

2019 Point-in-Time Count

Of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in the District of Columbia



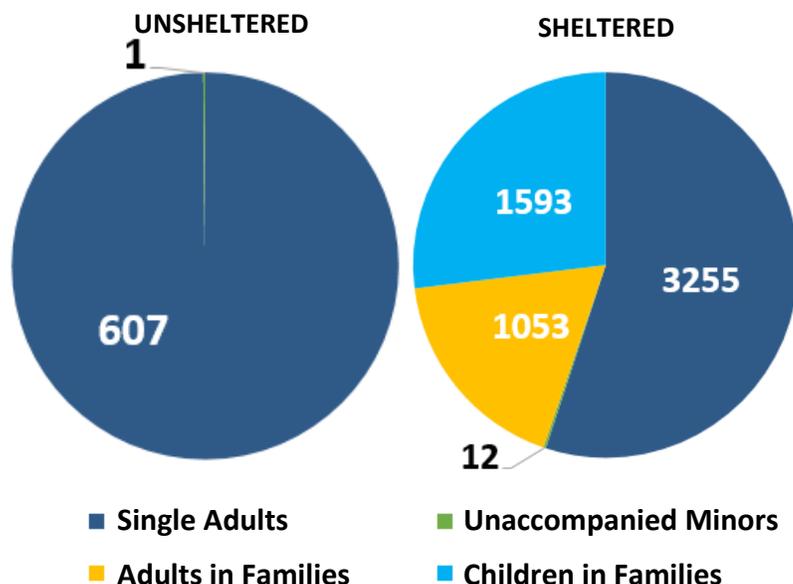
On January 23, 2019, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) conducted the District of Columbia’s annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count. PIT provides the community with information about the number of District residents who are experiencing homelessness on a given night. Information collected during PIT also informs the continuum of care on emerging service needs, helps identify any gaps in the current portfolio of services, and assists with future program planning in conjunction with *Homeward DC*, the local strategic plan to end homelessness.

At PIT, there were **6,521** persons experiencing homelessness in the District, including **608 persons who were unsheltered, 4,679 in emergency shelters, and 1,234 in a transitional housing programs**. The total number of people experiencing homelessness **decreased by 5.5 percent** since the 2018 PIT count. The primary driver of the decrease has been a significant reduction in the number of families experiencing homelessness.

Population Totals and Percent Changes, 2018-2019

Household Type	2019	2018	% Change
Total Persons	6,521	6,904	-5.5%
Singles	3,875	3,770	+2.8%
<i>Single Adults</i>	3,862	3,761	+2.7%
<i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	13	9	+44.4%
Families	815	924	-11.8%
Family Members	2,646	3,134	-15.6%
<i>Adults in Families</i>	1,053	1,210	-13.0%
<i>Children in Families</i>	1,593	1,924	-17.2%

Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations, by Household Type



FAMILIES

The number of families experiencing homelessness in the District has decreased by 12% since PIT 2018 and by 45% since 2016. In 2018, the District realized a major milestone in changing its approach to services for families with the closure of DC General and the opening of three Short Term Family Housing (STFH) sites. District resources also prevented shelter stays for 1000 families between PIT 2018 and 2019.

SINGLE ADULTS

Though more than 100 unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness exit the system for housing resources each month, the PIT count of single adults increased by 2.8% from 2018. The CoC’s data shows that the number of individuals who enter the system for the first time has increased by 24% since 2015. While the system’s housing resources are successful in helping participants retain their housing long term, inflow into the system has kept counts higher than expected.

YOUTH

The count of single, transition age youth (ages 18-24) decreased by 16.5% since PIT 2018. This decrease was expected as the CoC saw large increases in this population in the 2018 counts when new, youth-focused resources began operating. Prior to the establishment of these programs, youth often remained “hidden” in counts like PIT as they were staying in other, sometimes dangerous situations rather than entering shelter. Since the 2018 count, the CoC established a Youth Advisory Board, which ensures youth who have experienced homelessness have a role in planning services for this population.

