

# Baltimore City Continuum of Care 2019 Point in Time Count Report



The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a HUD-mandated assessment of how many people are experiencing homelessness in our community on a given day in the month of January. This year's PIT count assessed both sheltered persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing, as well as unsheltered persons living on the street or in other places not meant for human habitation.

A Comparison of Baltimore's PIT Counts from 2017-2019				
	2017	2018	2019	2017-19 % Change
Sheltered	2123	1962	1914	-10%
In Emergency Shelter	1139	1152	1140	0%
In Transitional Housing	984	810	774	-21%
Unsheltered	546	N/A*	380	-30%
Total	2669	2508*	2294	-14%

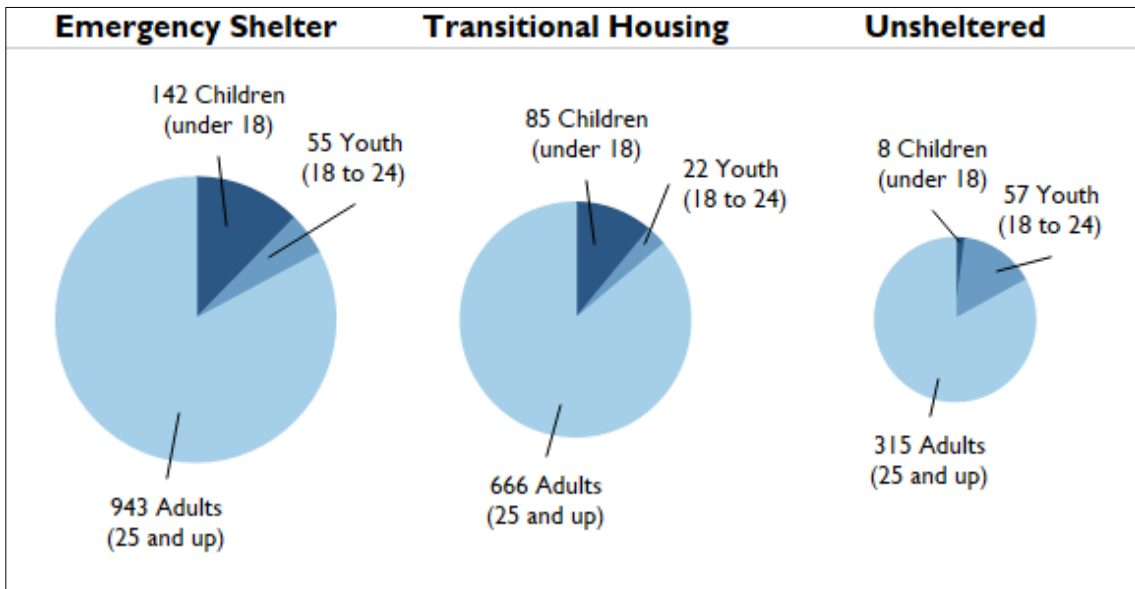
\*In 2018, Baltimore did not conduct an unsheltered count. HUD policy for when CoCs elect to conduct unsheltered counts only every other year is to add the previous year's unsheltered count to approximate the total. Baltimore will be performing yearly PIT counts starting in 2019.

While the PIT Count doesn't capture everyone who is homeless over the course of a year, it is the only HUD measure that enumerates people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, which HUD defines as those living on the street, or a place not meant for human habitation. Baltimore's unsheltered count relies on hundreds of trained staff and volunteers to conduct two nights of street counts, and three days of surveys at drop-in sites asking about the night of the count.

## Three year PIT Count Trends

There has been a significant reduction in the number of clients served in Transitional Housing. This is primarily due to HUD's reduction of funding for transitional housing programs.

The number of persons in shelter has remained constant, while the unsheltered count has gone down from 2017 to 2019. However, the number of street outreach enrollments in the City overall have been growing steadily since 2017.



## Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations, by Age

The chart to the left shows the disproportionate number of youth who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT. In the past year, The Journey Home has 2 newly created housing programs that are dedicated to youth.

Note: 'Emergency Shelter' includes all of the City's emergency shelters and its two safe haven programs.

