MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELESS SERVICES

THE JOURNEY
HOME

2023
BALTIMORE CITY
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated assessment that provides a snapshot of homelessness in a community on a single night in January. The Baltimore City PIT Count was conducted on the nights of January 22 and January 23, 2023. Because of the transient nature of people experiencing homelessness, the count is conducted on two nights, however, the data is deduplicated to ensure that each respondent is accounted for only once.

For the count, the City assessed both sheltered persons staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing and unsheltered persons living on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation, such as encampments and vehicles. Baltimore's unsheltered count relies on mobilizing dozens of trained staff and volunteers for data collection.

The PIT Count is HUD's sole measure to count people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, however, it should not be considered a comprehensive view of homelessness.

The data collected in the PIT Count is included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, which gauges the effectiveness of HUD's programs and informs policy decisions. Locally, the Continuum of Care (CoC) uses the data to address our local programs and policies, in addition to identifying the gaps in our current homeless response system.

This report presents the findings of the Baltimore City PIT Count and sheds light on some of the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness. Baltimore City received notification from HUD in August 2023 that the quality reviews for this data are complete.

Photos captured during the 2023 PIT Count (Top to Bottom):
- Trained staff and volunteers sign in to receive team assignments
- Anthony Williams, Vice Chair of the CoC, speaks during the PIT Count press event
- Volunteers receive training before canvassing the city
- Deputy Secretary Donald Remy of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs joins a canvassing team to survey people experiencing homelessness

OVERALL FINDINGS

1,551

People counted as experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City on a single night in January 2023

65% Men

73% Black or African American

16% Chronically Homeless

8% Veterans

17% Youth (up to age 24)

BALTIMORE

58%
Emergency Shelter

34%
Transitional Housing

<7%
Unsheltered

*All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

FOUR YEAR PIT TREND

There has been a continuous decline over the past four years in the number of people counted during the PIT Count as experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City, however, this year's three percent decline is considered not statistically significant.

There was a significant decline from 2020 to 2022 that could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to reduce the spread of the virus. The City used funds from the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID-19 (ESG-CV) received in 2020 to expand its Rapid Re-housing (RRH) program, thus making more housing available to people exiting homelessness. This housing continued to be a part of our portfolio in 2022, allowing more people to remain stably housed. This is a potential reason for the decline in chronic homelessness – from **24%** in 2022 to **15.5%** in 2023.

Although the trend shows a decline in homelessness, it is important to note that there are a number of variables – including people experiencing homelessness in places, such as abandoned buildings, that are inaccessible to our canvassing teams – that can affect the final numbers. Nevertheless, the PIT Count provides vital information about the needs, current gaps, and inequities in our current homeless service system.

A Comparison of Baltimore's PIT Counts from 2019–2023

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
2019	1,140	774	380	2,294
2020	1,147	748	298	2,193
2022	895	578	124	1,597
2023	905	533	113	1,551
2022–23 % Change	1%	-8%	-9%	-3%

NOTE: Baltimore did not conduct a PIT Count in 2021 as a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Shelter vs. Transitional Housing

Emergency Shelters (ES) provide people experiencing an episode of homelessness with a safe, low-barrier, and temporary refuge as well as supportive services needed to quickly regain housing stability. Transitional Housing (TH) provides people experiencing homelessness with shelter and supportive services for up to two years with the goal of moving them into independent living. Transitional Housing programs are usually dedicated to specific populations, such as veterans, youth, or individuals with substance use disorders. In Baltimore City, the local CoC, State, and Federal governments fund Transitional Housing for veterans and youth.

Here are some additional considerations when comparing the most recent PIT Count results to that of previous four years:

- The PIT Count returned to the standard configuration of a two (2) night unsheltered count after two years of cancelled or modified PIT Counts during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The participation of pre-registered volunteers was lower than expected, which led to smaller-than-anticipated canvassing teams. PIT Count coordinators merged some canvassing teams to ensure groups were large enough to adequately cover all roles.

- Both nights of the PIT Count were rainy and wet; volunteers and organizers observed that this presented challenges during outreach and surveying.

FINDINGS IN DETAIL

Race and Ethnicity

Homelessness still disproportionately affects Black Baltimoreans. Although they represent **62%** of the City's population, Black or African American persons accounted for **73%** of all people experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City on the night of the PIT Count.

While White persons account for **23%** of all people experiencing homelessness on the PIT Count, they represent nearly **41%** of those counted as unsheltered.

