

THE WAY HOME CONTINUUM OF CARE
2022 HOMELESS COUNT &
SURVEY ANALYSIS

March 2022

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About us

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County acts as a catalyst, uniting partners and maximizing resources to move people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing with supportive services.

The Coalition for the Homeless, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, is the leader of The Way Home, the homeless response system for Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas.

Learn more at www.homelesshouston.org



Photo courtesy of SEARCH Homeless Services, Inc.

The Way Home is the collective effort to prevent and end homelessness in Houston and throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas and is the name for the local TX-700 Continuum of Care (CoC). The Way Home is made up of more than 100 partners from all areas of the community, including homeless service agencies, local governments, public housing authorities, the local Veterans Affairs office, and other nonprofits and community stakeholders. The partners of The Way Home work to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in our region.

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, a 501c3, is the lead agency to The Way Home.

Learn more at www.thewayhomehouston.org

Overview

In 2021 and 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the nation were faced with the possibility that conducting a Point-In-Time (“PIT”) Count of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness would not be feasible.

Conducting the annual January Count of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness requires hundreds of community volunteers. Additionally, volunteers gather in groups and approach people that may be experiencing homelessness to collect data. This activity poses challenges in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Due to these challenges, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) issued waivers in 2021 that allowed CoCs to opt out of conducting an unsheltered homeless Count. For those that chose to move forward with the Count, there were additional waivers that provided flexibilities in methodology and timing of the Count. In 2022, HUD notified CoCs that the 2022 homeless Count would not be waived; however, some CoCs decided to delay their counts.



Photo courtesy of the CKP Group

For both years, the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, lead agency to The Way Home CoC, decided to move forward with conducting both the sheltered and unsheltered Count for several reasons:

1. We wanted to know how COVID-19 has affected homelessness,
2. We wanted to measure the impact of our programs, including the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP), and
3. We wanted the most vulnerable to know that we care and are still fighting to end their homelessness.

However, due to the pandemic and differences in the methodology of conducting the Count in 2021 (e.g., limiting the number of volunteers and conducting the unsheltered Count over 10 days instead of three), we did not compare this year (2022)'s Count with last year (2021)'s at the height of the pandemic. Instead, comparisons were made with the findings in 2020, before the pandemic affected collection of data.



Photo courtesy of Scot More, Coalition for the Homeless



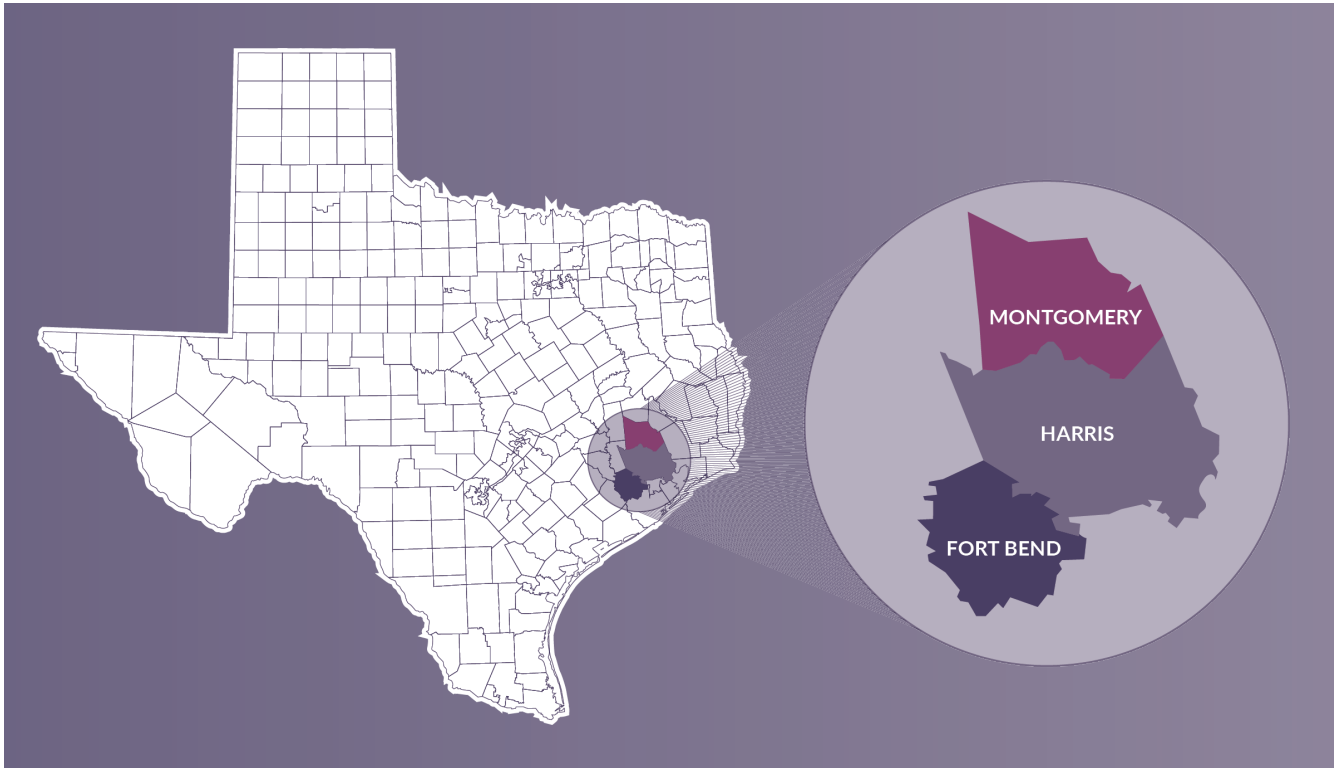
Photo courtesy of Quana Smith, Coalition for the Homeless

The official “night of record” for the sheltered Count was January 24, 2022. The unsheltered Count occurred over a three-day period January 25-27 with 480 volunteers. Unsheltered persons were asked where they slept on the night of January 24 to determine if they were classified as unsheltered for the purpose of the Count. Prior to the unsheltered Count, five Homeless Count trainings were provided to the volunteers on January 13, 17, 19, 20, and 24.

Continued safety precautions were implemented due the pandemic. “Staging areas” were virtual, and volunteers were required to “check-in” every morning of the Count. Teams were not assigned, but volunteers could opt to form their own teams when registering online. Volunteers were also allowed to select the region(s) of their preference, and the maps for those regions were sent directly to the Counting Us app on their phones; no physical maps were used.

Methodology

The Way Home CoC covers a vast geographic region (3,711 sq. miles, including all of Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties) with a large dispersed unsheltered population.



Due to the size of the geographic area covered by the Count and complications related to the pandemic and other natural disasters, we know that not all unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness can be identified in a short period of time. (We are more confident about counting the number of those experiencing homelessness who are sheltered.) However, the Homeless Count remains a good way to capture year-over-year homeless trends. It gives us valuable information that helps us to hone the homeless response system: it helps us identify where progress has been made or where we still need to focus our efforts. It also helps us to identify and connect the most vulnerable individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness with housing and vital services.

The 2022 sheltered Count included individuals staying in a total of 55 projects comprising emergency shelters (35 different projects), transitional housing units (19 different projects), and safe havens (1 project) on the night of January 24 based on reports received from the projects and data entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (those sleeping on the streets or in other places not meant for human habitation) were counted January 25-27 using direct engagement and interviews when possible and observation if not. Teams walked under bridges, along the bayous, and to other areas where encampments of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness had been identified. They

also investigated abandoned buildings where persons experiencing homelessness may have been residing.



There is a danger of counting people twice or mistaking them as unsheltered when counting over multiple days, as someone on the street during the day may have been in a shelter the night before or approached twice during the three-day period. We guarded against this in several ways:

- Interviewees were asked if they had been questioned previously and, if so, they were not included more than once in the Count.
- Interviewees were asked where they slept on the night of January 24 2022 (the official night of the Count) and were classified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness only if they slept in a place not meant for human habitation, per HUD guidelines. This assured that we did not double count someone who was included in the HMIS shelter Count that night and that we did not include those who appeared as if they were experiencing homelessness but were not, according to HUD guidelines.
- When reviewing data from the Count, a search for potential duplicate entries was performed and, if found, the duplicate entry was deleted. This year, two cases of duplication was found.
- Names of unsheltered interviewees were compared to HMIS records to ensure they were not counted during the sheltered Count. This year four individuals were not included in the unsheltered

Count as two were in a shelter and two were housed on the official night of the Count.

