

PARTNERS FOR
HOME

Point-in-Time Count 2019



Introduction



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

During the night of January 22, 2019, and into the morning of January 23, 2019, 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 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, 2019.

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 2019 data and analyzes the trends between 2015 and 2019.

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.

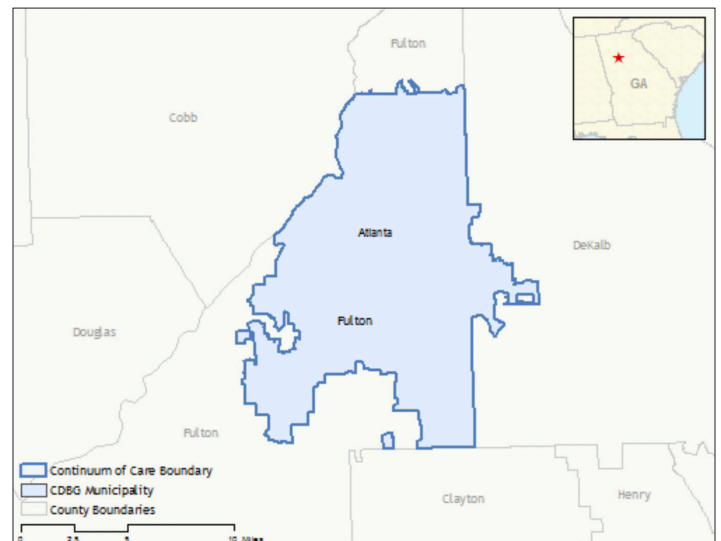
METHODOLOGY

The 2019 PIT Count utilized a complete census methodology that has been used for several years, which helps when comparing trends from year to year. It employs a thorough process of canvassing the entire CoC's geography, with the goal of not simply collecting a sample, but of surveying all of the homeless people within the region.

People who were homeless were interviewed to collect a variety of information regarding their background and homeless situation. All data was self-reported by the participants.

Personal identifying information was collected only if the interviewee agreed and was only used to remove any duplicates of the surveys that may have been collected. All other information collected and reported on was unidentified.

After all interviews 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.





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 about 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

As mentioned previously, in addition to surveying on the night of January 22nd, 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 that add up cumulatively to at least one year of homelessness.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

About 300 people volunteered for the 2019 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 all contributed volunteers.

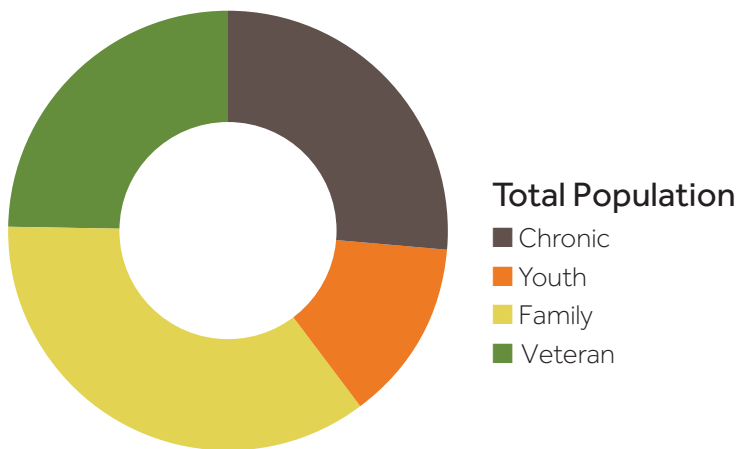
Volunteers were provided a background of the PIT and the importance of the role they play. They were trained on the survey tool, ensuring a consistent method of interviewing.

Over 2500 hours were volunteered for the 2019 PIT.

