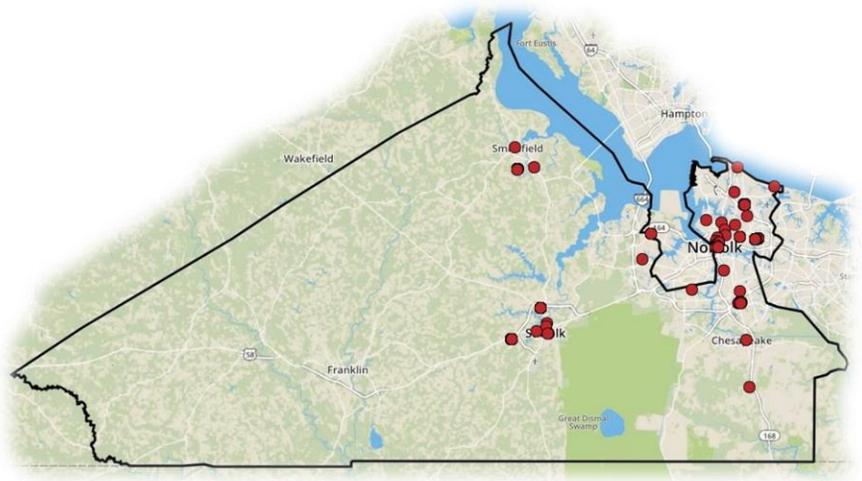




2018 Point in Time Count

Introduction

The Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) conducted a Point in Time Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on January 23-24, 2018. This effort fulfilled the requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and helps the community have a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness. At the same time, an inventory of housing programs was also compiled (Housing Inventory Count); together, these resources help the community plan for future needs and develop resources strategically.



Screenshot of interactive map from the Counting Us mobile app data store showing location of SVHC surveys in real time.

The 24-hour Count covered the 6 jurisdictions that comprise the SVHC: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight County, Southampton County, and Suffolk.

Methodology

Sheltered persons in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing programs were counted in one of two ways:

1. The *Hampton Roads Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)*, the database that serves as the repository for client level data, or
2. The *Counting Us Point in Time Count* mobile app developed by Simtech Solutions, Inc.

Examples of programs that used the app include winter shelters, domestic violence service providers, and faith-based providers. Reporting tools were provided by both HMIS and Simtech Solutions, Inc.

Unsheltered persons were counted exclusively via the mobile app, while representatives from Continuum of Care (CoC) partner agencies, experienced outreach workers, and teams of volunteers interviewed all persons encountered in a place not meant for human habitation in the early morning hours of January 24th.

Observation surveys were used for persons who would not engage or were sleeping; these observation surveys were accepted from team leads only and analyzed with discretion. Use of the mobile app was executed across the Hampton Roads region, including the SVHC, the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC), and BEACH Community Partnership (the Virginia Beach CoC).

Most persons who agreed to respond to the survey were asked for their first and last name or initials and date of birth in order to develop a unique client identifier to reduce the possibility of duplicate counts; the exception to this process was persons surveyed by domestic violence providers.



The survey also included questions to identify veterans (based on self-report), parenting and unaccompanied youth, and chronically homeless individuals and families. Parenting and unaccompanied youth households include those 24 years of age and younger who are parents of children under the age of 18, or are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. People are considered chronically homeless if they are a single adult or an adult within a family, have a disability, and have been homeless for more than one year, or at least four times in the last three years, where those four times add up to at least 12 months. To that end, respondents were asked if they have a mental or physical disability, or have a substance abuse problem that impairs their ability to hold a job or live independently. Finally, the survey gathered responses regarding persons currently fleeing domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. **All subpopulations are identified via self-report; no documentation is available for the Point in Time Count survey.**

Definitions

In accordance with the *2014 Point in Time Count Methodology Guide* released by HUD, the SVHC used the following definition of homelessness during the Count:

Sheltered- should include all individuals or families who meet the criteria described in paragraph (1) (ii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule. This includes individuals and families *“living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).”*

Unsheltered- should include all individuals or families who meet the criteria described in paragraph (1) (i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule. This includes individuals and families *“with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or*

ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”

