

2020 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



Of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in the District of Columbia

At PIT 2020 (January 22, 2020) there were **6,380** persons experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia. **653** of those persons were unsheltered, **4,526** were in an emergency shelter, and **1,201** were in a transitional housing program on the night of the count. The total number of people experiencing homelessness has **decreased by 2.2% since the 2019 PIT count**. This decrease is a smaller rate of decrease than in previous years. Between the 2018 and 2019 PIT Counts there was a 7.6% decrease overall.

The annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count gives us the number and demographic characteristics of adults and children who are experiencing homelessness at a given time. The Community Partnership (TCP) has conducted the count on behalf of the District of Columbia since 2001. This single-night enumeration of the homeless services continuum of care gives TCP and our partners in District Government an opportunity to identify gaps in the current portfolio of services and informs future program planning in conjunction with *Homeward DC*, the local strategic plan to end homelessness.

FAMILIES

Within the family subsystem, the reforms made under the *Homeward DC* strategic plan are continuing to have a significant impact. The number of families experiencing homelessness in the District decreased by 5.8% since PIT 2019 and is down 48.5% from its peak in 2016. Between the 2019 and 2020 PIT counts nearly 800 families successfully exited emergency shelter for permanent housing destinations. For families in the emergency shelter system, the creation of new, Short-Term Family Housing (STFH) provides them access to more private space and neighborhood amenities while they receive services to support their exit to housing as quickly as possible. At the beginning of 2020 there were 176 new units of STFH available.

SINGLES

In contrast to the year-to-year decreases in the family system, the count of single adults in the District continues to increase; the count is up 1.9% since PIT 2019 and 7.4% since 2016. Despite increases in the total population of unaccompanied (single) adults, the number of those persons experiencing chronic homelessness is down 2.7% from the previous PIT count, a trend that has been continuing for several years. New inflow into the system and returns to the CoC 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 among single adults than in 2019.

YOUTH

The number of unaccompanied Transition Age Youth (TAY) has decreased by 5.8% since PIT 2019, yet the number of youth-headed households has increased by 7.4%. This trend seems counter-intuitive to the year-to-year decreases seen in the family subsystem, however it is in line with results from the 2019 Homeless Youth Census (HYC) which found increasing youth-headed families and decreasing unaccompanied TAYs. In 2019, the District was awarded a \$4.28M grant under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support efforts at addressing youth homelessness.

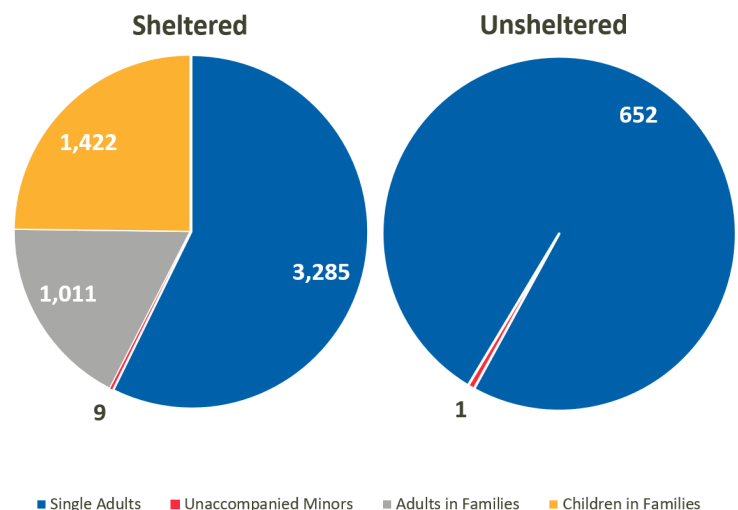
VETERANS

Between 2019 and 2020 the number of veterans has increased by 4.0%, though the count of veterans is still down by 11.6% since 2016. Despite the increase to 309 veterans in 2020, the community housed 348 veterans between January 2019 and January 2020. Moreover, the Veteran Leadership Team has continued to improve coordination among CAHP systems within the region. Since the summer of 2019, the CoC has helped more than 70 veterans reconnect with CAHP systems in surrounding jurisdictions based on history of housing and homelessness as well as client preferences.