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## Race and Ethnicity

Homelessness disproportionately affects black Baltimoreans, as the City's population is 63% black or African-American. This can be seen in the data below, as 70% of those homeless on the night of the PIT were black. As a part of the 2019

	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Black or African-American	White	Hispanic/Latinx
<b>Total</b>	1%	1%	2%	0%	70%	26%	3%
Emergency Shelter	1%	1%	1%	0%	76%	20%	3%
Transitional Housing	1%	0%	2%	0%	62%	35%	2%
Unsheltered	0%	1%	1%	1%	70%	26%	5%

Action Plan, the Journey Home will be creating a race equity agenda to address these inherent inequities.

## Gender

On the night of the PIT, 72% (1660) of those counted were men, which reflects how homelessness disproportionately affects men at a local and national level. 28% (631) were women, and there were two gender non-conforming individuals, and one transgender person. National data shows that while most homeless individuals are men, gender minorities are more likely to experience unsheltered homelessness than men or women.

## Special populations: Chronically Homeless and Veterans

HUD defines chronic homelessness as having a disabling condition, and 12 months of continuous homelessness, either consecutively in the past year, or over 4 episodes in the past 3 years. It also states that anyone who entered transitional housing as chronic losses that status after 7 days of living there. Chronic households are prioritized for subsidized housing resources, like permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing.

	Chronically Homeless	Veterans
<b>Total</b>	27%	12%
Emergency Shelter	31%	7%
Transitional Housing	0%	21%
Unsheltered	69%	6%

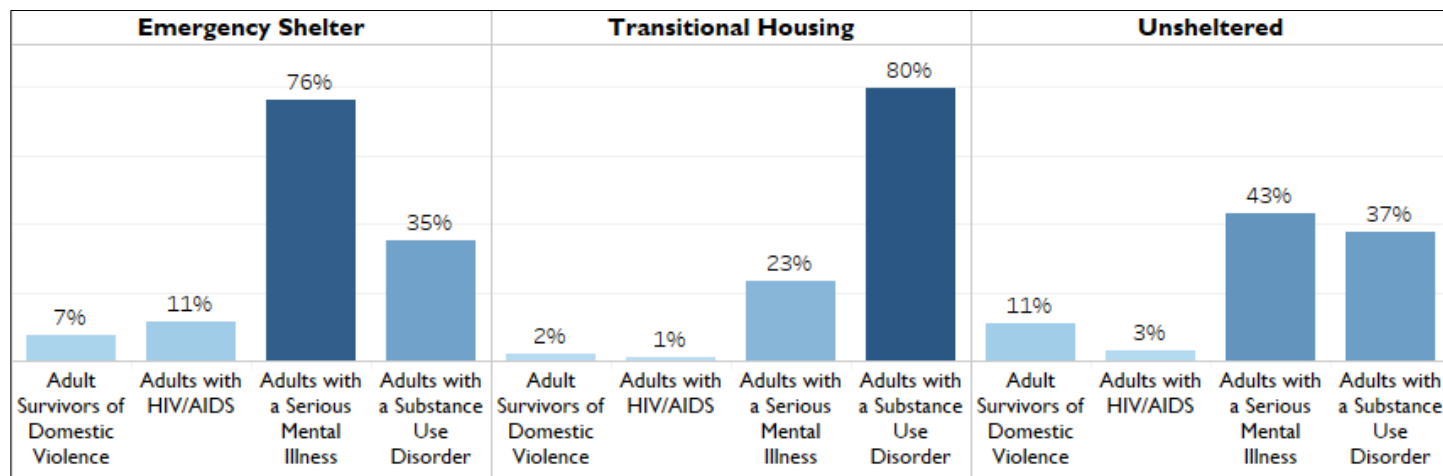
Veterans make up approximately 12% of homeless individuals nationally. As such, Veterans Affairs, in partnership with HUD, funds several housing programs specifically for veterans, including transitional housing.

### Emergency Shelter vs. Transitional Housing

Emergency Shelter provides temporary housing and case management for those facing a housing crisis. Shelters can be for certain populations, such as families or those fleeing domestic violence.

Transitional Housing provides shelter and supportive services for up to two years in order to facilitate movement to independent living. Programs are usually dedicated to specific populations, like veterans or those with substance abuse disorders. The Journey Home funds transitional housing for veterans and youth.

## Percent of homeless adults with health and safety concerns



Note: 'Emergency Shelter' includes all of the City's emergency shelters and its two safe haven programs.

