2019 Point in Time Count

Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition
Homelessness will be Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring

What is the Point In Time Count?

The Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) conducted a Point in Time Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on January 22-23, 2019. This 24-hour Count provides a "snapshot" of what the level of need is on a certain day. Overall, ***700*** persons were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2019, which is a 9% decrease from the 2018 Count of 773 persons. The Count covered the 6 jurisdictions that comprise the SVHC: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight County, Southampton County, and Suffolk. The data dashboard below is followed by a complete report on the following pages.

## *2019 Highlights*

Where people were staying

- Emergency Shelter — 78%
- Transitional Housing — 10%
- Unsheltered — 12%

Gender

Male	66%
Female	34%
Other	0.5%

Race & Ethnicity

Black/African American	73%
White	22%
Asian/American Indian/ Multi-race	5%
Hispanic (any race)	4%

Age

Children under 18 in families	19%
Youth/young adults 18-24	7%
Adults over 24	74%

Household Type

Single Adults	70%
Persons In families	30%

Subpopulation

9% Veterans

11% Chronically homeless

9% Adult survivors of domestic violence
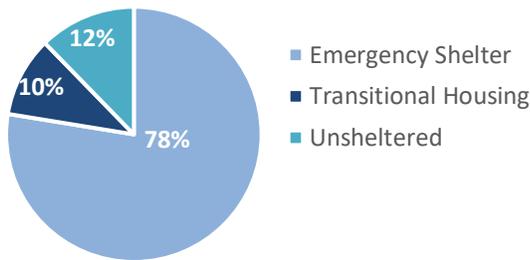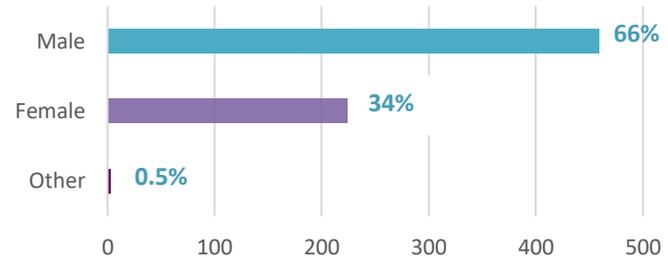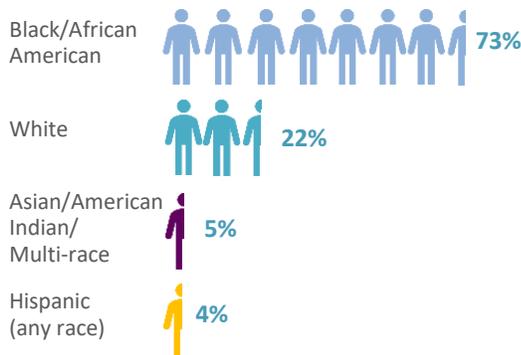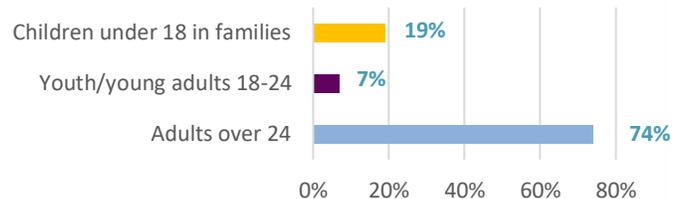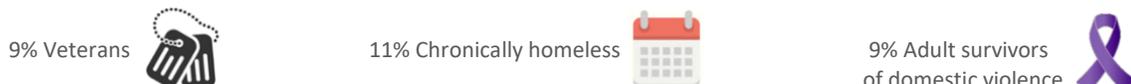
The following tables provide the full 2019 Point in Time Count Results.

