

The District of Columbia

Description of Homeless Services

Homeward DC, the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness's strategic plan,¹ provides the continuum of care (CoC) with a framework for operating homeless services in the District, with the goals of ending chronic homelessness and making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

In implementing these efforts, the District makes the following services available for residents facing housing crises: winter- and year-round emergency shelter, meal services, daytime services, street outreach, emergency rental assistance, targeted prevention assistance, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, targeted affordable housing,² and permanent supportive housing. These services are available for unaccompanied adults, persons in families, unaccompanied youth, and pregnant and parenting youth. Moreover, the CoC targets many of its services to specific subpopulation groups such as veterans, the LGBTQ population, and survivors of domestic violence to better meet their unique service needs.

Families in the District seeking homeless services may visit the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Virginia Williams Family Resource Center for referral to preventative and emergency resources based on need. All families placed in shelter from Virginia Williams have access to rapid rehousing resources while a smaller subset are matched to longer-term interventions via the District's Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system.³

Since 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser's Administration has made several policy shifts that have changed the District's approach to serving families experiencing homelessness. In 2015, the Administration reversed the District's policy of making placements into family shelter only during the winter months and now offers year-round access regardless of the weather. The District also launched the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), which aims to help families resolve a housing crisis before a shelter stay is necessary and connect them to shelter when there are no other safe options. The Administration also developed a citywide strategy to close the DC General Family Shelter and replace it with smaller, service-enriched, Short Term Family Housing (STFH) programs to improve the experience families have in shelter. In 2018, the District realized a major milestone with the closure of DC General and the opening of three STFH sites. STFH operates as emergency shelter in community-based locations serving approximately 50 families at

¹ ich.dc.gov/page/homeward-dc-ich-strategic-plan-2015-2020

² Targeted affordable housing is a permanent subsidy earmarked for use by the homeless services system that provides with light-touch services, targeted to those living with a disabling condition, who do not require the level of services associated with permanent supportive housing.

³ CAHP provides standardized access and coordinated referrals to the housing placement process that ensures that persons experiencing homelessness receive appropriate assistance with both immediate and long-term housing and service needs.

each site as opposed to the 260 served at DC General. Families in STFH have access to more private space and neighborhood amenities while they receive services to support their exit to housing as quickly as possible.

Unaccompanied adults experiencing homelessness may access any of the District’s low barrier emergency shelters for overnight accommodations and meals. In 2018, the District and The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), DHS’s prime contractor for homeless services, expanded staffing at year-round low barrier shelters, bringing on 23 more case managers to help reduce case management ratios and speed up system exits among those who have been in shelter the longest.

In an effort to further enhance service connectivity for unaccompanied adults experiencing homelessness, DHS opened in February 2019 a Downtown Day Services Center in partnership with the Downtown DC Business Improvement District and Pathways to Housing DC. The Center offers a variety of supportive services including those from the District Department of Employment Services, the Department of Health’s Office of Vital Records, the Department of Motor Vehicles, DHS’s Economic Security Administration, Unity Health Care, and the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. The Center also provides meals and access to laundry and shower facilities building on the services offered at the Adams Place Day Center, which DHS opened in 2016.

2019 Continuum of Care Inventory

The following table shows the number of units for unaccompanied individuals and families (as well as beds within the family units) in the District’s CoC. This inventory includes all programs dedicated to serving households who are currently are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness. Most of the District’s resources receive funding from DHS, with additional funding coming from the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as from other private funding sources.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 2018 SHELTER & HOUSING INVENTORY			
Category	Units for Individuals	Units for Families	Beds in Family Units
Winter Shelter	839	-	-
Emergency Shelter	2,384	667	2266
Transitional Housing	900	225	605
Rapid Rehousing	365	1,893	5,803
Permanent Supportive Housing	3,729	1,274	3,983
Other Permanent Housing	1,779	976	3,032

DHS works with TCP to implement CoC operations and programming. TCP is the CoC's Collaborative Applicant for HUD CoC Program funding, administers the District's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and conducts PIT on behalf of the District.