VETERANS

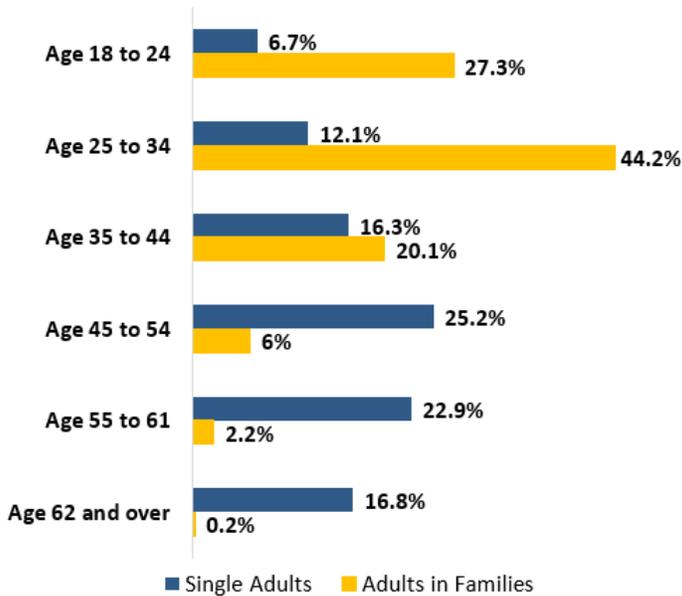
The District’s count of veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased by 27% over the last five years, which highlights all of the work the CoC has done to end veterans’ homelessness in the District. However, the year-to-year decrease is just 2.9% despite connecting more than 300 veterans with housing between the 2018 and 2019 PIT Counts. Some 98% of the veterans experiencing homelessness in the District are single adults, and inflow among veterans is similar to the trend among single adults in general noted above.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics of persons experiencing homelessness in the District are consistent with past years, with notable differences between family and unaccompanied (single adult) households. **Adults in families are most likely to be female, while single adults are more often male. The median age of adults in families at 28 years skews much younger than single adults who have a median age of 51 years old.**

PIT data shows that persons who are Black or African American are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness in the District. **Some 87.0 percent of adults experiencing homeless are Black or African American,** compared to 47.1 percent of District residents on the whole.

Age Groups, by Household Type

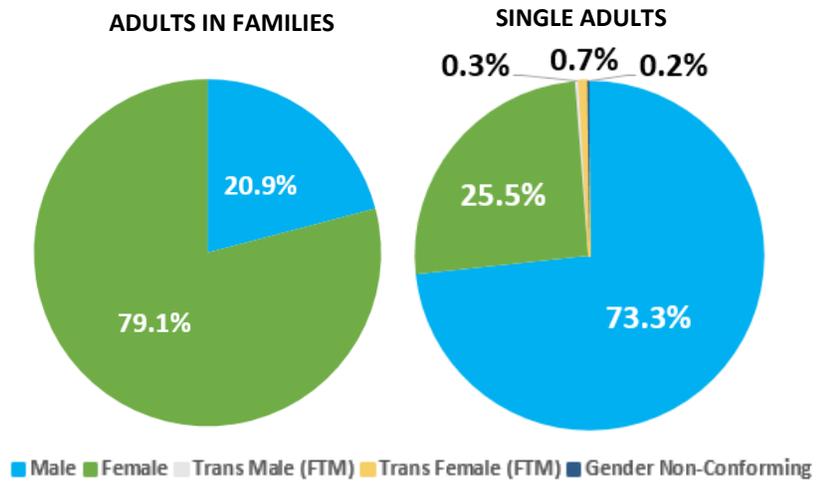


Primary Source of Income, by Household Type

Linking single adults and families experiencing homelessness to income can open up access to permanent housing options and help move them to stability. Just over half (55.9%) of single adults and 83.2% of adults in families report receiving income of some kind. The table below shows responses for primary income source among those who reported that they receive income.

Primary Source of Income	Single Adults	Adults in Families	All Adults
Employment	28.5%	35.2%	30.4%
Soc. Sec./Retirement	2.0%	0.0%	1.4%
SSI/SSDI/Disability	34.4%	10.6%	27.5%
TANF/Public Assistance	33.5%	47.9%	37.7%
Other	1.6%	6.3%	2.9%

Gender, by Household Type



Disabling Conditions and Subpopulation Affiliation

The rates at which unaccompanied individuals and adults in families report living with disabilities or affiliation with the various subpopulations has historically differed between single adults and adults in families. The characteristics and service needs reported are typically consistent from year to year, with disabling conditions and subpopulation affiliation being more prevalent (in most categories) among single adults. While this was still true in 2019, the rates at which adults in families reported disabling conditions was higher than what the CoC saw in 2018, and rates reported among single adults in 2019 were lower than in 2018. For more information on the differences between single men and single women counted at PIT, please see additional PIT information posted at www.community-partnership.org/facts-and-figures.

Category	Single Adults	Adults in Families	All Adults
Chronic Substance Abuse (CSA)	21.9%	3.3%	17.9%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	30.8%	19.0%	28.2%
Chronic Health Problem	21.1%	6.5%	17.9%
Developmental Disability	4.0%	2.3%	3.6%
Physical Disability	16.3%	5.8%	14.1%
Living with HIV/AIDS	3.0%	1.1%	2.6%
Domestic Violence History	20.7%	32.3%	23.2%
Formerly Institutionalized	41.0%	10.6%	34.5%
Formerly in Foster Care	9.4%	9.7%	9.5%
U.S. Military Veteran	7.6%	0.5%	6.0%
Speaks a Language Other than English	4.0%	5.7%	4.4%
Chronically Homeless*	44.1%	13.2%	37.4%

*Persons living with a disabling condition, who have experienced homelessness continuously for a year or more OR who have had four episodes of three years.

The 2019 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: Dora Taylor-Lowe, Department of Human Services (DHS): dora.taylor-low@dc.gov