POINT IN TIME COUNT	2018 Results SVHC	2019 Results SVHC	Change: SVHC 18-19	2019 Results Norfolk	2019 Results Chesapeake	2019 Results Western Tidewater
Total Number of Persons	773	700	↓	538	99	63
2018 Total Number of Persons	773	--	--	617	96	60
Number Sheltered	693	614	↓	472	79	63
Number Unsheltered	80	86	↑	66	20	0
Number of Adults	637	569	↓	453	76	40
Number of Children	136	131	↓	85	23	23
Number of Families*	66	66	=	42	10	14
Number of Persons in Families*	211	207	↓	132	33	42
Number of Unsheltered Families	0	1	↑	1	0	0
Number of Unsheltered Children	0	1	↑	1	0	0
Number of Adult Only Households	559	491	↓	406	65	20
Number of Persons in Adult Only Households	562	493	↓	406	66	21
Number of Unsheltered Persons in Adult Only Households	80	84	↑	64	20	0
Total Number of Persons in Households with only Children	0	0	=	0	0	0

*Number of families and persons in families includes sheltered and unsheltered households with at least one adult and one child.

POINT IN TIME COUNT	2018 Results SVHC	2019 Results SVHC	Change: SVHC 18-19	2019 Results Norfolk	2019 Results Chesapeake	2019 Results Western Tidewater
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals	75	77	⬆	60	15	2
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Families	4	0	⬇	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	15	0	⬇	0	0	0
Total Number of Veterans	77	66	⬇	56	7	3
Total Number of Female Veterans	5	3	⬇	2	1	0
Total Number of Parenting Youth	19	11	⬇	6	2	3
Total Number of Unaccompanied Youth	26	31	⬆	22	4	5
Total Number of Adults Fleeing Domestic Violence	51	64	⬆	49	3	12
Total Number of Adults with a Substance Abuse Problem	24	26	⬆	25	1	0
Total Number of Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	69	71	⬆	62	7	2
Total Number of Adults Living with HIV/AIDS	9	9	=	9	0	0

What Does the Point in Time Count Tell Us About Homelessness?

Snapshot: The Point in Time Count is an unduplicated count of persons experiencing homelessness, whether sheltered or unsheltered, during a specific 24-hour period, once a year. The Count provides a "snapshot" of homelessness on that day. It is important to note that not everyone in need that day is found, and those who are at-risk of homelessness are not counted.   This effort 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.

Results of the Count do not demonstrate the total need in the community, but they 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.

2019 SVHC Total Beds by Project Type

- Emergency Shelter
- Other Permanent Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Rehousing
- Transitional Housing
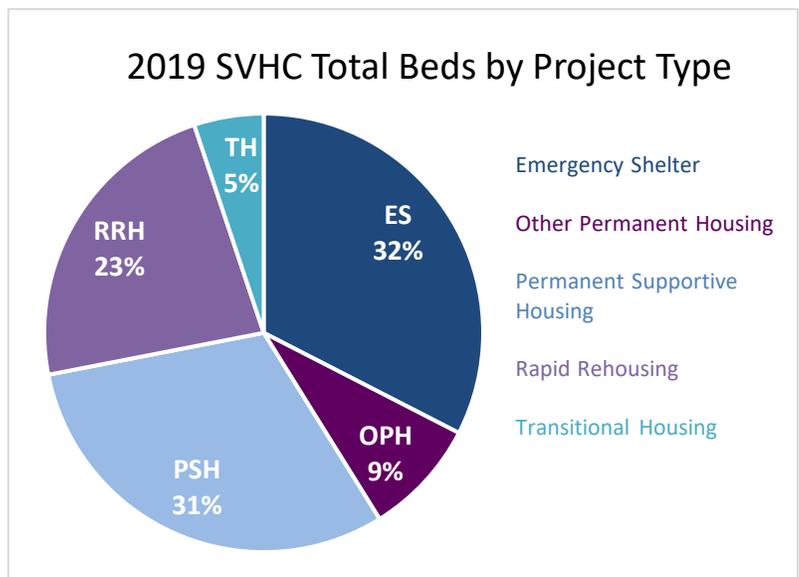
Change in Capacity:

Change in Emergency Shelter Capacity & Utilization:
- Another indicator is the number of shelters operating at or above their total capacity. *In 2019, 5 emergency shelter programs were operating at 100% capacity or greater*.