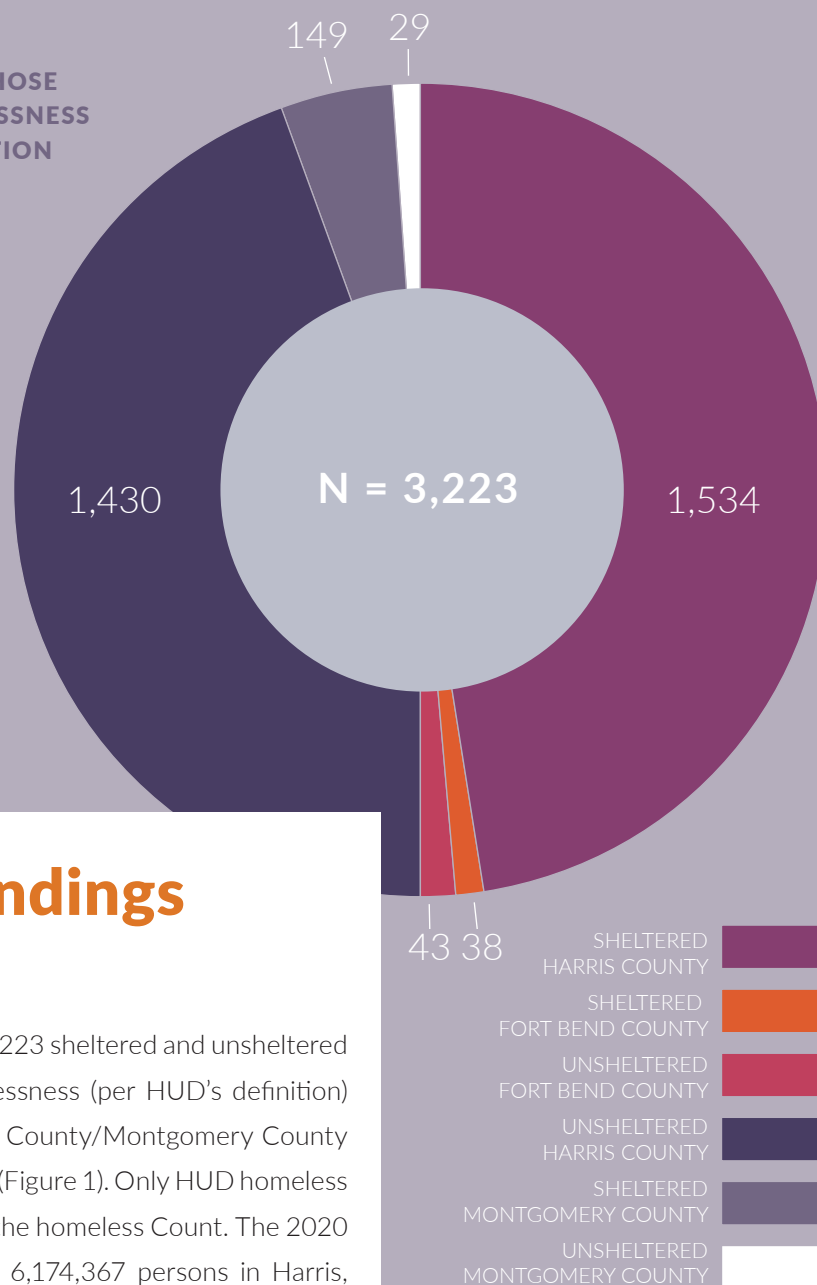
SimTech Solutions' (San Diego, CA) Counting Us software, a mobile application that can be readily implemented to help count persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness, was used for the Count. The use of a mobile application survey had several advantages. All individuals and families who were identified as experiencing chronic homelessness, young adults (18-24 years), or U.S. military Veterans were assessed for housing and documented for follow-up by trained Coordinated Access Assessors & Outreach Staff. Thanks to GPS mapping technology included in the mobile application, the Count execution and data could be monitored in real-time, and locations of interviews recorded. Volunteers could be tracked while conducting surveys based on the user IDs assigned.



Photo courtesy of Sandra Zamarripa, Office of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

The enhanced methodology developed in previous years for the sheltered Count was continued in 2022. All emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens that are part of the CoC were contacted and inventoried. Shelter providers were trained on entering data and assessments into HMIS and given the opportunity to confirm the data assessed on the night of the Count. Shelters that do not use HMIS, such as domestic violence shelters, were asked to report their numbers on January 24 using the Housing Inventory Count.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF THOSE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
BY INTERVIEW LOCATION**



2022 Key Findings

Data collected show a total of 3,223 sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness (per HUD's definition) in the Harris County/Fort Bend County/Montgomery County region on the night of the Count (Figure 1). Only HUD homeless categories 1 and 4 are used for the homeless Count. The 2020 U.S. Census showed a total of 6,174,367 persons in Harris, Montgomery, and Fort Bend counties. We found that with this year's Count of 3,223 persons experiencing homelessness, one out of 1,916 of those living in the three-county area were experiencing homeless on the night of the Count.

Breaking down the location of those experiencing homelessness, we determined that most were in Houston/Harris County with

FIGURE 1

¹ (1) Individual or family who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence such as a place not meant for human habitation, a publicly or privately operated shelter, or is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution or (4) An individual or family who is fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

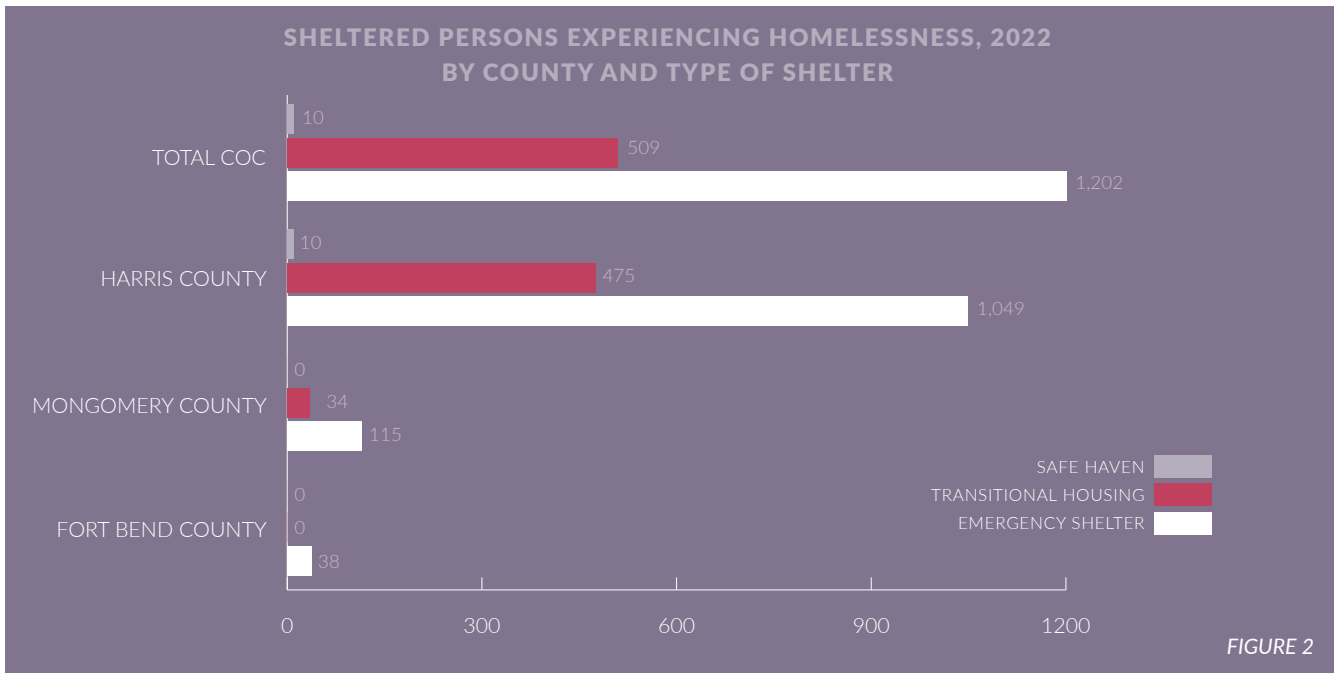


FIGURE 2

only one out of every 50 (2.4%) counted in Fort Bend County while approximately one out of 20 persons experiencing homelessness in the total CoC area were found in Montgomery County (5.3%). It is important to note that, for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of January 24, geographical assignment was determined by where they were

interviewed during the day, which may be near where they seek services but not necessarily where they sleep. The same is true of the sheltered population which may move from one county to another, particularly in counties where there is a lack of shelters for specific groups. For example, there are no shelters for single adults in Ft. Bend County. Therefore, the location of both the unsheltered

