

2021 Point-in-Time Count

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Overview

- System Context for the 2021 PIT Count
- PIT Count Background & Overview
- 2021 PIT Count Totals and Percentage Changes
- Demographics, Experiences, and Characteristics of Population
- Sub-Population Detail
- Discussion



System Context

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

PIT Count Context

- As part of the strategy to close DC General in 2019 and end the use of hotels as overflow family shelter in the fall of 2020, around 750 families exited the emergency shelter system in 2020. Most families who exited were housed through the Family Rehousing and Stabilization Program (FRSP), also known as rapid rehousing.
- DHS's Homeless Prevention Program has been an essential resource in the District's work to end homelessness among families. Since its creation in 2015, HPP has assisted more than 8,000 families from entering the shelter system, including nearly 1,000 in 2020.
- The District enacted one of the strictest eviction moratoriums in the country early in the public health emergency (May 2020). System inflow, for both unaccompanied individuals and families, tapered throughout 2020.

System Inflow

- TCP conducts quarterly reviews of HMIS data to find households (single person and family) entering the CoC for the first time.
- In FY20, counts of people newly experiencing homelessness in the District decreased by 13 percent for singles and by 12 percent among families as compared to FY19. Quarterly figures for FY21 to date indicate that similar decreases may occur for the current year.
- Inflow among new singles in past years has offset system exits -- the CoC recorded flat to increasing PIT numbers for individuals despite 100s of housing placements happening each year.
- While the decreases in inflow are most likely attributable to the ongoing public health emergency, this indicator will be crucial to keep an eye on as eviction moratoriums expire.
- However, continued work to minimize system inflow through prevention or diversion efforts is key to keep the system (single and family) from growing.

Returns to Homelessness

- TCP also conducts reviews of HMIS data to determine the rate at which households are returning to the CoC following previous exits.
- In FY20, the CoC saw fewer singles return to shelter following an exit to permanent housing as compared to FY19, which is likely also due to the same factors limiting new inflow.
- Fewer families returned to shelter in FY20 than in FY19, but percentage of families in the system who have returned is higher because the family sub-system is so much smaller than it was previously.
- Similar to new inflow, it will be important be mindful of returns to homelessness, and prevention or diversion efforts as well as maintaining a diverse set of housing resources for those exiting are integral to keep returns from occurring.



Background and Implementation

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

What is the PIT Count?

- The Point-in-Time Count or “PIT Count” **creates a snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in the District** at a single point in time.
- **Required of every community that receives federal homelessness assistance funds** from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **The Community Partnership (TCP) has coordinated and conducted the count** on behalf of the District of Columbia Continuum of Care since 2001.
- **PIT Data is used locally** to plan programs, allocate funding, track progress toward goals outlined in *Homeward D.C.*, and better meet the needs of our homeless neighbors.
- **HUD provides a few guidelines** for conducting a PIT Count, but every community develops its own methodology for implementation.

Creates a Snapshot of Homelessness in the District

Secures Funding

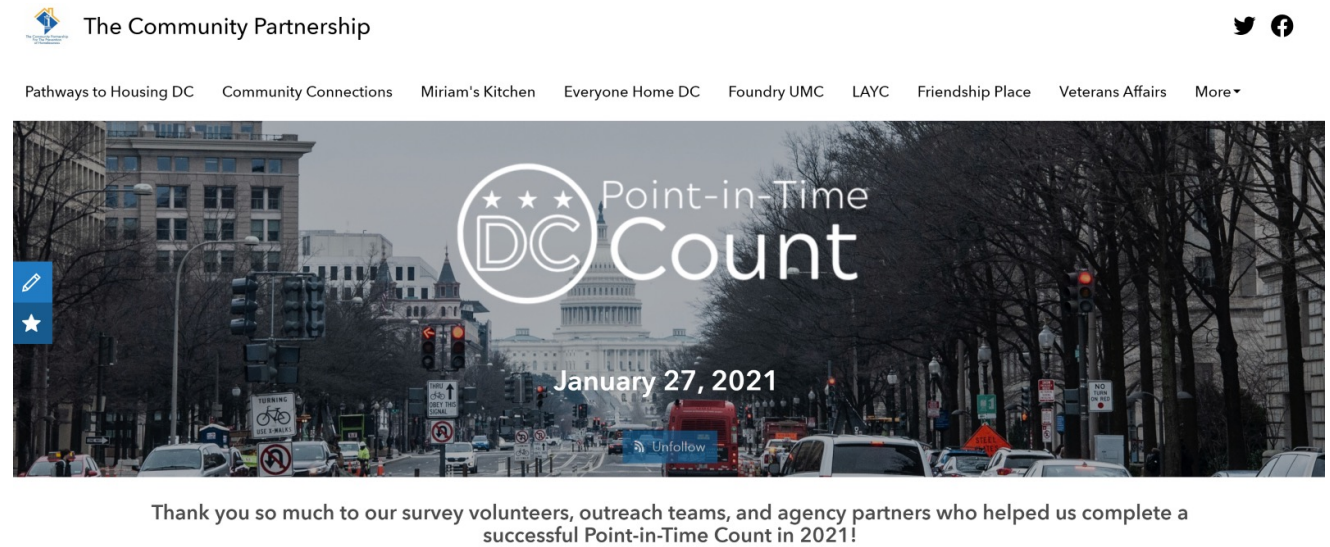
Aids Local Planning Efforts

Helps Us Track Progress

Makes Us More Efficient In Meeting Goals

Planning

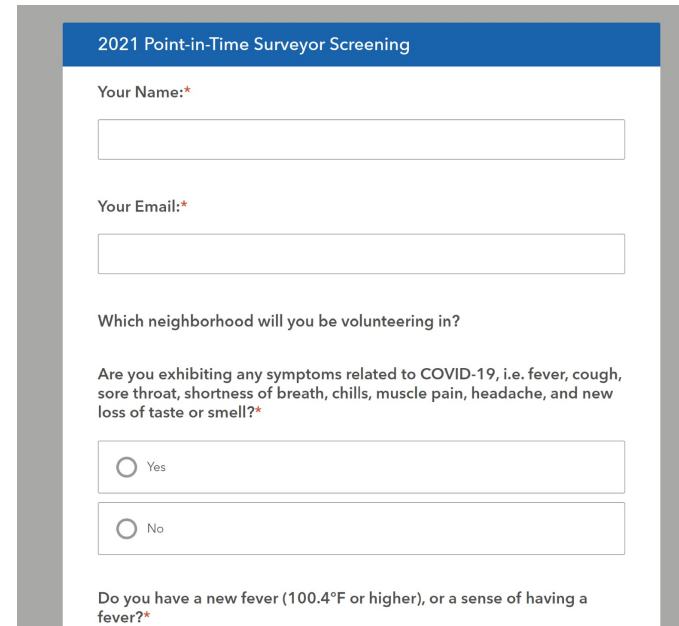
- Began in November
- Same high standards while ensuring safety
- 12 community-based teams
- PIT Count Website
- Training



PIT Count Website

Implementation

- Jan. 27 9pm-2am
- Volunteer Waivers and COVID-19 Screenings
- Using Survey123
- Feedback
 - Team Leaders:
 - 96% said the count went extremely well or very well
 - Keeping changes for next year



2021 Point-in-Time Surveyor Screening

Your Name:*

Your Email:*

Which neighborhood will you be volunteering in?

