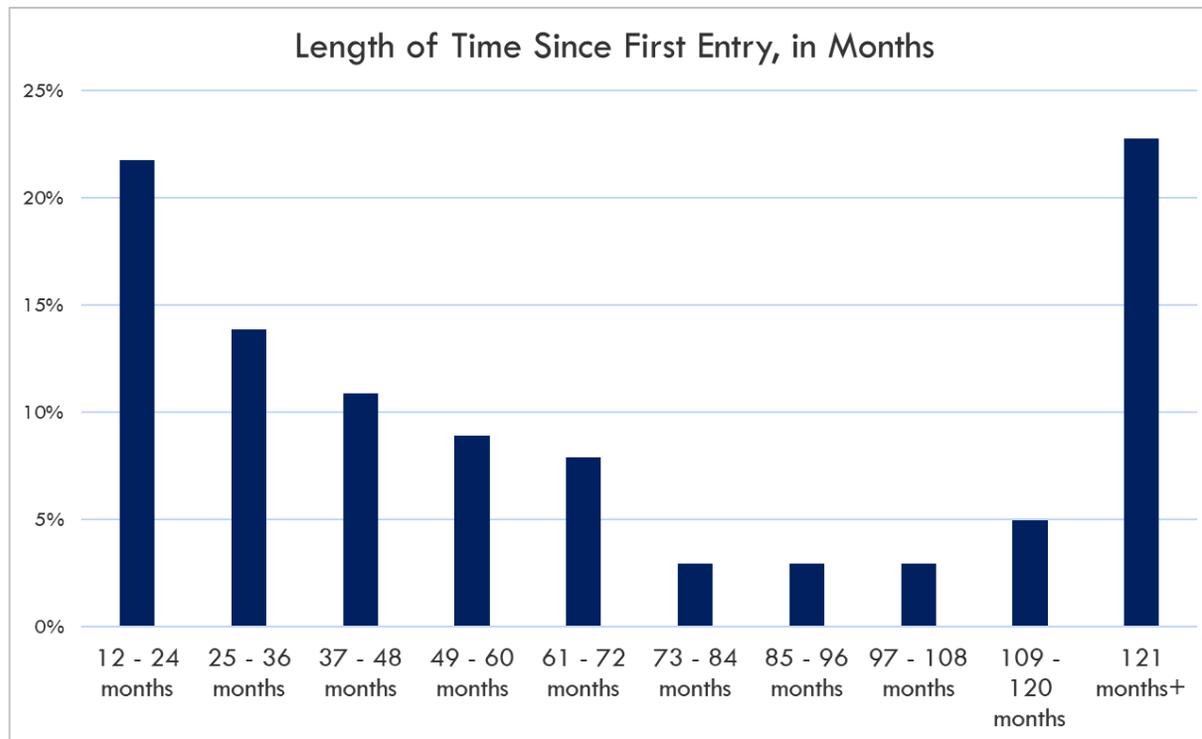
- ❖ Defined as individuals who were in shelter at PIT with histories of experiencing homelessness, but with breaks of 12 months or more between receiving services.
- ❖ Of those with 2 distinct episodes, the average span of time between the episodes was 4 years though breaks as long as 11-12 years were seen as well.



Category #3: 1st/Only Time Homeless (>1 year)



- ❖ 28% of women and 31% of men served at PIT.
- ❖ Half of the men and women in this category are age 55 or older.



Category #4: 1st/Only Time Homeless (<1 year)