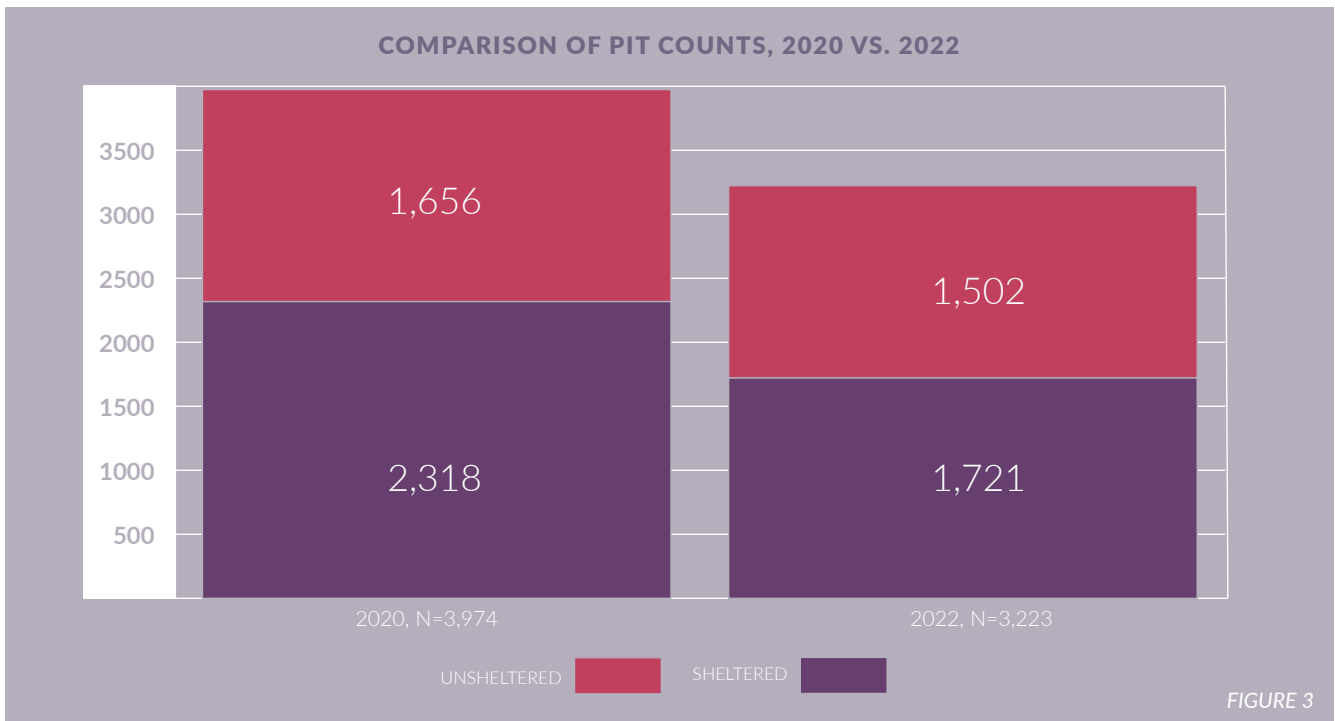


FIGURE 3

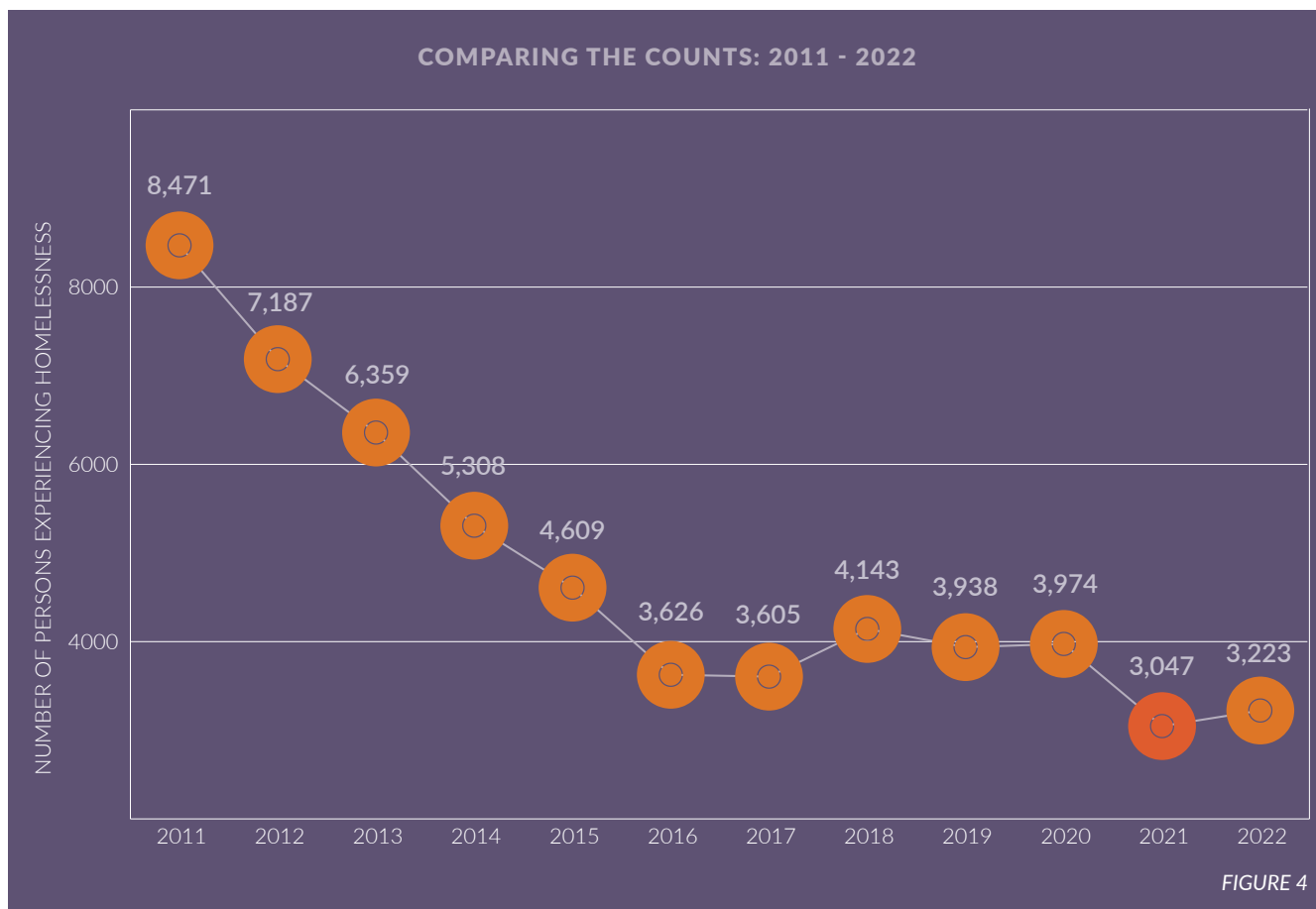
and sheltered populations may not reflect where they were living before experiencing homelessness.

Persons experiencing homelessness can be found in one of four settings – places not meant for human habitation (i.e., unsheltered), emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe havens.

The locations of those experiencing homelessness by county in 2022 are shown in Figure 2. Within the total population, approximately two of five persons experiencing

homelessness (37%) were in emergency shelters on the night of the Count, with 16% in transitional housing. These percentages are similar to those found in the 2020 Count.

In 2022, 46% of those experiencing homelessness, or approximately half, were found on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation, compared to 42% in 2020. (Figure 3). Figure 4 shows the mostly downward trend of the homeless population since 2011.



Note: Counts prior to 2017 include Harris and Fort Bend counties only. Counts 2017 and after also include Montgomery County. 2021 Count employed different methodology due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Characteristics of Those Experiencing Homelessness

Persons experiencing homelessness are classified into three household types: persons in households without children (HHWOC), persons in households with children under age 18 years (HHWC), and children-only households (under the age of 18 years). Figure 5 shows the breakdown of these groups between the sheltered and unsheltered populations while Figure 6 graphs these data in a way to show among each household type, what number/percent were in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven. All of 1502 unsheltered persons counted except one were in households without children. Approximately one of three (32%) of sheltered persons were in households with children while, among the unsheltered, only one children-only household was

counted. Seventeen children-only households were found among the sheltered (an increase from three children-only households found in 2020), of these, twenty persons were in emergency shelter and two in transitional housing (some households have multiple people).