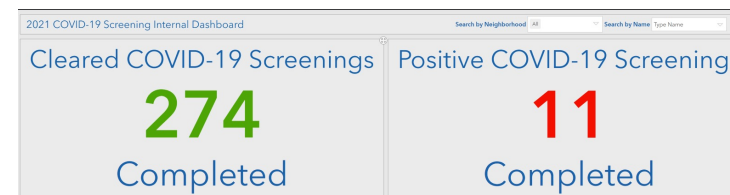
Are you exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache, and new loss of taste or smell?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you have a new fever (100.4°F or higher), or a sense of having a fever?*

COVID-19 Screening and Internal Dashboard used to monitor screening completion and positive screenings.



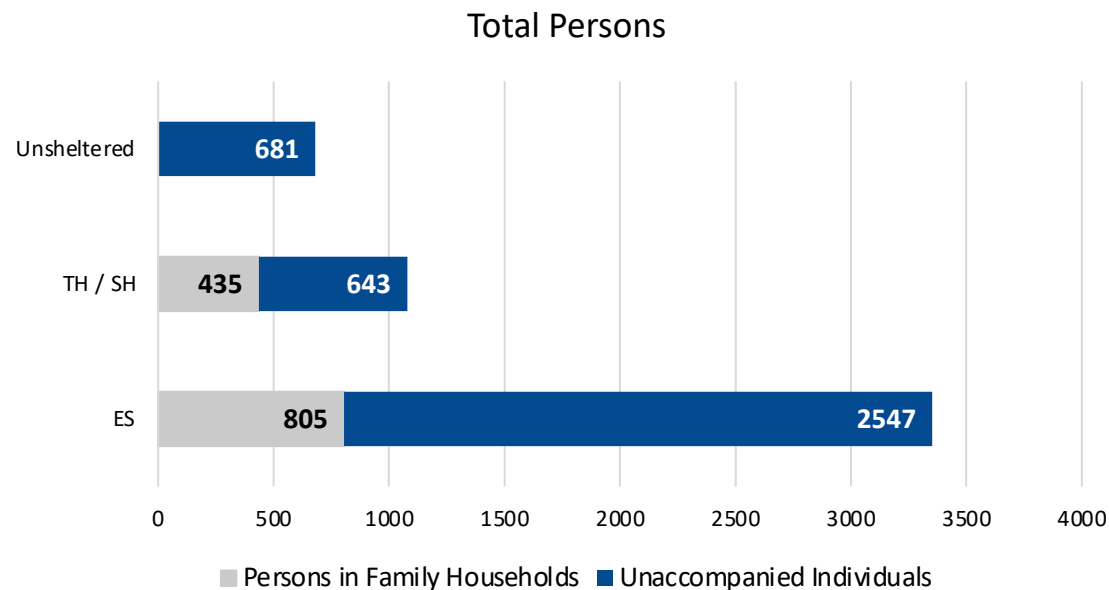


Population Totals

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

2021 PIT Findings: *Population Totals*

- On January 27th, 5,111 people were experiencing homelessness in the District.



UNSHELTERED

681 Persons:

- 681 Unaccompanied Adults

EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES)

3,352 Persons:

- 2,541 Unaccompanied Adults
- 6 Unaccompanied Minors
- 313 Adults in Families
- 492 Children in Families

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)*

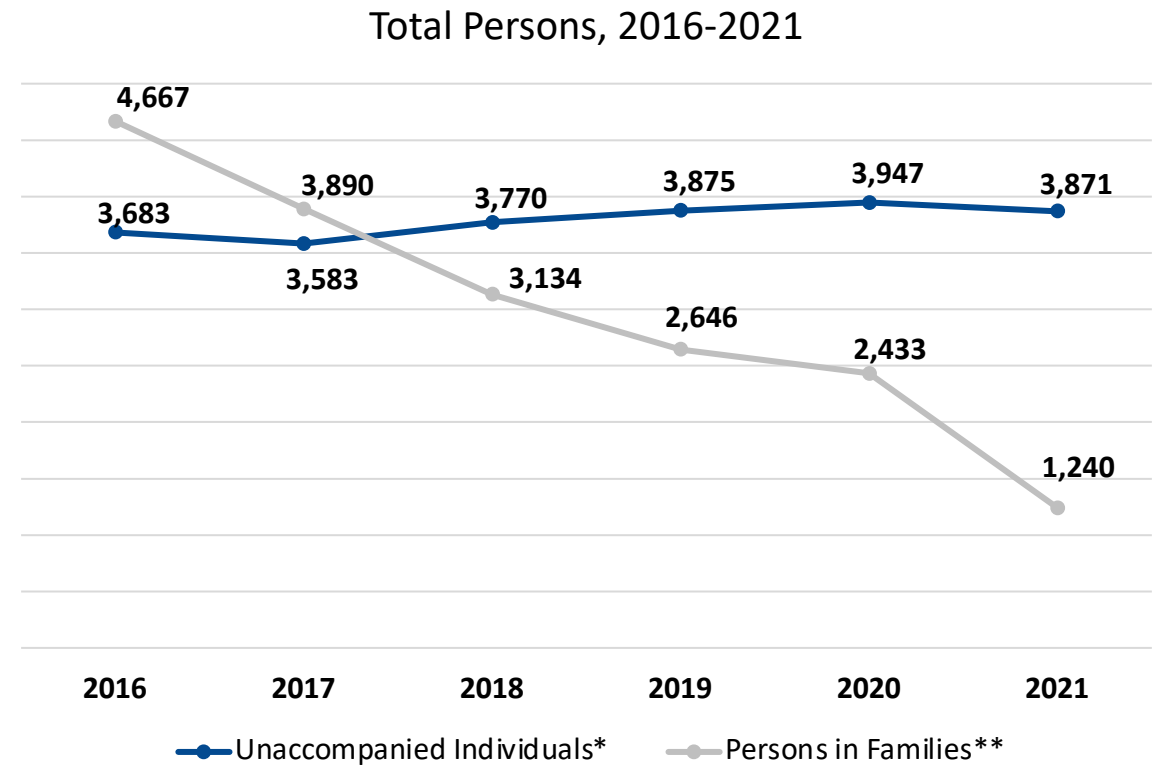
1,078 Persons:

- 643 Unaccompanied Adults
- 181 Adults in Families
- 249 Children in Families
- 5 Children in Child-Only Families

*Includes three (3) unaccompanied adults in Safe Haven (SH)

2021 PIT Findings: *Totals by Year*

- **Since 2016, the count of persons in families has decreased by 73.4%.** The sharp decrease is attributable to rigorous efforts at prevention and the increased availability of housing resources for families since the adoption of Homeward DC.
- **The number of unaccompanied persons, however, has increased by 5.1% during that same time.** The slight decrease seen between 2020 and 2021 is likely a result of the public health emergency.



