



2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG)

Jurisdictional Narrative

About Our Continuum

The Prince William Area Continuum of Care (PWA CoC) is comprised of nonprofit, faith-based, and government agencies throughout Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The Prince William County Department of Social Services (PWC DSS) serves as the lead agency for the PWA CoC and is responsible for managing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and leading the local homeless services continuum. The PWA CoC operates a comprehensive homeless response system and works collaboratively through various committees to review policies and procedures, establish best practices, and monitor program performance.

Programs within the PWA CoC include prevention, diversion, street outreach, drop-in center, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and housing location services. Providers work together to coordinate and increase access to services such as housing, employment, benefits, education, health, and wellness.

The PWA CoC uses a centralized and systematic homeless response system called the “Coordinated Entry System (CES)” to coordinate services. CES is operated by trained staff who work to assess barriers and connect persons experiencing a housing crisis with services. CES assists persons actively experiencing homelessness as well as those who may be at-risk of homelessness. CES serves as the “front door” to services, as all persons in need of assistance are prioritized for resources based on needs assessments conducted by CES staff.

The PWA CoC includes forty-five (45) member organizations and sixteen (16) funded homeless service providers; ten (10) of which contribute data into the CoC’s HMIS. The PWA CoC was recently awarded \$1.5 million dollars in HUD CoC Program funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. This is the single highest fiscal year award in PWA COC’s history and represents a 9% increase in funding since FY23 (over \$1.4 million) and a more than 100% increase in funding since FY2020.

What is the Point in Time (PIT) Count?

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of persons experiencing *literal homelessness* on a single night in January each year and is conducted by homeless services continuums across the country as required by the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The PIT provides a “snapshot” of the nature and extent of homelessness and provides valuable information used to inform funding decisions, support service and resource planning, as well as to raise public awareness about homelessness on the local and national level. Persons that are *literally homeless* would be those living in emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, or places not meant for human habitation (such as a vehicle or somewhere outside) the night of the conducted count.

How is the Point in Time Count Conducted?

The annual Sheltered Count was conducted throughout the day and night of Wednesday, January 25, 2023. The Unsheltered Count was conducted the night of the 25th with supplemental counts occurring through Tuesday, January 31st, 2023.

The Sheltered Count is completed by the staff of each participating emergency shelter and transitional housing program. The following organizations and programs participated in the 2023 Sheltered Count:

- Action in Community Through Service – Beverly Warren & Domestic Violence Shelters
- Good Shepherd Housing Foundation – Housing Partnership Program
- Manassas Baptist Church – Hypothermia Shelter
- Northern Virginia Family Service – SERVE Shelter
- PWC Adult Protective Services – Overflow Emergency Shelter
- PWC Child Protective Services – Overflow Emergency Shelter
- PWC Dept. of Social Services – Ferlazzo Shelter & Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center
- PWC Office of Housing & Community Development – Dawson Beach Program
- Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries – Hypothermia Shelter, Supportive Shelter, & Transitional Housing Program

The Unsheltered Count is completed through the support of CoC members, community organizations, and, most importantly, volunteers. In 2023, more than fifty members of the community came together to complete this count. Volunteers worked with experienced Street Outreach staff to canvass the continuum to complete surveys with persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Unsheltered Count is also an opportunity for Street Outreach staff to ensure the safety of those sleeping outside as well as connect them to available services. The following organizations participated in the 2023 Unsheltered Count:

- 3MT, LLC
- City of Manassas Dept. of Social Services
- City of Manassas Park Dept. of Social Services
- Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
- Friendship Place
- Manassas City Police Dept.
- Manassas Hope for the Homeless
- PWC Board of County Supervisors
- PWC Community Services
- PWC Dept. of Fire & Rescue
- PWC Dept. of Social Services
- PWC Office of the Public Defender
- Prince William County Community Foundation
- Saved Hands Foundation
- Serving Our Neighbors
- Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries

PIT Count methodology was updated this year in an attempt to better count our literally homeless population as well as to ensure more accurate data outcomes. The PWA CoC continued to ensure best practices by providing Personal Protective Equipment, safety equipment, and online training for all participating volunteers and staff.

Shelter Count Methodology: In the past, PIT data for sheltered projects was largely pulled from our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This year sheltered projects entered their survey data into a separate analysis tool, so all data is based on client response as of the night of the count rather than what is most recent in our system. Additionally, we are now collecting data for our hypothermia shelter projects in HMIS and have also included counts of persons in hotel/motel shelter paid for by the Prince William County Adult & Child Protective Services departments.

Unsheltered Count Methodology: In the past, a supplemental count (known as the “Service-Based Count”) was conducted the day after PIT in an attempt to capture anyone missed the night before. This year the PWA CoC decided to expand these efforts and conducted supplemental counts over a 7-day period ending on January 31st. Volunteers visited locations such as libraries, fast food restaurants, local malls/business centers, community dinners, and our homeless drop-in centers to complete surveys. Homeless Services staff also visited known encampments multiple times over this period. The PWA CoC also successfully recruited several Spanish-speaking volunteers and also employed a person with lived experience to assist with completing surveys. Lastly, survey participants were provided hot meals as a result of partnerships with The Prince William County Community Foundation and 3MT LLC, as well as \$10 gift cards to local restaurants for their participation.



Volunteers and CoC staff preparing to launch the 2023 Unsheltered Count

Point in Time Count Outcomes

1. Persons Served

The literally homeless count increased by 35% from 2022 to 2023. The count of persons in emergency shelter increased by 21% and the count of unsheltered persons increased by more than 100%. There was no change to the count of persons in transitional housing programs.

There are several factors that contributed to this increase. Emergency shelter bed capacity increased as one shelter was reopened after needed repairs, social distancing requirements were lifted bringing beds back online, and additional beds were added due to the onboarding of new projects. The unsheltered count increased due to improved PIT Count methodology as well as continued CoC efforts to expand street outreach services. The lifting of the national eviction moratorium as well as the winding down of additional funding are also believed to be contributing factors.

Table 1.0 below reports the count of persons from 2019 – 2023 while Table 1.1 reports the percent change from 2022 to 2023.

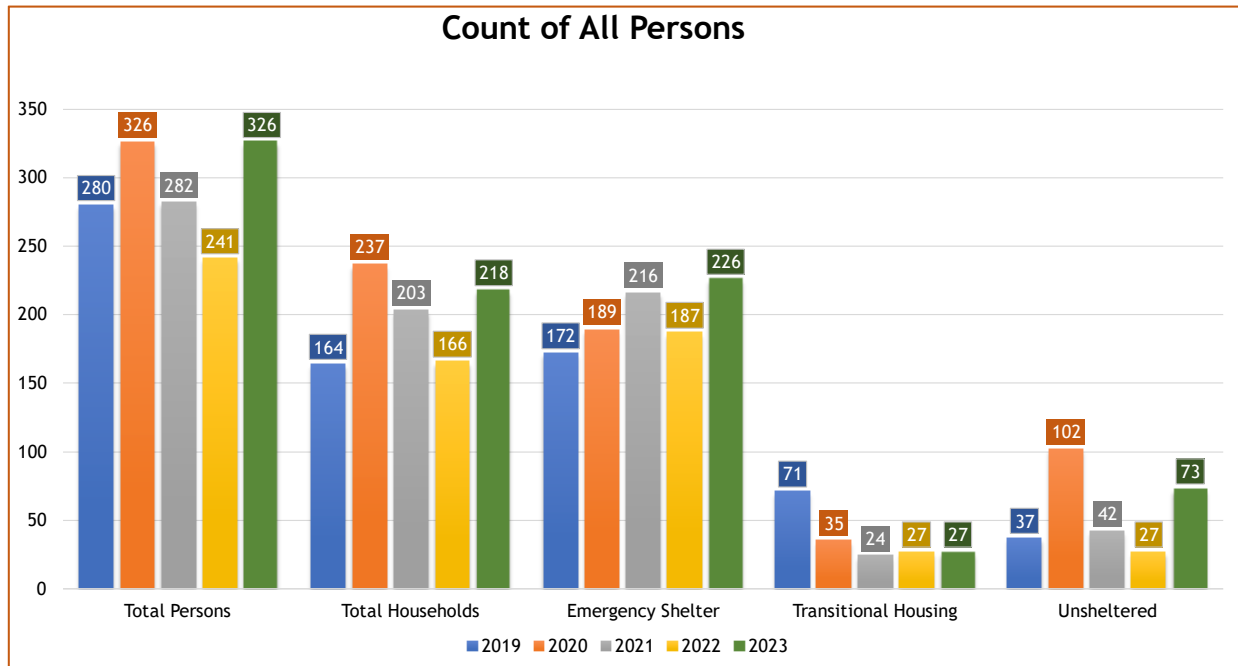


Table 1.0 – Count of All Persons (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.1 – Percent Change from Previous Year

Unsheltered Homelessness

The unsheltered count increased by more than 100% from 2022 to 2023. One of the CoC's priorities over the past few years has been to improve and expand street outreach services. This increase is indicative of the success of these efforts as well as the success of the improved PIT Count methodology.