Black or African-American	73%
White	23%
Hispanic/Lation(a)(o)(x)	6%
Multiple Races	2%
Asian	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%

Age Group

Emergency Shelter

23% Ages 55-64
13% Over age 65
13% Under age 18
19% Ages 18-34
32% Ages 35-54

Unsheltered

13% Ages 55-64
4% Over age 65
4% Under age 18
27% Ages 18-34
52% Ages 35-54

Transitional Housing

24% Ages 55-64
7% Over age 65
13% Under age 18
19% Ages 18-34
37% Ages 35-54
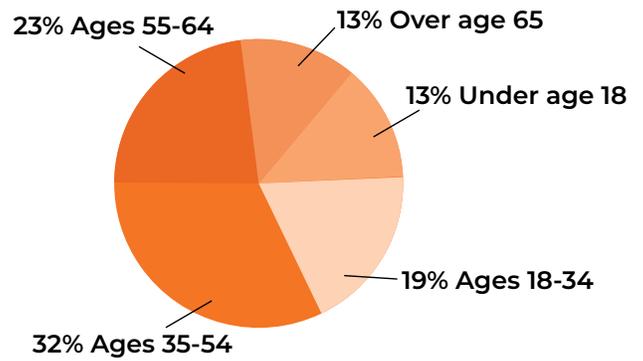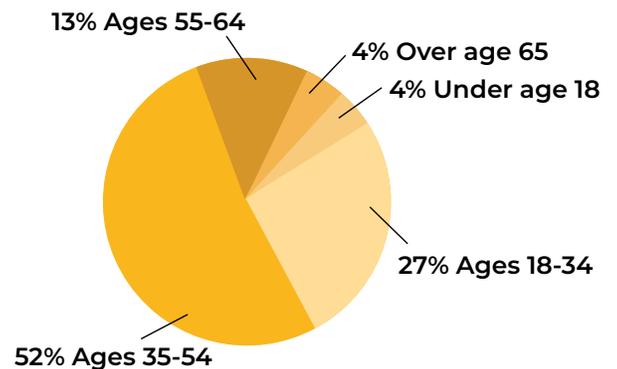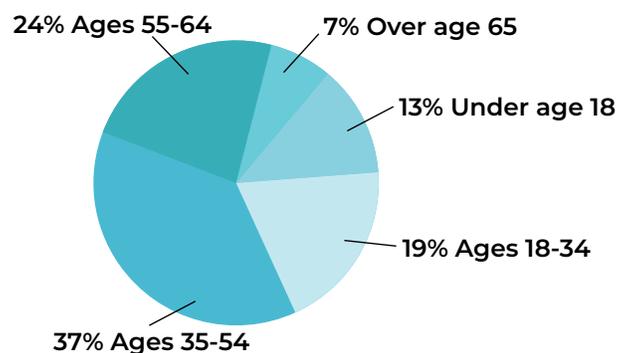
Gender

On the night of the PIT count, **64.5% (1,001)** of those counted identified as men. This figure is consistent with national data[1], showing that homelessness disproportionately affects men. Those identified as women accounted for **35% (539)** and less than **1%** identified as transgender **(7)** or gender nonconforming **(4)**.