Results

Total Population

Key Sum Totals



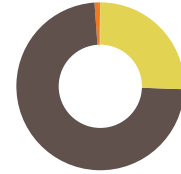
Age

- Under 18
- 18-24
- Over 24



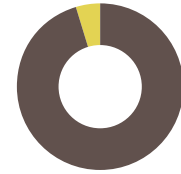
Gender

- Female
- Male
- All Other



Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic



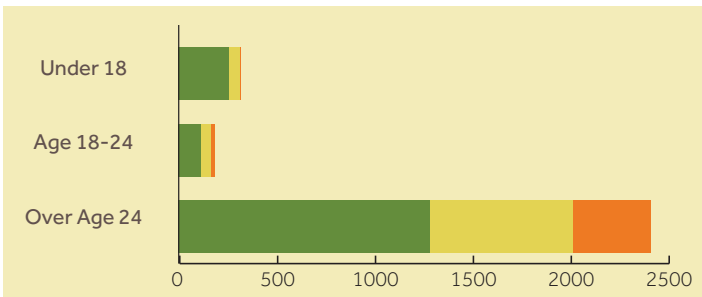
Race

- White
- African American
- All other

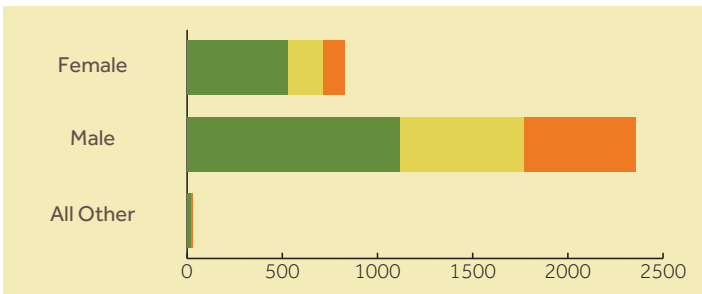


	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL POPULATION	1656	842	719	3217	
Chronic Total	183	0	193	376	11.7%
Youth Total (Unaccompanied + Parenting)	118	52	19	189	5.9%
Family Total	405	92	2	499	15.5%
Veteran Total	145	127	77	349	10.8%
AGE					
Under age 18	256	61	1	318	9.9%
18 - 24	114	54	19	187	5.8%
Over age 24	1286	727	699	2712	84.3%
GENDER					
Female	526	185	120	831	25.8%
Male	1114	656	588	2358	73.3%
Transgender	15	1	7	23	0.7%
Other	1	0	4	5	0.2%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1571	817	684	3072	95.5%
Hispanic/Latino	85	25	35	145	4.5%
RACE					
White	158	82	71	311	9.7%
African American	1439	733	592	2764	85.9%
Asian	6	1	1	8	0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	13	7	17	37	1.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	2	4	0.1%
Multiple Races	39	18	36	93	2.9%