Expanding the count over the 7-day period allowed the CoC to accommodate the transient nature of this population as street outreach providers have noted the encampments persons sleep at can change from night to night. Additionally, some persons simply are not at their camp the night of the count as they are at work.



Photo of an encampment located in the Prince William Area CoC

Households with Children

The number of persons in households with children increased by 42% from 2022 to 2023, and the household count increased by 67%. This is the first time this population has increased since 2019. The PWA CoC continues to not encounter unsheltered households with children during the count.

Table 1.2 below reports the counts of households with children from 2019 – 2023, while Table 1.3 reports the percent change from 2022 to 2023.

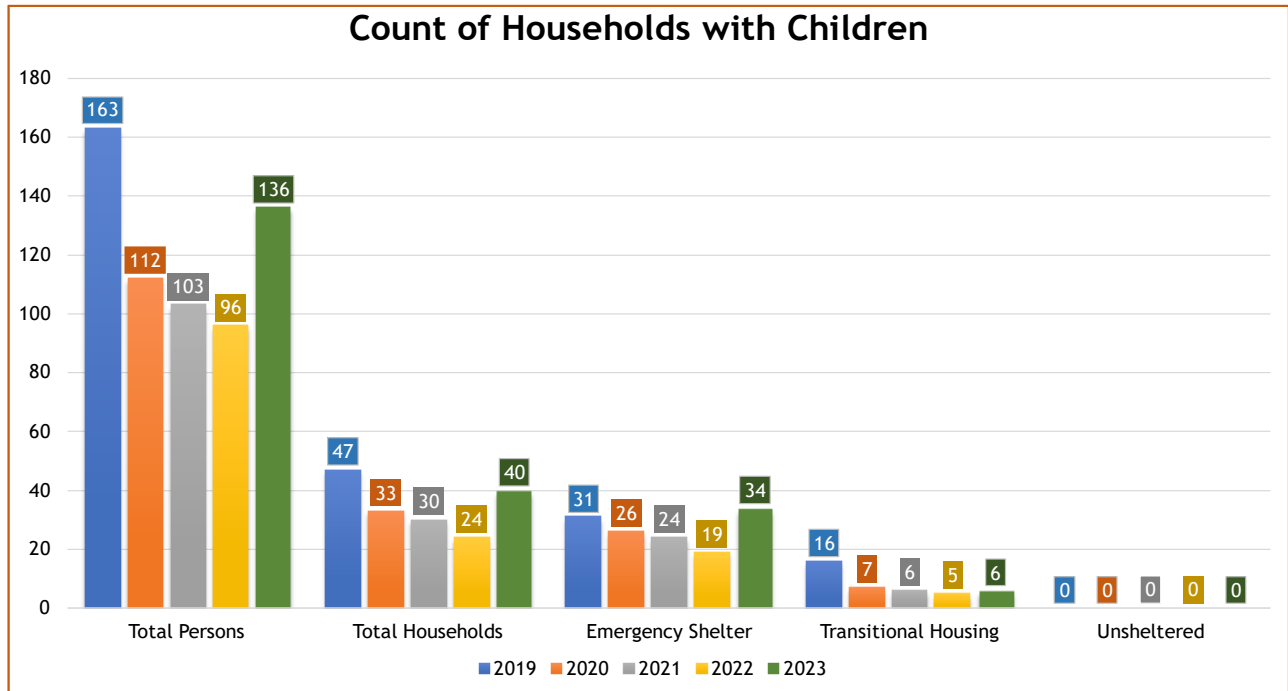


Table 1.2 – Count of Households with Children (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.3 – Percent Change from Previous Year

Adult-Only Households

The number of persons in adult-only households increased by 31% from 2022 to 2023. Adult-only households continue to be a vulnerable population in the PWA CoC and represent 100% of the unsheltered population and 81% of all households counted.

Table 1.4 below reports the counts of adult-only households from 2019 – 2023, while Table 1.5 reports the percent change from 2022 to 2023.

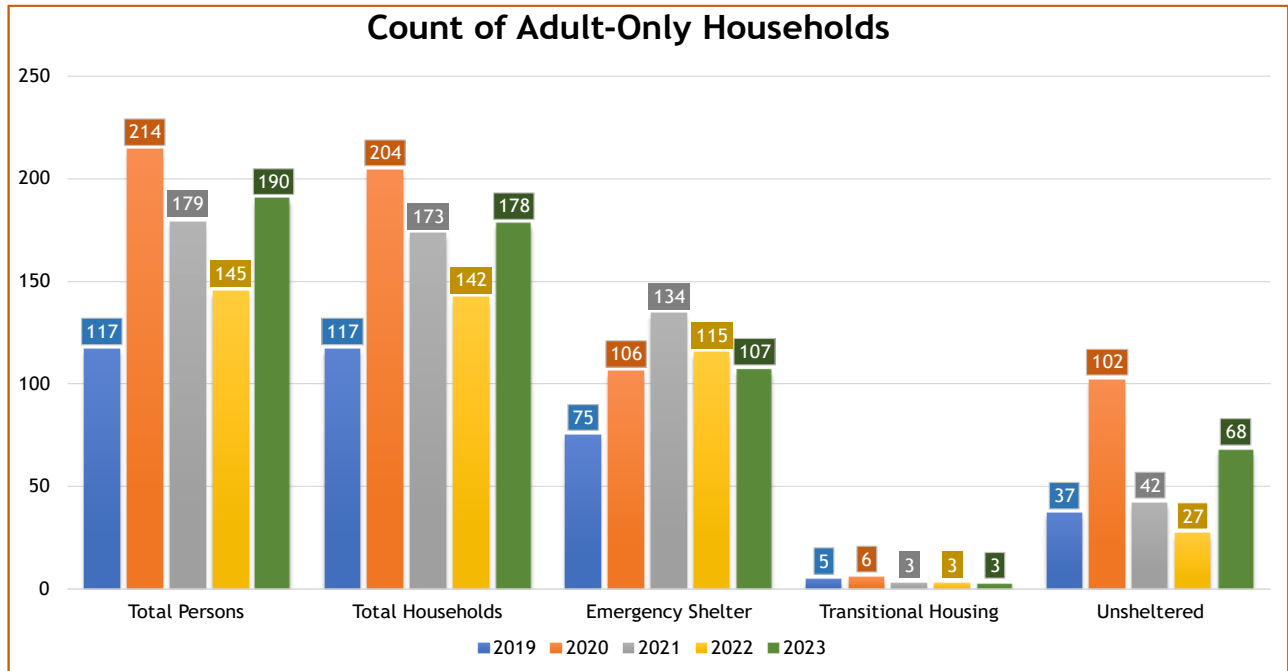


Table 1.4 – Count of Adult-Only Households (Five Year Comparison)



Table 1.5 – Percent Change from Previous Year

Race & Ethnicity of Persons Served

The PWA CoC strives to provide services in a manner that is equitable and free of discrimination and has conducted extensive work over past years to address systemic racial inequity to include participating in a regional “Racial Equity Project” in collaboration with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and supported by a project consultant, C4 Innovations. This project provided valuable insight and improved methods for delivering homeless services through an equitable lens.

The distribution of race and ethnicity remains consistent with previous years. The greatest disparity in the PWA CoC’s PIT data exists among persons identifying as Black, African American, or African, as they represent 56% of all persons counted.

This disparity is concerning when compared to 2020 US Census Data as only 20% of the PWA CoC’s general population identifies as Black, African American, or African. This means persons in this racial category are 2.7 times more likely to experience homelessness in the PWA.

Table 1.6 below reports the percentage of persons counted by race while Table 1.7 reports the percentage of persons counted by ethnicity.