Homeless Adults with Health and Safety Concerns
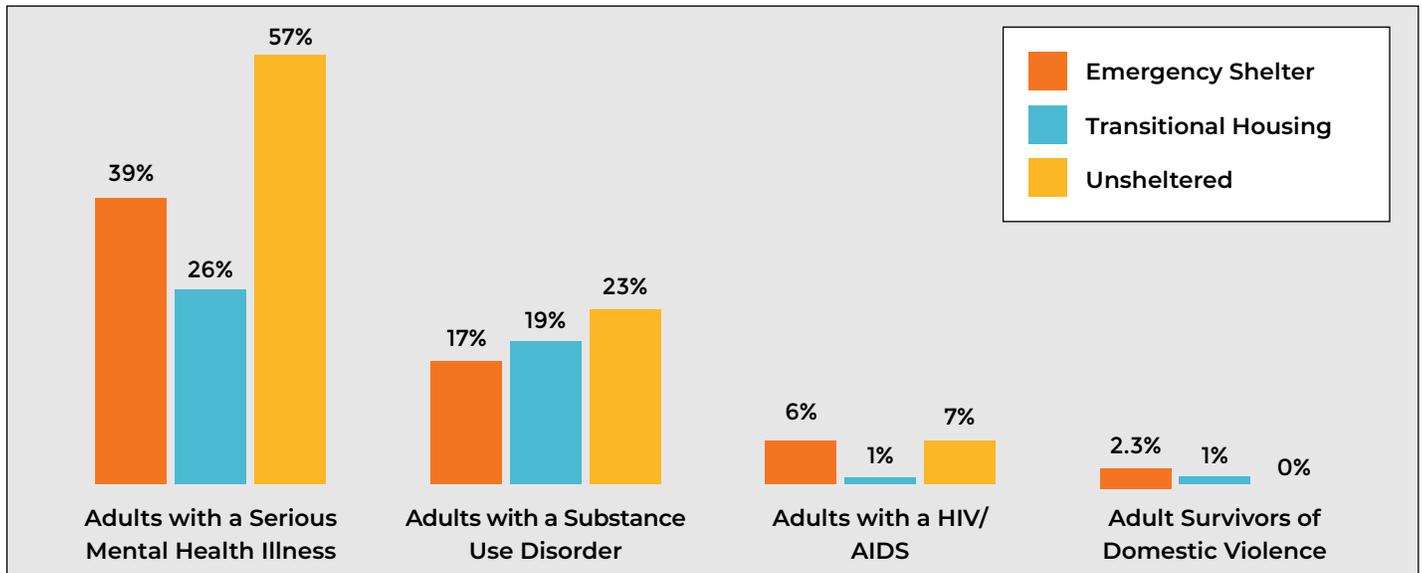
One-in-five of all adults self-reported as having a substance use disorder and over **40%** reported having a serious mental illness. When considering current accommodations, these rates were highest among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Through this data, it is not clear if these health concerns are a contributing cause of homelessness. The high rate of both emphasizes the importance of case management and wraparound services once a person is housed to ensure housing stability.

The percentage of adults self-identifying as survivors of domestic violence is statistically low (**1.5%**), however, this may be underreported due to safety concerns.

While less than two percent of all Baltimore residents are living with diagnosed HIV[2], more than double that amount (**4.7%**) of people counted experiencing homelessness reported having HIV/AIDS. The City of Baltimore is a HUD grantee for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program which is dedicated to the housing needs of this very vulnerable population and their families.

[1] The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
[2] Baltimore City HIV Progress Report by the Maryland Department of Health, June 2022

Special Populations: Chronically Homeless, Veterans, and Youth

HUD defines Chronic Homelessness as having a disabling condition and 12 months of continuous homelessness, either consecutively in the past year or over four episodes in the past 3 years. HUD also states that anyone who entered Transitional Housing (TH) as a chronically homeless individual loses that status after living in TH for 7 days. Chronic households are prioritized for subsidized housing resources, such as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH).

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a veteran as "a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable."

In this report, Youth are defined as unaccompanied minors and young adults up to 24 years of age that lack a fixed, adequate residence. This is consistent with the age eligibility requirement for HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Youth accounted for **17% (268)** of the total homeless population during the 2022 count and the unsheltered, "street" homeless, population includes almost **9% (10)** of people 24 years of age or younger. It is important to note that there are challenges to tracking this population as they may be transient, stay with friends, or be in hiding.

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Chronically Homeless	27%	0%	0%	16%
Veterans	2%	18%	0%	8%
Youth (up to age 24)	19%	17%	9%	17%

NOTE: "Total" indicates percentage of each special population among the entire counted population.

Parenting While Homeless

Nearly **one-in-five (19%)** of people experiencing homelessness indicated that they were a part of a household that has at least one adult and one child; two of those households, were found to be experiencing unsheltered street homelessness.

Twelve percent of our homeless population are children, under the age of 18, experiencing homelessness with a parent/guardian.

Life Experiences

Unsheltered respondents were asked whether they had any of the following life experiences; some reported having experienced multiple circumstances described below. Their responses highlight the many difficulties faced by people experiencing homelessness.

41% of survey respondents have interacted with the criminal justice system

I have been in jail/prison/juvenile detention	41%
I've stayed in a treatment or inpatient healthcare facility	27%
I've had to exchange sex for money, shelter, housing, or financial support	11%
I was homeless as a child	11%
I aged out and/or ran away from foster care	10%

Primary Causes of Current Homelessness

Unsheltered respondents were also asked about the primary cause(s) of their homelessness. The most common responses show that certain factors, such as employment/income and interpersonal relationships, can have a significant impact on the likelihood of a person becoming homeless.