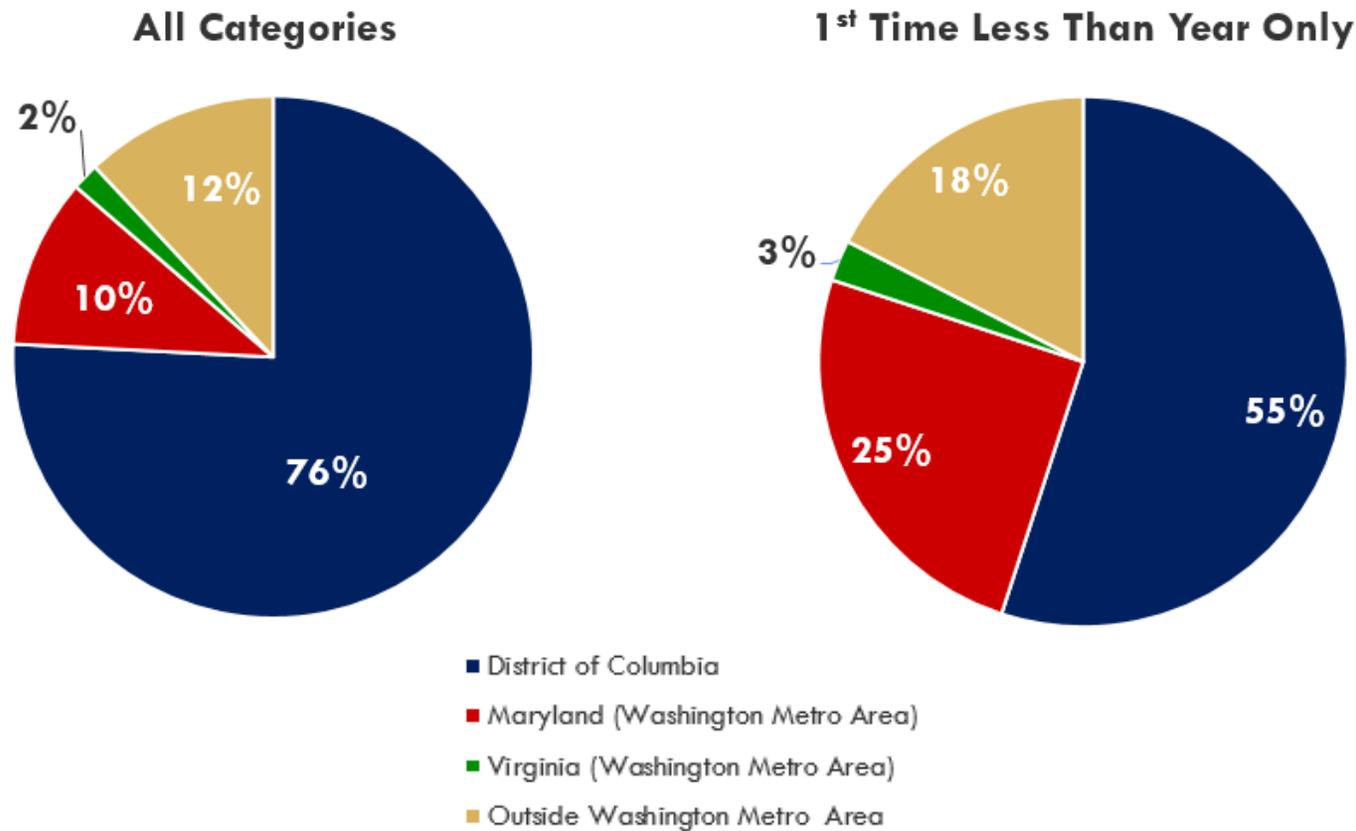
- ❖ 33% of women and 22% of men served at PIT were in their first year of their first episode, annually estimated at 501 women and 1496 men.
- ❖ Based on this analysis and other length of stay analyses, we estimate that 12% of this group will “self-resolve.”
 - ✓ The majority will end up in one of the other three categories unless we provide assistance.
 - ✓ Original modeling for Homeward DC assumed we could prevent/divert 10% of individuals entering shelter and that 30% would self-resolve with a short shelter stay.
 - ✓ This has significant implications for resource needs.
- ❖ Men in this category reported lower rates of disabling conditions than other categories; underscores the importance of employment assistance.

Causes of Homelessness



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

Zip Code of Last Place of Residency At Shelter Intake



Key Takeaways



- ❖ **The Good News:** The majority of people served through CoC housing programs are remaining stably housed.

- ❖ **The Bad News:** Very few people are able to resolve their homelessness on their own.
 - ✓ Very different from the original assumptions used in the Homeward DC modeling.
 - ✓ Has significant implications for resources needed for the plan.

Key Takeaways



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

Key Takeaways



- ❖ Small numbers of people coming from multiple different counties/states have a significant impact on DC.
 - ✓ Surrounding counties may not have available or accessible shelter but likely have more housing stock.
 - District housing dollars can only be used in the District.
 - Clients with vouchers in hand are spending months looking for an available unit.
 - Competition for affordable units is putting upward pressure on rents.
 - ✓ Stronger regional coordination would allow us to serve clients more effectively.

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

Immediate Next Steps



- ❖ Data match with Montgomery County to learn more about migration patterns.
 - ✓ High non-response rate on the residency question among low-barrier shelter users.
 - ✓ Data sharing agreement with MC already in place.
- ❖ Client interviews over the summer to learn more about:
 - ✓ What first drove someone into shelter, and what could have altered that path?
 - ✓ When we see short breaks in service patterns, where are people going?
 - ✓ When people arrive from another county/state, what factors influenced their decision to come to the District?

System Reforms Funded in FY19 Budget



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

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

Additional Needed Changes



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



Questions/Discussion