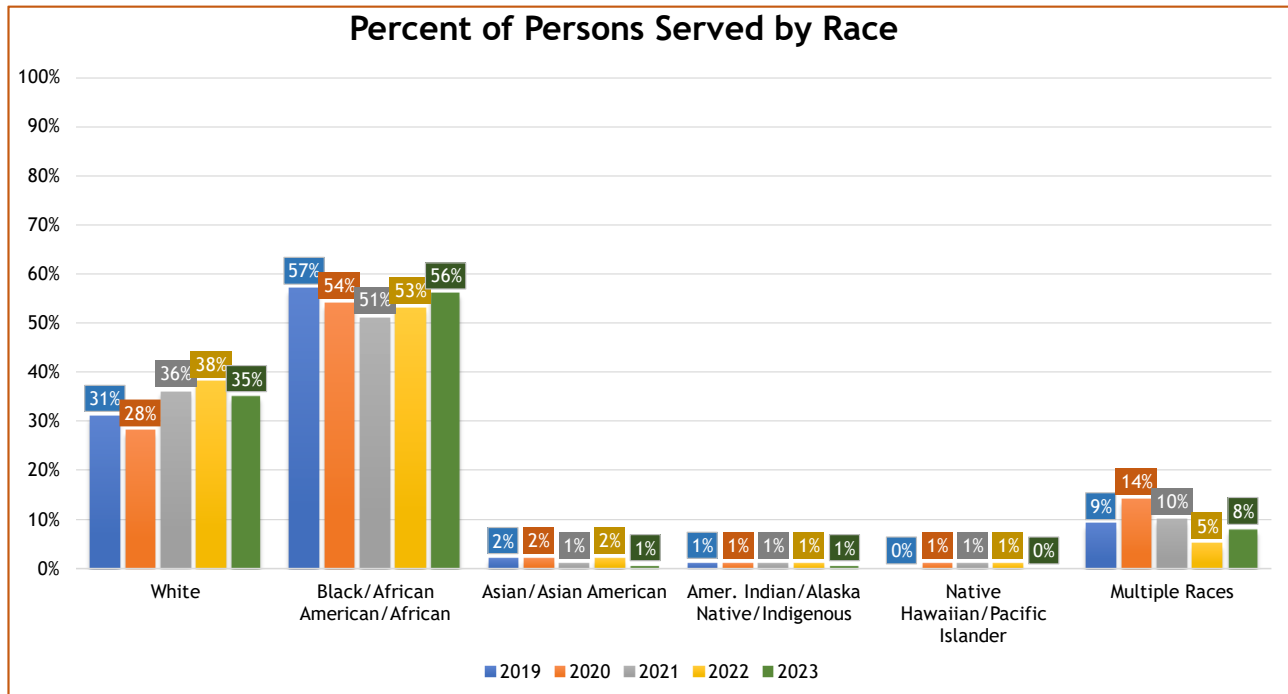


Table 1.6 – Percent of Persons Served by Race (Five Year Comparison)

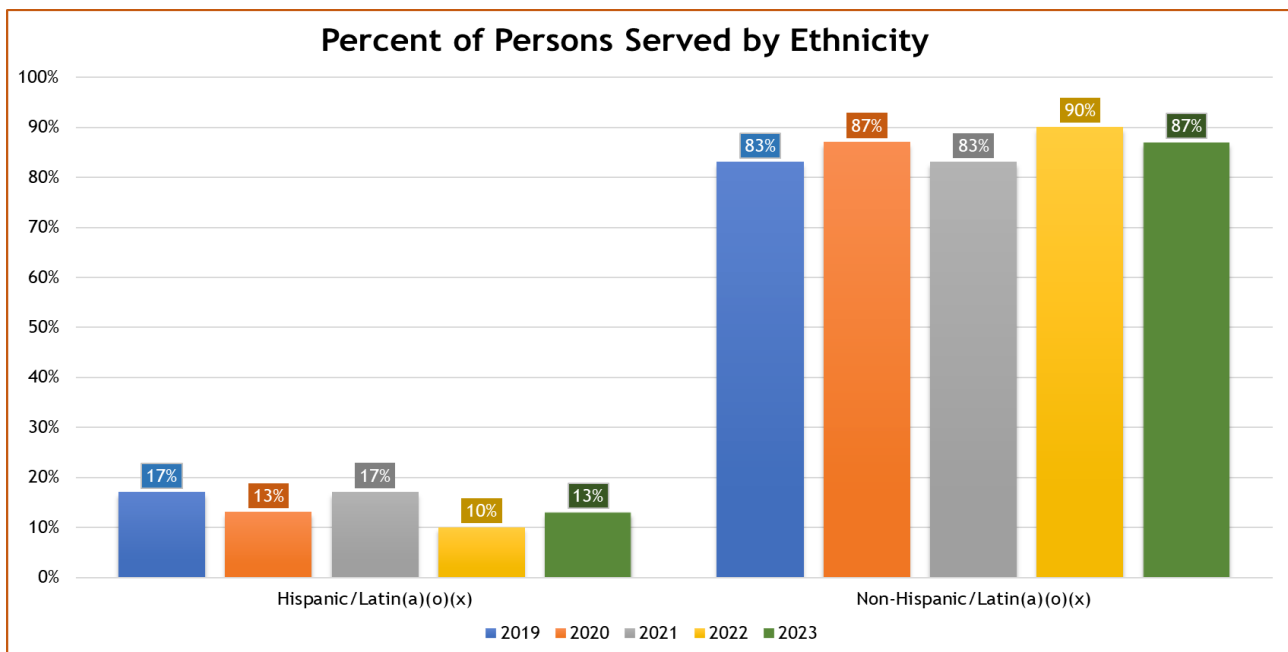


Table 1.7 – Percent of Persons Served by Ethnicity (Five Year Comparison)

2. Income & Employment

Data on income and employment is provided for all adults (18+) counted the night of PIT. The count of persons reporting income decreased by 21% from 2022 while the count of persons who are employed decreased by 13%. Table 2.0 below reports the percentage of adults reporting any type of income while Table 2.1 reports the percentage of adults who are employed.

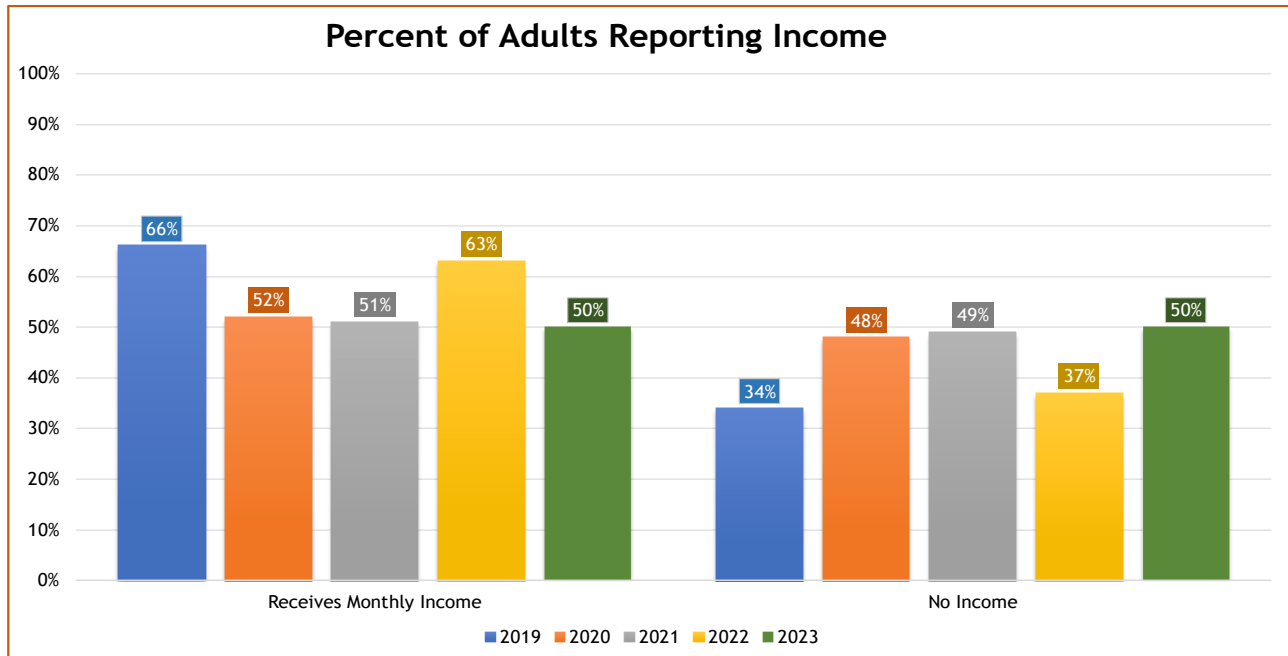


Table 2.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Income (Five Year Comparison)