Inadequate income or couldn't afford rent	19%
Lost employment/job	17%
Evicted from owned or rented unit	16%
Kicked out by family/friends	16%
Substance abuse or other health issues	9%
Left jail/prison/juvenile detention	7%
Death of a loved one or other familial issues	8%
Kicked out of permanent housing program	5%
Left housing due to unsafe environment	2%
Impacted by COVID-19	1%
Left a program or kicked out due rules/restrictions	1%

Where Did You Sleep Last Night?

During the 2023 PIT Count, 113 people were counted as unsheltered and 108 answered the question "Where did you sleep last night?"

Count	Location
59	Street or Sidewalk
14	Abandoned Building
11	Woods or Outdoor Encampment
6	Hospital or ER
5	Park
5	Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, or Truck)
4	Under a Bridge or Overpass
4	None of the Options Listed
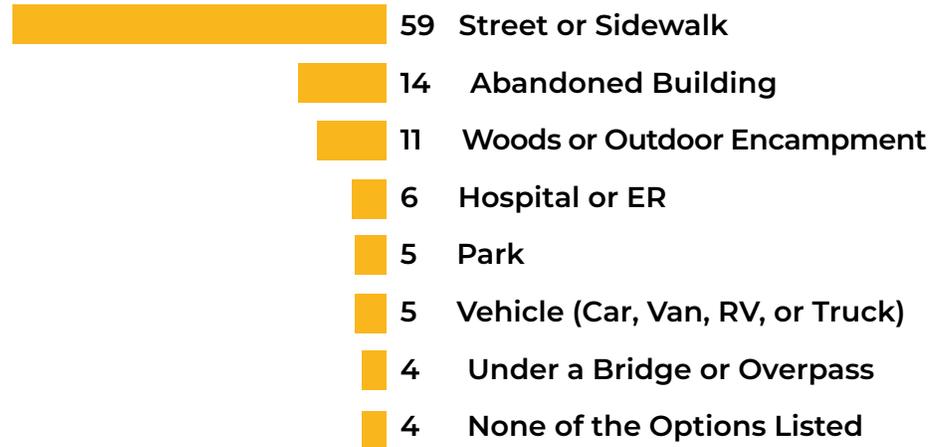
Least Desired Housing Options

When asked about least desired housing accommodations, congregate or shared spaces were among the top options that respondents said that they would refuse.

Living with family/friends	21%
Shelter	21%
Group home/assisted living	20%
Transitional housing program	16%
Returning to foster care	10%
Help with move-in costs (security deposit and first month's rent)	6%
Voucher with no supportive services	5%

BEYOND THE PIT COUNT

The City of Baltimore acknowledges that the PIT Count provides a "snapshot" of the number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a given night. The PIT Count is required by HUD, helps inform HUD policy, and provides Baltimore City access to vital Federal and State homeless service resources.

Data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used to conduct the count of people experiencing homelessness in City-funded and other HMIS-participating shelters; surveys are used at shelters that are not City funded and do not input data into HMIS. The count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness includes canvassing public spaces that are accessible to outreach workers and volunteers; the count does not capture people who may be squatting, "couch surfing," or in other places that are unknown or inaccessible to homeless outreach teams. The CoC makes a best effort to count all people experiencing homelessness but acknowledges that some individuals may not be counted during the PIT Count.

To further understand Baltimore's homeless population beyond the PIT Count, the CoC has partnered with Built for Zero – a national leader in using data-driven solutions to end homelessness – to identify and implement system-wide improvements. Through this work, the Homeless Response System Action Committee of the CoC has created a formalized structure for case conferencing. The use of by-name lists allows our community to understand the scope of homelessness, gaining a better understanding of how people experiencing homelessness move through the system helps to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) received a significant investment of $75 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and it has been used to launch new programs including a Housing Navigation partnership with Pratt Libraries to make housing resources more accessible to Baltimoreans facing housing insecurities. Programs for Landlord Recruitment, Diversion, and Rapid Resolution will launch in 2023 – all with the goal of rehousing people experiencing homelessness and helping people remain stably housed.

Additionally, Mayor Scott partnered with HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to make Baltimore a House America city; Baltimore's 2022 House America goals were to rehouse 1,000 households and add over 1,600 units of affordable housing to the development pipeline in 2022. This effort was led by the Leadership Committee on Homelessness and Housing, which is made up of 21 people representing the private and public sectors, and people with lived experience of homelessness. On February 14, 2023, Mayor Scott announced that Baltimore achieved its House America goals; by December 31, 2022, over 1,400 neighbors had been rehoused and over 2,500 units of affordable housing had been added to the development pipeline. The work of the Leadership Committee continues as the City strengthens the partnership of its homeless services, housing, and community development sectors.

