



Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness

...to educate and mobilize our community and coordinate services to prevent and reduce homelessness in the Capital Region.

2019 POINT IN TIME SURVEY AND TEN YEAR POINT IN TIME (2010-2019)

**REPORT OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE
CITY OF HARRISBURG AND COUNTY
OF DAUPHIN**

**2019 Homeless Point In Time (PIT) – Harrisburg and Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Conducted by the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH)**

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Introduction and Background

Every year, the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) joins with the rest of the nation to conduct an overnight and 24-hour “Point in Time” (PIT) census and questionnaire of those who experience homelessness as unsheltered, or in emergency or temporary homeless housing, as well those who have been placed in homeless specific permanent housing programs. The national PIT is scheduled for the last week of January, and this year’s count took place **January 23 through 24, 2019**. The count involves every homeless shelter, transitional housing, homeless permanent housing programs, outreaches, and locations that homeless persons frequent such as primary soup kitchens and centers in the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County.

Agencies and programs that participated in the Point in Time Count include:

- Bethesda Men's Mission
- Brethren Housing Association
- Case Management Unit of Dauphin County
- Christian Churches United and HELP Ministries
- Bridge of Hope
- Dauphin County Crisis Intervention
- Dauphin County Children and Youth
- Dauphin County Housing Authority
- Dauphin County Human Services
- Delta Gaudenzia
- Downtown Daily Bread
- Family Promise
- Helping Hands
- HELP Ministries for Overnight Winter Shelter at Safe Haven
- Holy Spirit Medical Outreach
- Interfaith Shelter-Catholic Charities
- Keystone Community Mental Health Services
- Northwest Human Services
- Pinnacle Health – Harrisburg Hospital
- Susquehanna House Safe Haven
- Salvation Army
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen
- Shalom House
- Harrisburg and Dauphin County School Districts
- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg
- Lebanon VA Medical Center
- Empowering Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (EYCEH)
- Volunteers of America
- Valley Youth House

Grand Total Counted.....	760
Total Homeless, Sheltered & Unsheltered.....	418
Total Formerly Homeless, Now Permanently Housed.....	342

The 2019 PIT identified **418 men, women and children experiencing homelessness**, which is a 6% decrease from 445 in 2018. Of those, 48 persons (39 males and 9 females) were “unsheltered,” i.e. sleeping on the streets, vehicles, abandoned buildings, camps, etc., and 370 persons (291 adults and 79 children) were “sheltered” i.e. in emergency or seasonal shelter or temporary homeless housing. An additional **342 persons who were once homeless are now in permanent housing i.e. no longer homeless**.

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Summary and Analysis

1. A total of 760 people were counted. Of those, 418 men, women and children were “Literally Homeless” i.e. either unsheltered or in temporary homeless housing. An additional 342 persons were once homeless, but now reside in permanent housing for homeless.
2. In the past ten years Literal Homelessness plateaued, then increased from 2015- 2017 and then decreased in the last 2 years.
3. The decrease in literal homeless of the last 2 year reflects of changing housing solutions - conversion of TH programs to Rapid Rehousing which is considered Permanent Housing.
4. A key relationship is seen between sheltered and unsheltered. Unsheltered decreases as conversely persons took advantage of rapid rehousing but also night by night shelter which expanded capacity through Downtown Daily Bread.
5. **Veterans’ Homelessness decreased over ten years both in number and as a percentage of the homeless population. The percentage of homeless Veterans who were sheltered as opposed to unsheltered also increased. This is because of an overall increase in Veterans’ housing.**
6. Sheltered: Significantly more men than women. Three-fifths (60%) are African American. 30% have a mental health or drug and alcohol concern and much higher when combined.
7. Unsheltered: Over 75% are male. In the 2018 PIT all are single or unaccompanied. Over 50% receive subsidized income e.g. SSI, SSDI, Social Security. Only 6% were employed. The highest incidence of stated reason for homelessness (20% of respondents) is mental health and substance use. The next highest incidence (11%) included incarceration. About 50% have a mental health disability. Over 25% are Chronically Homeless. 42% were first time homeless. 42% were homeless for over a year of those that knew or chose to respond.
8. Winter Overnight for Men: Eviction due to non-payment of rent was the primary reason given for homelessness, followed by job loss, family break up. Mental health and drug and alcohol use were the highest disability. 25-33% were Chronically Homeless. 33% were homeless for the first time. 25% stayed at Winter Overnight after leaving Bethesda Mission, and a 33% came from being unsheltered. Of those who responded to income questions, 28% received subsidized income, 33% monthly income was between zero to \$500 and 25% greater than \$1000. 27% were working and 50% were interested in finding employment. 25% want to find permanent housing, 25% expect to return to streets or shelter, while 50% were unsure of their next steps.
9. 10% are Transitional Age Youth and their children. Nearly 40% were Latino.
10. 64 Unaccompanied Homeless Students were staying with friends or other family.
11. Near Homeless: While nearly 50% are doubled up in temporary housing with friends and family needing to leave, it is significant to note that 25% are Near Homeless after being discharged from institutions such as incarceration. Over 40% stated that mental health is the primary reason for their homeless situation.
12. Mental Health: 33% indicated having a Mental Health concern or diagnosis, which is an increasing trend over the past ten years.
13. Drug and Alcohol: 28% indicated having a substance use disorder or concern. As a percentage of homeless population this has been decreasing over the past ten years.