# 2019 Point in Time Count: Focus on Unsheltered Persons



The 2019 PIT Count had a series of questions for unsheltered persons designed to shed more light on their past experiences, current situation, and future housing goals.

Was in jail/prison/juvenile detention	47%
I've had to exchange sex for money, shelter, housing or financial support	39%
I've stayed in a treatment or inpatient healthcare facility	34%
None of the above	19%
Aged out and/or ran away from foster care	16%
Was homeless as a child	14%
I've been banned or kicked out from emergency shelter	10%

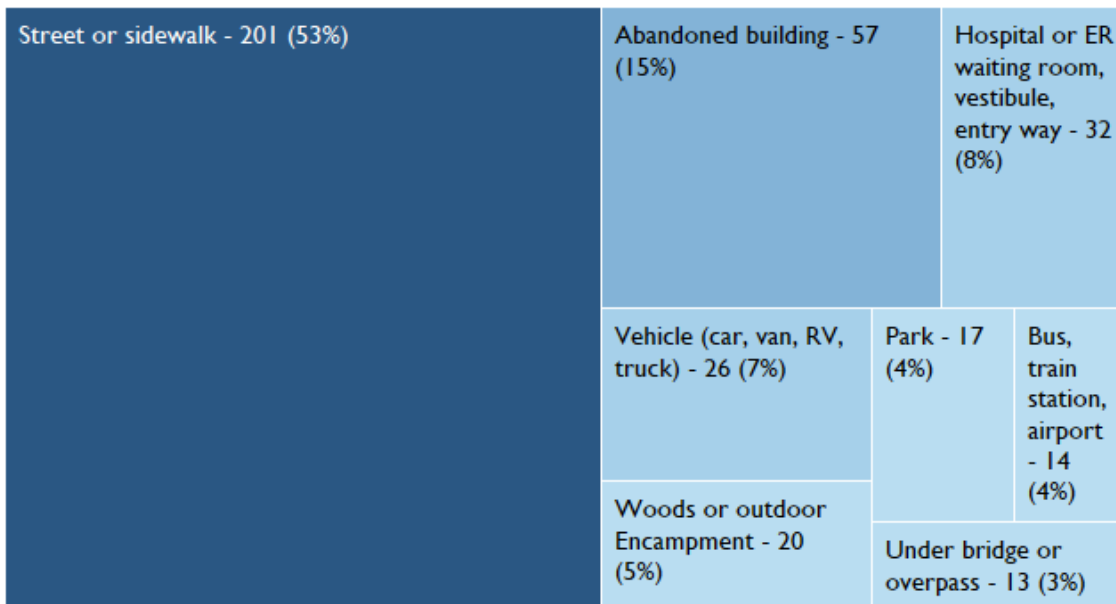
## Life Experiences

Respondents were asked whether they had any of the following life experiences. The responses highlight the many difficulties that those who are homeless have faced. That so many persons who are homeless also have interacted with the criminal justice system highlights the criminalization of homelessness, as well as the lack of services for those reentering society.

## Primary Cause(s) of Current Homelessness

Survey respondents were asked what the primary cause(s) of their current homelessness were, as the causes of homelessness are complex and intertwined. The most common responses show how both employment, interpersonal relationships, and health can have a profound impact on a person's potential to become homeless. Other responses include loss of personal relationships and being kicked out due to sexual orientation or gender identify.

Kicked out by family/friends	31%
Lost employment/job	25%
Evicted from owned or rented unit	22%
Inadequate income or couldn't afford rent	19%
Left housing due to violence or abuse	12%
Left jail/prison/juvenile detention	9%
Left housing due to unsafe building conditions	8%
Aged out and/or ran away from foster care	6%
Death of a loved one	4%
Mental/physical health concern	4%
Addiction/Substance Abuse	4%

