PARTNERS FOR
HOME

POINT-IN-TIME
COUNT

FAST FACTS

22
January, 2018

242
Neighborhoods

130
Sq. miles covered

325
Volunteers

2000
Hours volunteered

3076
Homeless

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities conduct a Point in Time Count (PIT Count) to get an estimate of sheltered and unsheltered people who are homeless on one particular day, during the last ten days of January. This report is a result of the PIT Count that was conducted in Atlanta.

During the night of January 22, 2018, and into the morning of January 23, 2018, volunteer teams conducted surveys throughout all Atlanta neighborhoods. In addition, during the following week, surveys were given at different service providers around the city. Their goal was to both count the number of people who were homeless and also to identify the characteristics of various populations. While volunteers surveyed the entire week, the information gathered was all about people who were homeless on the night of January 22, 2018.

Gathering data allows the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) to make educated decisions about how to best address homelessness. Data driven decisions allow for proper allocation of resources and also help the community find gaps in the system. The Atlanta CoC, which is comprised of over 100 organizations, works together to address homelessness, with the goal to make it rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Through this work, over the years, Atlanta has seen a downward trend of homelessness in the city. This report gives the 2018 data and analyzes the trends between 2013-2018.

GEOGRAPHY COVERED

The Atlanta Continuum of Care covers the entire geography within the city limits. This includes all 242 neighborhoods, which are located in both Fulton and Dekalb counties, covering over 130 square miles.

METHODOLOGY

The 2018 PIT Count utilized a complete census methodology that has been used for several years. It employs a thorough process canvassing the entire CoC's geography and the consistency of using the same methodology helps when comparing trends from year to year.

People who were homeless were interviewed to collect a variety of information regarding their background and homeless situation. Personal identifying information was collected only if the interviewee agreed and was only used to remove duplicates of the surveys that may have been collected. All other information collected and reported on was unidentified.

If people who were homeless were identified but were not willing or able to be interviewed, a visual observation was made, and that information was collated and included in the data.

After all interviews and observations were completed, the data was compiled, deduplicated, and analyzed. The information was submitted to HUD for review and approval (pending) and was used for this report.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Almost 325 people volunteered for the 2018 Point in Time. This included volunteers who were volunteering for the first time, as well as volunteers who had volunteered for many years.

Corporations, local colleges and universities, service providers, faith communities, federal employees from HUD and the VA, and the City of Atlanta were some of the groups volunteers came from.

Volunteers were provided a background of the PIT and the importance of the role they play. They were trained on the survey tool, ensuring a consistent method of interviewing.

Over 2000 hours were volunteered for the 2018 PIT.

UNSHELTERED NIGHT COUNT

The night of the PIT, volunteers who were trained on how to survey areas known to be visited by people who were homeless, were sent out in teams of six to ten people, led by a seasoned homeless services staff person, to interview all homeless people that they encountered who were willing to be interviewed. This involved 30 teams of volunteers, covering every city block. This included people who were in parks, on the streets, under bridges, in abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for habitation. To efficiently utilize teams, those in low volume areas were redeployed to high volume areas to ensure thorough coverage.

DAY COUNT

In addition to surveying on the night of January 22, as mentioned, throughout the week that followed, teams of volunteers also went to homeless services centers and other locations where people who are homeless sometimes congregate, such as local libraries, to interview people who slept outside on the night of the PIT. This allows for people who may not have been interviewed on the PIT night to be included in the count. While these interviews occur throughout the week, the information collected is about the night of the PIT, and only information from people who indicated that they slept outside on that night, and had not yet been surveyed, are included in the data.

SHELTERED COUNT

The PIT collects information from people who were sleeping outside on the night of the count, but also from people who were homeless and sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs on that night. This information is primarily collected from an online, secure HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). For agencies that do not utilize the HMIS, teams of volunteers are deployed to interview the residents of the programs who are willing to be interviewed.

TERMINOLOGY

Youth - Age 0-24

Child - Under 18

Family -a parent (s) with at least one minor child

Household - one person or multiple people identifying together

Gender Non-Conforming – not exclusively male or female

Chronically Homeless - either a homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or an individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years

"It's great to be part of such an important event - knowing that the information we collect will help to inform the ways that the Atlanta community works to end homelessness."