The District of Columbia is one of just a few jurisdictions nationally and the only jurisdiction in the Washington region that is legally required to provide low-barrier emergency shelter to all residents who need it. As such, the District adds 839 beds for unaccompanied individuals to its shelter capacity during the Hypothermia Season, which runs from November through March.⁴ The 839 winter shelter beds consist of a combination of "seasonal," "Hypothermia alert," and "overflow" beds. Seasonal beds are open nightly throughout the Hypothermia Season, while Hypothermia alert beds open when the actual or forecasted temperature is 32 degrees or below (as well as in other situations described in the footnotes below),⁵ with overflow beds added to the inventory when needed.

The CoC's low barrier shelter model means shelter staff does not ask individuals for identification or documentation upon entry, with the goal of ensuring protection from cold weather injury or death for anyone who does not have a safe place to sleep. While the District does not have a set number of winter shelter units for families, the emergency shelter capacity for families is flexible throughout the year to meet the needs of households with children and women who are pregnant.

2019 Point-in-Time Results Overview

The number of persons who are experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia on the night of PIT – those who were sleeping on the streets, in emergency shelters, or in transitional housing facilities – decreased by 5.5 percent from the 2018 count and is down by 11.9 percent from the PIT count conducted five years ago.

However, as was the case in 2018, the results of the 2019 count vary by population. Although the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness decreased by 15.6 percent from last year, the number of unaccompanied individuals increased by 2.8 percent. This mirrors last year's PIT results when the CoC also saw a decrease among families but an increase in unaccompanied persons.

⁴ Defined in the *Homeless Services Reform Act* (HSRA).

⁵ Activation of Hypothermia alert beds is determined through consultation between DHS, the District's Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service. Activation of overflow beds is determined through monitoring nightly bed use as additional beds come online only as needed. DHS may also call an alert when the temperature is forecasted to be 40 degrees or below with a 50 percent chance or greater for precipitation. A Hypothermia alert was in effect on the night of the 2019 PIT count.

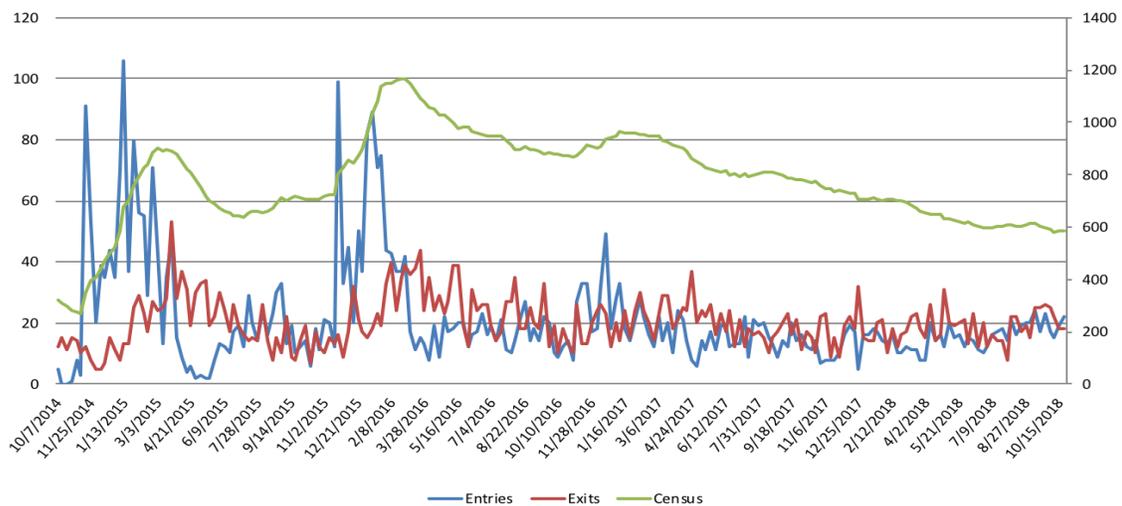
POINT IN TIME COUNT BY CATEGORY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019	% Change 2015-2019
Unaccompanied Individuals	3,821	3,683	3,583	3,770	3,875	2.8%	1.4%
Persons in Families	3,477	4,667	3,890	3,134	2,646	-15.6%	-23.9%
Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness	7,298	8,350	7,473	6,904	6,521	-5.5%	-11.9%