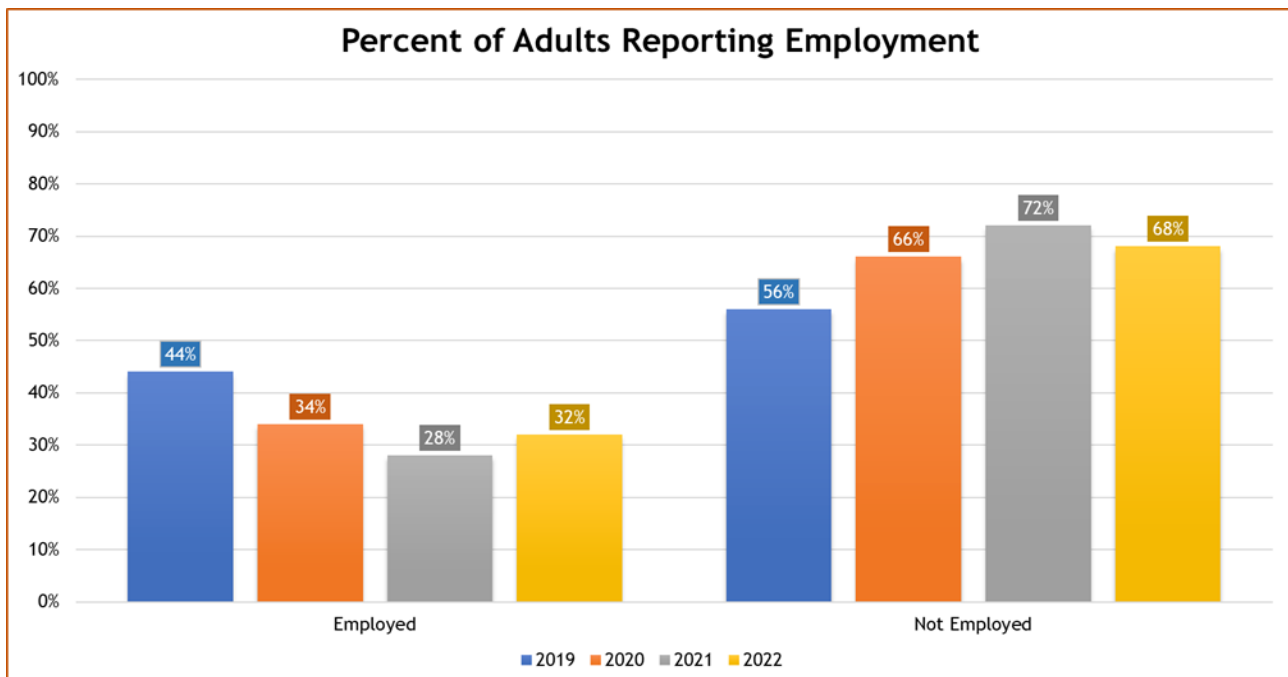


Table 2.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Employment (Five Year Comparison)

Table 2.2 below reports the “primary income source” for all adults surveyed. There is a 20% decrease in adults reporting employment as their primary source and an 80% decrease in adults reporting disability income as their primary source. No source of income was reported for 50% of all adults surveyed.

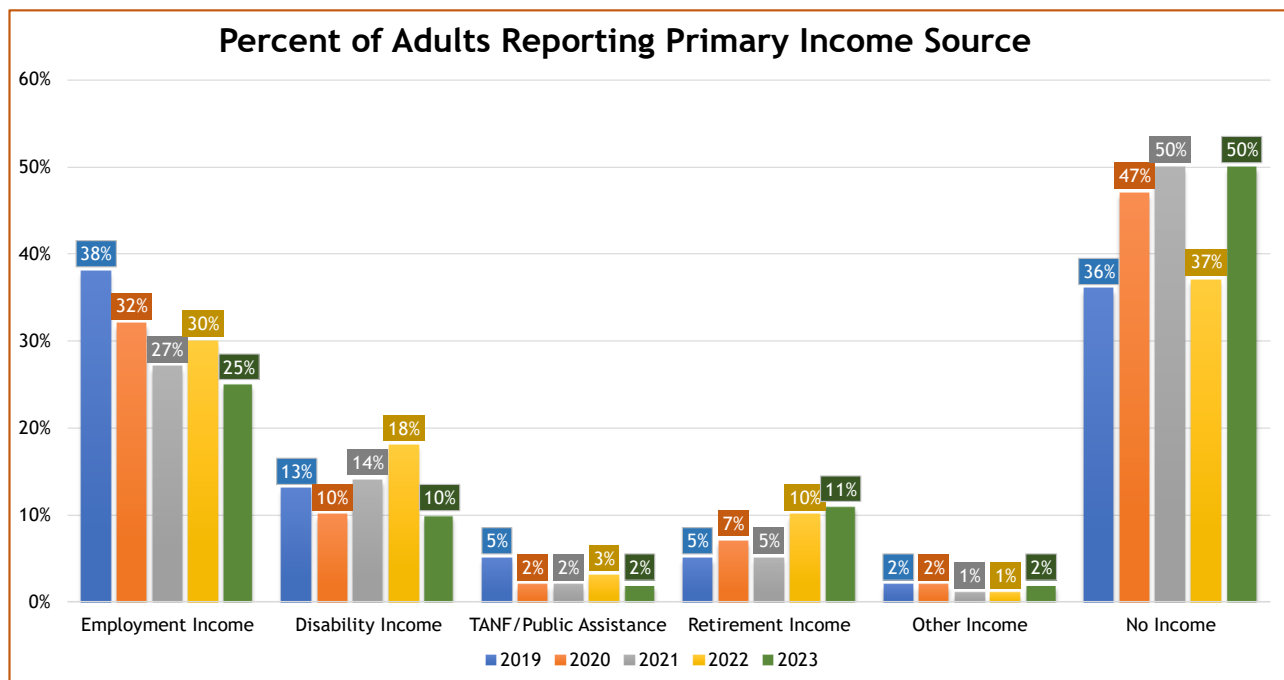


Table 2.2 – Percent of Households Reporting Primary Income Source (Five Year Comparison)

3. Priority Populations

Priority Populations are additional homeless populations that are overrepresented in the CoC’s overall homeless population when compared to national and/or local averages.

Table 3.0 below reports common “reasons for homelessness” experienced by homeless adults. This data helps the CoC shape which populations they will work to prioritize:

Disabling Condition(s): Person reports living with one or more disabling condition that impacts their day-to-day life; with or without a formal diagnosis.

Domestic Violence Survivor: Person experienced domestic violence recently or any time in the past.

Foster Care History: Person was in foster care recently or any time in the past.

Formerly Institutionalized: Person is homeless due to a release from an institution which includes medical/psychiatric facilities, substance use facilities/detox centers, jail/prison/juvenile detention facilities, long-term care/nursing facilities, and foster care/foster care group homes.

Limited English Proficiency: Person has limited or no ability to understand/read/write the English language.

There has been a 25% decrease in adults reporting one or more disabilities, a 35% decrease in adults reporting a domestic violence experience, and a more than 100% increase in adults reporting limited English proficiency.

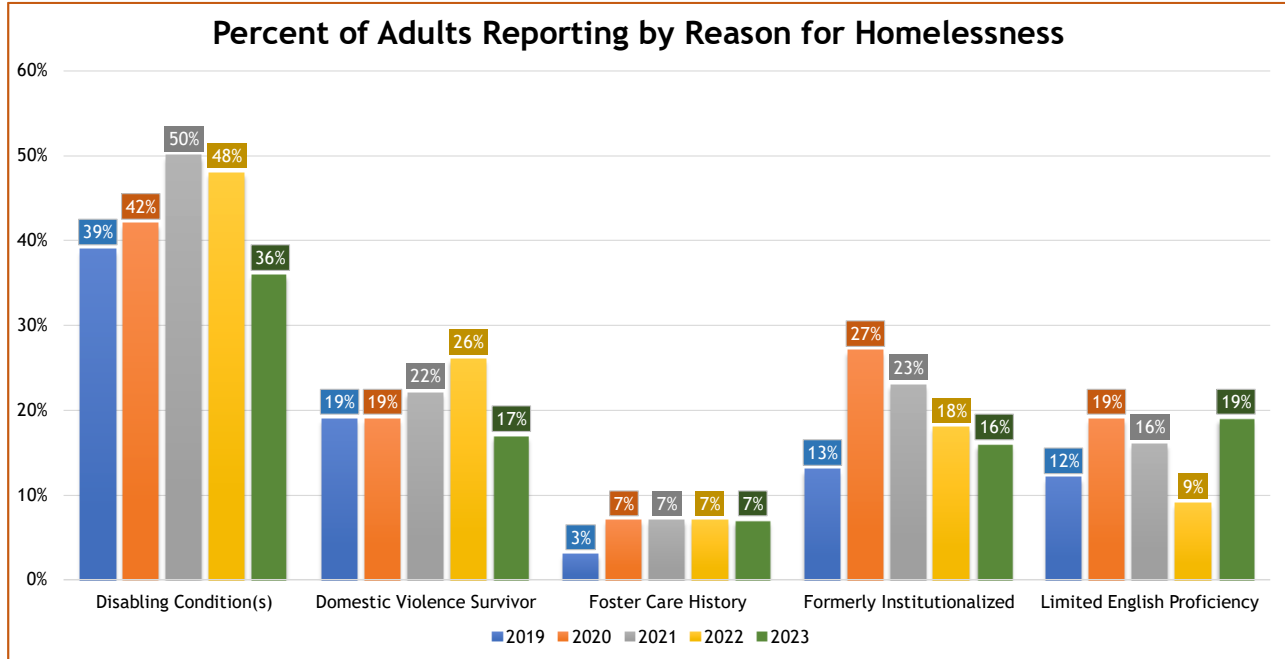


Table 3.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting by Reason for Homelessness (Five Year Comparison)

Disabling Conditions

Table 3.1 below reports the percent of adults reporting one or more disabling conditions by project type (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and “unsheltered”). On average, 43% of adults report living with one or more disabling conditions each year. There was a 24% decrease in the number of adults reporting disabling conditions in emergency shelter and a more than 100% increase in the number of unsheltered persons reporting disabling conditions.