For the unsheltered population, we were able to capture overall length of time of homeless for individuals that were interviewed (Figure 7). It's important to understand that the information is self-reported by the individual being interviewed. Actual documentation and verification of this for the purposes of determining chronicity and eligibility for permanent supportive housing (PSH) happens once the individual is referred to a housing program.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE IN SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED POPULATIONS

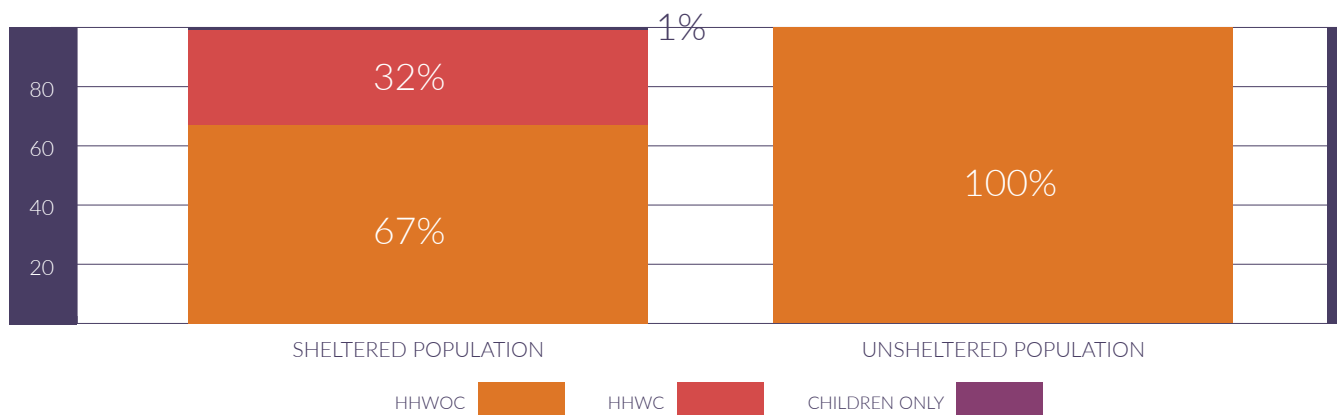


FIGURE 5

Note: Rounded to the nearest percentage

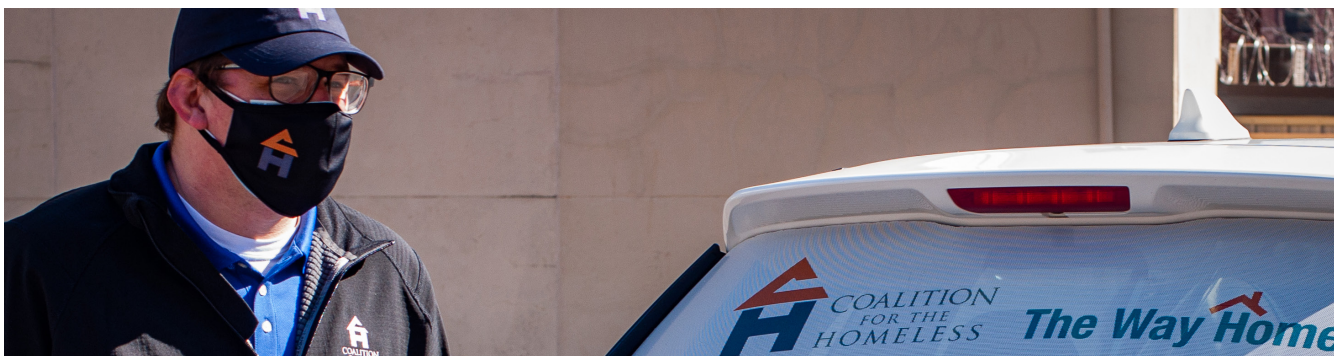


Photo courtesy of the CKP Group

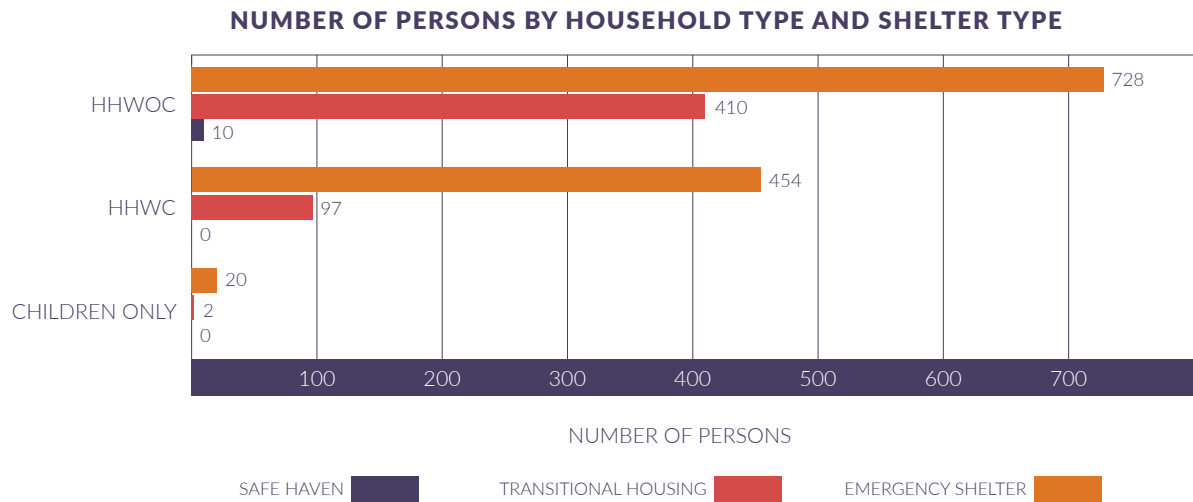


FIGURE 6

Approximately two of five unsheltered persons had been homeless for three years or longer while one of seven had only been homeless for three months or fewer.

For approximately two out of five unsheltered persons, this was their first time experiencing homelessness, similar to what was found in 2020. One out of eight (13%) unsheltered persons were homeless due to a natural disaster with nine of 10 citing Hurricane Harvey or another hurricane as the reason. Other natural

disasters mentioned were fire, mud, or flooding. These results are similar to those found in 2020. Another one of eight people (13%) experiencing unsheltered homelessness indicated they were homeless due to the SARS-CoV 2 (COVID-19) pandemic with the vast majority citing loss of job or reduction in hours and/or eviction as the precipitating event.

TIME EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS - INTERVIEWS ONLY

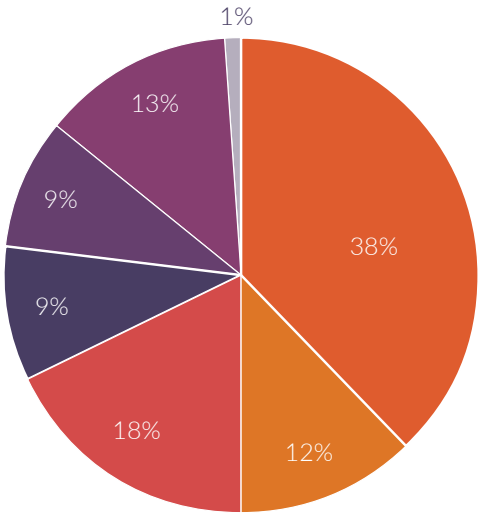
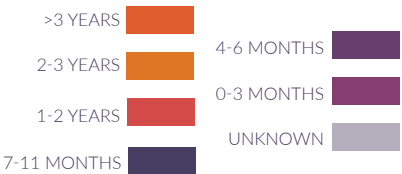
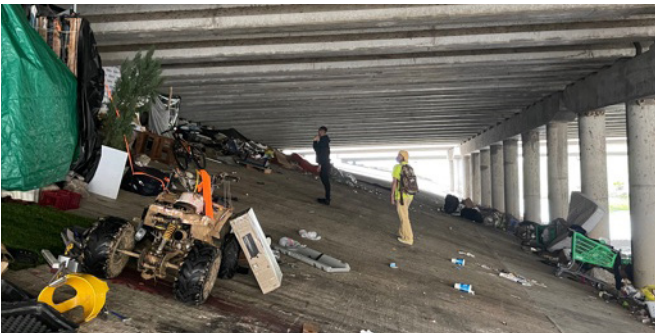


FIGURE 7





Subpopulations

HUD requires that certain subpopulations of persons experiencing homelessness be counted along with the total number of persons experiencing homelessness. These subpopulations include:

- U.S. Military Veterans
- Individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness
- Individuals who are survivors of domestic violence
- Persons with HIV/AIDS
- Persons with serious mental illness
- Individuals experiencing chronic substance use disorder (alcohol and/or drugs)
- Unaccompanied young adults and parenting young adults

² HUD's definition of chronic homelessness is four or more occasions of homelessness within the past three years for a total of 12 months or longer or one or more current consecutive years of homelessness. In addition, the individual must have a disabling condition which makes daily activities difficult (e.g., medical, psychological, substance abuse) and prevents them from holding a job. A chronically homeless family meets the above definition with at least one child under the age of 18 years living with his/her parent(s). For sheltered individuals, they must be staying in emergency shelter or safe haven, but not in transitional housing.

This information can be captured by HMIS for those in shelters. If data were missing, the characteristic was assumed to be negative. This may have the effect of artificially lowering percentages in a specific category as some of the persons with missing answers may truly have had that characteristic. Conversely, extrapolating for missing data could have the effect of artificially raising the percentages. Since the majority of unsheltered responses were actual interviews rather than observations, the decision was made not to extrapolate for missing values during this year's Count.

Houston is one of the few CoCs that conducts actual interviews during the unsheltered count.