*Includes unaccompanied minors, there were six (6) unaccompanied minors counted in 2021.

** Includes child-only family households, in 2021 there were five (5) children counted in three (3) child-only family households. (Head of household is 17 or younger and with a child or pregnant)

2021 PIT Findings: *Percentage Changes*

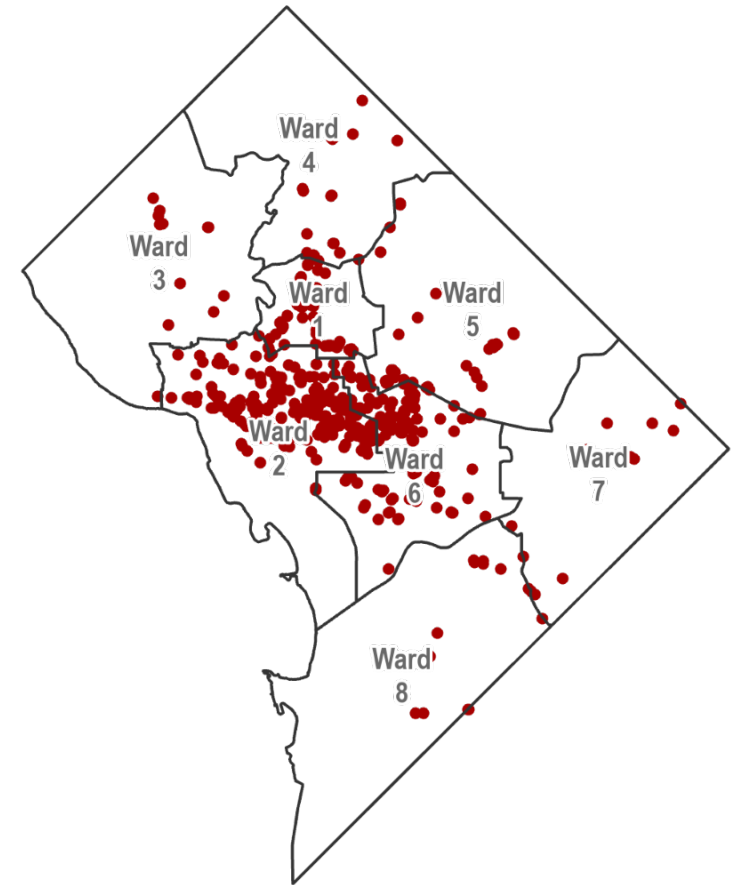
- Overall, **19.9%** fewer people were counted in the District's PIT Count from 2020 to 2021.
- The number of persons in families has changed by -49.0%.
- The number of unaccompanied persons has changed by -1.9%.

Household Type	2020	2021	% Change
Total Persons	6,380	5,111	-19.9%
Unaccompanied	3947	3871	-1.9%
<i>Unaccompanied Adults</i>	3937	3865	-1.8%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	10	6	-40.0%
Family Members	2,433	1,240	-49.0%
<i>Adults in Families</i>	1,011	494	-51.1%
<i>Children in Families*</i>	1422	746	-47.5%
Family Units	768	405	-47.3%

*Includes five (5) children in three (3) Children Only households

2021 PIT Findings: *Unsheltered Persons*

- While the number of unaccompanied persons who were counted has decreased, the number of unsheltered unaccompanied persons has **increased by 4.3%**.
- **Changes in options.** With an ongoing public health crisis, those entering homelessness or those who used shelter occasionally might view staying in shelter as not an option for them, even considering the extensive safety measures that were implemented.
- **Changes in unsheltered persons' environment.** Patterns of bedding down quickly changed. Individuals were no longer able to engage with their community in the same way. Sidewalks and parks became places that felt more secluded, like you could stick around. Movement throughout the city became more limited and everyone's interactions with the outside world changed.