- Further, 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)	79%
Transitional Housing (TH)	59%
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	100%
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	94%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	93%

The SVHC continues to increase awareness of homelessness and the Point in Time Count through partnering with other systems of care. 2019 also marked the fifth 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*
>
> **222 single adults**
> **& 296 households with children**
> **have been housed through the**
> **process in a recent year.**
> SVHC Housing Registry (04/01/18-03/31/19)

According to a recent analysis of Coordinated Assessment Data, the SCCs identified a total of 677 single adults and 339 households with children for case conferencing in need of referrals to housing programs within a year. Of those, *222 single adults and 296 households with children were housed through the coordinated entry process.* This data highlights the high demand for affordable housing and increased housing resources in the CoC.

2019 SVHC Year-Round Bed Inventory

Category	Sum of Beds HH w/o Children	Sum of Beds HH w/ Children
ES	345	154
TH	62	49
RRH	91	405
OPH	186	0
PSH	414	252
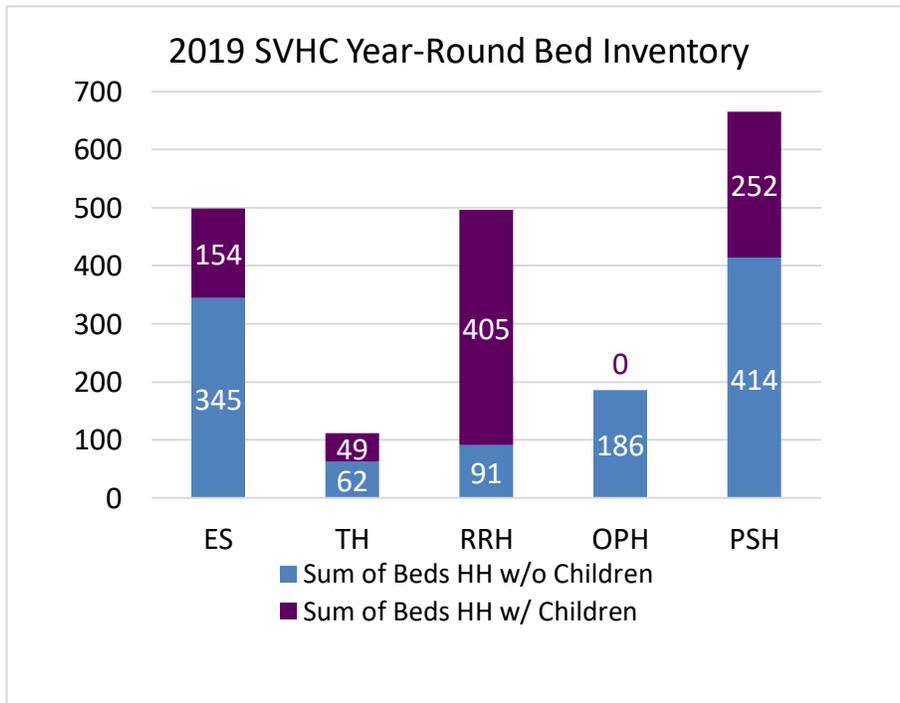
With a focus on housing the most vulnerable, the CoC is striving to decrease the length of time a household experiences homelessness. Further, by providing prevention services and diversion assessments, the SVHC aims to decrease the incidence of homelessness. The SVHC has also prioritized funding to align with federal goals. All of these efforts contribute to making the vision that *homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring* a reality.

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 decreased by 6%. Each year, the number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness has fluctuated; between 2013-2019—on average—the SVHC has counted about 720 persons.

For the fourth 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 7 years.

Sheltered Status 2013-2019

Year	% Sheltered	% Unsheltered
2013	94%	6%
2014	94%	6%
2015	93%	7%
2016	88%	12%
2017	90%	10%
2018	90%	10%
2019	88%	12%

■ % Sheltered ■ % Unsheltered

Of the 700 persons identified during the 2019 SVHC Point in Time Count, 57% of those were surveyed using the sheltered and unsheltered surveys via the *Counting Us* mobile app, 41% were identified via HMIS, and 2% were observations.

Subpopulation Trends

Subpopulation data is provided by the self-report of persons interviewed, and they 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.


HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS 2013-2019:
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE,
SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS, HIV/AIDS
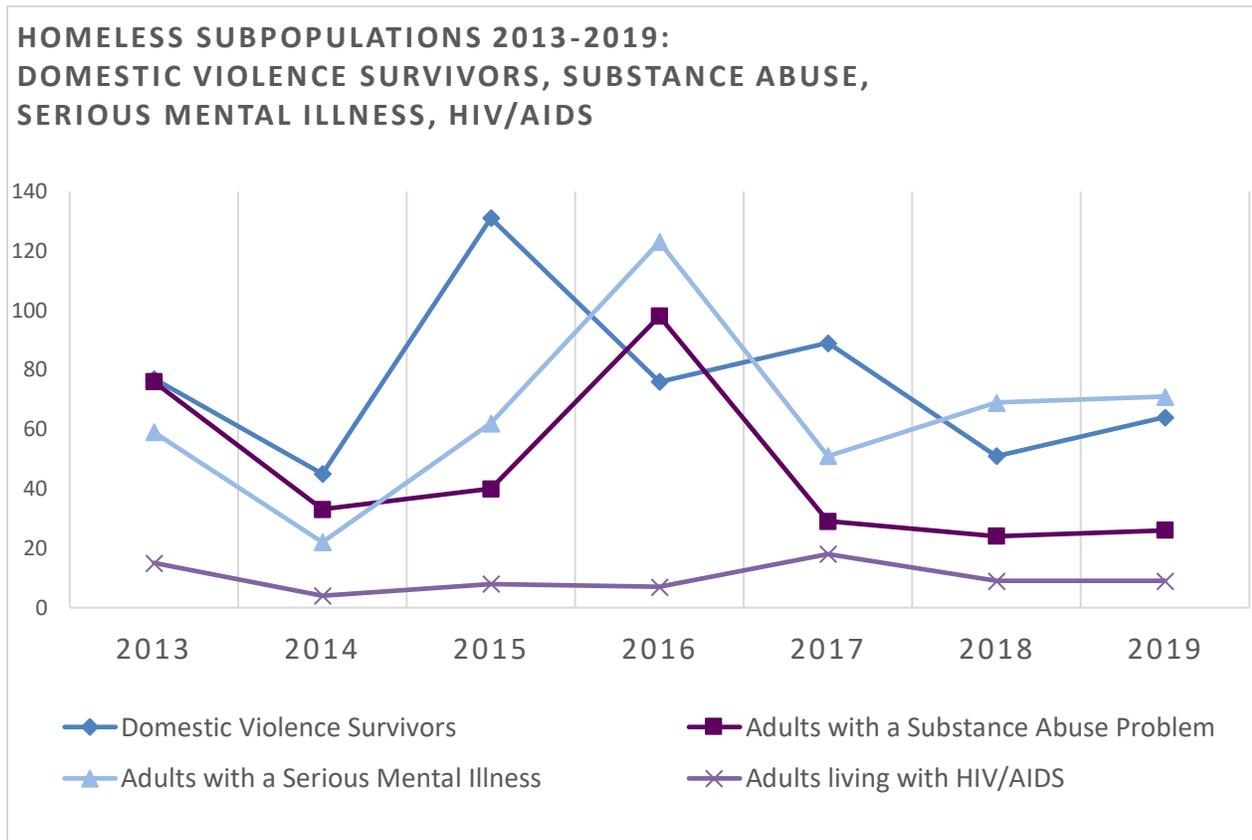
The 2019 Point in Time Count data shows an increase in the number of individuals living with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Adults living with Substance Abuse (SA) issues was about the same as the previous year, although SA issues are often under-reported. The number of persons who identified as having HIV or AIDS was the same as the prior year; of the 9 persons, 6 were staying at an Emergency Shelter, and 3 were 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.

Between 2018 and 2019, the SVHC realized a 3% increase in the number of chronically homeless individuals; the number of veterans identified decreased by 14% (chart on the next page). In the years prior, the number of persons who identified as veterans during the Count had generally been trending up; the efforts of the Service Coordination committee to track and house veterans seems to be reversing this trend. This year, about 86% of self-identified veterans were staying in an emergency shelter; and about 14% were unsheltered. It is important to remember this data is based on self-report for the Count.

HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS 2013-2019: VETERANS & CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
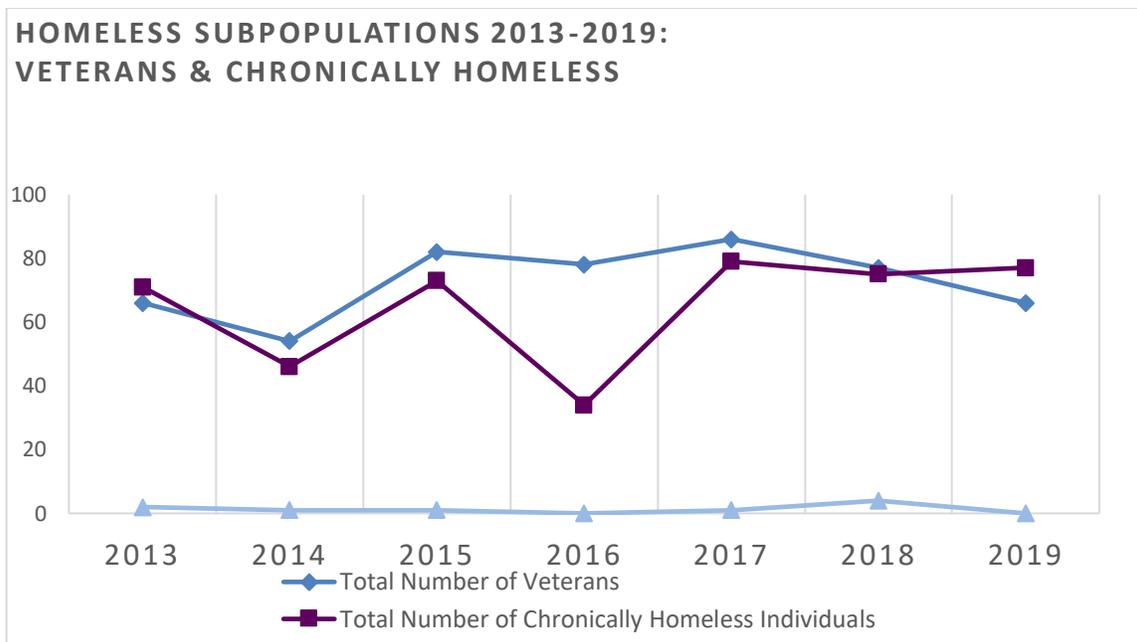
Looking at the seven year trend, the number of persons identified through the Count as experiencing chronic homelessness fluctuated quite a bit before leveling off more recently; over the years, the number has been impacted by inclement weather (2014), definition changes (2016), and data quality challenges (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 **78% of those reporting experiencing chronic homelessness identified in a shelter on the night of the 2019 Count.**

Better data and tracking of this population is achieved by the Service Coordination Committees and Permanent Supportive Housing providers. *41% of chronically homeless persons identified during the 2019 Count were also listed on the SCC housing registries; of those, 42% have since been housed, and the remainder are working on plans to obtain permanent housing.*

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 23rd. Observation surveys were used for persons who
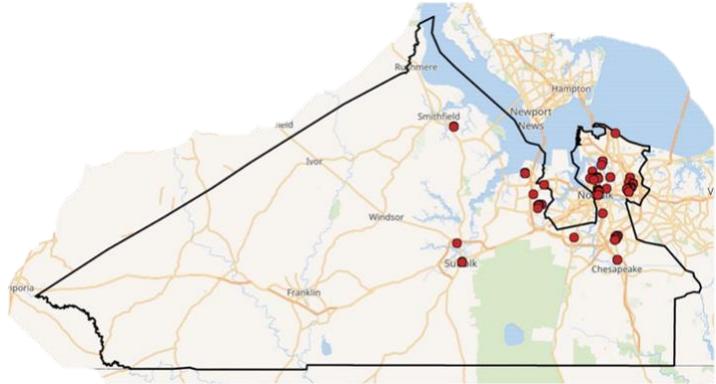
Screenshot of interactive map from the Counting Us mobile app data store showing location of SVHC surveys in real time.

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 Ro ads region, including the SVHC, the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC), and BEACH Community Partnership (Virginia Beach).

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."*

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 and volunteers 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.