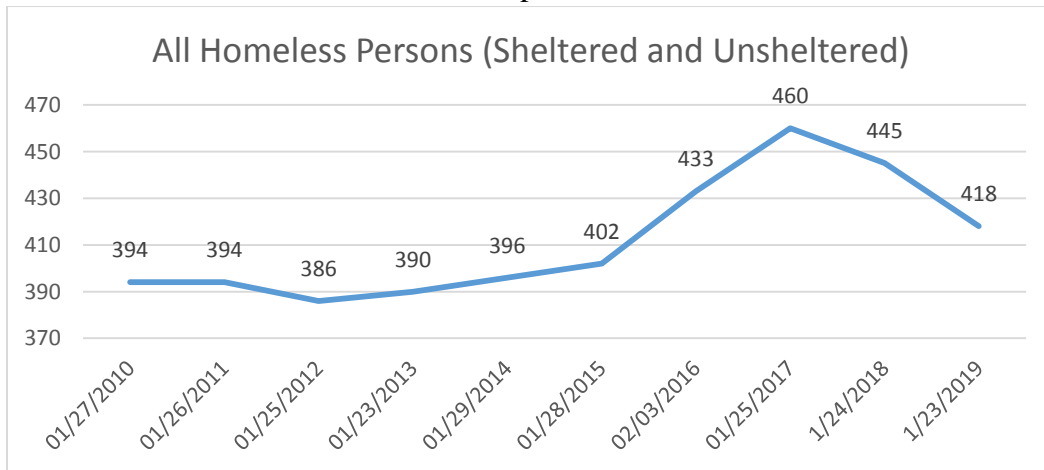
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14. Victims of Violence or Trafficking: The percentage of persons who are homeless due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking has been increasing over the past ten years until recently. 7% were homeless as victims in 2018 PIT.

Key Trend - Sheltered and Unsheltered Census Over 10 Years

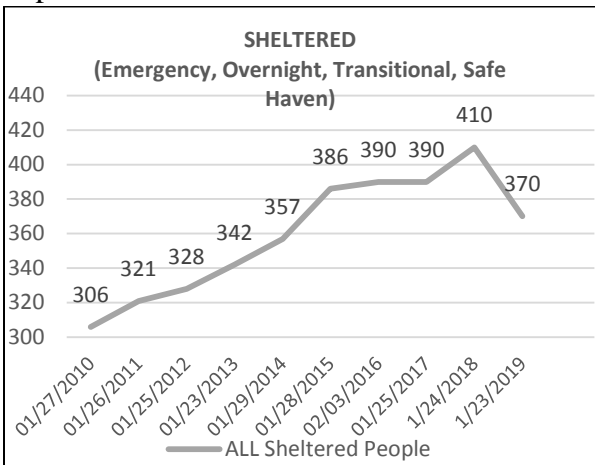
For the first six years from 2009 to 2015, Harrisburg and Dauphin County have seen a decrease and overall plateau in the Total Homeless persons who were sheltered or unsheltered. However, after 2015 the Total Homeless increased sharply and exceeded the 2009 count of 421 ten years ago, although this year’s PIT may show a reversal.

Graph A:

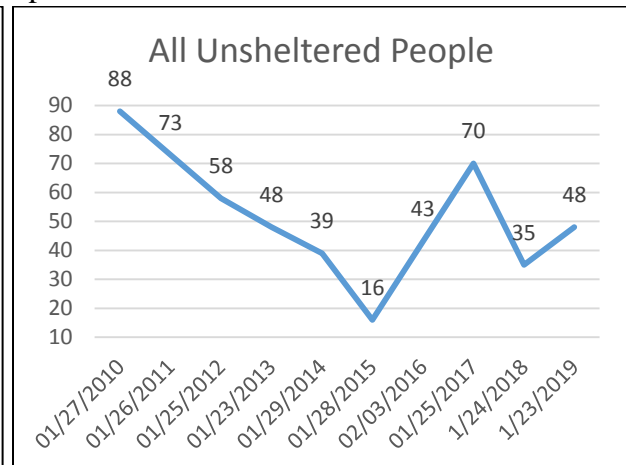


When looking at sheltered and unsheltered sums that make up the Total Homeless, there is a notable correlation. There was an increase in persons sheltered (emergency shelter, winter overnight shelter, or transitional housing) while there is a decrease in those who are unsheltered.

Graph B:



Graph C:



As mentioned, an alarming trend emerged after 2015. Specifically, there was a significant uptick of persons who were unsheltered from 16 in 2015 to 70 in 2017 while shelter use or capacity remained unchanged at around 390. However, a new winter overnight option provided by Downtown Daily Bread reversed the trend for the 2017-2018 winter months.