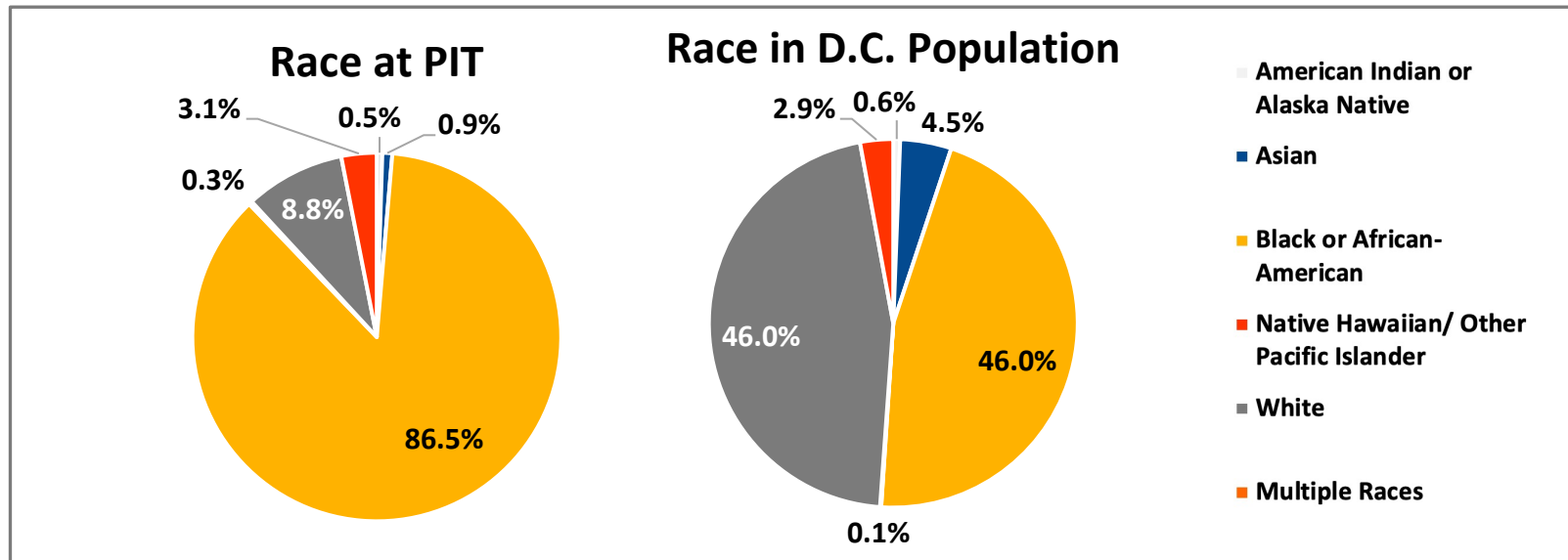


Demographics, Experiences, and Characteristics

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

Race & Ethnicity

- African Americans are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness in the District.
- 86% of adults who are experiencing homelessness are Black/African American, yet only 46%** of District residents are Black/African American.
- Additionally, 6.6% of single adults and 3.6% of adults in families identify as Hispanic or Latinx.

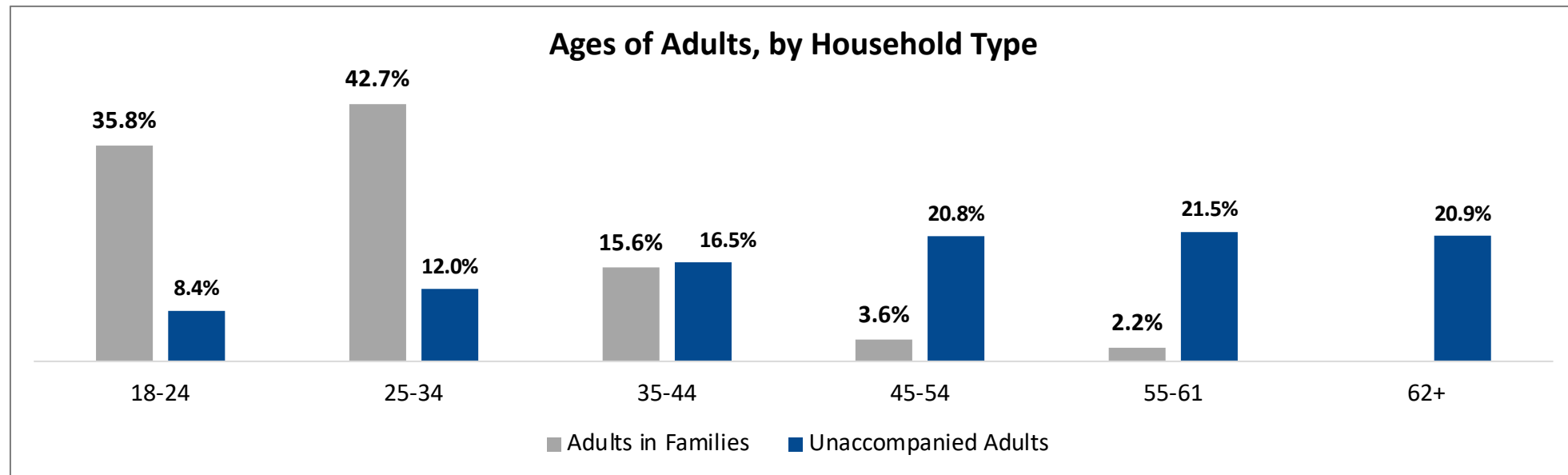


*Race categories are single-race only, persons who selected multiple races are counted in the "Multiple Races" category.

** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/DC>

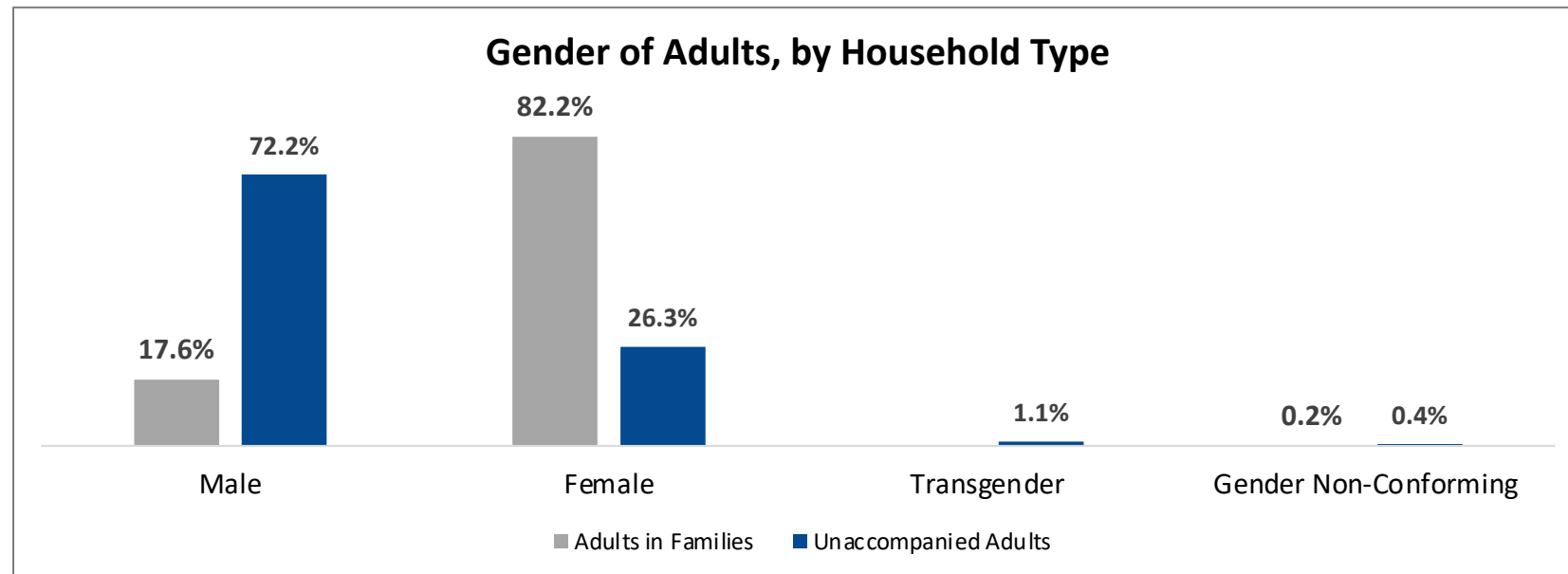
Ages

- **Unaccompanied Adults:** median age is 52 years old, oldest adult is 87 years old.
- **Adults in Families:** median age is 28 years old, oldest adult is 61 years old.
- **Children:** All unaccompanied minors between the ages 13 – 17, the median age of children in families is 5 years old, children in families make up 60.2% of persons in households.