Families

The number of families (as distinct from *persons in families*) counted at PIT has decreased by 45 percent since 2016 when shelter occupancy was at its highest point over the last five PIT counts. As mentioned, in 2015 the District reversed its policy of making family shelter placements only during the Hypothermia season. Opening shelter to families in need of placement throughout the year has decreased the strain on the system previously seen in winter months because both shelter entries and exits now occur year-round. The chart below, which shows family shelter entries (in blue), exits (in red), and the weekly family emergency shelter census (in green), illustrates how shelter entries outnumbered exits in winter months leading to increased census counts. Since the shift to year-round placements, the number of families in emergency shelter has decreased overall through October 2018, with 635 families in emergency shelters at PIT 2019.

Chart: Family Emergency Shelter Use, October 2014-2018



This shift has benefitted families in need of services, as they are able to access shelter when they need it and not just during certain weather conditions. In turn, families entering shelter are able to access housing assistance that enables them to exit shelter quickly, and families served by prevention are able to get assistance that provides stability before a shelter placement is necessary.

POINT IN TIME COUNT, FAMILIES & PERSONS IN FAMILIES							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2018-2019	% Change 2015-2019
Families	1,131	1,491	1,166	924	815	-11.8%	-27.9%
Persons in Families	3,477	4,667	3,890	3,134	2,646	-15.6%	-23.9%

Families that access to rapid rehousing assistance enter their own housing while receiving rental assistance and case management. Once in housing, families can connect with more intensive service interventions through CAHP if households need deeper levels of service. Due to the limited amount of permanent housing resources available, the CoC reserves placements into permanent housing programs for families who are the most vulnerable and are at the greatest risk of returning to shelter without long-term supports.

Nearly 700 families exited the emergency shelter system for permanent destinations between PIT 2018 and PIT 2019. Among families exiting shelter in previous years, the CoC’s HMIS data shows more than 84 percent retain their housing for at least two years after their rapid rehousing housing subsidy ends, with 86 percent of those receiving permanent supportive or targeted affordable housing subsidies retaining their housing long term as well.⁶

DHS’s HPP has been a key resource in the District’s work to end homelessness among families. Since the program launched, DHS staff and a network of providers have helped an average of nearly 1,100 families per year maintain their housing. DHS is also piloting a flexible rent subsidy program to support low-income households that are earning income but have trouble making ends meet. Increased prevention resources, along with a reformed shelter system and scaled housing resources to help families exit shelter, have each been instrumental in the success the CoC has seen within the family subsystem. This multifaceted approach highlights the importance of comprehensive system reform with various interventions working together simultaneously.

Unaccompanied Individuals

The CoC sees an average of 150 unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness exit homelessness for housing resources each month, yet the District’s count of single

⁶ Per the System Performance Metrics as reported to HUD annually via the Homelessness Data Exchange.

men and women experiencing homelessness increased by 2.8 percent from 2018 and is up 1.4 percent from the count conducted five years ago. The CAHP system matches individuals to rapid rehousing, targeted affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing based on their service needs, and the CoC's HMIS data shows housing retention rates among individuals – 85 percent for time limited subsidy recipients and 94 percent for permanent subsidy recipients – is better than those seen in the family subsystem.⁷

While the CoC expected that this level of housing performance would result in the same kind of success seen among families, a persistent inflow of individuals newly experiencing homelessness or re-experiencing it after long periods of time continues to challenge the system. Despite the continued success in housing retention, the CoC has seen the number of individuals who newly enter the system in a given year increase from 5,588 in fiscal year 2015 to 6,933 in fiscal year 2018 – an increase of 24 percent.