Population Totals and Percent Changes, 2019-2020

Household Type	2019	2020	% Change
Total Persons	6,521	6,380	-2.2%
Singles	3,875	3,947	1.9%
<i>Single Adults</i>	3,862	3,937	1.9%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	13	10	-23.1%
Family Members	2,646	2,433	-8.0%
<i>Adults in Families</i>	1,053	1,011	-4.0%
<i>Children in Families</i>	1,593	1,422	-10.7%
Family Units	815	768	-5.8%

Unsheltered and Sheltered Totals, by Household Type

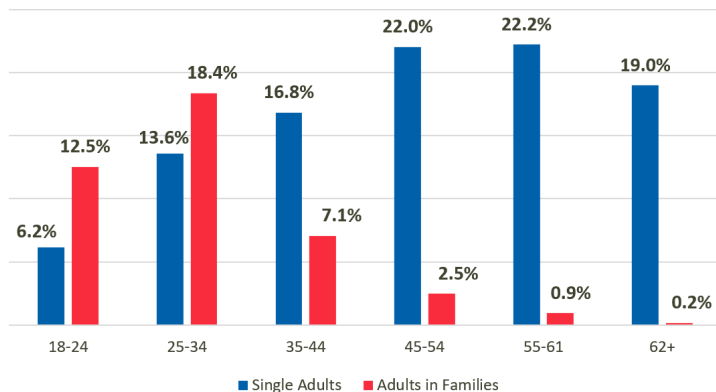


DEMOGRAPHICS

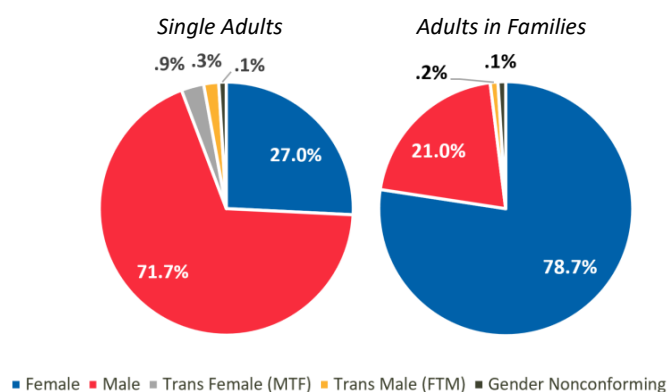
Demographics of persons experiencing homelessness in the District are consistent with past years, with notable differences between family and unaccompanied (single) households. **Adults in families are most likely to be female, while single adults are more often male. The median age of adults in families skews much younger than single adults, with 28 years old and 52 years old, respectively.**

PIT data shows that persons who are Black or African American are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness in the District. **Some 86.4 percent of adults experiencing homeless are Black or African American**, compared to 46.6 percent of District residents on the whole.*

Age Ranges of Single Adults & Adults in Families



Gender of Single Adults & Adults in Families



*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/districtofcolumbiadistrictofcolumbia,US/PST045219>

Income & Benefits

55.1% of single adults and 75.9% of adults in families report receiving some kind of income either from employment, benefits programs, or other means. **18.6% of all adults were employed at PIT.**

Primary Source of Income

Type	Single Adults	Adults in Families
Employment	30.5%	31.2%
Social Security/Retirement	4.6%	0.3%
SSI/SSDI/Disability	46.4%	13.8%
TANF/Public Assistance	11.1%	51.0%
Other	7.4%	3.8%

*Primary income is out of adults who receive income and not out of the total number of adults counted at PIT.

Disabling Conditions, Experiences, and Subpopulations

Type	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Substance Use & Mental Health	45.1%	13.2%	38.5%
Substance Use Only	9.3%	0.6%	7.5%
Mental Health Only	22.5%	11.3%	20.2%
Dual Diagnosis	13.3%	1.4%	10.8%
Chronic Health Problem	22.4%	1.8%	18.1%
Developmental Disability	5.6%	1.0%	4.6%
Physical Disability	20.3%	3.0%	16.7%
Living With HIV/AIDs	2.3%	0.1%	1.9%
Chronically-Homeless	34.0%	4.8%	27.9%
Domestic Violence (DV) History	19.8%	29.7%	21.8%
Homeless Due to DV (subset of those with DV History)	35.5%	52.0%	40.1%
Formerly Resided in an Institutional Setting*	19.4%	13.8%	18.2%
Homeless at discharge from Institutional Setting (subset of Institutional Setting)	41.2%	12.7%	39.2%
Formerly in Foster Care	9.9%	10.9%	10.1%
US Military Veteran	7.5%	1.5%	6.2%
Limited or No English Proficiency	5.1%	3.9%	4.9%
Chronically-Homeless	34.0%	4.8%	27.9%

*Persons living with a disabling condition, who have also been experiencing homelessness continuously for a year or more OR who have had four episodes of homelessness in three years (which total to 12 months of more).

The 2020 PIT Count was coordinated by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) and was conducted with the help of over 300 volunteers from across the District. Thank you to everyone who helped gather this important information.

This information is off-the-record and cannot be quoted or otherwise distributed. To obtain on-the-record comments or further information, send inquiries to Media Contact listed below:

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