Gender

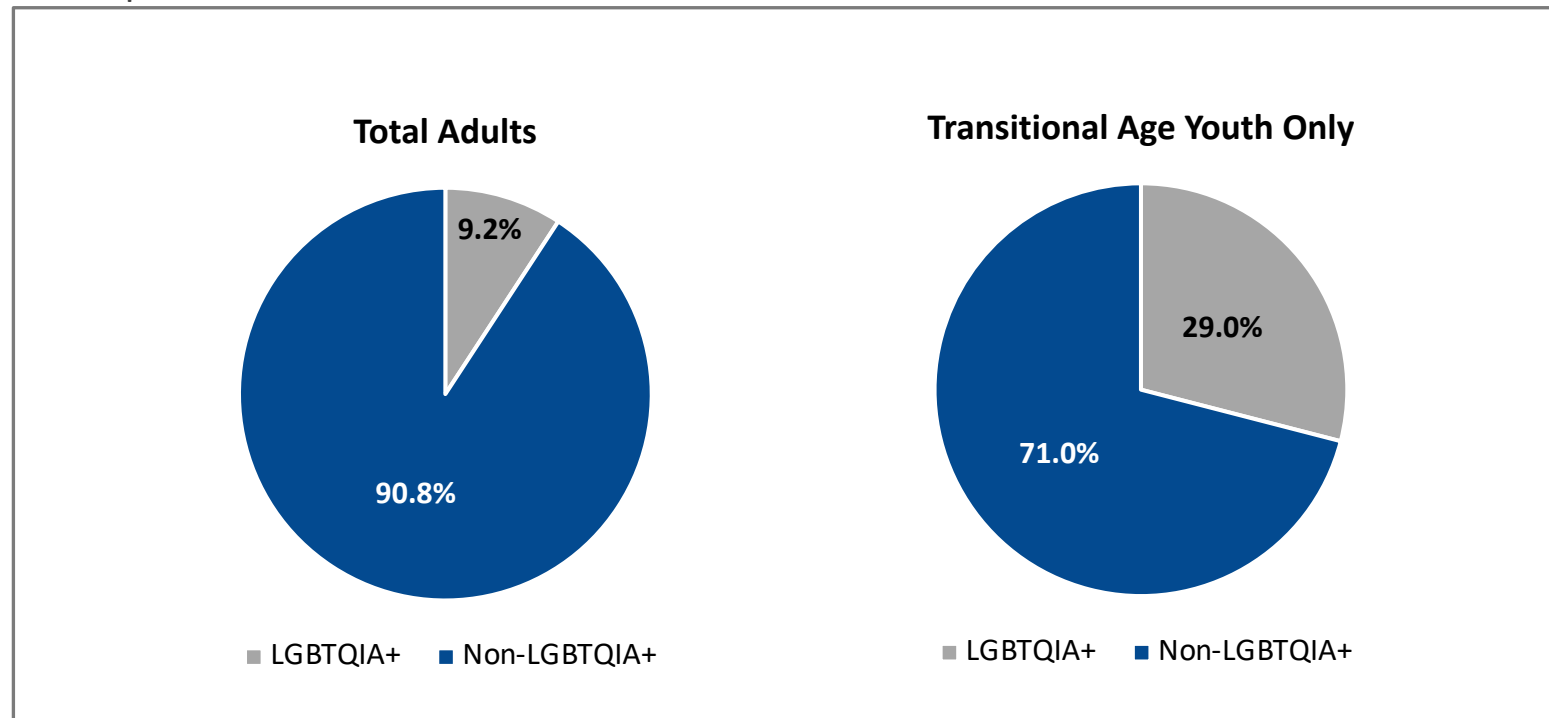
- Men make up 72.2% and women make up 26.3% of all single adults. Additionally, 0.2% are trans male (FTM)*, 0.9% are trans female (MTF)*, 0.4% are gender non-conforming.
- Women make up the greatest share of all adults in family households, at 82.2%.



**Includes those persons who self-identified as trans MTF and FTM or those who choose to select a different gender assigned to them at birth from their current gender identity. Others may be counted in "Male" or "Female" if they did not specifically identify as trans or did not provide information about the gender assigned to them at birth.*

LGBTQIA+

- 9.2% of all adults counted at PIT identify as LGBTQIA+, the rate is higher among Transitional Age Youth (ages 18 to 24) where 29.0% identified as LGBTQIA+.
- 9.5% of all Unaccompanied Adults and 7.3% of Adults in Families identified as LGBTQIA+.



Disabilities & Health Conditions *by Household Type*

Disabling Conditions	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Substance Use Only	5.2%	0.8%	4.7%
Mental Health Only	31.7%	19.4%	30.3%
Dual Diagnosis	11.4%	1.0%	10.2%
Chronic Health Problem	23.5%	6.9%	21.6%
Developmental Disability	6.1%	3.8%	5.9%
Physical Disability	18.3%	3.8%	16.7%
Living With HIV/AIDS	3.7%	-	3.3%

Experiences *by Household Type*

Experiences	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Domestic Violence (DV) History	19.8%	44.1%	22.6%
Formerly Resided in an Institutional Setting*	48.0%	10.3%	43.8%
Formerly in Foster Care	11.7%	9.3%	11.5%
U.S. Military Veteran	4.8%	0.6%	4.3%
Limited or No English Proficiency	5.0%	2.2%	4.7%
Chronically Homeless**	50.2%	11.2%	37.9%

* Institutional settings include: juvenile justice, and adult justice systems; residential detox/rehabilitation; residential mental health institutions; and long-term hospital stays.

** Chronically homeless includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more in total, either continuous or 4 episodes in the past 3 years and have a disabling condition. Rates of chronicity are calculated out of adults in emergency shelter, safe havens, or those who are unsheltered and do not include adults residing in transitional housing programs.

Income: *Benefits & Employment*

Income & Employment	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Receives Income	38.6%	61.9%	41.2%
Employed	9.0%	11.9%	9.3%

Primary Income*	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total Adults
Employment	21.8%	15.0%	20.6%
Social Security / Retirement	3.7%	0.3%	3.1%
SSI / SSDI / Disability	60.8%	14.4%	52.9%
TANF / Public Assistance	3.4%	63.4%	23.6%
Other Income Source	10.3%	6.9%	9.7%

* Primary Source of Income is out of total number of people receiving some type of income.