2018 Results

Overall, **773** persons were identified as experiencing homelessness in the SVHC during the Count. This compares to a combined 703 persons counted in January 2017 (10% increase). In reviewing the results of the Count, it’s important to remember the following important influences:

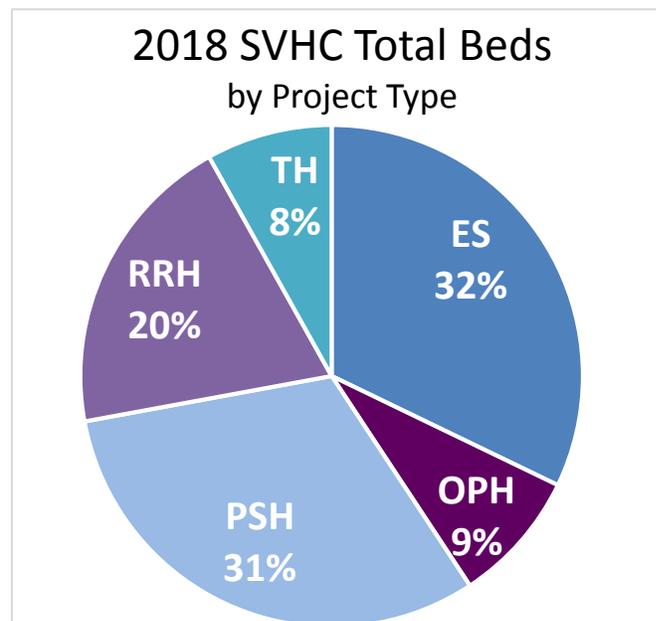
Snapshot: The Point in Time Count is an unduplicated count of persons who are experiencing homelessness, whether sheltered or unsheltered, during a specific 24 hour period, once a year. The Point in Time Count simply provides a “snapshot” of what the level of need is on a certain day. Not everyone in need that day is found, and those who are at risk of homelessness are not counted.

Results of the Count do not demonstrate the total need in the community, but do show how the need compares to previous years and the level of representation within each subpopulation. This comparison helps the community assess the levels of various services currently provided as compared to the actual need. The data is also a tool for planning and resource development. *Additional data, such as the System Performance Measures, give a fuller picture of the scope of the need and services being provided.*

Change in Capacity:

Change in Emergency Shelter Capacity & Utilization:

- In the past year, the Union Mission opened a 34-bed shelter program for women and children.
- Another indicator is the number of shelters operating at or above their total capacity. While there were 3 shelters in this category during the 2017 Count, *in 2018, 8 emergency shelter programs were operating at 100% capacity or greater.*
- Finally, the CoC has increased coverage and participation in HMIS of various shelter programs, improving data quality and identification of persons within the SVHC.



Project Type	Average Utilization Rate
Emergency Shelter (ES)	86%
Transitional Housing (TH)	56%
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	100%
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	88%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	95%

The SVHC continues to increase awareness of homelessness and the Point in Time Count through partnering with other systems of care. In 2018, the CoC was successful in recruiting the participation of a local police department in one jurisdiction of the SVHC, the City of Chesapeake, which helped identify

known locations where persons were sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation. The increased coverage resulted in an increase of 5 persons identified in the City (from 15 persons in 2017 to 20 persons in 2018). 2018 also marked the fourth year that the Point in Time Count coincided with the City of Norfolk’s Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Holding the Count during this popular, well-attended event increases coverage for the unsheltered population. Aligning the survey used at intake with the mobile app survey provides needed data points for determining subpopulations.

Coordinated Assessment—The SVHC has implemented and improved the coordinated entry process for the CoC. With the adoption of the standardized assessment tool (the VI-SPDAT), the operation of the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline, and the improvement of the Service Coordination Committees (SCCs) for Singles and for Families, the CoC has streamlined the path to housing for persons and families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.