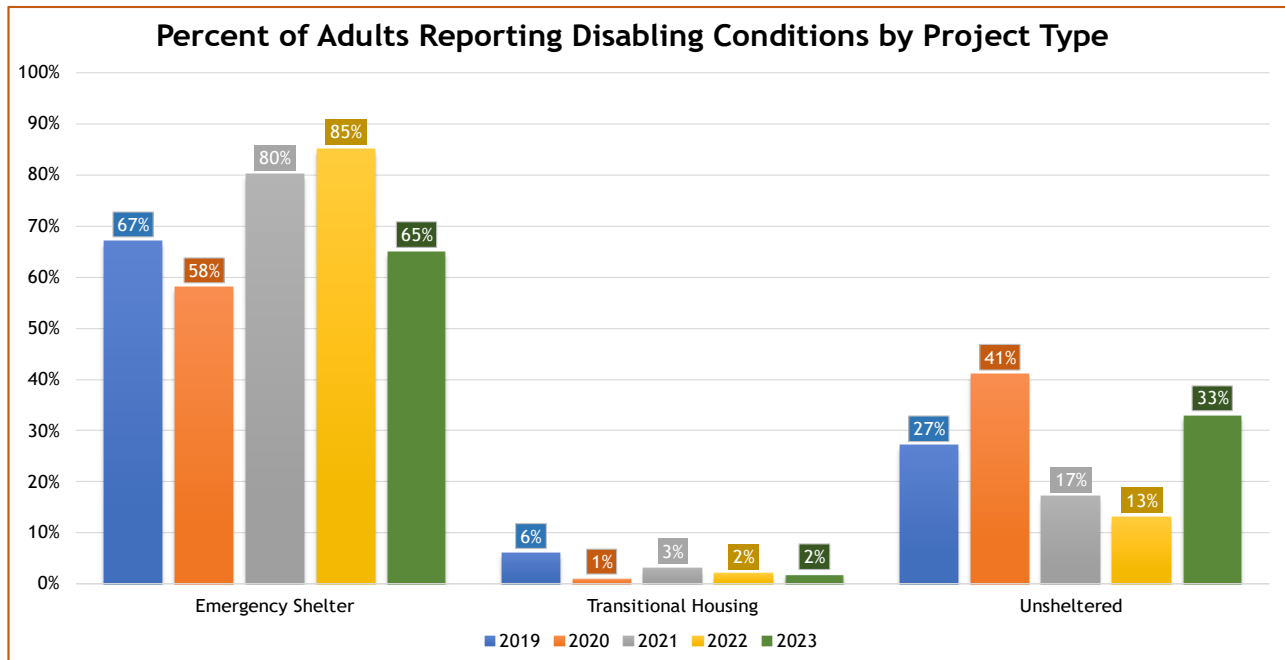


Table 3.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting One or More Disabling Conditions (Five Year Comparison)

Chronic Homelessness

Chronically homeless persons are those with a diagnosable disability in combination with long-term episodes of literal homelessness. Persons that meet the definition of chronically homeless are typically prioritized for long-term housing with supportive services such as the CoC’s Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program. Table 3.2 below reports the percentage of persons that were chronically homeless as of the PIT Count by project type. Table 3.3 reports the total percentage by reporting year. On average, 15% of persons counted are chronically homeless each year. It is important to note that persons in transitional housing programs are excluded from these datasets as they do not qualify as chronically homeless based on the HUD definition of literal homelessness.

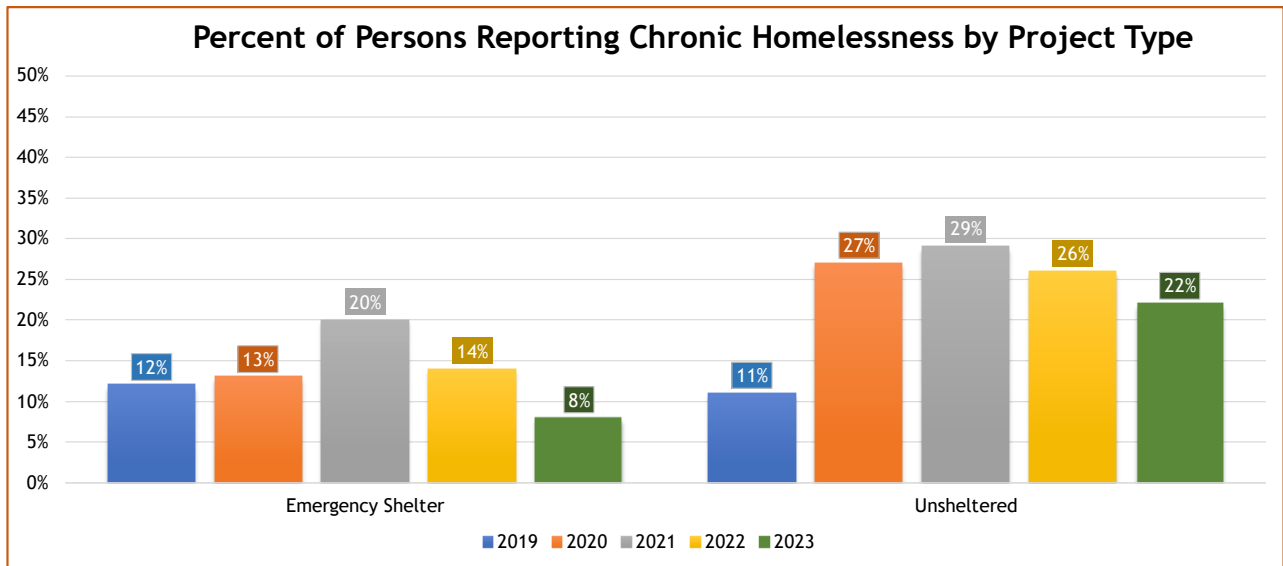


Table 3.2 – Percent of Adults Reporting Chronic Homelessness by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)



Table 3.3 – Percent of Adults Reporting Chronic Homelessness (Five Year Comparison)

Domestic Violence Survivors

Table 3.4 reports the percentage of adults reporting a domestic violence experience recently or any time in the past by project type. On average, 21% of adults report a history of domestic violence each year. There was a 28% decrease in adults reporting domestic violence history in emergency shelter and a more than 100% increase in adults reporting domestic violence history in the unsheltered population. The PWA CoC was awarded funding to begin a Rapid Rehousing program dedicated to domestic violence survivors in October of 2022 which could account for the reduction in the emergency shelter count.

Table 3.5 reports the percentage of adults reporting their current episode of homelessness is due to fleeing a domestic violence experience by project type. On average, 46% of adults reporting a history of domestic violence are homeless due to fleeing a recent experience. There was a 25% decrease in adults reporting in emergency shelter and a more than 100% increase in adults reporting in the unsheltered population.

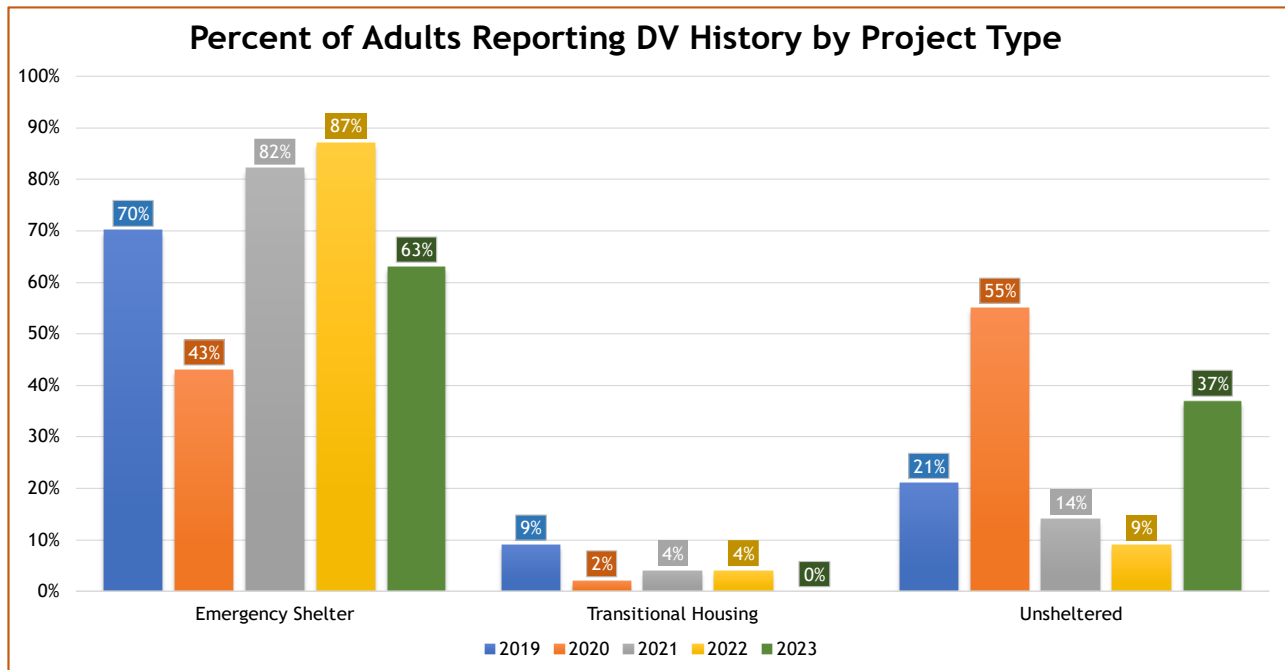


Table 3.4 – Percent of Adults Reporting Domestic Violence History by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)