Volunteer for the night of the event and at various shelter locations

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

TOTAL NUMBER SHELTERED/UNSHELTERED:

Emergency Shelter 63 | **Transitional Shelter** 74 | **Unsheltered** 28

Age
- Under 18
- 18-24

Gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race
- White
- African American
- All other
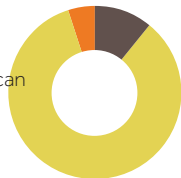
| | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | Total | Percentage |
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	**63**	**74**	**28**	**165**	
AGE					
Under age 18	6	3	0	**9**	5.5%
18-24	57	71	28	**156**	94.5%
Parenting youth	10	11	1	**22**	1.3%
Children in parenting youth household	15	21	1	**37**	22.4
GENDER					
Female	19	25	10	**54**	32.7%
Male	43	49	16	**108**	65.5%
Transgender	1	0	1	**2**	1.2%
Other	0	0	1	**1**	0.6%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	60	70	23	**153**	92.7%
Hispanic/Latino	3	4	5	**12**	7.3%
RACE					
White	6	4	8	**18**	10.9%
African American	56	66	17	**139**	84.2%
Asian	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	1	**1**	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	1	**1**	0.6%
Multiple Races	1	4	1	**6**	3.6%

Table 1-Demographic information for unaccompanied youth

age
- Age 18-24
- Parenting youth
- Children in parenting youth household

ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

race
- White
- African American
- All Other
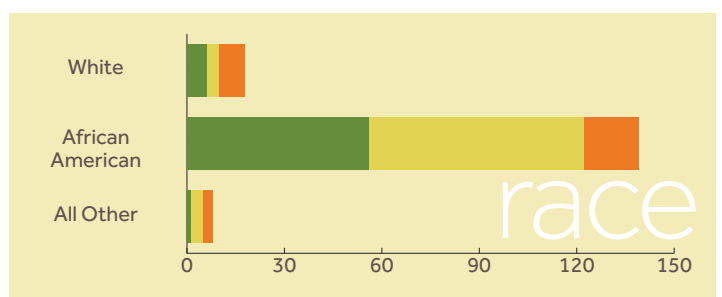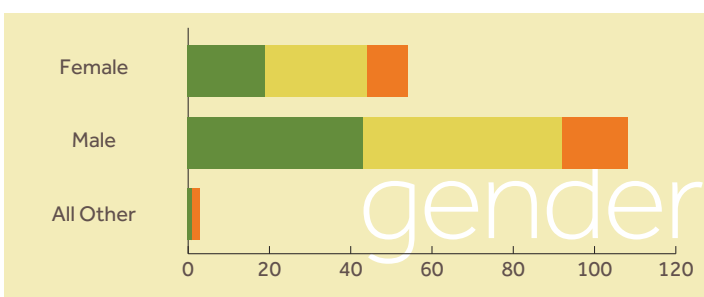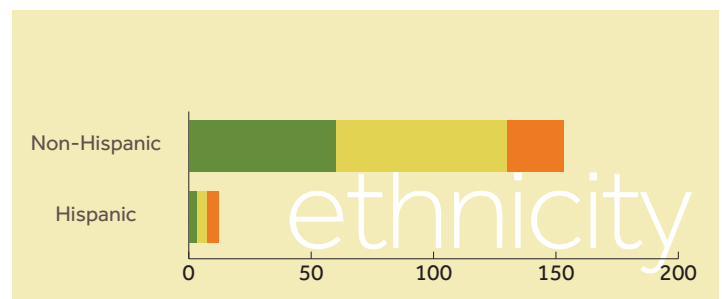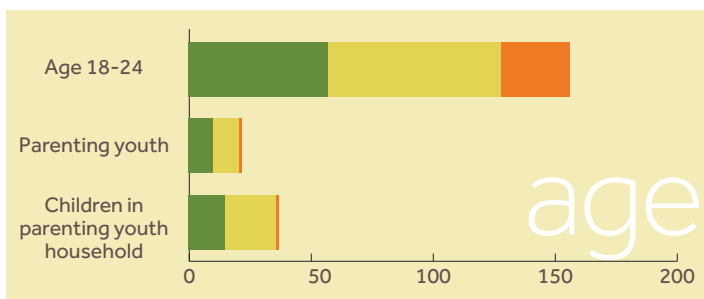
732

ADULTS ONLY

TOTAL NUMBER SHELTERED/UNSHELTERED:

Emergency Shelter **809** | Transitional Shelter **986** | Unsheltered **732**

ADULTS ONLY	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	809	986	732	2527	
AGE					
Persons 18-24 of age	57	71	28	156	6.2%
Persons over the age of 24	752	915	704	2371	93.8%
GENDER					
Female	192	195	117	504	19.9%
Male	608	789	601	1998	79.1%
Transgender	9	2	11	22	0.9%
Other	0	0	3	3	.0.1%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	784	948	709	2441	96.6%
Hispanic/Latino	25	38	23	86	3.4%
RACE					
White	98	112	69	279	11.0%
African American	675	832	601	2108	83.4%
Asian	4	6	1	11	.0.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	7	10	25	0.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	1	3	8	0.3%
Multiple Races	20	28	48	96	3.8%

Table 2-Demographic information with adults only

% of Total with Serious Mental Illness 40%

% of Total with Substance Abuse Disorder 40.7%
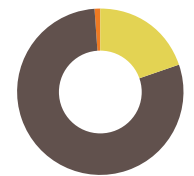
% of Total with HIV/AIDS 7.3%
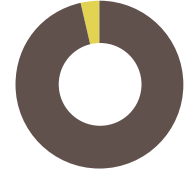
Age
- 18-24
- Over age 24

Gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race
- White
- African American
- All other
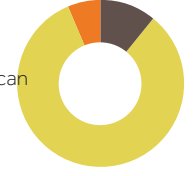
age
- Age 18-24
- Over the age of 24
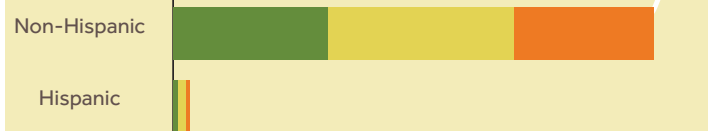
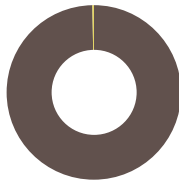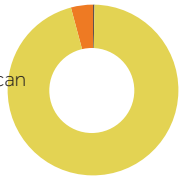### ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

race
- White
- African American
- All Other
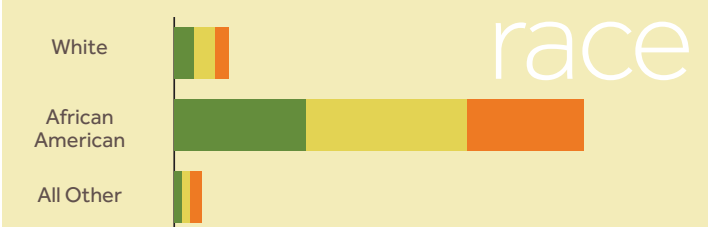
ADULTS & CHILDREN HOUSEHOLDS

TOTAL NUMBER SHELTERED/UNSHELTERED:

Emergency Shelter **101** | Transitional Shelter **62** | Unsheltered **3**

Age
- Under Age 18
- All Other

Gender
- Female
- Male
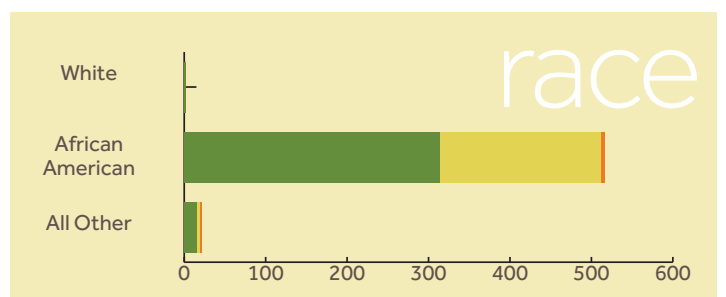- All Other

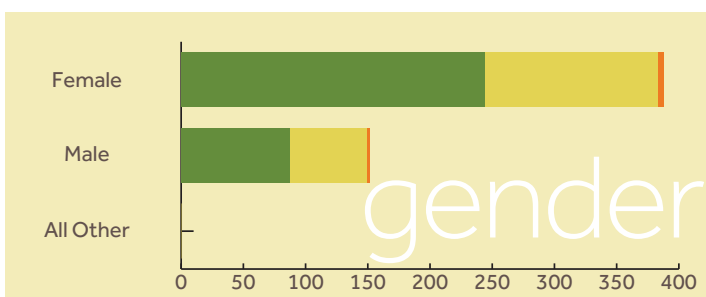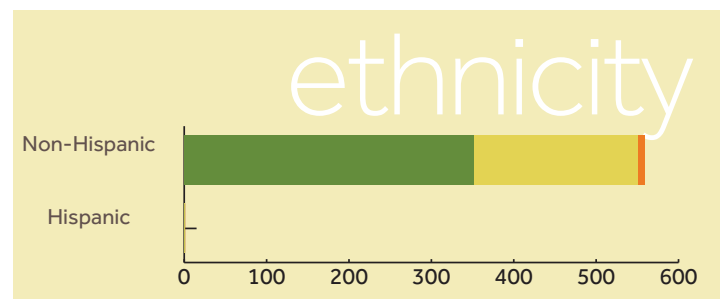### Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race
- White
- African American
- All other