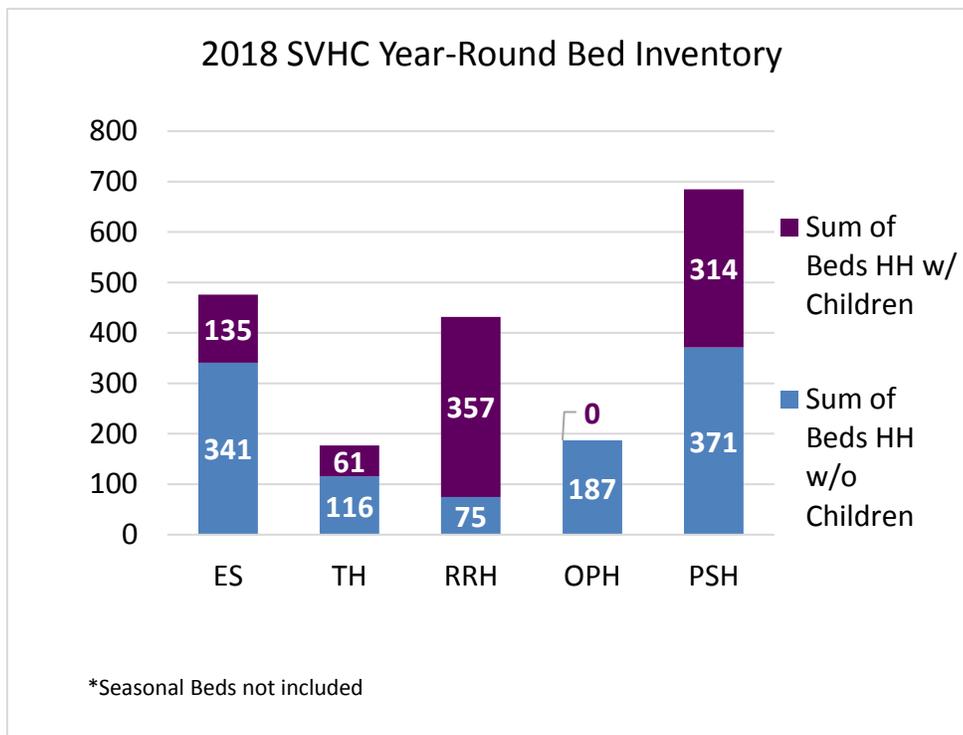
Coordinated Assessment

**115 single adults
& 119 households with children**
have been housed through the
process in a recent year.

SVHC Housing Registry (03/01/17-03/01/18)



According to a recent analysis of Coordinated Assessment Data, the SCCs reported 115 single adults and 119 households with children who had been housed through the coordinated entry process within a year. During that same time, 175 single adults were identified on waitlists for Permanent Supportive Housing or Transitional Housing, and an additional 57 single adults were awaiting referrals to housing programs. There were 12 households with children waiting for a referral to a housing program. This data highlights the high demand for affordable housing and increased housing resources in the CoC.



With a focus on housing the most vulnerable, the CoC is striving to decrease the length of time a household experiences homelessness. Further, by providing prevention services and diversion assessments, the SVHC aims to decrease the incidence of homelessness. The SVHC has also prioritized funding to align with federal goals. All of these efforts contribute to making the vision that *homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring a reality.*

The following tables provide the 2018 Point in Time Count Results, both regionally and by jurisdiction.

POINT IN TIME COUNT	2017 Results SVHC	2018 Results SVHC	Change: SVHC 17-18	2018 Results Norfolk	2018 Results Chesapeake	2018 Results Western Tidewater
Total Number of Persons	703	773		617	96	60
<i>2017 Total Number of Persons</i>	--	703		572	74	57
Number Sheltered	634	693		564	76	53
Number Unsheltered	69	80		53	20	7
Number of Adults	619	637		536	61	40
Number of Children	84	136		81	35	20
Number of Families*	41	66		41	16	9
Number of Persons in Families*	131	211		128	53	30
Number of Unsheltered Families	0	0		0	0	0
Number of Unsheltered Children	0	0		0	0	0
Number of Adult Only Households	571	559		489	40	30
Number of Persons in Adult Only Households	572	562		489	43	30
Number of Unsheltered Persons in Adult Only Households	69	80		53	20	7
Total Number of Persons in Households with only Children	0	0		0	0	0

*Total number of families and total number of persons in families include both sheltered and unsheltered households with at least one adult and one child.