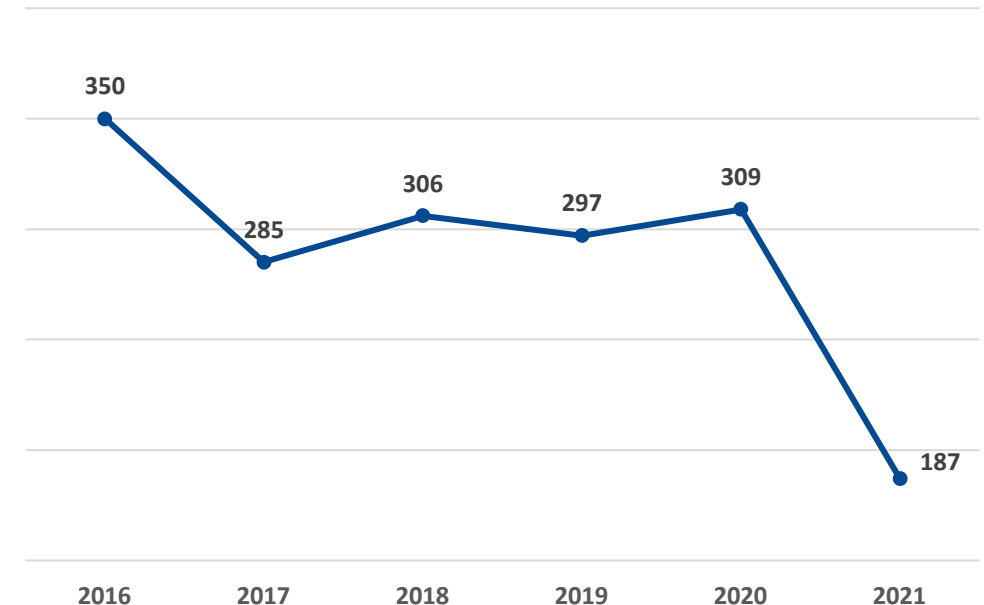
Sub-Population Detail

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

Veterans

- **Veterans experiencing homeless decreased by 49 percent between the 2020 and 2021 PIT counts. 3 Veterans counted were persons in families.**
- The total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness is **down by 61 percent since 2016.**
- 295 Veterans were housed through PSH, SSVF, and other resources.
- In 2019, an average of 82 Veterans were identified as newly experiencing homelessness or returning to homelessness each month, compared to an average of 58 Veterans each month in 2020.

Veterans, by year



Chronically Homeless

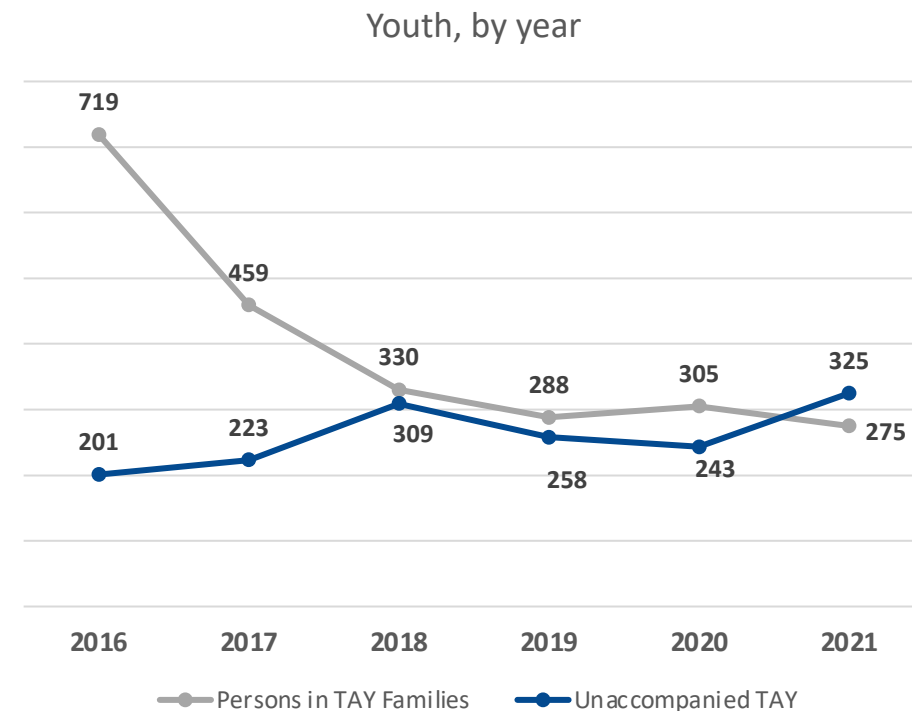
- **The rate of chronicity has increased** for both unaccompanied adults and family households between 2020 and 2021.
- **Though the rate is higher for families, the actual number of families experiencing chronic homelessness is lower**, this is due to the steep decrease in the number of families in emergency shelter.
- There are indications that inflow into the system has slowed during the pandemic and, at least for unaccompanied adults, housing placements have also been impacted.

Chronically Homeless*	2020		2021	
	%	#	%	#
Unaccompanied Adults	41.5%	1337	50.2%	1618
Family Households	5.7%	33	9.8%	23

**Data on chronic homelessness includes those persons who have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more in total, either continuous or 4 episodes in the past 3 years and have a disabling condition. Rates of chronicity are calculated out of adults in emergency shelter, safe havens, or those who are unsheltered and do not include adults residing in transitional housing programs.*

Youth

- In the 2021 PIT count, there were 116 family households (275 persons) where the head of household was a Transitional Age Youth (TAY), a 43% decrease from the 202 households counted in 2020. The reduction in youth-headed family households is tied to the overall reduction in the number of families in the system.
- Unaccompanied TAY increased by 34% between 2020 and 2021.
- The increases in Unaccompanied TAY and decreases in TAY family households follows trends reported on in the Homeless Youth Census (HYC) from Sept. 2020.



PIT Takeaways

- The sharp percentage decrease between 2020 and 2021 is driven by ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness among families whenever possible (through programs like HPP and ERAP) and ensure rapid connection back to permanent housing for families that do enter shelter (~750 families exited shelter to housing during the time period).
- The slight decrease in the count of unaccompanied individuals between 2020 and 2021 may be a result of the public health emergency and eviction moratorium, which could have slowed inflow and returns to the system.
- The increased number of unaccompanied individuals who are chronically homeless might signal timing-in to chronicity, or better reporting through the PIT Count survey on factors that determine chronic homelessness.



Inflow Analysis

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

Inflow Analysis 2021

- To better understand system inflow and usage patterns in 2021, TCP replicated the inflow analysis first completed in 2018.
- The intent of this analysis is to better understand the historical CoC system usage of the unaccompanied individuals counted in emergency shelter during the PIT Count.
- By comparing 2018 and 2021, we can see what shifts may have occurred in the past three years.