No one entity can reduce homelessness alone. Federal partners at HUD, USICH, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) support the City in reaching its goals. Additionally, our partnership with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) is essential in securing housing choice vouchers dedicated to families and individuals experiencing homelessness and our collaboration with the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Housing Accelerator Fund will ensure that affordable housing is available throughout our community. The CoC will continue to work with Community Solutions to improve Baltimore's homeless response system to efficiently and effectively connect people at risk of or experiencing homelessness to the right housing intervention to resolve their housing crisis.

Everyone plays a role in ending homelessness, and it will take the entire community coming together to be successful. If you are interested in being involved, please reach out to Baltimore City's CoC. Become a member, join a committee, donate to, or volunteer with the CoC by visiting their website, journeyhomebaltimore.org.

DATA TABLES

2023 Point-In-Time Count and Housing Inventory

2023 Point-in-Time Count MD-501 Baltimore CoC

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Number of Households	75	39	2	**116**
Total Number of persons (Adults & Children)	**207**	**110**	**7**	**324**
Number of Persons (under age 18)	118	69	5	**192**
Number of Persons (18 - 24)	15	4	0	**19**
Number of Persons (25 - 34)	34	20	1	**55**
Number of Persons (35 - 44)	26	9	1	**36**
Number of Persons (45 - 54)	12	8	0	**20**
Number of Persons (55 - 64)	1	0	0	**1**
Number of Persons (over age 64)	1	0	0	**1**

Gender (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Female	134	71	5	**210**
Male	73	39	2	**114**
Gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	0	0	0	**0**
Questioning	0	0	0	**0**

2023 Point-in-Time Count MD-501 Baltimore CoC

Ethnicity (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	197	103	7	**307**
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	10	7	0	**17**

Race (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	0	1	0	**1**
Asian or Asian American	1	0	0	**1**
Black, African American, or African	185	95	7	**287**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	0	0	**4**
White	10	14	0	**24**
Multiple Races	7	0	0	**7**

Chronically Homeless (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total number of households	8		0	**8**
Total number of persons	26		0	**26**

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Persons in Households with only Children

Baltimore City reports that no households with only children were reflected in the unsheltered and sheltered count.

2023 Point-in-Time Count MD-501 Baltimore CoC

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Persons in Households without Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	719	461	16	96	**1,292**
Total Number of persons (Adults)	**720**	**461**	**16**	**106**	1,303
Number of Persons (18 - 24)	35	20	1	5	**61**
Number of Persons (25 - 34)	88	65	3	24	**180**
Number of Persons (35 - 44)	125	92	3	36	**256**
Number of Persons (45 - 54)	137	108	2	22	**269**
Number of Persons (55 - 64)	216	137	3	15	**371**
Number of Persons (over age 24)	119	39	4	4	**166**

Gender (adults)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	265	46	4	32	**347**
Male	449	413	10	73	**945**
Gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	2	0	1	1	**4**
Questioning	0	0	0	0	**0**
Transgender	4	2	1	0	**7**

2023 Point-in-Time Count MD-501 Baltimore CoC

Ethnicity (adults)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	698	410	15	99	**1,222**
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	22	51	1	7	**81**

Race (adults)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	4	2	0	1	**7**
Asian or Asian American	13	1	0	0	**14**
Black, African American, or African	554	275	15	52	**896**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	2	0	0	**7**
White	133	173	1	46	**353**
Multiple Races	11	8	0	7	**26**

Chronically Homeless (adults)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	262		12	0	**274**

Date of PIT Count: 1/22/2023
Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	794	500	16	98	**1,408**
Total Number of Persons	927	571	16	113	**1,627**
Number of Children (under age 18)	118	69	0	5	**192**
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	50	24	1	5	**80**
Number of Persons (25 to 34)	122	85	3	25	**235**
Number of Persons (35 to 44)	151	101	3	37	**292**
Number of Persons (45 to 54)	149	116	2	22	**289**
Number of Persons (55 to 64)	217	137	3	15	**372**
Number of Persons (over age 64)	120	39	4	4	**167**