POINT IN TIME COUNT	2017 Results SVHC	2018 Results SVHC	Change: SVHC 17-18	2018 Results Norfolk	2018 Results Chesapeake	2018 Results Western Tidewater
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals	79	75		64	6	5
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Families	1	4		1	3	0
Total Number of Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	3	15		4	11	0
Total Number of Veterans	86	77		63	10	4
Total Number of Female Veterans	2	5		3	2	0
Total Number of Parenting Youth	7	19		11	5	3
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth	38	26		23	0	3
Total Number of Adults Fleeing Domestic Violence	89	51		38	2	11
Total Number of Adults with a Substance Abuse Problem	29	24		21	2	1
Total Number of Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	51	69		59	3	7
Total Number of HIV-positive Adults	18	9		9	0	0

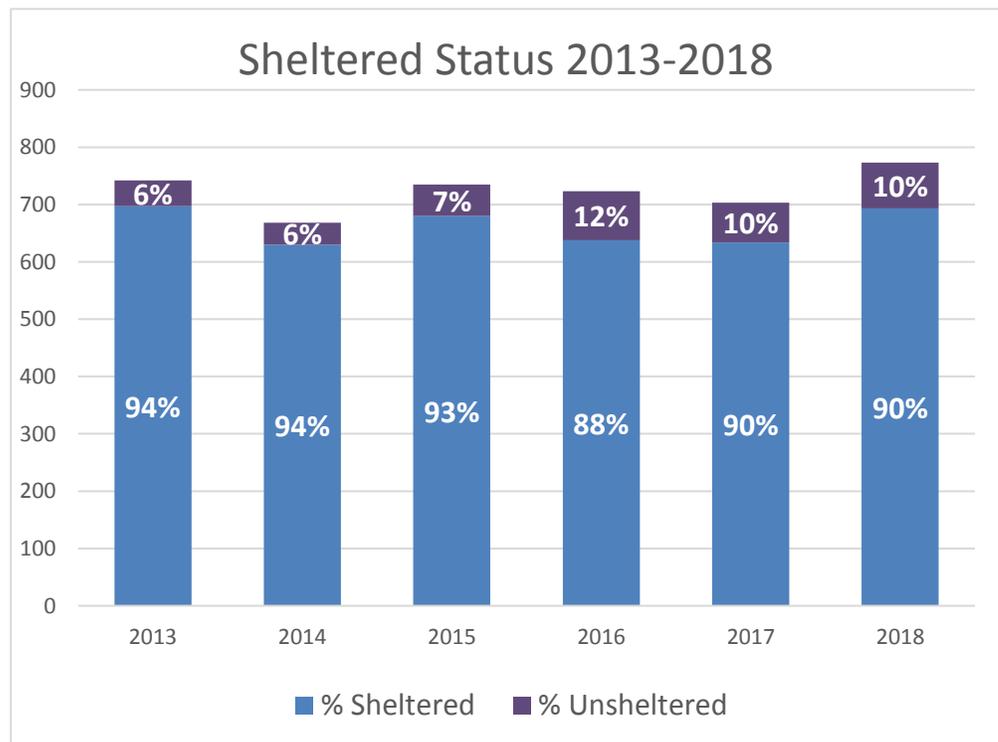
A description of the annual Point in Time Count trends from 2013-2018 follows in the next section.

Trends

The following charts show the annual trends across the region for various reporting categories. Since 2013, the total number of persons identified during the Count has increased by 4%. Each year, the number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness has fluctuated; between 2013-2018—on average—the SVHC has counted about 724 persons.

For the third consecutive year, the sheltered count data was retrieved from the *Hampton Roads HMIS* and the secure mobile app data store. Both the HMIS software provider, Mediware Information Systems, Inc., and the developers of the *Counting Us* mobile app, Simtech Solutions, Inc., provided report tools to enable completion of the HUD report requirements.