ADULTS AND CHILDREN HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	**101**	**62**	**3**	**166**	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	**331**	**201**	**8**	**540**	
AGE					
Under age 18	213	132	5	**350**	64.8%
GENDER					
Female	244	139	5	**388**	71.9%
Male	87	62	3	**152**	28.2%
Transgender	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
Other	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	331	200	8	**539**	99.8%
Hispanic/Latino	0	1	0	**1**	0.2%
RACE					
White	2	0	0	**2**	0.4%
African American	314	197	5	**516**	95.6%
Asian	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	0	0	**3**	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	**0**	0.0%
Multiple Races	12	4	3	**19**	3.5%

Table 3-Demographic information for adult and children households

age
- Total Persons
- Under 18

ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

gender
- Female
- Male
- All Other

race
- White
- African American
- All Other
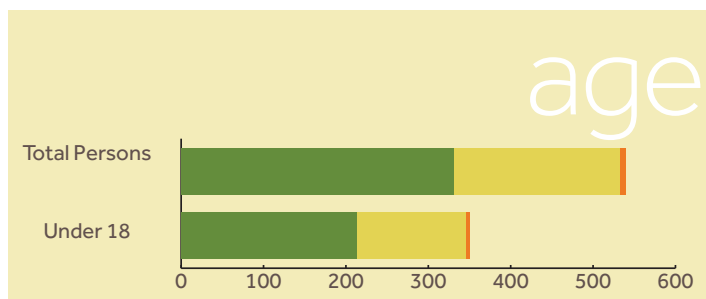
TOTAL NUMBER SHELTERED/UNSHELTERED:

Emergency Shelter **107**

Transitional Shelter **196**

Unsheltered **96**

VETERANS	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	**107**	**196**	**96**	**399**	
GENDER					
Female	14	10	4	28	7.1%
Male	93	186	92	371	92.9%
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other	0	0	0	0	0.0%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	106	191	93	390	97.7%
Hispanic/Latino	1	5	3	9	2.3%
RACE					
White	14	25	14	53	13.3%
African American	87	168	69	324	81.2%
Asian	0	1	0	1	0.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0	2	3	0.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0	1	2	0.5%
Multiple Races	4	2	10	16	4.0%

Table 4-Demographic information with veterans only

Gender
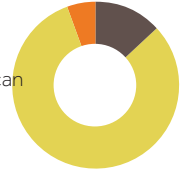- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
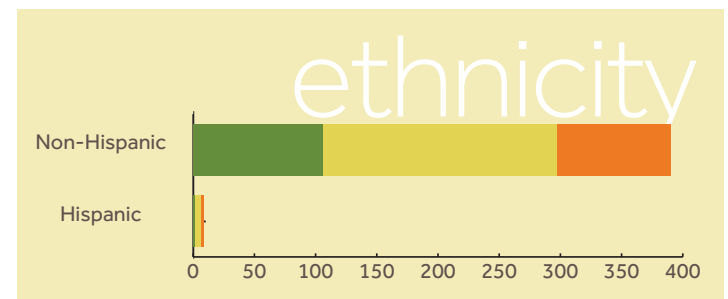
Race
- White
- African American
- All other