Gender

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	399	117	4	37	**557**
Male	522	452	10	75	**1,059**
Gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	2	0	1	1	**4**
Questioning	0	0	0	0	**0**
Transgender	4	2	1	0	**7**

Ethnicity

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin (a)(o)(x)	895	513	15	106	**1,529**
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	32	58	1	7	**98**

Race

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	4	3	0	1	**8**
Asian or Asian American	14	1	0	0	**15**
Black, African American, or African	739	370	15	59	**1,183**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	2	0	0	**11**
White	143	187	1	46	**377**
Multiple Races	18	8	0	7	**33**

Chronically Homeless

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	288		12	0	**300**

Baltimore City Housing Inventory

8090   9162
PIT Count   Total Beds

Project Types

- ES 20
- RRH 13
- TH 12
- OPH 5
- SH 3
- PSH 38
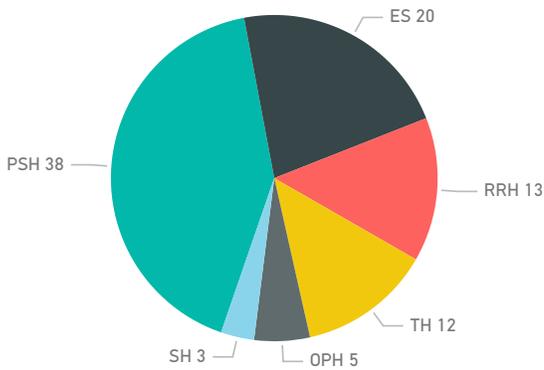
Total Beds by Project Type

Project Type	Beds
PSH	3351
OPH	2733
ES	1535
TH	920
RRH	590
SH	33

Project Participation in HMIS

Yes	73
No	18

Beds Avaliable vs. PIT Count
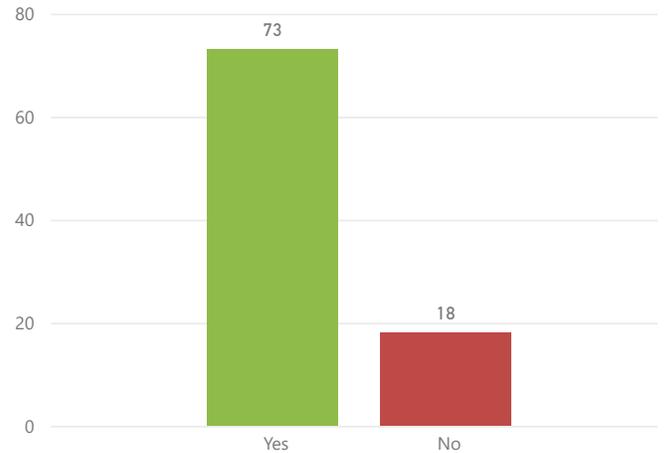
Legend: Total Beds, PIT Count
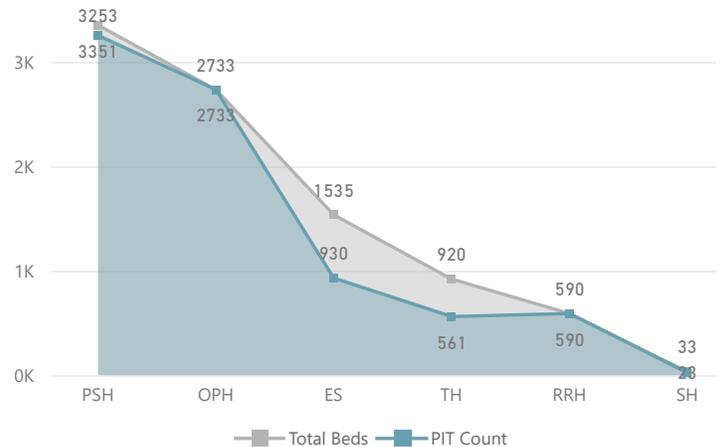
Proj. Type	PIT Count	Total Beds
PSH	3253	3351
OPH	2733	2733
ES	930	1535
TH	561	920
RRH	590	590
SH	23	33
Total	**8090**	**9162**

## Insights:

- Permanent supportive housing makes up 42% of all housing projects in Baltimore City
- The largest difference between PIT count and total beds is seen in Emergency Shelters, where there were 605 beds still available
- About 80% of housing programs use HMIS

Legend:
- PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing
- ES: Emergency Shelter
- OPH: Other Permanent Housing
- RRH: Rapid Rehousing
- TH: Temporary Housing
- SH: Safe Haven