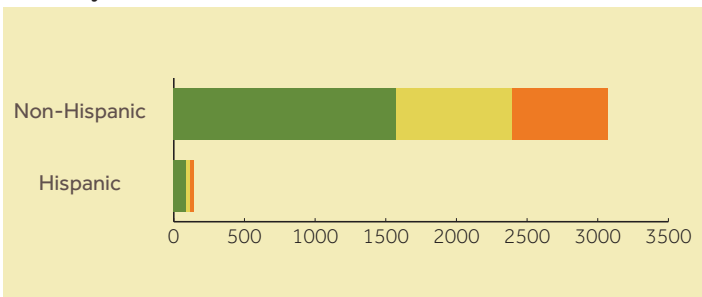
Age



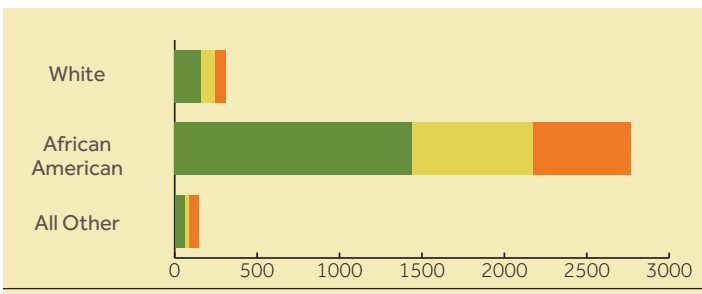
Gender



Ethnicity



Race



Unaccompanied Youth


101
Emergency Shelter




50
Transitional Shelter





19
Unsheltered

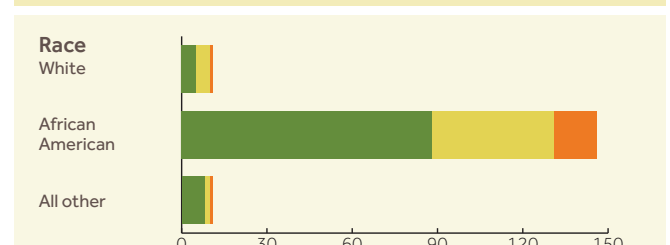
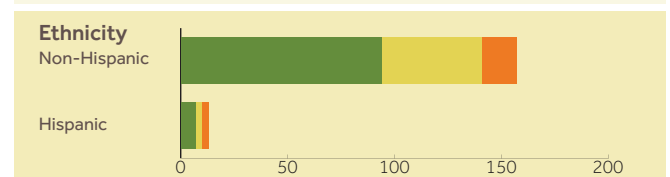
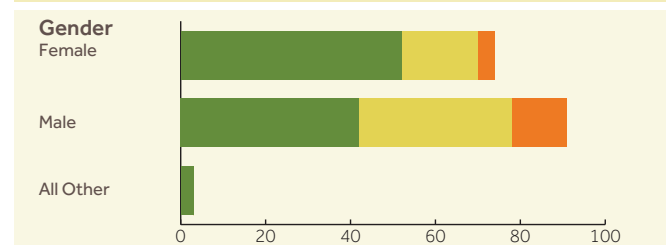
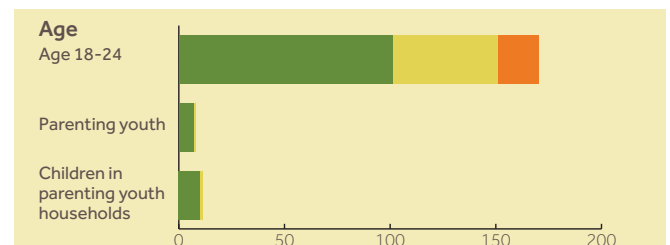
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	101	50	19	170	
AGE					
Under age 18	0	0	0	0	0.0%
18 - 24	101	50	19	170	100.0%
Parenting youth	7	1	0	8	
Children in parenting youth household	10	1	0	11	
GENDER					
Female	52	18	4	74	43.5%
Male	46	32	13	91	53.5%
Transgender	3	0	0	3	1.8%
Other	0	0	2	2	1.2%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	94	47	16	157	92.4%
Hispanic/Latino	7	3	3	13	7.6%
RACE					
White	5	5	1	11	6.5%
African American	88	43	15	146	86.9%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	0	0	2	1.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Multiple Races	6	2	1	9	5.4%