96

TOTAL # OF UNSHELTERED VETERANS

ethnicity

gender

race
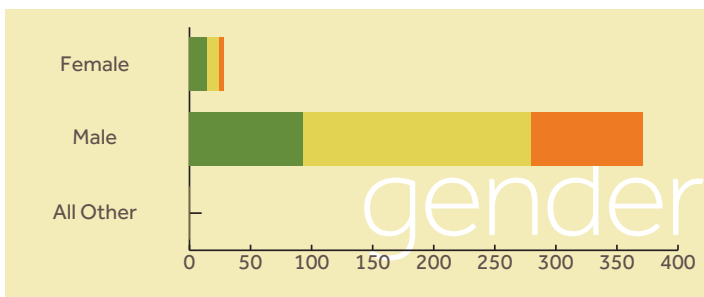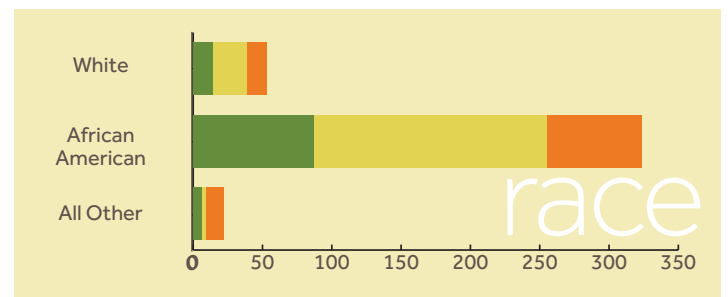
The annual Point in Time Count identifies people who were homeless on one particular night in January. The information and data collected provides a snapshot of what the homeless population looks like in the community. This is compared to what the homeless population looked like in previous years.

14% ↓
Decrease in homelessness since 2017

29% ↓
Decrease in homelessness since 2015

20% ↓
Decrease in sheltered homelessness since 2017

29% ↓
Decrease in sheltered homelessness since 2015

9% ↑
Increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2017

29% ↓
Decrease in unsheltered homelessness since 2015

When comparing the numbers from 2018 to 2017, there was a **14% decrease in overall homelessness** (20% decrease in sheltered homelessness, and a 9% increase in unsheltered homelessness). Since 2015, there has been a **29% decrease** in overall homelessness (**29% decrease** in sheltered homelessness and **29% decrease** in unsheltered homelessness).
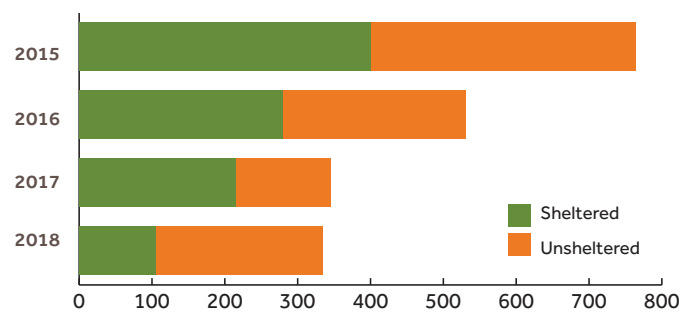
HOMELESSNESS
Total Number of Homeless from 2015-2018

YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2015	3280	1037	4317
2016	3225	838	4063
2017	2891	681	3572
2018	2336	740	3076

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Number of Chronic Homeless from 2015-2018

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

(Bar chart, x-axis 0–800)
- 2015
- 2016
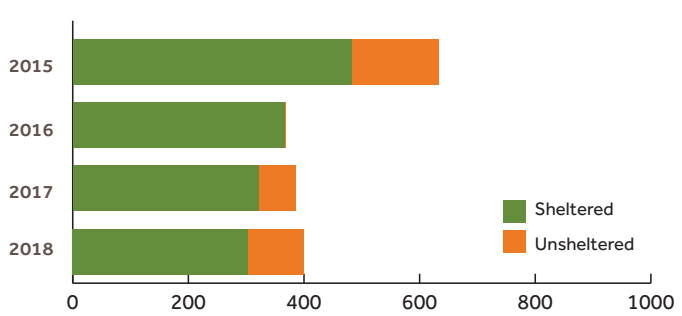- 2017
- 2018