It is more difficult to get this information on the unsheltered population if we were not able to conduct an interview as these characteristics cannot be determined by observation. When an interviewer observed a person who appeared to be experiencing homelessness but could not be interviewed (refusal, safety issues, sleeping), they entered presumed race, ethnicity, age range, and gender into the database. This year there were 1,002 interviews (67%), and while a considerable increase over the 45% interviewed in 2021, it still leaves one of three unsheltered not interviewed. However, it is important to note that data is not complete on all persons who were surveyed; many people did not answer every question, and some responded “don't know” or refused to answer. In addition, information collected was based on self-reporting and so may not represent the true proportions in the population experiencing homelessness. There is potential over-reporting in some categories (e.g., Veterans) or underreporting due to fear of stigmatization in others (e.g., HIV/AIDS, mental illness, substance use disorder). Houston is one of the few CoCs

that conducts actual interviews during the unsheltered Count (as opposed to headcounts).

The age range of the total population experiencing homelessness and by sheltered or unsheltered status is shown in Figures 8a-c. In the total population, over four out of five persons experiencing homelessness were over the age of 24. Approximately one out of eight were under the age of 18; however, all but one of those under age 18 were in sheltered situations. The population living unsheltered was older with nineteen out of twenty (95%) 25 years of age or older. The unsheltered population experiencing homelessness was older than the sheltered, due to the inclusion of children in the sheltered population. Of the 1,721 persons in safe haven, emergency shelter, or transitional housing, one of nine (11%) was below the age of 18 years and one out of 20 (5%) ages 18-24 years.



Photo courtesy of the CKP Group

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF
TOTAL POPULATION
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

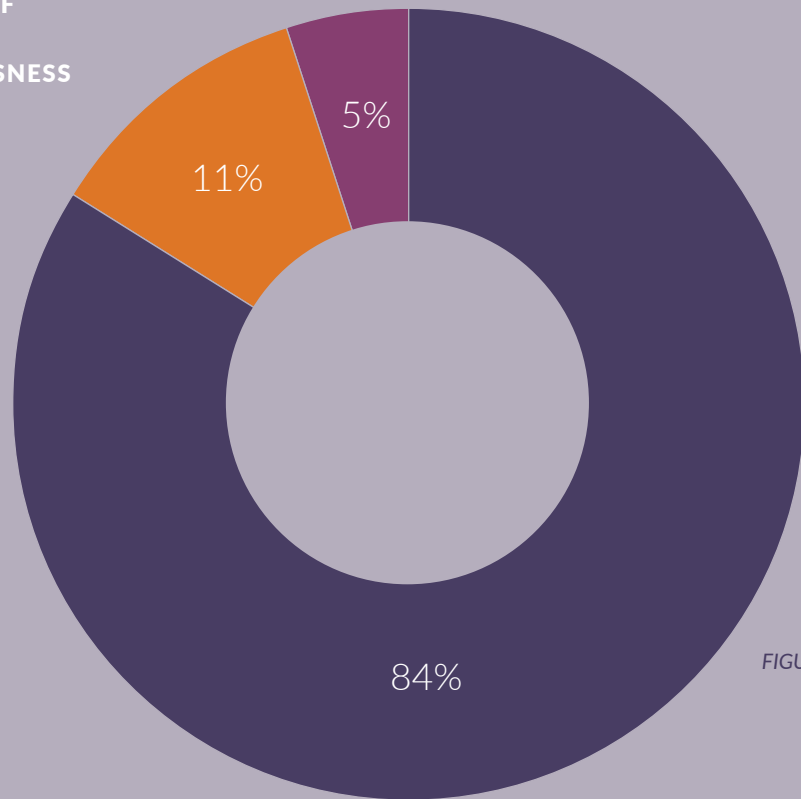
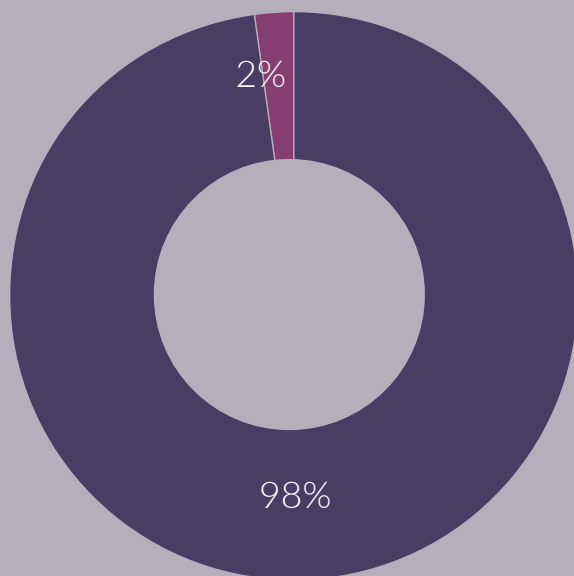


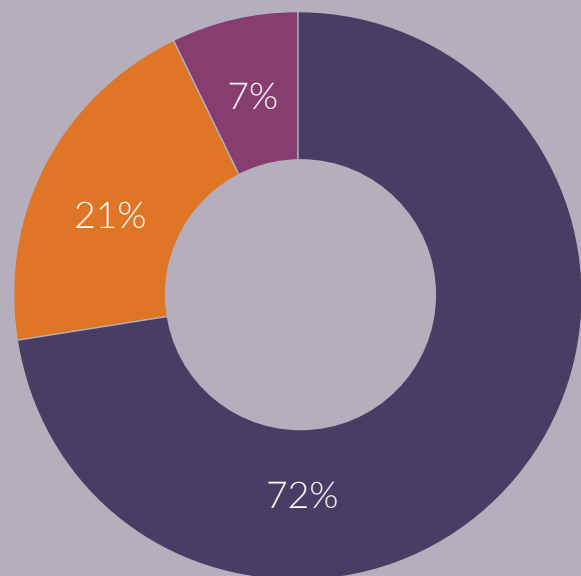
FIGURE 8A

>24 YEARS
18-24 YEARS
<18 YEARS



**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF
UNSHELTERED POPULATION
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

FIGURE 8B



**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF
SHELTERED POPULATION
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

FIGURE 8C

Approximately one out of 25 (4%) of those under age 18 were in transitional housing.

Subpopulations for the total population experiencing homelessness as well as a breakdown by sheltered and unsheltered status are shown in Figure 9 (adults only). Overall, over three out of five persons in the total population experiencing homelessness were male with a higher percentage in the unsheltered population (80%). Four persons experiencing homelessness self-identified as transgender and three as non-binary.

Persons who are experiencing chronic homelessness represent a particularly vulnerable population and are prioritized for permanent supportive housing. We determined that nearly one out of six (17%) of the total population experiencing homelessness met the HUD definition of experiencing chronic homelessness. There

was a higher percentage of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness among the unsheltered (26%). Outreach teams have been dispatched to individuals in these locations in order to confirm chronic homeless status and present housing options. (Actual documentation and verification of chronicity for the purposes of determining eligibility for PSH happens once an individual is referred to a housing program.)

Another subpopulation of particular interest is U.S. military Veterans. This year we found 267 Veterans (10%) experiencing homelessness with approximately two thirds (62%) in a sheltered situation. This compares to 7% Veterans counted in 2020. Of these 272 Veterans, one in four (25%) were classified as chronically homeless, whereas in 2020, 38% were so classified. Of the chronically homeless Veterans counted in 2022, slightly

SUBPOPULATIONS OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2022

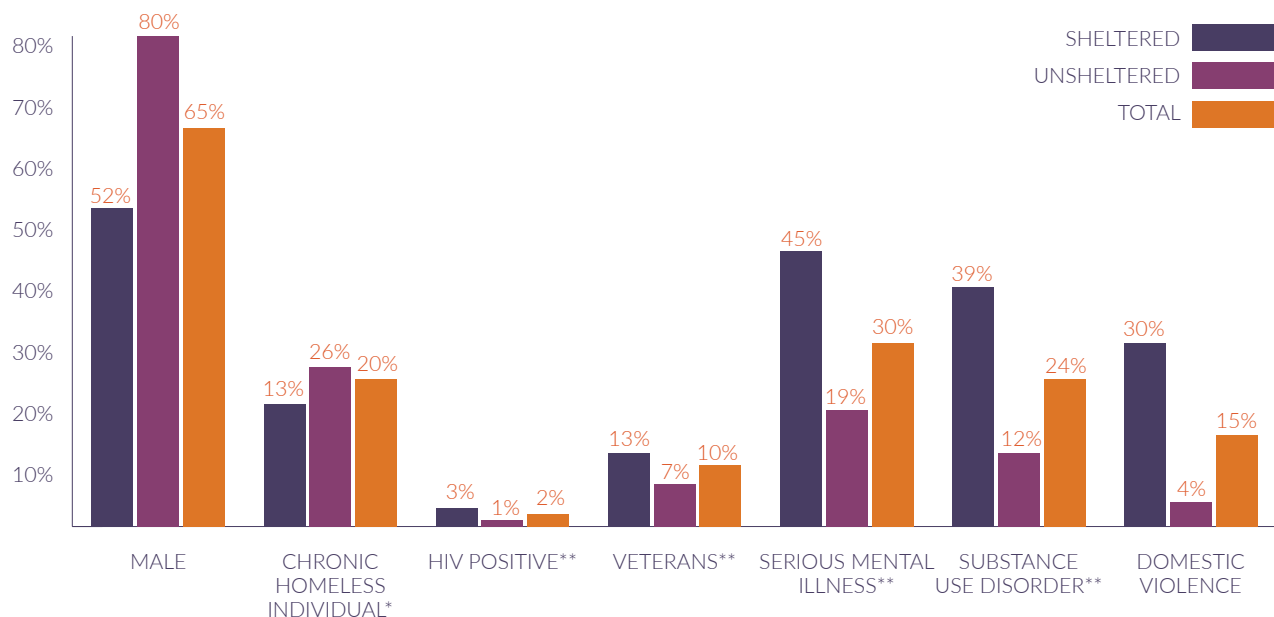


FIGURE 9

*Sheltered individuals experiencing chronic homelessness must be >18 years and in emergency shelter