Table 1-Demographic information for unaccompanied youth

Gender
 Female
 Male
 All Other

Ethnicity
 Non-Hispanic
 Hispanic

Race
 White
 African American
 All other



Adults Only

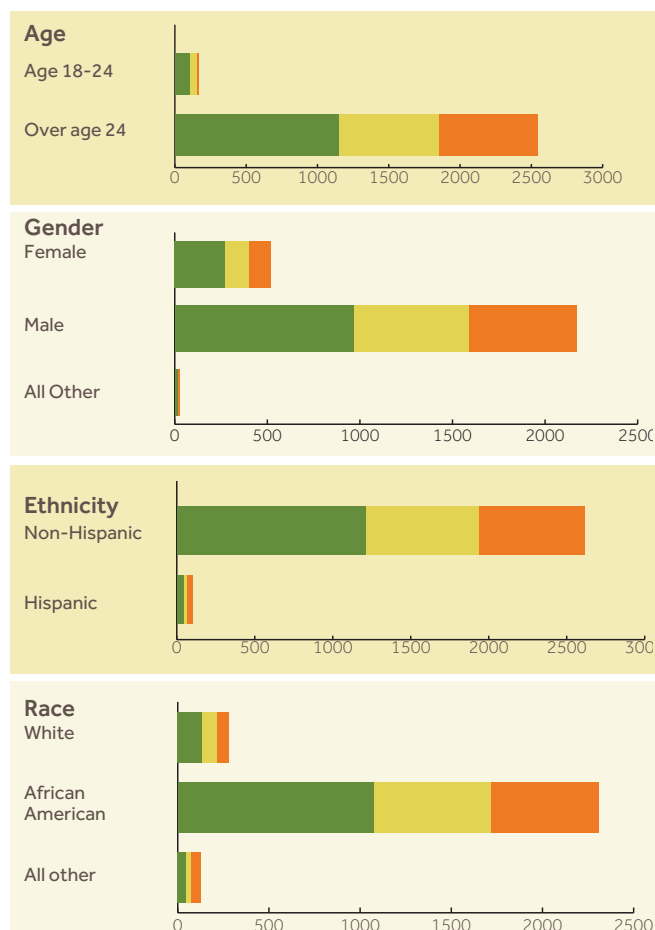
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	1251	750	717	2718	
AGE					
18 - 24	101	50	19	170	6.3%
Over age 24	1150	700	698	2548	93.7%
GENDER					
Female	271	128	119	518	19.1%
Male	964	622	587	2173	79.9%
Transgender	15	0	7	22	0.8%
Other	1	0	4	5	0.2%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1209	725	682	2616	96.2%
Hispanic/Latino	42	25	35	102	3.8%
RACE					
White	133	78	71	282	10.4%
African American	1072	647	591	2310	85.0%
Asian	6	1	1	8	0.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	7	17	35	1.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	2	4	0.1%
Multiple Races	28	16	35	79	2.9%

Table 2-Demographic information with adults only


1251
Emergency Shelter


750
Transitional Shelter


717
Unsheltered



Age

- 18-24
- Over 24

Gender

- Female
- Male
- All Other

Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic

Race

- White
- African American
- All other

Adults & Children Households


124
Emergency Shelter


29
Transitional Shelter


1
Unsheltered

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	124	29	1	154	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	405	92	2	499	
AGE					
Under age 18	256	61	1	318	63.7%
18 - 24	13	4	0	17	3.4%
Over age 24	136	27	1	164	32.9%
GENDER					
Female	255	57	1	313	62.7%
Male	150	34	1	185	37.1%
Transgender	0	1	0	1	0.2%
Other	0	0	0	0	0.0%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	362	92	2	456	91.4%
Hispanic/Latino	43	0	0	43	8.6%
RACE					
White	25	4	0	29	5.8%
African American	367	86	1	454	91.0%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	0	0	2	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Multiple Races	11	2	1	14	2.8%

Table 3-Demographic information for adult and children households

Age

■ Under Age 18
■ All Other



Gender

■ Female
■ Male
■ All Other



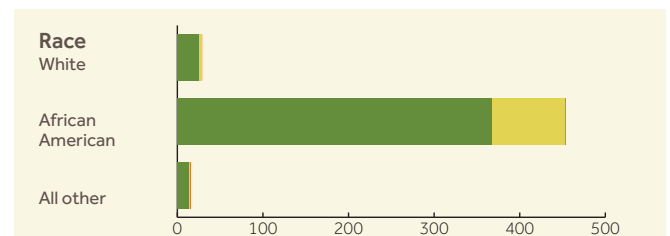
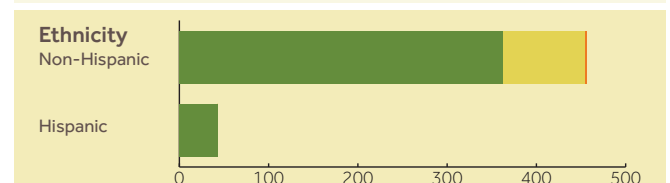
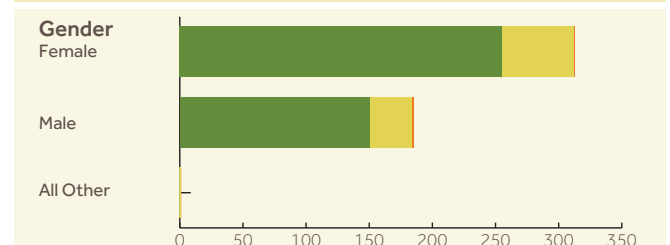
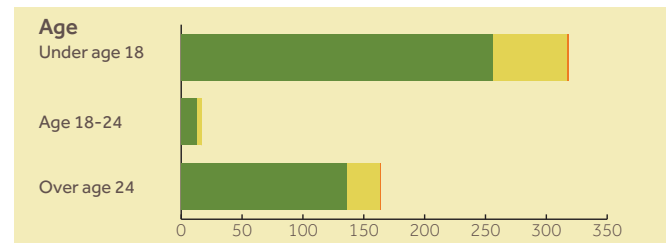
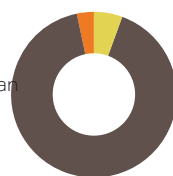
Ethnicity