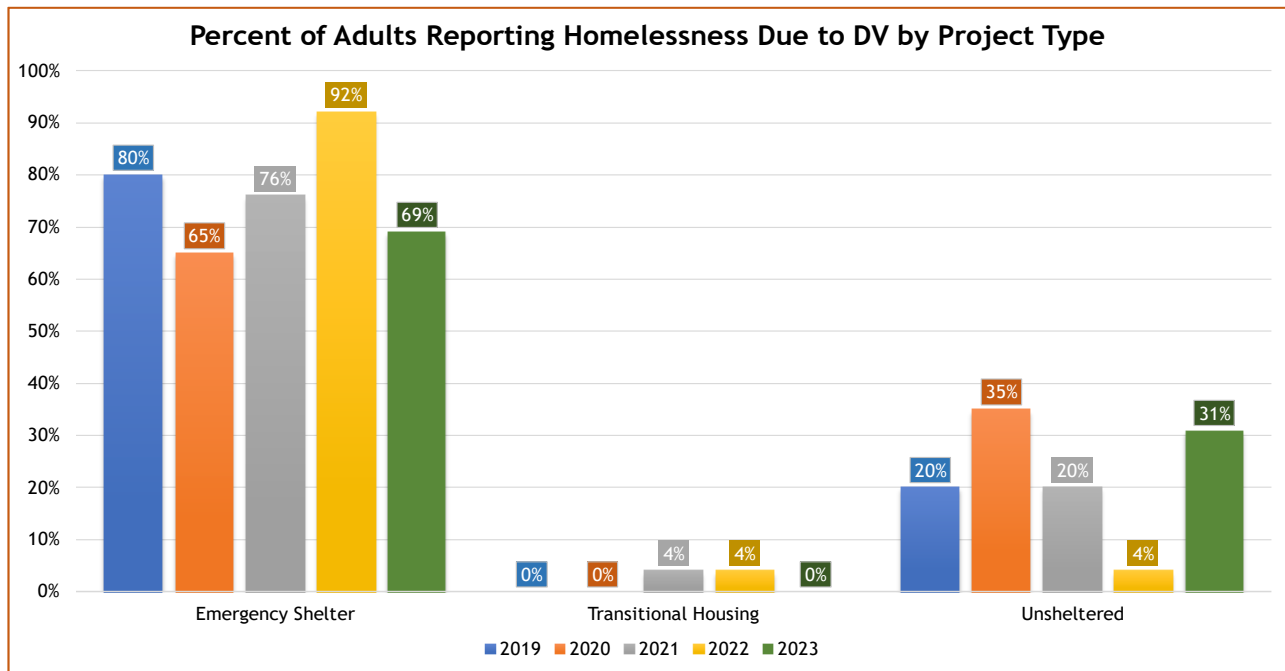


Table 3.5 – Percent of Adults Reporting Homelessness Due to Fleeing Domestic Violence by Project Type (Five Year Comparison)

Other Populations

Other priority populations of focus are:

Transitional Age Youth (TAY): Adults 18 to 24 years of age

Veterans: Adults who have served in any branch of service regardless of discharge status

Aging Adults: Adults who are age 55 or older

Table 3.6 below reports the percentage of adults reporting under one or more of the above priority populations over the past five years. There was a 100% increase in transitional age youth since 2022. The 2023 count for transitional age youth represents the highest count for this population type in the past five years.

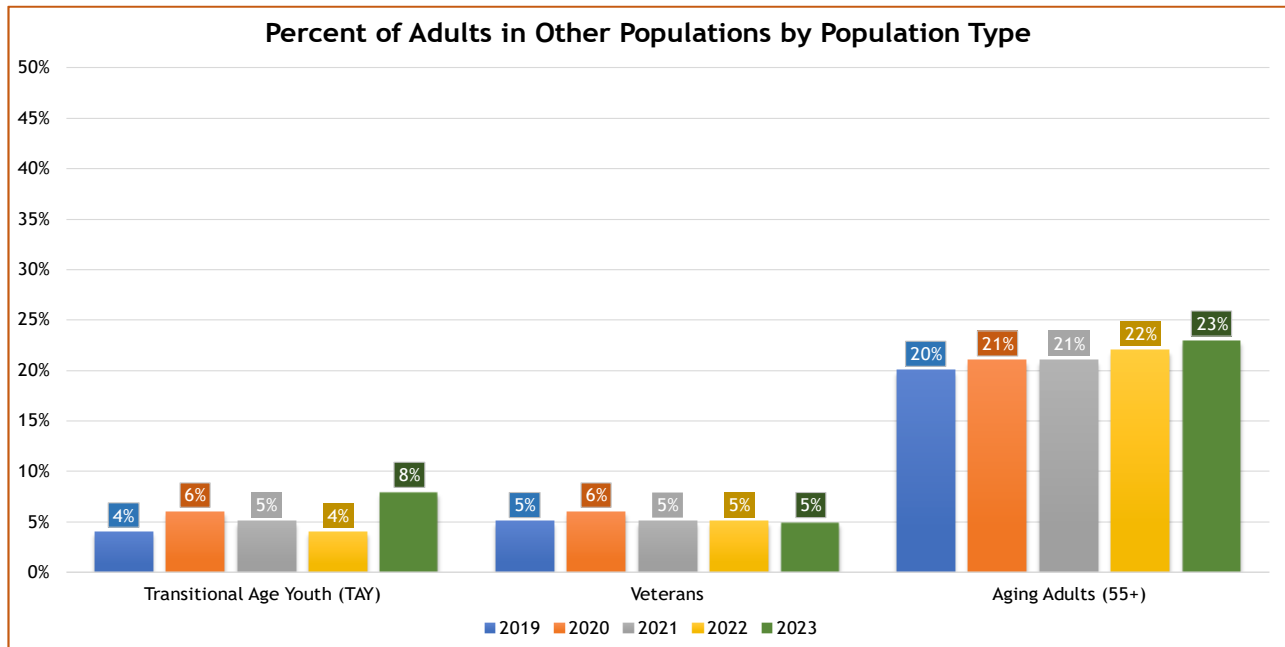


Table 3.6 – Percent of Adults Reporting in Other Priority Populations by Population Type (Five Year Comparison)

4. Inventory and Housing Outcomes

Sheltered Inventory

The PWA CoC had a total of 322 sheltered beds (emergency shelter and transitional housing) available the night of the 2023 PIT count, which represents a 21% increase from 2022 and is the highest count of sheltered beds available the past 5 years. This results in a utilization rate of 79% based on the 253 persons served in sheltered projects (compared to 78% in 2022) Bed utilization by project type is consistent with 2022 outcomes: 80% of emergency shelter beds were in use (compared to 81% in 2022) and 66% of transitional housing beds were in use (same as 2022).

Table 4.0 below reports the total available beds by year, project type, household type, and availability (emergency shelter only) as well as the change in beds and the percent change from the previous year.

Project Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change in Beds 2022 - 2023	Percent Change 2022 - 2023
Emergency Shelter (ES)							
Total Beds	204	270	277	232	281	49	21%
Beds for AO HH	78	120	148	126	136	10	8%
Beds for AC HH	126	150	129	106	145	39	37%
<i>Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter</i>							
Total Beds	21	21	23	23	18	-5	-22%
Beds for AO HH	3	3	5	5	3	-2	-40%
Beds for AC HH	18	18	18	18	15	-3	-17%
<i>ES Beds by Availability</i>							
Year-Round Beds	204	230	211	180	235	55	31%
Overflow Beds	0	0	2	2	2	0	0%
Seasonal Beds	0	40	64	50	44	-6	-12%
Transitional Housing (TH)							
Total Beds	78	41	33	41	41	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	6	6	3	3	3	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	72	35	30	38	38	0	0%
Total Beds	282	311	310	273	322		

Table 4.0 – Sheltered Inventory (Five Year Comparison)

Positive Exits from Sheltered Projects

The PWA CoC’s HMIS data for sheltered projects reports that 74% of persons exiting these projects since the beginning of the fiscal year (7/1/2022) have gone to a positive housing destination. Positive housing destinations include any form of permanent housing and long-term stays with friends or family. This is consistent with the positive exit destination rate for the first half of FY2022 (73%).

HMIS data also shows that 74% of persons exited to positive destinations other than PSH or RRH (compared to 70% in 2022). Last year, Housing Choice and Emergency Housing Vouchers accounted for more than 50% of these exits. In 2023, that number has reduced to 7% as the Emergency Housing Voucher program came to a close in Spring of 2022. Overall, the highest percentage of positive exits are long-term stays with friends or family (37%) with the second highest being some form of rapid rehousing (26%).