**Among adults only

One of eight people (13%) experiencing unsheltered homelessness indicated that they were homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RACE OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2022

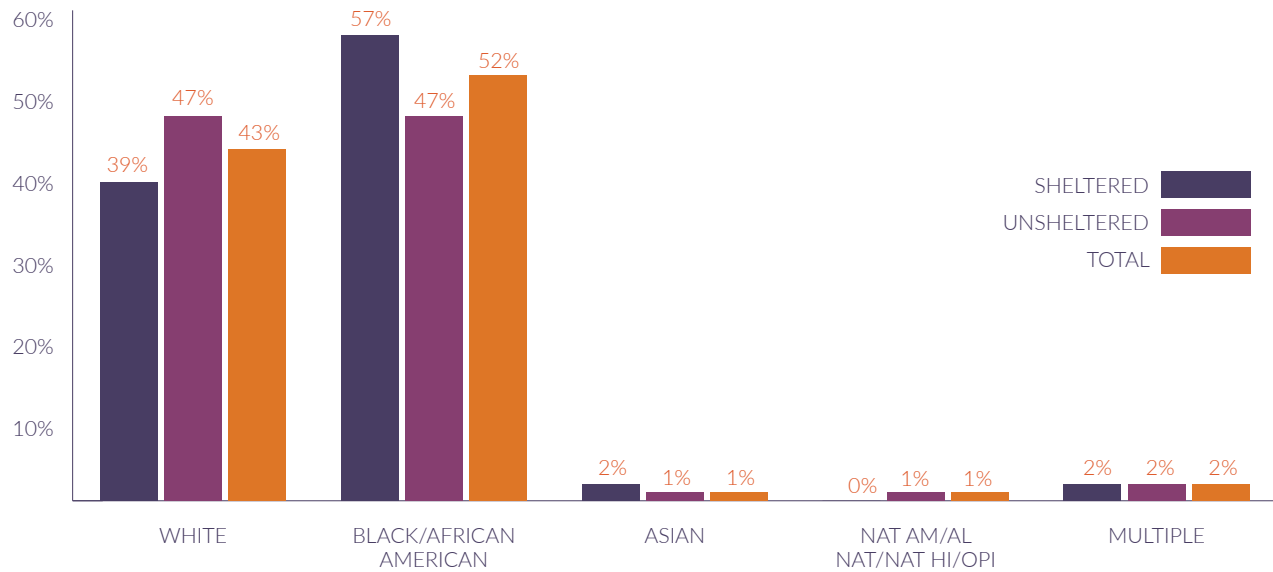


FIGURE 10

over half were unsheltered. There were no unsheltered veteran households with children. Gap analysis and takedown targeting have been predicting an annual steady state volume of between 1,200 and 1,400 homeless Veterans based on opposing actions of successful housing efforts versus returning Veterans and those falling temporarily back into homelessness. Our

findings this year are still well below that number. Regardless, The Way Home CoC has a housing option for any veteran, no matter their discharge status.

Other subpopulations reported in the total adult population experiencing homelessness include over one out of three (30%) self-reported serious mental illness

ETHNICITY OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2022

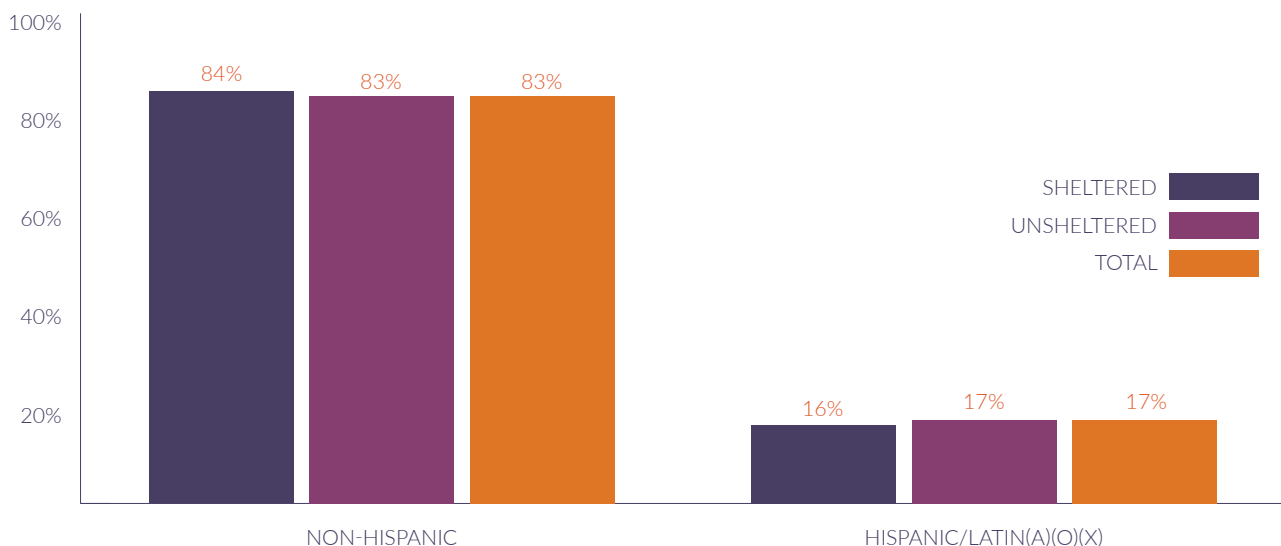


FIGURE 11

and one of four (24%) reporting substance use disorder (alcohol and/or other drugs). These conditions are self-reported, however, and may be artificially low as persons may not want to disclose their condition due to stigma.

Approximately one in 50 (2%) of the total population experiencing homelessness self-reported as HIV-positive although the true percentage may be higher since many may not have been tested and therefore do not know their status or do know their status but do not want to share that information due to stigma. Overall, approximately one in seven (15%) of those experiencing homelessness had experienced domestic violence. This percent was higher in the sheltered population (30% vs 4% among unsheltered), reflecting shelter beds specifically dedicated to survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, the majority of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are men, and men are less likely to report domestic violence as the cause of their homelessness.

Figures 10 & 11 show the racial and ethnic self-classification. The vast majority of those experiencing homelessness were Black/African American (52%) or white (43%). A higher percentage of whites were found in the unsheltered population than in the sheltered population. Persons interviewed were asked if they considered themselves Hispanic and approximately one in six (17%) did.

Finally, Figure 12 shows the number of sheltered and unsheltered youth households experiencing homelessness. These are further divided into unaccompanied young adults and parenting young adults. All parenting young adults were sheltered, with 15 children under the age of 18 years in these parenting young adult households. Of the 79 unaccompanied young adults (18-24 years) who were in emergency shelter, one was classified as chronically homeless while five out of 30 unsheltered unaccompanied young adults were so classified (17%).