To aid in the CoC's understanding and strategic planning efforts for this population, TCP conducted an analysis in 2018 of the inflow and system use patterns of the unaccompanied men and women counted during that year's PIT count.⁸ The analysis showed:

- 22 percent of men and 33 percent of women were in their first episode of homelessness which, at the time of PIT 2018, had lasted *fewer* than 12 months;
- 31 percent of men and 28 percent of women were in their first episode of homelessness which, at the time of PIT 2018, had lasted *more* than 12 months;
- 43 percent of men and 34 percent of women were in one of multiple episodes of homelessness (dating back to 2001) that were separated by more than 12 months between stays in shelter or transitional housing; and
- Four percent of men and five percent of women re-entered the system after previously exiting for permanent housing (permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, or housing on their own).

Past estimates developed for the CoC assumed 30 percent of those who use shelter over the course of the year would permanently self-resolve their experience of homelessness without the aid of temporary or permanent support, but this analysis suggests that the rate is actually much lower as many who appeared to self-resolve return to the CoC after long periods. Indeed, the inflow analysis found, among those with multiple episodes, 51 percent had two distinct episodes dating as far back as 2001, and some individuals had as many as six episodes over time. Among those with two episodes, the average time between episodes was four years, though some individuals had breaks in shelter use lasting as long as 12 years.

⁷ Per the System Performance Metrics as reported to HUD annually via the Homelessness Data Exchange.

⁸ Results posted at www.community-partnership.org/facts-and-figures

Among those in their first episode that lasted for fewer than 12 months, there were generally lower rates of reported disabilities seen as compared to other service-use cohorts. The median age for men in this group was 10 years younger than the other cohorts, and the median age of women in this cohort was 2-5 years younger. While individuals in this group appear to be less likely to experience long-term homelessness or to re-experience over time, the CoC recognizes pairing housing and diversion efforts with other supports are necessary to ensure that system exits are permanent. To address this need, in April 2019, the District launched Project Reconnect, a program to provide shelter diversion or rapid exit along with financial management services to at least 500 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Another analysis of shelter consumers in the District showed that about a quarter of all shelter recipients reported a zip code from outside of the District as their last place of residence at their original shelter intake in the District. In order to ensure no resident sleeps on the street because of entry restrictions, the District's shelter portfolio for accompanied adults is primarily low barrier. Few jurisdictions in the areas surrounding the District have this type of capacity, leading to inflow into the District's system from outside the jurisdiction. Indeed, there was at least one zip code from 49 of the 50 states recorded among those counted in this analysis.

Though the inflow analysis brought insight to the reasons for the CoC's increasing counts, it was less conclusive about causation and opportunities for prevention. To gain insight into these questions, TCP and DHS conducted a second, more qualitative analysis concurrently with PIT 2019. In this survey individuals largely pointed to economic issues as the primary cause of their experience of homelessness, and assistance in the form of employment/income support or rent/mortgage support as the types of help that would have prevented their experience altogether. The full results of this analysis will be available later in 2019.

2019 Point-in-Time Results: Characteristics and Service Needs

Surveys conducted with adults – both unaccompanied and in families – during the PIT update and inform the CoC on the demographic make-up, service needs, barriers to housing, and economic indicators of persons experiencing homelessness. Publicly funded programs in the District that use the HMIS collect the same self-reported information year-round from program participants, while providers that do not use the HMIS (domestic violence programs, privately funded providers, etc.) send this information to TCP for the purposes of having similar information on the entire population to complete the PIT dataset.⁹

The following tables detail the rates at which persons reported living with various disabling conditions or their affiliation with various subpopulation categories. The CoC uses this information to develop programming that addresses the disability- or subpopulation specific-related service needs seen among the persons counted at PIT.

⁹ Information from domestic violence programs does not include the program participants' names or program locations.