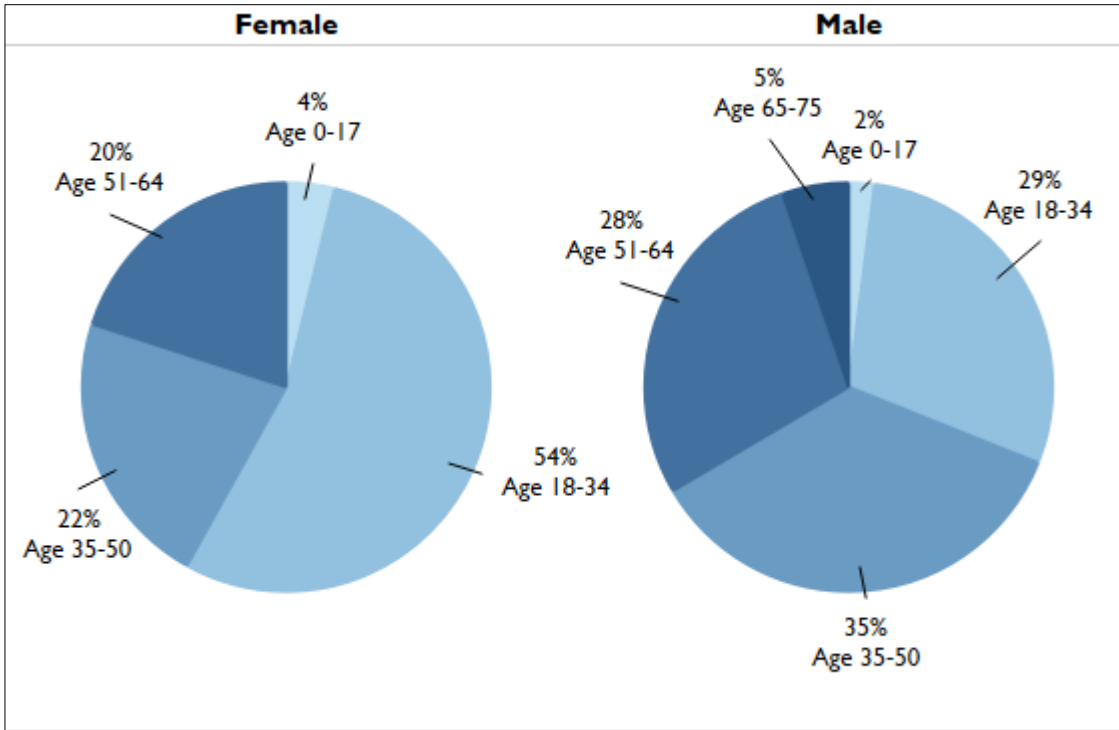


## Where did you sleep last night?

Unsheltered homelessness is defined as someone sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation. To the left are the locations where unsheltered persons slept the night of the PIT Count.

Note: 'Emergency Shelter' includes all of the City's emergency shelters and its two safe haven programs.

# 2019 Point in Time Count: Focus on Unsheltered Persons



## Gender by Age

By breaking down the gender of individuals by age, we can see that most women who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT were between the ages of 18 and 34, with an average age of 34. This is very different from unsheltered men, whose average age was 43. This reflects national trends showing that men born between 1955 and 1965 make up about a third of the total homeless population.

Gender minorities excluded from chart to respect confidentiality

## Parenting while homeless

19% of adult women and 11% of adult men said that they were parenting, or expecting in the next 9 months. Parents experiencing a housing crisis face difficult choices for their children, some leaving them with friends or family, some bringing them to a shelter. Once parents get matched with a subsidized housing resource, they are able to move their children in with them.

**The vast majority of homeless adults surveyed want to work: 63% of respondents were interested in employment, and 7% were already employed.**

Voucher with supportive services	60%
Help with security deposit and first month's rent only	39%
Short term rental assistance with supportive services	38%
Transitional housing program	35%
Voucher with no supportive services	21%

## Desired Housing Options

Respondents were asked to choose their top three most desired housing options from a set list. Almost all were interested in finding housing, as only 2% wanted to remain unsheltered. This table shows the top five responses. Most wanted long term supportive services

of some kind, but many were willing to move into housing with limited financial support. In the past year, the newly formed Mayor's Office of Homeless Services Outreach team has worked diligently in coordination with other existing street outreach organizations to connect those living on the street to these types of resources.

## Least Desired Housing Options

The survey also asked respondents what kinds of housing they least desired. As a part of the Action Plan, the Journey Home is working to transform the City's crisis response and shelter system, creating a more inviting environment for those living on the street. Together, we believe homelessness is solvable and can be rare, brief and non-reoccurring.

Living with family/friends	43%
Shelter	34%
Group home/Assisted Living	23%
None of the Above	22%
Voucher with no supportive services	15%

Note: 'Emergency Shelter' includes all of the City's emergency shelters and its two safe haven programs.