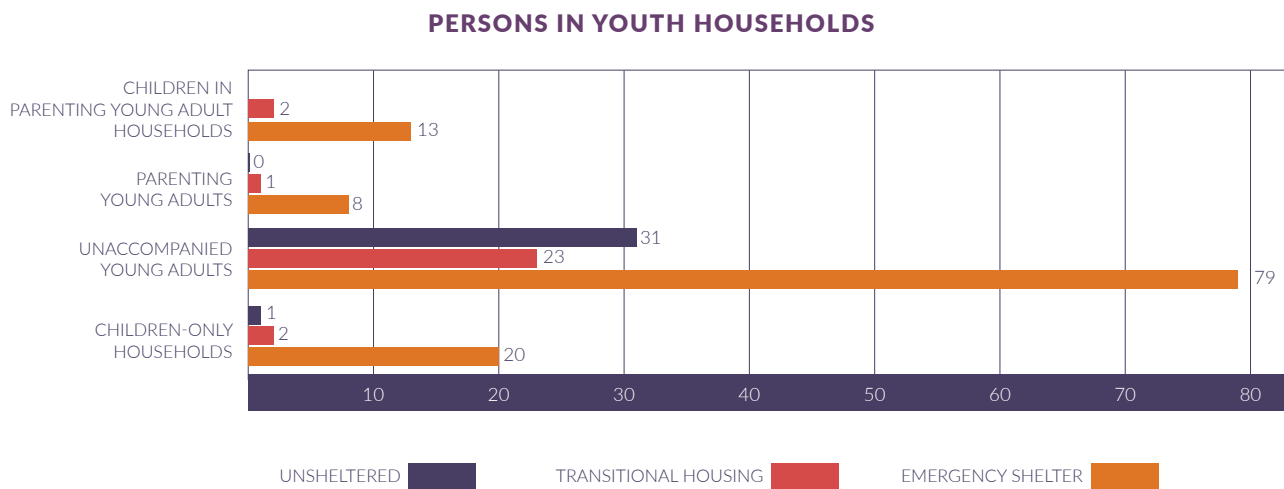


FIGURE 12

Note: Young Adults = 18-24 years

Discussion

A total of 3,223 persons experiencing homelessness were counted in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties during the 2022 Point-In-Time Count. Of those counted this year, 1,502 (47%) were unsheltered (staying in a place not meant for human habitation). Most of these individuals were interviewed in Harris County. However, it is important to note that the persons living unsheltered were classified where they were interviewed or spotted, which may not have been where they slept the night of the Count. People move around during the day and may congregate near services. Within the total CoC area, over one in three (37%) were in emergency shelters. Only one child (14-17 years old) was counted among the unsheltered population, but one in five of the total sheltered population was under age 18.

Among the unsheltered population, approximately two out of five individuals (38%) had been homeless for three years or longer, a lower percentage than found in 2020 (39%). Thirty-nine percent of unsheltered individuals that were interviewed reported being homeless for the first time. One out of seven unsheltered persons was homeless due to a natural disaster, most commonly Hurricane Harvey, similar to what was found in 2020. Another one of eight unsheltered individuals reported that they were



*Photo courtesy of Sandra Zamarripa, Office of Harris County
Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia*



3,223
PERSONS

COUNTED IN HARRIS, FORT BEND,
AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES



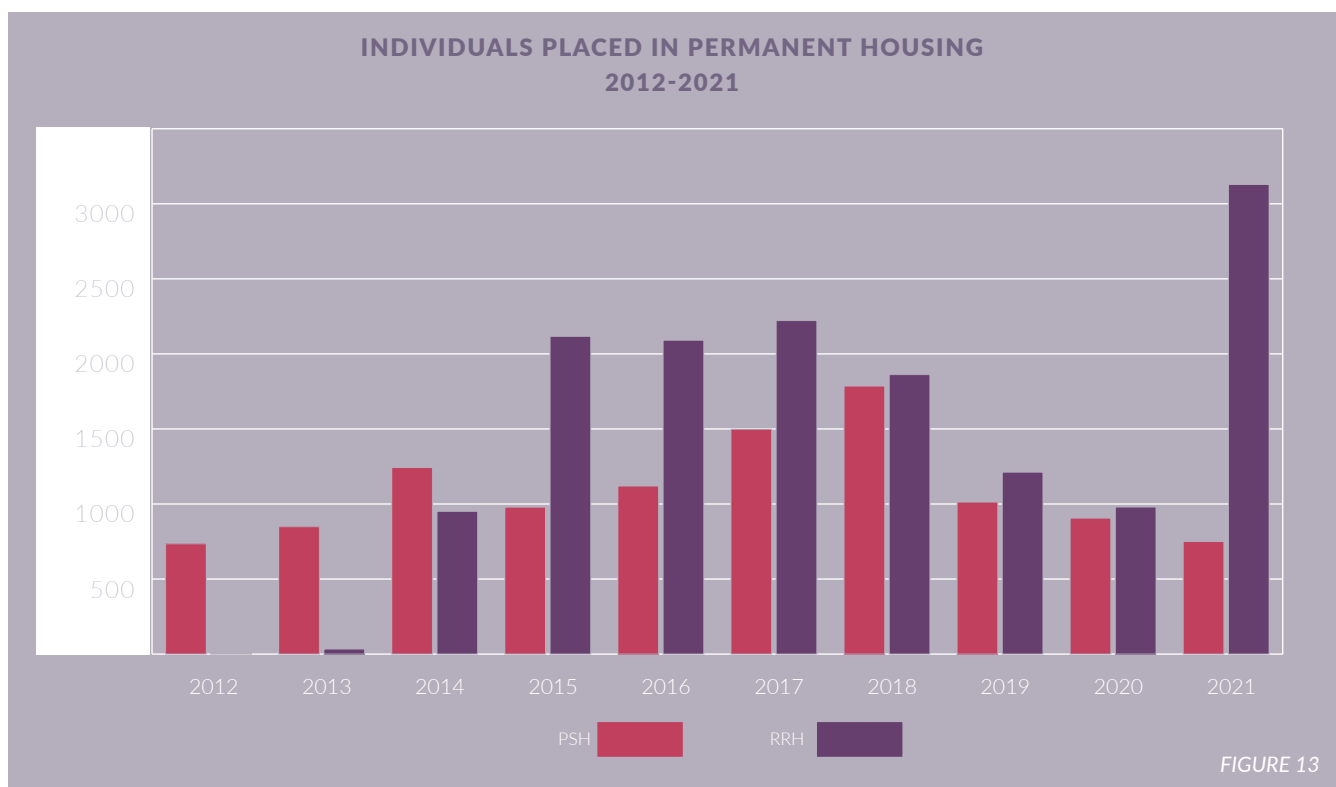
homeless due to the SARS-CoV 2 (COVID-19) pandemic. Most reported that reduction in hours, job loss, and/or eviction led to homelessness.

Subpopulation analysis showed that the percent of those counted who were Veterans remained basically the same (10% vs. 7%) but the percent of Veterans classified as chronically homeless decreased to 25% from 38% in

2020. In both years, almost half of the Veterans were in unsheltered situations.

We found high rates of serious mental illness (one out of four) and substance use disorder (one out of five) were found. This year, higher rates were found in the sheltered versus the unsheltered population.

One of eight unsheltered individuals reported that they were homeless due to the SARS-CoV 2 (COVID-19) pandemic.





A total of 144 young adults (18-24) were among those experiencing homelessness, of which nine were parenting young adults with 15 children under the age of 18.

As seen with many other social determinants of health, there were major racial disparities among those experiencing homelessness. While people who identify as Black/African American represent 20% of the composition of the total population of Harris County, they comprised over 50% of those experiencing homelessness. CoC data has shown that people who identify as Black/African American also become homeless and return to homelessness at higher rates. The Coalition for the Homeless is working with a researcher at the University of Houston School of Medicine to conduct an equity analysis on the CoC's Housing Prioritization Tool, the tool that prioritizes individuals for housing. This will help determine if the tool is prioritizing in an equitable manner regardless of race/ethnicity.

Comparing the last pre-pandemic Count in 2020, we found a 19% decrease overall with a 9% in the unsheltered Count and a 26% decrease in the sheltered Count. The decrease in the sheltered Count is likely due to limited availability of beds as a result of the pandemic; shelters had to de-densify and impose social distancing, and some shelters closed completely. In addition, persons experiencing homelessness may have been reluctant to stay at a shelter due to fear of the virus. Overall, the region has seen a 64% reduction in total homelessness since 2011.

The Way Home has been extremely successful in housing persons experiencing homelessness, especially those who are chronically homeless. Figures 13 and 14 show the numbers, by year, of people placed in permanent supportive housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH). Over the past nine years, more than 25,000 people have been placed in either PSH or RRH.

Addressing the pandemic

Early in the pandemic, the Coalition for the Homeless worked with the City of Houston, Harris County and partners of The Way Home were to set up several short-term responses to help people experiencing homelessness. Strategies included an auxiliary shelter, so that emergency shelters could de-densify and practice social distancing; a quarantine and isolation facility, where people experiencing homelessness could rest and recover from COVID-19; and a dedicated COVID-19 testing process for people experiencing homelessness.

But we knew we would need a long-term response as well.



Photos courtesy of The Beacon

THE PARTNERS OF THE WAY HOME
REHOUSED MORE THAN
6,630 PEOPLE
THROUGH THE COMMUNITY COVID
HOUSING PROGRAM IN 2021



Coalition staff advocated that the best use of the federal CARES Act relief funding coming into the region for people experiencing homelessness would be for permanent housing and evidence-based supportive services.

On July 1, 2020, the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Coalition for the Homeless along with the partners of The Way Home Continuum of Care announced a joint

\$65 M plan to accelerate the work of the local homeless response system to rehouse 5,000 people experiencing homelessness by October 2022 to limit the spread of COVID-19. Funded by both public and private dollars, the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP) represents an unprecedented, coordinated effort to address homelessness in our community.