■ Non-Hispanic
■ Hispanic



Race

■ White
■ African American
■ All other



Veterans

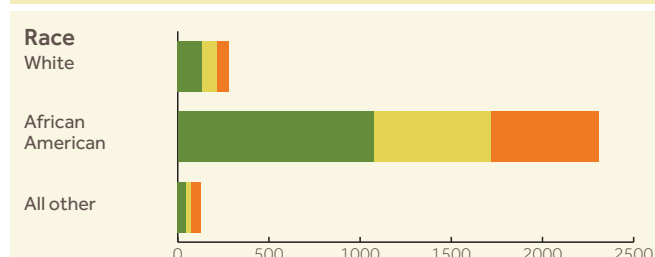
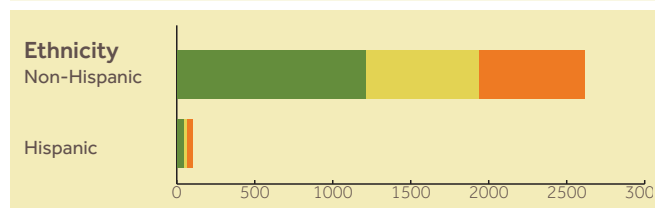
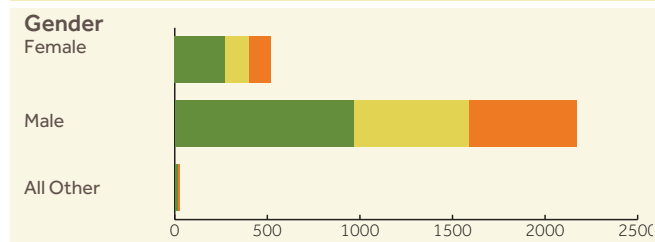
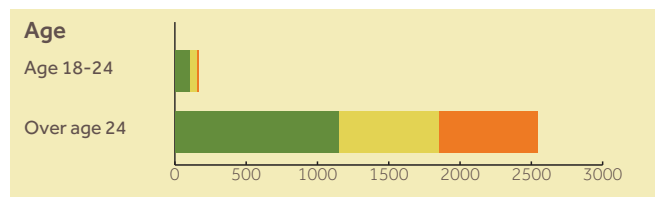
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percentage
	Emergency	Transitional			
TOTAL NUMBER	145	127	77	349	
GENDER					
Female	14	9	1	24	6.9%
Male	131	118	75	324	92.8%
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other	0	0	1	1	0.3%
ETHNICITY					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	143	125	73	341	97.7%
Hispanic/Latino	2	2	4	8	2.3%
RACE					
White	20	15	5	40	11.5%
African American	120	109	60	289	82.8%
Asian	1	0	0	1	0.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	4	4	1.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	0.3%
Multiple Races	4	3	0	7	1.4%

Table 4—Demographic information with veterans only


145
Emergency Shelter

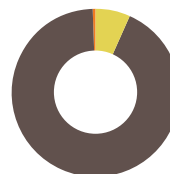

127
Transitional Shelter


77
Unsheltered



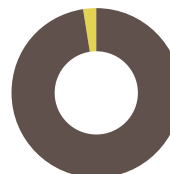
Gender

Female
Male
All Other



Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic
Hispanic



Race

White
African American
All other





Trends

Overall

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.