Permanent Housing

The PWA CoC receives federal and state funding to operate multiple Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH) projects. The PWA CoC also collaborates with the Veteran’s Administration and the Office of Housing to identify eligible participants for their programs such as VASH and Housing Choice Vouchers. Additionally, the PWA CoC collaborates with several nonprofit and faith-based organizations that operate affordable housing programs within the community. There were 233 persons physically in housing the night of PIT compared to 277 persons in 2022 which represents a 16% decrease.

Table 4.1 below reports the total available permanent housing beds by year, project type, and household type as well as the change in beds and the percent change from the previous year.

Project Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change in Beds 2021 - 2022	Percent Change 2021 - 2022
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)							
Total Beds	0	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	0	9	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)							
Total Beds	39	46	41	41	41	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	30	36	36	37	37	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	9	10	5	4	4	0	0%
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)							
Total Beds	156	133	156	132	82	-50	-38%
Beds for AO HH	33	39	50	45	25	-20	-44%
Beds for AC HH	123	94	106	87	57	-30	-34%
<i>* Table excludes HUD/VASH program</i>							

Table 4.1 – Permanent Housing Inventory (Five Year comparison)

Other Permanent Housing

The PWA CoC operates two (2) “other” permanent housing projects that are privately funded. These projects offer 9 permanent housing beds to single individuals with or without a disability as well as supportive services. There were 8 persons in these project beds the night of the count which results in a utilization rate of 89% (compared to 100% in 2022).

Permanent Supportive Housing

The PWA CoC operates six (6) permanent supportive housing projects that receive funding from the HUD CoC Program. These projects offer 41 permanent housing beds to chronically homeless persons and their families as well as supportive services. There were 39 persons in these projects beds the night of the count which results in a utilization rate of 95% (compared to 100% in 2022).

The PWA CoC also operates the HUD/VASH program which offers 75 units to disabled veterans and their families as well as supportive services. There were 58 veteran households in housing the night of the count which results in a utilization rate of 77% (compared to 69% in 2022).

Table 4.2 below reports the HUD/VASH program counts for the current year.

HUD/VASH Program Counts	Total Units	Total Beds	Total Households	Total Persons	Total Adults	Total Children	Utilization
All Households	75	125	58	104	71	33	77%
AO Households	50	50	43	46	46	0	86%
AC Households	25	75	15	58	25	33	60%

Table 4.2 – HUD/VASH Program Counts (Current Year)

Rapid Rehousing

The PWA CoC operates seven (7) rapid rehousing projects that receive funding from various sources such as the HUD CoC & ESG programs and the state CHERP & VHSP programs. Inventory for rapid rehousing is calculated differently than other projects as there are typically not a set number of units and beds. In the table above (Table 4.1) the number of beds for rapid rehousing reflects the number of persons physically in housing the night of the count while the number of units reflects the number of households.

Utilization for this project type is calculated by reviewing the number of persons enrolled in the project versus the number of persons that are physically housed by the project. There was a 38% reduction in the number of persons physically in housing in rapid rehousing projects since the 2022 count. This reduction may be a result of several factors such as continued challenges in identifying affordable housing, securing and/or increasing household income, and the winding down of additional funding awarded during the pandemic.

5. Local Measurements

The PWA CoC collects certain data for local use in addition to data collection requirements set forth by the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). This data helps the PWA CoC better understand the experiences and needs of their homeless population.

Prior Year Participation

This measure collects information from all adults (18+) on whether or not they participated in the prior year's count. This information is important as it indicates the effectiveness of PWA CoC efforts to quickly move persons from homelessness to housing as well as concerns with rates of housing retention/recidivism.

Table 5.0 below reports the percentage of adults (18+) that participated in the prior year's count. There has been a 29% decrease in the number of adults reporting they participated in the prior year's count.

Table 5.1 below reports the number of adults (18+) that participated in the prior year's count by project type. It is important to note that even though there was an overall reduction of 29%, the number of adults reporting prior participation who were in emergency shelter the night of the count increased by more than 100%.

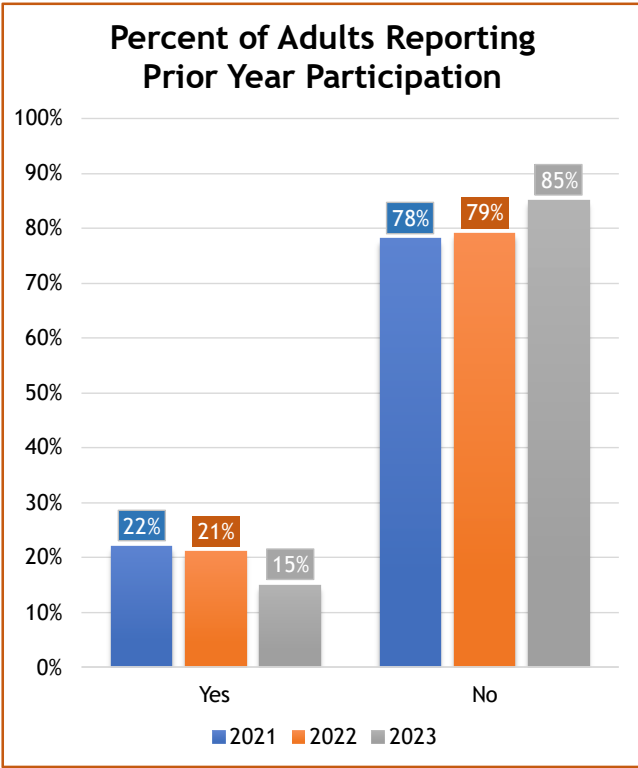


Table 5.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation (Three Year Comparison)

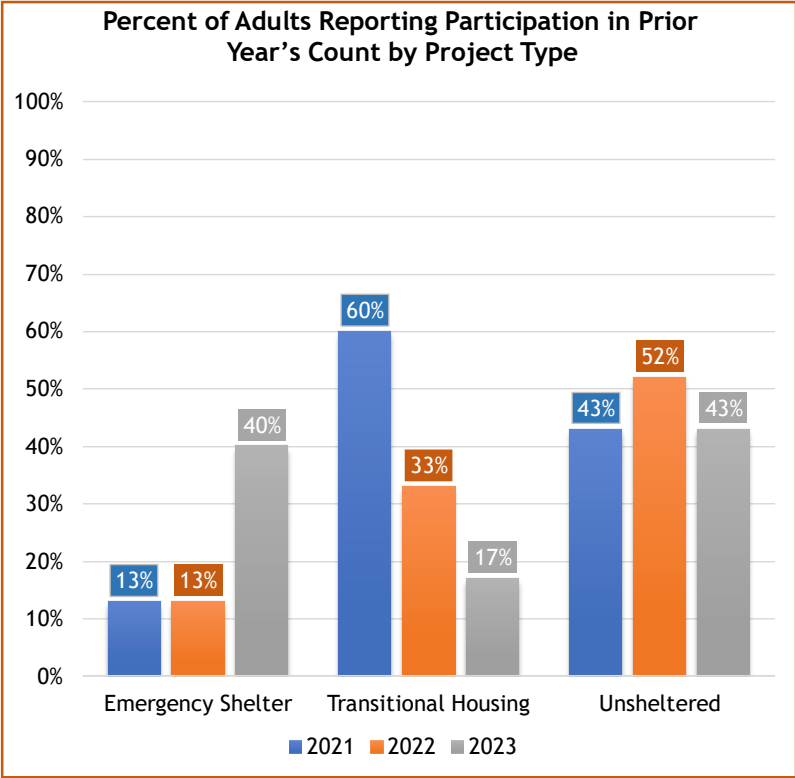


Table 5.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation by Project Type (Three Year Comparison)

Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness

Table 5.2 below reports the last permanent residence of adults (18+) where they lived for 90 or more consecutive days prior to their current episode of homelessness. Permanent housing is defined as any form of rental (including rooms) with or without subsidy, home ownership, or long-term stays with family or friends. Data suggests that 85% of adults surveyed in 2023 reported living in permanent housing within the PWA prior to becoming homeless which is a 12% increase from 2022. It is a common misconception that persons experiencing homelessness are largely transient, when, in reality, they are usually residents of the CoC from which they request services.

Table 5.3 below reports the last permanent residence by specific area. Most adults surveyed (73%) reported living in Prince William County prior to their current episode of homelessness. Manassas City represents 11% of this data and Manassas Park represents 1%.