REPORTED DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG PERSONS EXPERINCING HOMELESSNESS

	Unaccompanied Persons-2019	Unaccompanied Persons-2018	Adults in Families-2019	Adults in Families-2018	TOTAL (All Adults)-2019	TOTAL (All Adults)-2018
Substance Abuse (SA) History	21.9%	30.4%	3.3%	1.7%	17.9%	23.4%
History of Mental Illness (MI)	30.8%	32.4%	19.0%	7.4%	28.2%	26.3%
Dual Diagnosis (SA & MI)¹⁰	12.5%	14.5%	1.9%	1.2%	10.2%	11.3%
Chronic Health Problem	21.1%	24.6%	6.5%	1.5%	17.9%	19.0%
Developmental Disability	4.0%	4.9%	2.3%	1.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Living with HIV/AIDS	3.0%	4.0%	1.1%	0.2%	2.6%	3.1%
Physical Disability	16.3%	18.0%	5.8%	3.1%	14.1%	14.4%

The characteristics and service needs reported during PIT are typically consistent from year to year, with disabling conditions and subpopulation affiliation being more prevalent (in most categories) among unaccompanied persons as opposed to adults in families. While this was still true in 2019, the rates at which adults in families reported disabling conditions was higher than what the CoC saw from the family subsystem in 2018, and rates reported among individuals in 2019 were lower than were seen among individuals counted in 2018.

TCP’s analysis of the PIT data included looking at differences between unaccompanied men and women to understand the differing service needs between the two populations (as shown in the table below).

DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED MEN & WOMEN

	Unaccompanied Persons (all)-2019	Unaccompanied Men-2019	Unaccompanied Women-2019
Substance Abuse (SA) History	21.9%	24.2%	15.4%
History of Mental Illness (MI)	30.8%	28.1%	37.9%
Dual Diagnosis (SA & MI)	12.5%	12.6%	11.9%
Chronic Health Problem	21.1%	18.7%	27.7%
Developmental Disability	4.0%	4.2%	3.6%
Living with HIV/AIDS	3.0%	2.7%	3.6%
Physical Disability	16.3%	16.0%	17.3%

¹⁰ Dual Diagnosis is a subset of both Chronic Substance Abuse (CSA) and Severe Mental Illness (SMI) categories. Persons counted in the Dual Diagnosis category are counted in both the CSA and SMI categories in these tables.

As noted, the rates at which unaccompanied individuals and adults in families report affiliation with the various subpopulations tracked at PIT has historically differed between the two subsystem groups. Though this was true again in most of the 2019 results (e.g. veteran status, formerly resided in institutional settings), some categories show the affiliation rates becoming more similar between the two groups (formerly in foster care, speaks a language other than English).

REPORTED SUBPOPULATION AFFILIATION AMONG PERSONS EXPERINCING HOMELESSNESS						
	Unaccompanied Persons-2019	Unaccompanied Persons-2018	Adults in Families-2019	Adults in Families-2018	TOTAL (All Adults)-2019	TOTAL (All Adults)-2018
Domestic Violence History	20.7%	19.0%	32.3%	33.6%	23.2%	22.6%
Speaks a Language Other than English	4.0%	4.0%	5.7%	1.7%	4.4%	3.4%
U.S. Military Veteran	7.6%	8.0%	0.5%	0.3%	6.0%	6.2%
Formerly in Foster Care	9.4%	8.4%	9.7%	11.4%	9.5%	9.1%
Formerly Resided in an Institutional Setting	41.0%	49.6%	10.6%	22.2%	34.5%	43.0%

Similar to the information collected regarding persons living with disabling conditions, there were differences between unaccompanied men and women when looking at information on reported subpopulation affiliation, particularly for reported histories of domestic violence and having formerly resided in foster care or institutional settings.

DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED MEN & WOMEN			
	Unaccompanied Persons (all)-2019	Unaccompanied Men-2019	Unaccompanied Women-2019
Domestic Violence (DV) History	20.7%	13.0%	42.2%
Speaks a Language Other than English	4.0%	4.4%	3.2%
U.S. Military Veteran	7.6%	9.0%	3.5%
Formerly in Foster Care	9.4%	7.9%	13.9%
Formerly Resided in an Institutional Setting	41.0%	43.7%	33.6%

Income & Employment

The tables below provide income information for unaccompanied individuals and adults

in families, including whether or not they receive income, whether they are employed, and the primary income source for those with some type of income. While information collected at PIT continues to show that most persons experiencing homelessness have some type of income, only 20.7 percent of individuals and 29.0 percent of adults in families report having employment as an income source. The PIT results are consistent with other CoC data that shows that a third of unaccompanied individuals and nearly a quarter of adults in families served by the CoC in fiscal year 2018 increased their income overall, just 19.6 percent of individuals and 14.6 percent of adults in families increased income from employment specifically.¹¹

The disparity between income and housing costs in the District – even among those with multiple income sources – is a key driver of homelessness in the community as it leads to both system inflow and makes system exits difficult for those who do not qualify for permanent financial supports. The CoC is engaged in continued work to connect persons with benefits and workforce programming as well as analyses of the efficacy of this work to ensure that it is having its intended benefit for recipients.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT			
	Unaccompanied Persons	Adults in Families	TOTAL (All Adults)
Receives Income	55.9%	83.2%	61.7%
Employed	20.7%	29.0%	22.5%
PRIMARY INCOME SOURCE			
From Employment	28.5%	35.2%	30.4%
Social Security/Retirement	2.0%	0.0%	1.4%
SSI/SSDI/Disability	34.4%	10.6%	27.5%
TANF/Public Assistance	33.5%	47.9%	37.7%
Other	1.6%	6.3%	2.9%

2019 PIT Results: Subpopulation Highlights

Veterans

The District’s count of veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased by 27 percent over the last five years, which highlights all of the work the CoC has done via its Veterans Now and CAHP workgroups to end to veterans’ homelessness in the CoC. However, the year-to-year decrease from 2018 is only 2.9 percent (down from 306 veterans in 2018 to 297 in 2019) despite connecting more than 300 veterans with housing

¹¹ Per the System Performance Metrics as reported to HUD annually via the Homelessness Data Exchange.

between the 2018 and 2019 PIT counts.

Some 98 percent of the veterans experiencing homelessness in the District are unaccompanied individuals; as such, the CoC is experiencing the same challenges with inflow among veterans as was noted above in the section about unaccompanied individuals. Moreover, the ongoing work to ensure that all veterans experiencing homelessness are included on the CoC's By-Name List has kept our count higher as more people who have been served by the system for some time have just recently revealed their veteran status.

In the 2018 iteration of this narrative, the District noted that enhancing its information and understanding of this population would be critical to informing next steps. The inflow and causation analyses mentioned earlier will be instructive on that front as the CoC engages in further strategic planning for this population.

Youth

The District continues to bring locally and federally funded resources online to serve youth experiencing homelessness in accordance with *Solid Foundations DC*,¹² the CoC's strategic plan focused on the unique needs of this subpopulation. The counts of Transition Age Youth (TAYs, young people aged 18 to 24 years) decreased between PIT 2018 and 2019, by 15.1 percent among unaccompanied TAYs and by 18.9 percent among families headed by TAYs. This decrease was expected as the CoC saw large increases from 2017 to 2018 when new, youth-focused resources began serving youth experiencing homelessness who often remained hidden in counts like PIT because they were staying in other, sometimes dangerous, situations rather than entering shelter.

Since PIT 2018, the CoC created a Youth Advisory Board called *Through the Eyes of Youth*, which ensures youth who have experienced homelessness have a role in planning services for this population. The CoC has also worked with TCP to conduct annual censuses of youth experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity to develop *Solid Foundations*. In turn, this plan has highlighted youth service needs leading to the establishment of a 24-hour youth drop in center, prevention and family reunification services, rapid rehousing for TAYs, and a new model called extended transitional housing which allows for longer lengths of stay with intensive supportive services, progressive engagement, and a housing first approach.

Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as persons who have experienced homelessness for a year or more, or who have had four or more episodes of homelessness in three years (which total at least 12 months), and who are living with a disabling condition. Families are considered to be experiencing chronic homelessness if at least one adult person in the household meets the definition of chronic homelessness.

¹² ich.dc.gov/page/solid-foundations-dc-comprehensive-plan-end-youth-homelessness

The CoC’s 2019 count of unaccompanied individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness appear to be counterintuitive when comparing year-to-year results. Indeed, while the CoC’s overall count of unaccompanied individuals increased, the count of chronically homeless individuals *decreased* (from 1,586 in 2018 to 1,374 in 2019); while the number of families experiencing homelessness decreased, the number of families experiencing chronic homelessness *increased* (from 55 in 2018 to 98 in 2019).

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS				
	Unaccompanied Persons 2019	Unaccompanied Persons 2018	Adults in Families 2019	Adults in Families 2018
Experiencing Chronic Homelessness	44.1%	51.4%	13.2%	8.7%

As noted for unaccompanied singles, inflow and returns to the CoC after long periods are contributing to the increased overall number, but the CoC’s work to move the most vulnerable individuals with chronic disabilities into permanent supportive housing (from which rates of return to the CoC are much lower) is contributing to lower incidents of chronic homelessness. Furthermore, greater use of rapid rehousing and transitional housing resources for individuals who may live with disabilities but who are less vulnerable is contributing as well.

As previously mentioned for families, there were higher rates of disabling conditions reported among adults in 2019 than in previous years. With fewer dedicated permanent supportive housing resources to connect households with children to, many families may be “timing in” to chronic status while they wait for a housing resource that comes with the supports that meets their needs.

The CoC’s permanent supportive housing programs for families are at capacity and have high housing retention rates, which, while positive overall, means fewer resources become available over time through attrition. The CoC is taking a critical look at its portfolio of family housing resources to see where new resources are needed or where existing resources can be tailored to meet emerging needs.

Permanent Housing Solutions

As a part of the PIT count, TCP also counts formerly homeless persons – unaccompanied individuals and persons in families whose experience of homelessness ended upon entry into a dedicated housing resource. Most of these households would still be in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or living in unsheltered situations if not for these resources.

At PIT 2019, 5,424 formerly homeless unaccompanied individuals and 4,035 formerly homeless families were in permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, or other permanent housing programs (such as targeted affordable housing).

	Number of Unaccompanied Individuals	Number of Family Households
Other Permanent Housing (e.g., Targeted Affordable Housing)	1,545	941
Permanent Supportive Housing	3,592	1,260
Rapid Rehousing	287	1,834
TOTAL	5,424	4,035

Funding for these units comes primarily from the District, but also from HUD, the VA, and private sources. The resources have increased the number of permanent housing solutions the CoC is able to offer to persons experiencing homelessness, and the array of services provided at each have led to better matching of individuals and families to programs that meet their needs. While there is still work to do, the CoC recognizes resources like these are the key to achieving *Homeward DC*'s overarching goal of quickly connecting residents to permanent housing with the supports needed to maintain that housing over time.

Methodology notes

As in previous years, TCP coordinated with both District and Federal agencies, the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the CoC's public and privately funded outreach providers, meal programs and drop in centers, winter and emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs to complete PIT count. The District's permanent housing programs also provide information for determining the number of formerly homeless persons. To determine the unsheltered portion of the PIT count, TCP again engaged roughly 300 volunteers and professional outreach workers to canvass the District between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM.

As in previous years, approximately 90 percent of the PIT information collected at shelter and supportive housing programs comes from HMIS, with service providers that use HMIS submitting rosters and demographic information of persons served on the night of the count. Providers that do not use the HMIS instead conduct PIT surveys with their program participants and submit these to TCP; TCP in turn aggregates this with HMIS information to produce the final, District-wide count and survey results.

This methodology ensures the PIT count is thorough, unduplicated, and accurately reflects the size and scope of the population of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night.