HOMELESSNESS

Total Number of Homeless from 2015-2019

YEAR	 SHELTERED	 UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2015	3280	1037	4317
2016	3225	838	4063
2017	2891	681	3572
2018	2336	740	3076
2019	2498	719	3217

5% ↑

Increase in
homelessness
since 2018

25% ↓

Decrease in
homelessness
since 2015

7% ↑

Increase in sheltered
homelessness
since 2018

24% ↓

Decrease in sheltered
homelessness
since 2015

3% ↓

Decrease in unsheltered
homelessness
since 2018

31% ↓

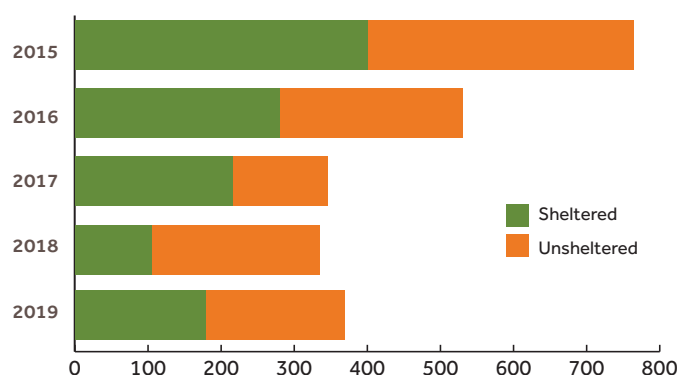
Decrease in unsheltered
homelessness
since 2015



Subpopulation Trends

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Number of Chronic Homeless from 2015-2019

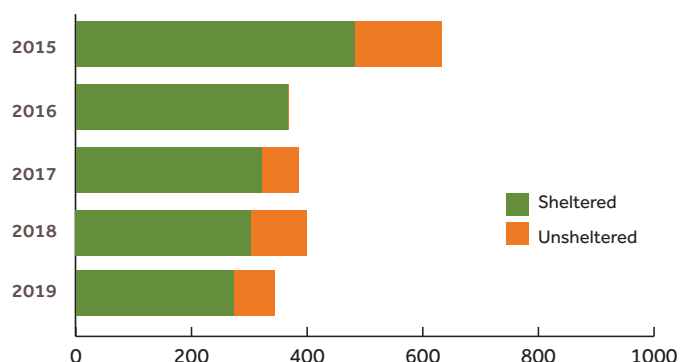


Chronic homelessness decreased by 51% since 2015, but it increased 12% since 2018.



VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

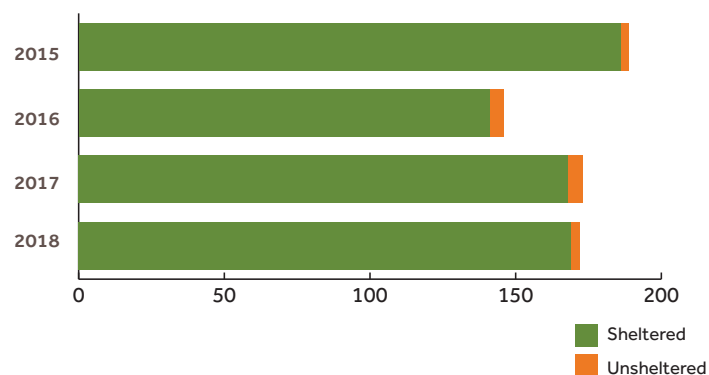
Number of Homeless Veterans from 2015-2019



The overall number of veterans who were homeless has decreased by 13% since 2018 and by 45% since 2015.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Number of Homeless Families from 2015-2019



The overall number of families who were homeless has decreased by 7.2% since 2018 and by 17.6% since 2015.

Other Characteristics¹

The overall number of people who were homeless and identify with having a serious mental illness has decreased by 3.9% since 2018.

The number of people who identify with a chronic substance abuse issue has increased slightly (by 1%) since 2018.

The homeless population with HIV/AIDS has increased by 67% since 2018.