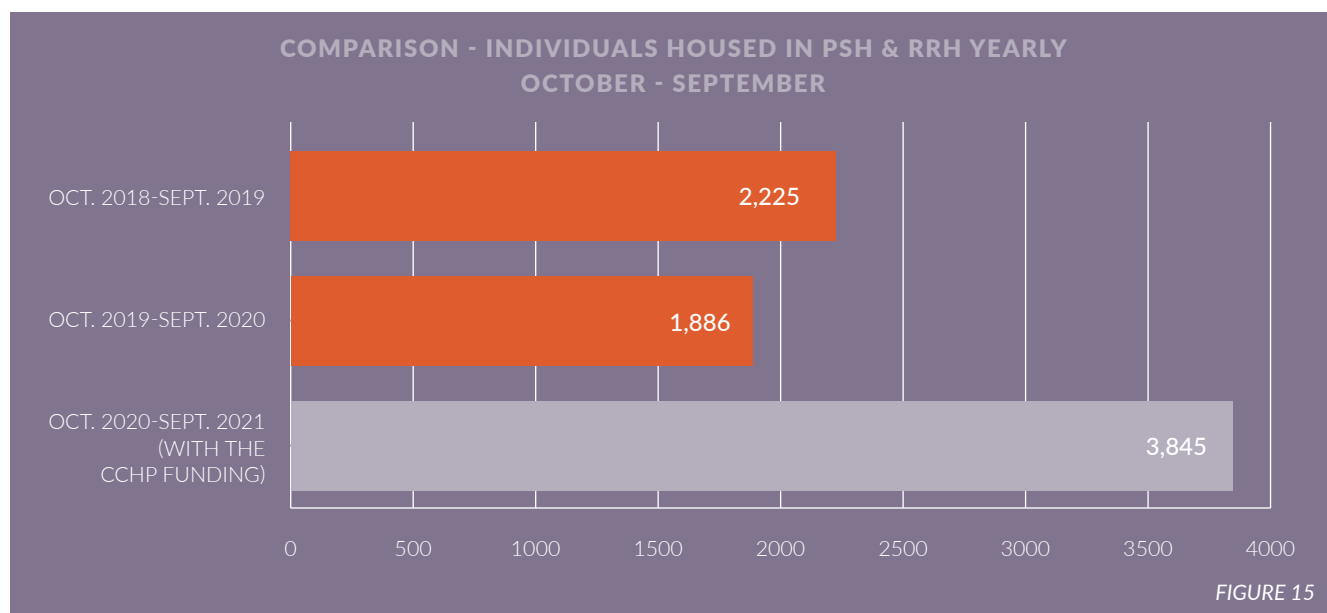


Photo courtesy Catherine Villarreal, Coalition for the Homeless

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN A HOUSING PROGRAM
JANUARY 24, 2022

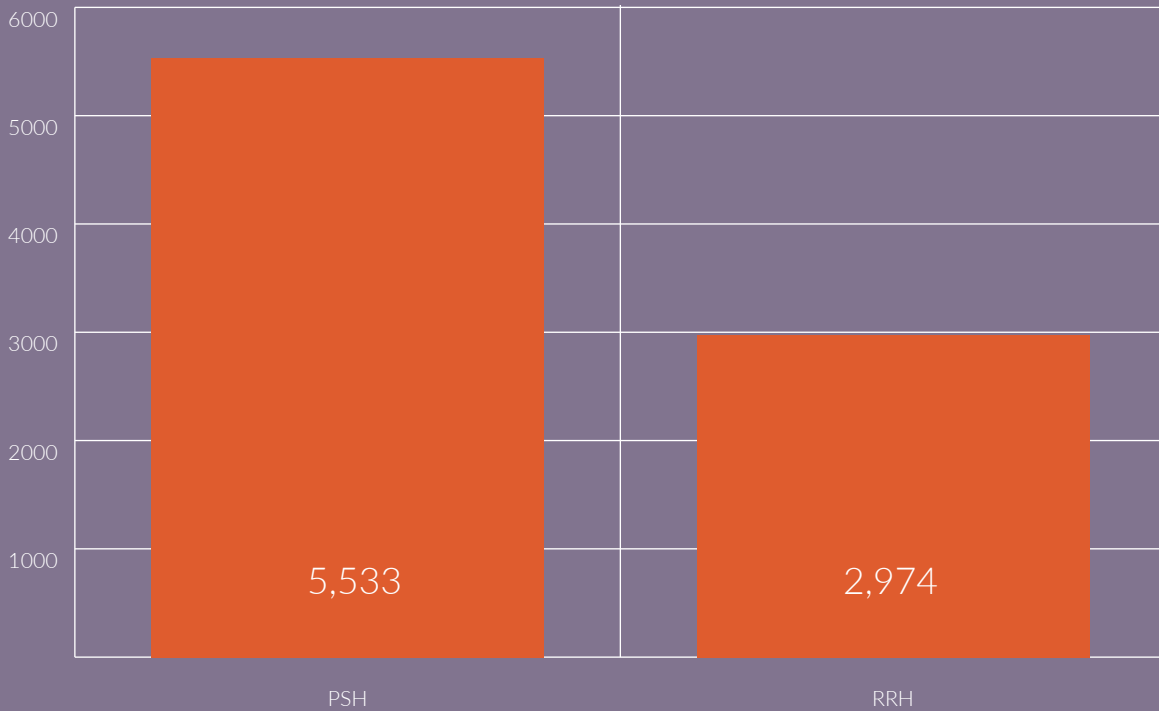


FIGURE 16

Led by the Coalition and implemented by about a dozen homeless service partner agencies, the CCHP pioneered the use of housing as a pandemic response. It has become a model for other cities and counties across the country looking to use federal funding for maximum impact for people experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to the additional funding, in 2021 the partners of The Way Home placed more than 3,870 people into permanent housing, which includes permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid rehousing (RRH). Including diversion — preventing people “on the verge” from falling into homelessness — more than 6,630 people were rehoused through the CCHP in 2021.



Photos courtesy of The Salvation Army of Greater Houston

Figure 15 shows that the CCHP enabled the partners of The Way Home to place many more people in PSH and RRH over a 12-month period compared to prior years. (Note: For purposes of comparison with prior years, Figure 15 does not include Diversion, which was a new intervention introduced as part of the CCHP.)

Since the kickoff of the CCHP in October 2020, we have already exceeded our initial goal. ([Visit the Coalition's website](#) for the latest numbers of people housed.)

Work to decommission encampments

The CCHP also gave the Coalition for the Homeless additional resources to develop and implement a coordinated plan to address unsheltered homelessness

by helping people living in encampments move into permanent housing.

Working with several partners of The Way Home and local law enforcement, the Coalition's outreach and project management teams have been able to draw on years of knowledge regarding what does and doesn't work to house people living in encampments. The Coalition received COVID-related technical assistance from HUD. The TA provider worked with Coalition staff to study the community's process for addressing encampments and create a "how-to" guide for other cities to follow as an example. This Encampment Response Strategy is now being shared by HUD as a national best practice.



Photo courtesy of The Beacon



Photo courtesy of The Beacon

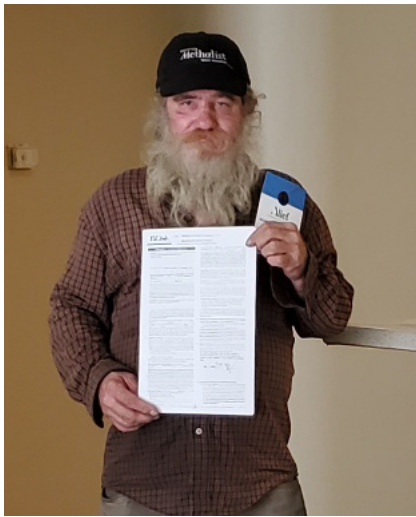


Photo courtesy of The Beacon



Photos courtesy of The Salvation Army of Greater Houston

Phase 2 of the CCHP

The success of Phase 1 of the CCHP led to an additional \$100 million investment by the City of Houston, Harris County, and the State Phase 2 of the CCHP. Phase 2 will house 7,000 more people experiencing homelessness, continue the encampment response, and make critical enhancements in the homelessness response system through the end of 2024.

From the start of the CCHP in October 2020 through the night of the homeless Count, more than 4,440 people were placed into permanent housing (PSH or RRH). Fifty percent of these individuals were unsheltered prior to being housed, while 16% percent were in a

shelter. It is likely that the 2022 count would have been higher had these people not been housed — and if thousands more had not been diverted from homelessness through the CCHP.

Figure 16 shows that over 8,500 individuals were housed in a program of The Way Home on the night of the homeless count.

Without the investment and success of the CCHP, we believe that many more people would currently be experiencing homelessness due to the pandemic.

Without the investment and success of the CCHP, many more people would currently be experiencing homelessness.



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