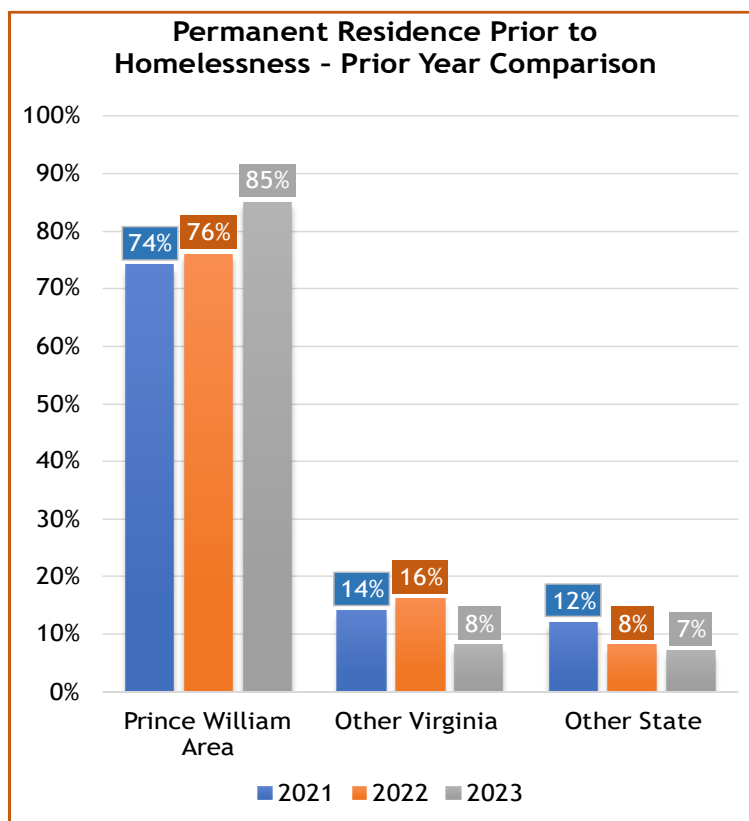


Table 5.2 – Percent of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness (Three Year Comparison)

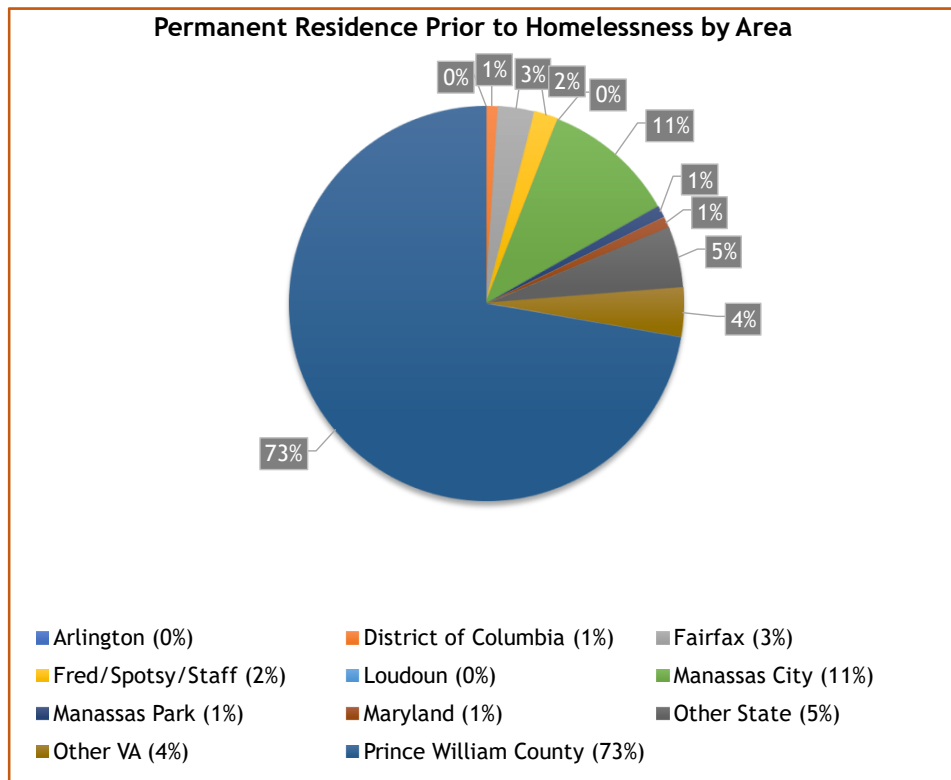


Table 5.3 – Count of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness by Area (Current Year)

Level of Housing Assistance Needed to Resolve Homelessness

This question was added to the 2022 PIT Survey with the intention of better understanding the level of housing assistance persons would need to resolve homelessness and regain independence. This data is reported for all adults (18+) surveyed.

The levels of housing assistance are defined as follows:

- One-Time Housing Assistance (deposit & 1st month’s rent)
- Short-Term Housing Assistance (up to 3 months of rental assistance)
- Medium-Term Housing Assistance (up to 6 months of rental assistance)
- Long-Term Housing Assistance (up to 18 months of rental assistance)
- Housing with Long-Term Subsidy (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (long-term subsidy & supportive services for disabled persons)

Table 5.4 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type. Data suggests persons would benefit most from some form of housing with long-term subsidy (28%) and benefit least from one-time rental assistance (6%) which is consistent with 2022 data. Response data to this question supports the notion that there is not a “one-size fits all” solution to resolving homelessness.

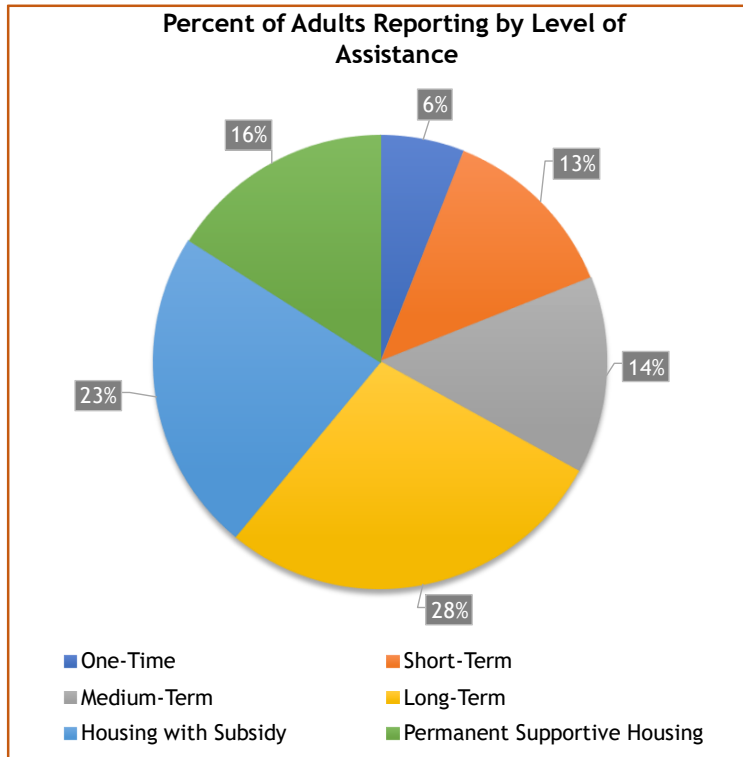


Table 5.4 – Percent of Households Reporting Level of Housing Assistance (Current Year)

Table 5.5 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type and project type. The data suggest responses vary greatly depending on the project type.

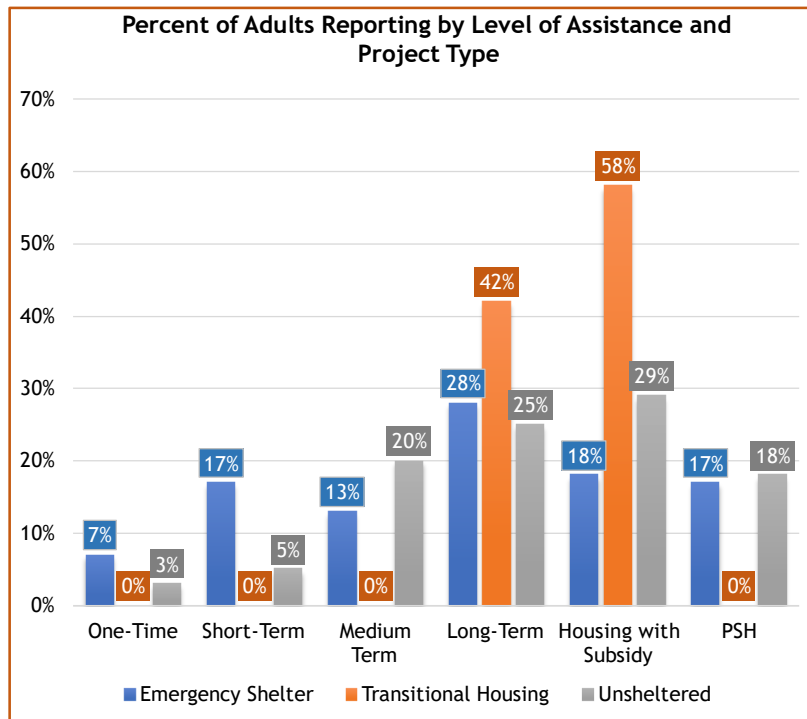


Table 5.5 – Percent of Households Reporting by Level of Assistance and Project Type (Current Year)