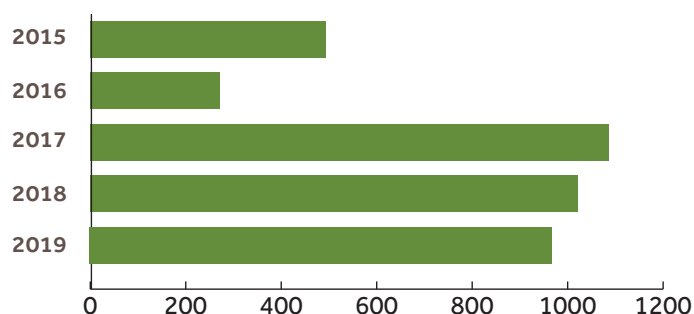
The number of people who identified as survivors of domestic violence who are homeless has decreased by 20% since 2015 and has decreased by 12% since 2018.

Other Characteristics 2019
Adults 18 and over

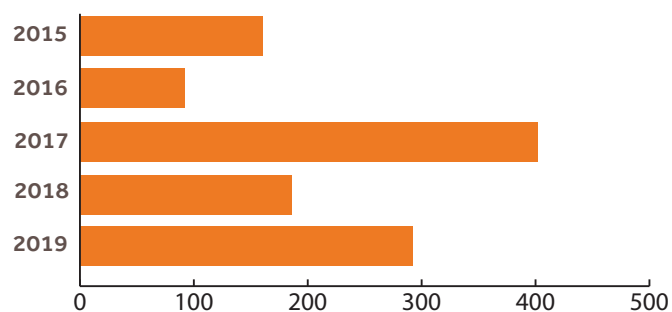
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Serious Mental Illness	490	270	213	973
Substance Use Disorder	440	322	278	1040
HIV/AIDS	191	86	33	292
Survivors of Domestic Violence	53	14	53	120

Found in homeless population² 2015 - 2019

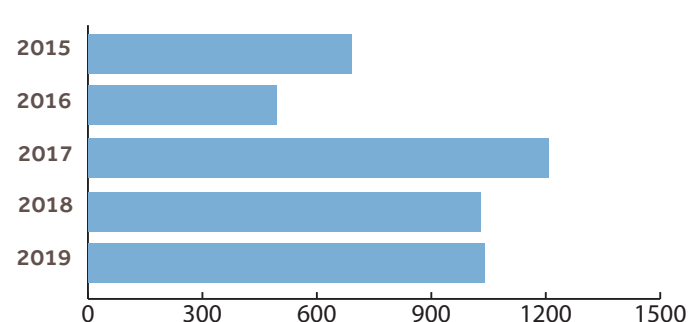
Severe Mental Illness



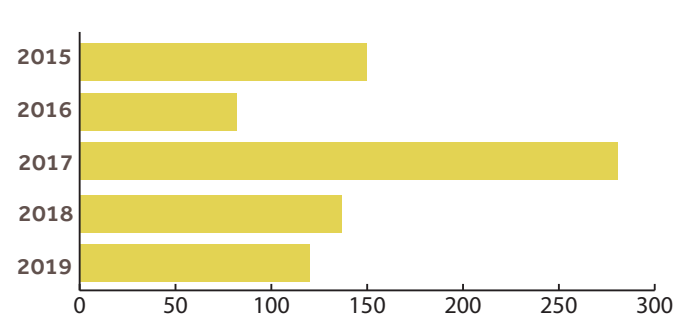
HIV/AIDS



Chronic Substance Abuse



Victims of Domestic Violence³



¹Self-reported

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

³In 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.

Conclusion

The 2019 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 2019 Point in Time Count showed a slight increase in the number of people who identified as homeless. However, while the total number is up, unsheltered homelessness is down and the emergency shelter population is up. This illustrates that investments in low barrier shelter and permanent housing are having an effect. And, with continued investments in housing, it is expected that even more dramatic shifts will result in years to come.

This, paired with diversion resources and additional permanent supportive housing, will lead to fewer people sleeping outside. This is the right trajectory despite the slight increase.

The 2019 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. The data collected will continue to help work towards the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in the Atlanta Continuum of Care.



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.



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