Chronic homelessness has decreased by 3% since 2017 and 56% since 2015. This decrease is in line with the current focus of the Atlanta CoC to identify and house people who are chronically homeless.
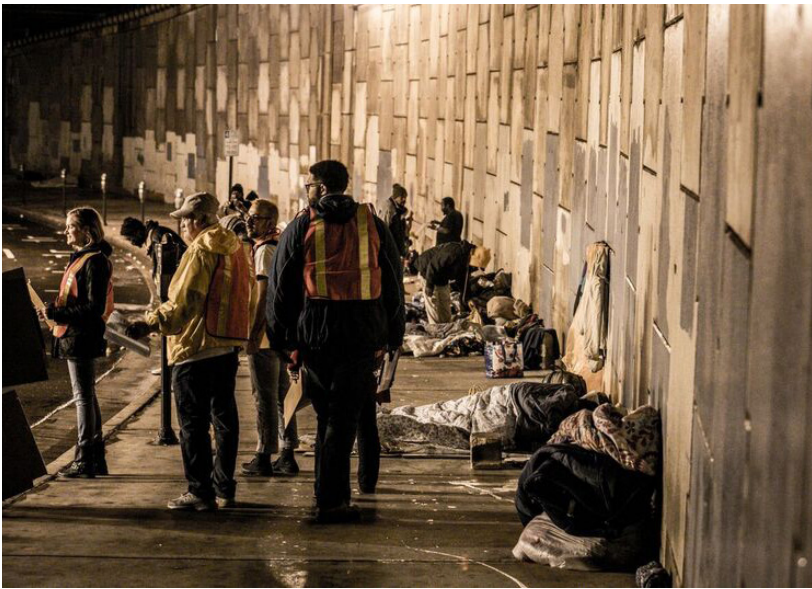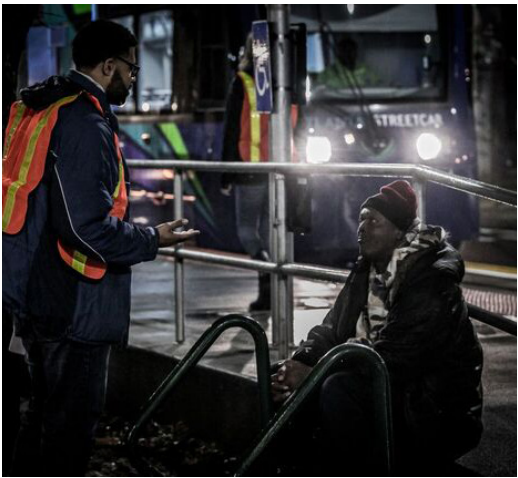
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Veterans from 2015-2018

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

(Bar chart, x-axis 0–1000)
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

Since 2017, there has been a 3% increase in homeless veterans. Since 2015, there has been a 37% decrease in veterans' homelessness. This largely falls into the general trend of decreasing homelessness since 2015.
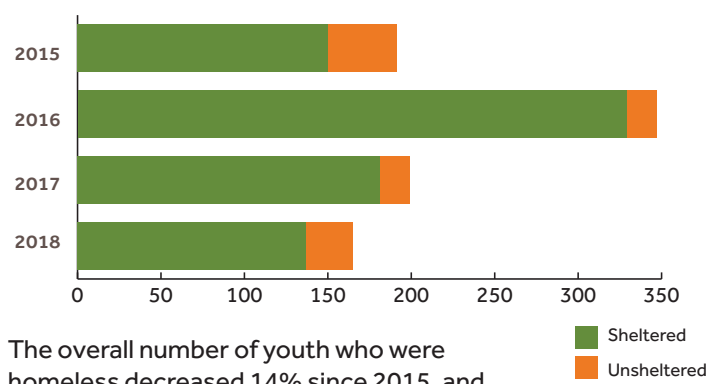
FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Families from 2015-2018

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

(Bar chart, x-axis 0–200)
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
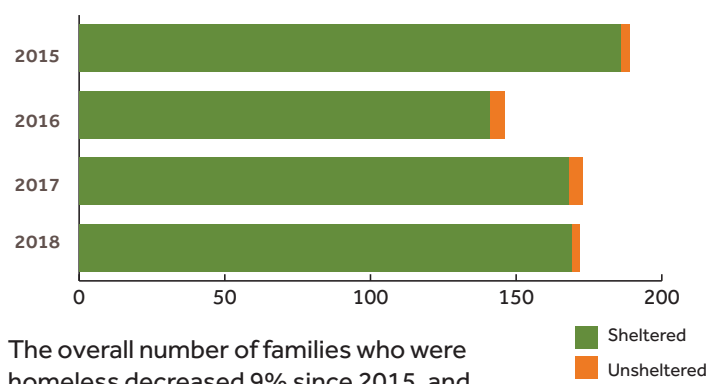
The overall number of families who were homeless decreased 9% since 2015, and .6% since 2017.