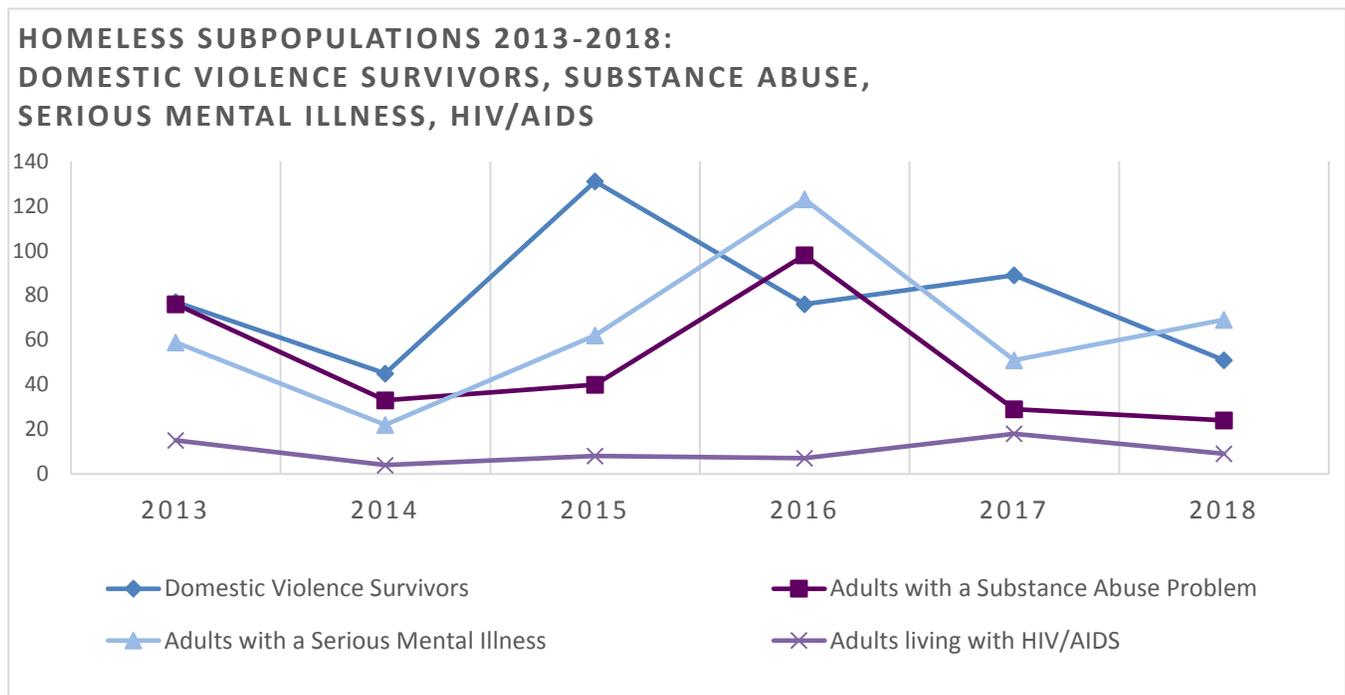
The chart to the right illustrates the percentages of unsheltered and sheltered persons identified during the Count; while the majority of persons counted in the SVHC are sheltered, the unsheltered population is trending slightly higher over the past 6 years.



Of the 773 persons identified during the 2018 SVHC Point in Time Count, 55% of those were surveyed using the sheltered and unsheltered surveys via the *Counting Us* mobile app, 42% were identified via HMIS, and 3% were observations. The SVHC has greatly increased HMIS coverage over the past year, particularly among Emergency Shelter programs. When comparing available identifiers year to year, **there were 78 persons who appear to have been identified during both the 2017 and 2018 Counts**; of those, 84% were in the same situation both years (either sheltered or unsheltered), 8% moved in a positive direction (i.e., unsheltered to sheltered, or Emergency Shelter to Transitional Housing), and 9% moved in a negative direction (i.e., from sheltered to unsheltered).