Inflow Analysis 2021

- Just as in 2018, this was done with the intent to look at how many of the individuals were:
 - Experiencing homelessness again after a previous exit from the CoC to some kind of permanent housing (i.e. placement in PSH, documented exit to housing on their own, etc.);
 - In their first and only episode of experiencing homelessness; OR
 - In one of multiple episodes of homelessness over time.
- The system lookback used entries into the HMIS, from primary records in LBS, ES, TH, or housing programs and supplementary records from CAHP, street outreach, and day service engagements to construct a map of an individual's touchpoints in our system since their first entry until the 2021 PIT Count.

Inflow Analysis 2021

Service Patterns	2021 Single Women	2018 Single Women	2021 Single Men	2018 Single Men
Category #1: Previously housed, but returned to the CoC	7%	5%	3%	4%
Category #2: Multiple episodes (services received more than 1 year apart)	35%	34%	45%	43%
Category #3: First/only episode, has lasted more than 1 year	35%	28%	36%	31%
Category #4: First/only episode, has lasted less than 1 year	23%	33%	17%	22%

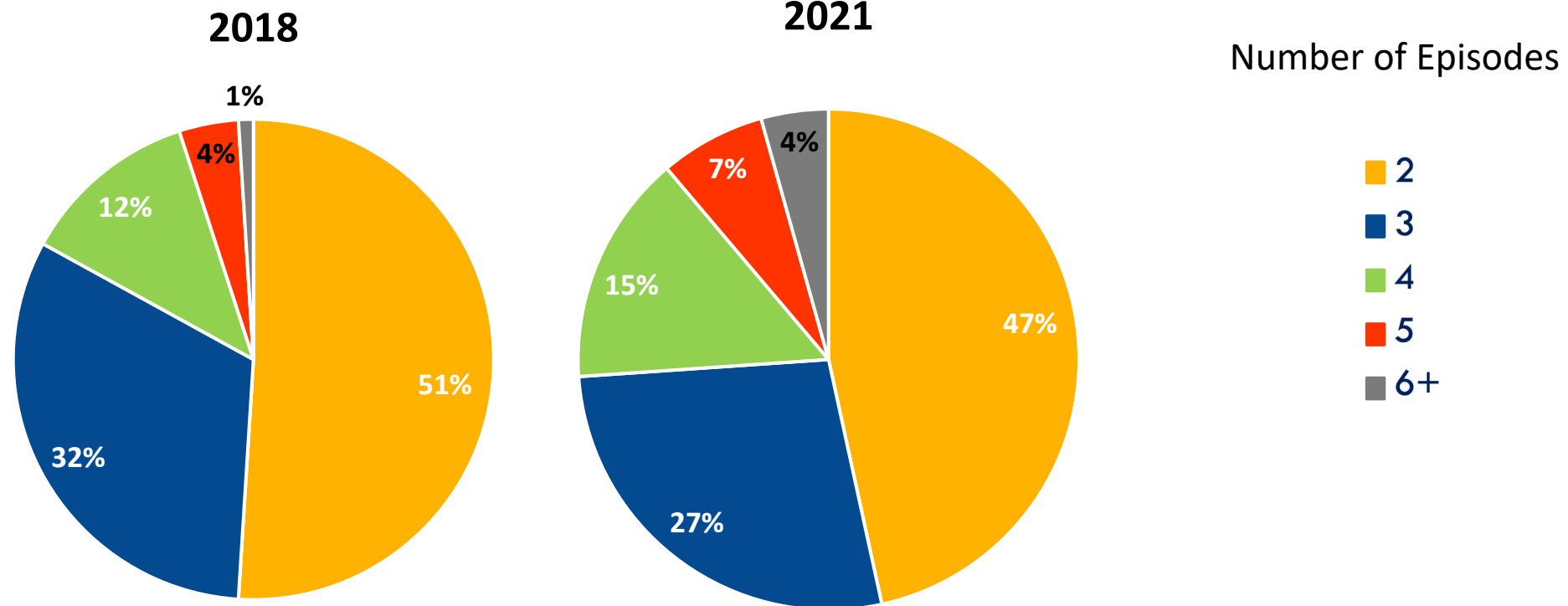
Category #1: *Returns from CoC Housing Programs*

- This category includes an individual who had a record of a permanent housing entry and a subsequent entry back into homelessness, it does not include a person who may be matched to a housing resource but has yet to – or never – moved into a unit.
- 7% of single women and 3% of single men, this is comparable to 3 years ago.
- Though system data shows from FY20 showed decreases in returns for that period, this is looking at the entire history of those counted at PIT, not just returns in the past year.

Category #2: *Multiple Episodes*

- This category includes an individual who had a record of a permanent housing entry and a subsequent entry back into homelessness, it does not include a person who may be matched to a housing resource but has yet to – or never – moved into a unit.
- 7% of single women and 3% of single men, this is comparable to 3 years ago.
- Though system data shows from FY20 showed decreases in returns for that period, this lookback is at the entire service history of those counted at PIT, not just returns in the past year.