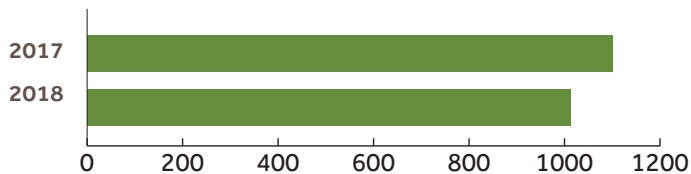## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Youth from 2015-2018

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

(Bar chart, x-axis 0–350)
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

The overall number of youth who were homeless decreased 14% since 2015, and 17% since 2017.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS[1]

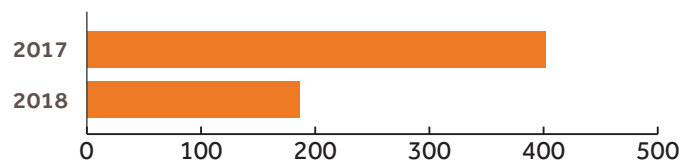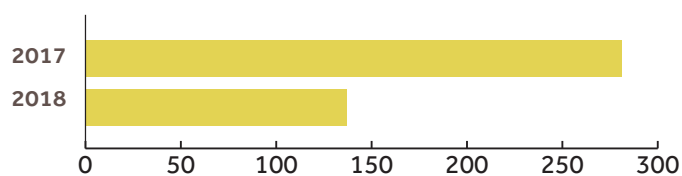**Found in homelss population 2017 - 2018[2]**

Severe Mental Illness

Year	
2017	
2018	

0   200   400   600   800   1000   1200

Chronic Substance Abuse

Year	
2017	
2018	

0   500   1000   1500   2000   2500

HIV/AIDS

Year	
2017	
2018	

0   100   200   300   400   500
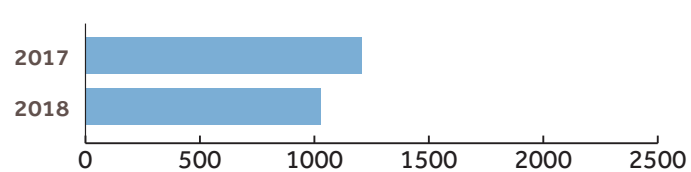
Victims of Domestic Violence[3]

Year	
2017	
2018	

0   50   100   150   200   250   300

8% ↓
Decrease in homeless who identify as having mental illness since 2017

53% ↓
Decrease in homeless population with HIV/AIDS since 2017

14% ↓
Decrease in homeless with chronic substance abuse issue since 2017

51% ↓
Decrease in homeless survivors of domestic violence since 2017

[1]Self-reported

[2]Although there were PIT Counts in previous years, the methodology used for some subpopulations was not consistent, therefore the data is not necessarily reliable.

[3]In 2018, HUD changed the parameters regarding domestic violence and homelessness. In previous years, data was collected on people who experienced domestic violence, at any time. This year, HUD asked CoCs to capture information regarding people who attributed their current homelessness to a domestic violence situation.

The 2018 PIT Count collected data that has been, and will continue to be, helpful in assessing the needs of the homeless population in Atlanta. The surveys that were conducted by volunteers detailed not only population size but also various characteristics of the population allowing for a direct impact on those experiencing homelessness. The overall numbers show a continuing decreasing trend in homelessness in Atlanta, partially due to the information given by the PIT report.

The 2018 PIT Count could not have been accomplished without the large numbers of volunteers who came to help on a cold night in January. Through continuing to use the census method of counting, the Atlanta CoC can trust that the data is both accurate and able to be used for allocation of resources within the community. Although homelessness is clearly on the decline, the populations such as veterans and families that have had slight increases in their numbers only further show the importance of this report and the work that still needs to be done. The data collected will continue to help work towards the goal of making homelessness brief, rare, and nonrecurring in the Atlanta Continuum of Care.

> "It was a very humbling (and, at times, heartbreaking) experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet fellow volunteers and the residents we encountered on our streets."
>
> Matt Westmoreland,
> Atlanta City Council, Post 2 Citywide.

DATA ENTRY: Once all surveys were collected and organized, the data was entered into a web-based survey software.

DE-DUPLICATION: To prevent duplicate entries, data was cross-referenced with HMIS and Housing Inventory Count data for the sheltered count. For the unsheltered count, de-duplication occurred by comparing identification information. Further data preparation was conducted by discarding surveys of individuals who do not meet the HUD homeless definition.

PARTNERS FOR
HOME

partnersforhome.org