Subpopulation Trends

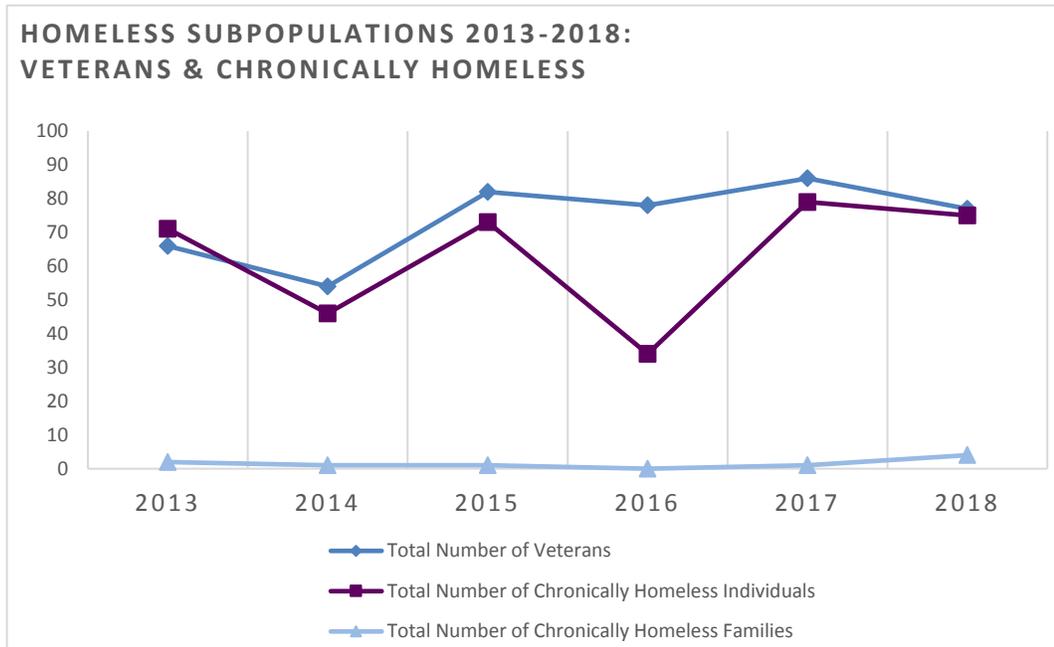
Subpopulation data is provided by the self-report of persons interviewed, and may therefore be under or over representative of the populations. Additionally, trend data across the years is difficult to compare for some of these populations due to changes in the Count survey and methodology. For example, in 2015 the survey question regarding domestic violence was changed in such a way that increased the response rate. The question was reverted to the original phrasing in subsequent years, and then changed again in 2018, to reflect only those adults currently fleeing a domestic violence situation. Additionally, over the past few years, HUD has released final definitions and HMIS data standards updates that also impacted how data is collected.



The 2018 Point in Time Count data shows an increase in the number of individuals living with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Adults living with Substance Abuse (SA) issues was about the same as the previous year, although SA issues are often under-reported. Alternatively, there was a decrease in the number of persons who identified as having HIV or AIDS; of the 9 persons, 8 were staying at an Emergency Shelter, and 1 was unsheltered the night of the Count. The CoC is serving these populations through the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grant managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Shelter Plus Care program (both administered by the Norfolk Community Services Board); programs and services provided by LGBT Life Center; and other Permanent Housing providers such as Virginia Supportive Housing, ForKids, inc., and the Hampton VA Medical Center.

The SVHC realized a decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals and veterans identified between 2017 and 2018 (chart on the next page). In the years prior, the number of persons who identified

as veterans during the Count has generally been trending up. This year, about one-third of self-identified veterans were staying at the Union Mission; an additional third were in seasonal shelter; and, about 10% were unsheltered. It is important to remember this data is based on self-report for the Count. The SVHC is robustly tracking and serving veterans through the Service Coordination Committees and the regional effort to end veteran homelessness.



Looking at the six year trend, the number of persons identified through the Count as experiencing chronic homelessness has fluctuated; over the years, the number has been impacted by inclement weather (2014), definition changes (2016), and data quality challenges

(ongoing). HUD’s final rule on Chronic Homelessness went into effect January 4, 2016, leaving little time to update data before that year’s Count: since then, providers have worked to improve data quality to comply with the new rule. Improved data quality from both the Union Mission and the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) also contributed to the changes, with **86% of those reporting experiencing chronic homelessness identified in a shelter on the night of the 2018 Count.**

Better data and tracking of this population is achieved by the Service Coordination Committees and Permanent Supportive Housing providers. **48% of chronically homeless persons identified during the 2018 Count were also listed on the SCC housing registries and working on plans to obtain permanent housing.**

Conclusion

The Point in Time Count provides a snapshot of the size and characteristics of the homeless population across the SVHC on a single night in January. The data collected is one tool the CoC uses to make data-driven decisions. The SVHC has worked to strategically target federal and state funding to proven housing solutions like Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. The implementation of best practices like Housing First and Coordinated Entry are also having an impact both on the homeless response system, and the experience of the population accessing that system.

Special thanks to all of the community partners who worked diligently to collect the information provided in this report. For more data and additional information about the CoC, please visit www.svhcva.org.