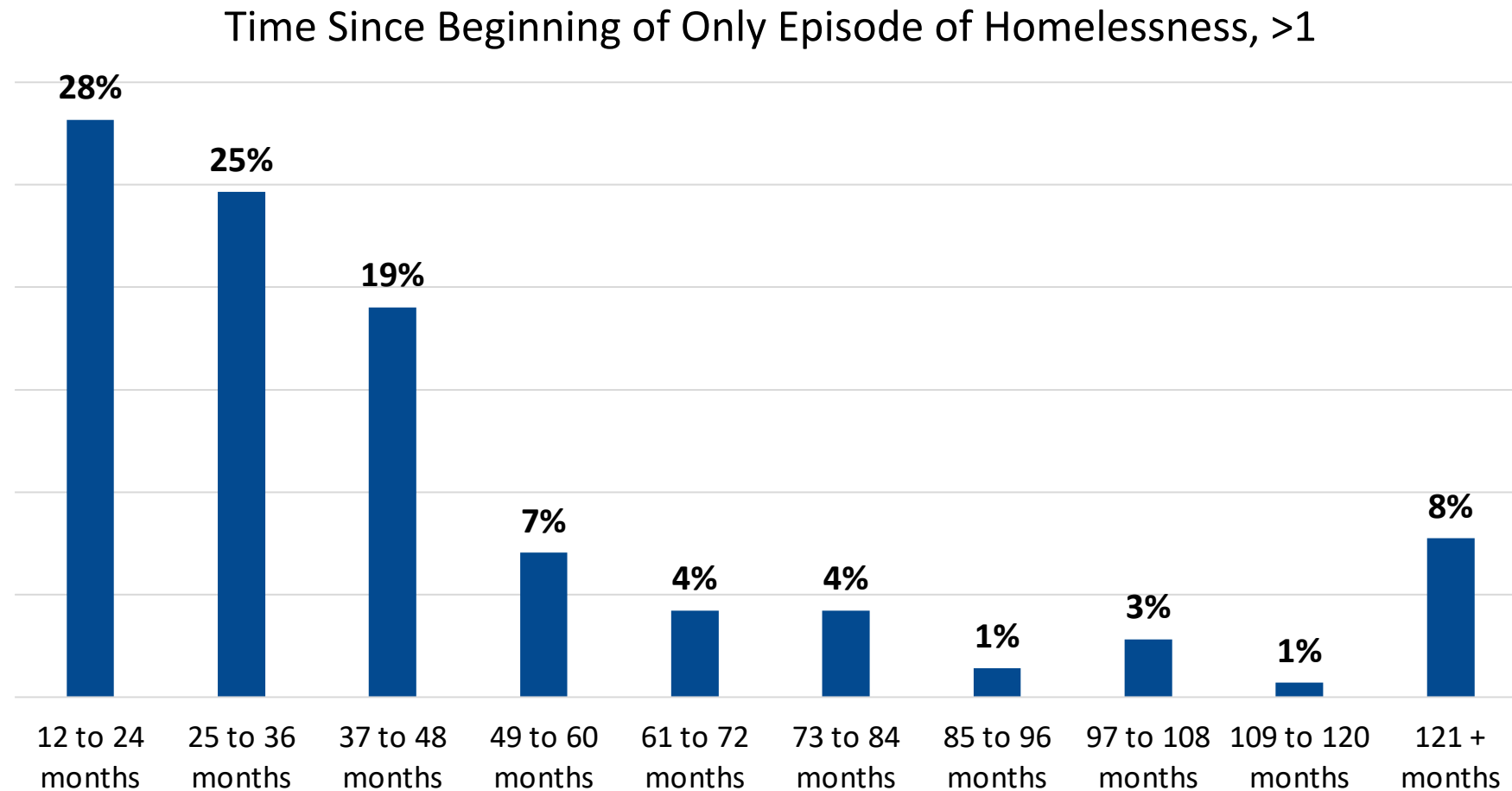
Category #2: *Multiple Episodes*



Category #3: *First/Only Time Homeless (>1 yr)*

- The 2021 analysis found an increase in this category overall, 35% of women and 45% of men.
- The median length of time since first entry for this category was just under 3 years (35 months).
- 28% have been experiencing homelessness for 1 and 2 years.
- 47% have been experiencing homelessness for 3 or more years.

Category #3: *First/Only Time Homeless (>1 yr)*

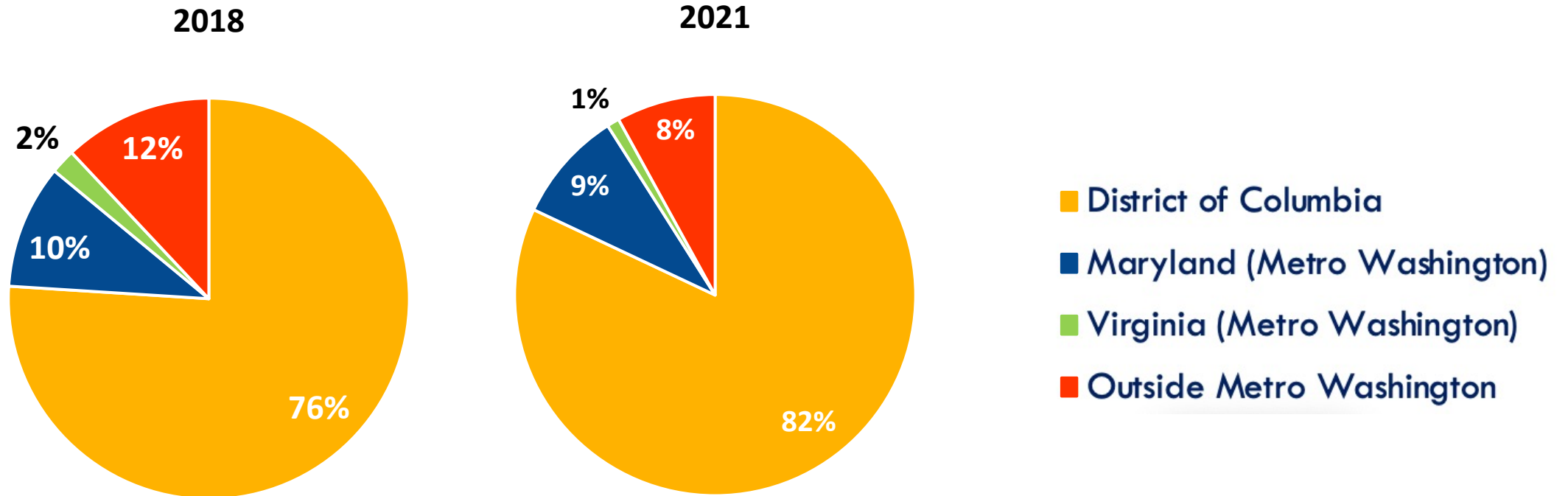


Category #4: *First/Only Time Homeless (<1 yr)*

- Between the 2018 and 2021 analyses, there was a decrease in the number of individuals counted whose only episode of homelessness began less than a year prior.
- This tracks with decreased inflow into the system over FY20 and the beginning of FY21 and decrease at PIT.
- 23% of women and 17% of men are in this category.

Residency

Zip Code of Last Place of Residency At Shelter Intake



Takeaways

- System usage looks similar to 3 years ago.
- The slight increases in the number of persons counted who are in their first episode lasting more than a year tracks with increases in chronicity overall.
- With new inflow slowed, due to the public health emergency, there is an opportunity to focus on some of most vulnerable individuals in the system: those with several years' history and multiple long episodes.



Spatial Analysis

2021 Point-in-Time Count Findings

Spatial Analysis

- To better understand the demographics and characteristics of those counted as unsheltered, TCP completed a spatial analysis using GIS data collected during the street surveys.
- Go to: <https://arcg.is/9enmq> to view.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping us complete the 2021 Street Count!

Government Partners:

DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
DC Interagency Council on Homelessness (DCICH)
Executive Office of the Mayor, Muriel Bowser

Community Organizations:

Miriam's Kitchen
Friendship Place
HER
HIPS
Community Connections
Everyone Home DC
National Community Church
Pathways to Housing DC
LAYC
Foundry UMC
VA Community Resource and Referral Center

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