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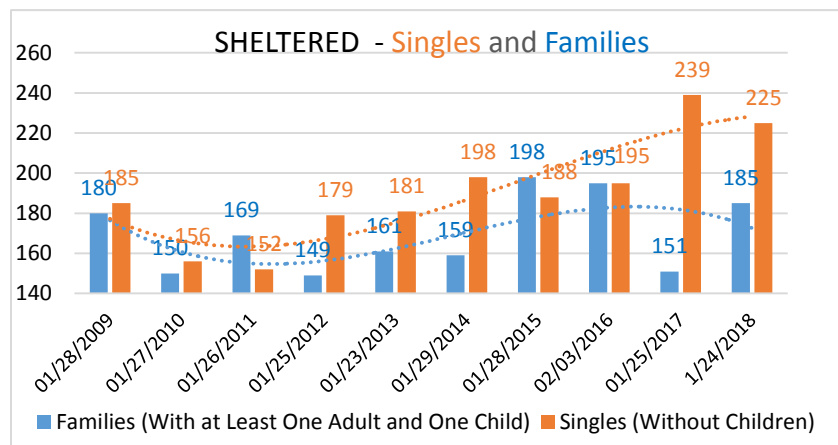
Our Community is experiencing a Sharp Increase in the demand for shelter, and correlated Sharp Increase of Unsheltered Homeless when the Winter Overnight Shelters close in Spring. Simply stated, our community’s Crisis Housing (stay limited to 60 days or less) is over capacity as supply of transitional housing decreases and shelters are strapped.

Sheltered

In emergency and winter night by night shelters, transitional houses, and safe haven there were:

- 410 persons: 290 men and women and 120 children
- 225 were singles and 185 were family members in 64 households
- 25 Transitional Age Youth (TAY) i.e. persons ages 18 to 24
- 161 female and 249 males
- 67 were Hispanic in ethnicity
- 61% were African American; 32% Caucasian; 1% Native American; 1% Pacific Islander; and 5% represented as being of multiple races
- 13% (38 adults) were chronically homeless
- 30% (88 adults) reported having a mental health concern or diagnosis
- 27% (77 adults) reported having substance use disorder
- 8% (24 adults) were victims of domestic violence

Graph D:



It has been mentioned that over the past ten years the number of sheltered individual and families initially decreased, plateaued, and then sharply increased recently. That rise in the sheltered population is due to the winter overnight option being increasingly utilized by those who would otherwise be on the streets, predominantly unaccompanied males. Graph D shows the increase in sheltered single or unaccompanied persons even as families in shelter plateaued or decreased.

Unsheltered

Since many who stayed at the Winter Overnight shelters were unsheltered or would be unsheltered they are included in this analysis. A more detailed survey was administered to those who were unsheltered and at the men’s overnight, than the data collected from the Homeless

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Management Information System for those who were sheltered including the Women’s overnight
The following table show results for Unsheltered, Men’s Winter Overnight, and Combined.

Table 1: 2018 Unsheltered, Winter Overnight Shelter for Men, and Combined Statistics:

<u>Unsheltered</u>	<u>Winter Overnight Shelter (WOS)</u>	<u>Combined Unsheltered, W.O.S.</u>
35 persons were surveyed.	46 persons were surveyed.	81 persons were surveyed.
1. 17% are Veterans. 17% receive Veteran benefits.	1. 15% are Veterans. 71% of receive Veterans benefits.	1. 16% are veterans. 46% receive Veteran benefits.
2. Majority are male (86%).	2. All are male. The women's overnight was not surveyed using forms but counted through HMIS.	2. Majority are male (94%)
3. The median age is 53.	3. The median age is 57.	3. The median age is 53.
4. 3 are Transitional Age Youth.	4. One Transitional Age Youth	4. 4 Transitional Age Youth.
5. African American and Caucasian 37%, Hispanic 25%.	5. 59% African American; Caucasian (35%). No Hispanic.	5. 49% African American; 36% Caucasian; 10% Hispanic.
6. Most are single (89%). 1 single parent family with 1 child.	6. All are single/unaccompanied.	6. Most are single (94%). 1 single parent with 1 child.
7. 51% receive subsidized income. 6% were employed.	7. 28% receive subsidized income. 4% were employed.	7. 38% receive subsidized income. 5% are employed.
8. 63% have public or private health insurance.	8. 48% have public or private health insurance.	8. 54% have public or private health insurance.
9. 63% receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP).	9. 48% receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP).	9. 54% receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP).
10. Most are sleeping on the streets and abandoned buildings (69%).	10. Approximately 60% at DDB overnight or Day-shelter and 40% at Safe Haven overnight.	10. Approximately 60% sleep at the overnight shelter and 40% are unsheltered mostly on the streets, abandoned buildings.
11. 86% are from Harrisburg, 3% from Dauphin County outside of Harrisburg. 8% from outside of Dauphin County.	11. 80% are from Harrisburg, 2% from Dauphin County outside of Harrisburg. 9% from outside of Dauphin County.	11. 83% are from Harrisburg, 2% from Dauphin County outside of Harrisburg. 9% from outside of Dauphin County.
12. Mental Health; Drugs or/and Alcohol is the highest incidence of the primary cause given for homelessness, each at 21%; incarceration and eviction both at (11%).	12. Eviction due to non-payment (23%) is the highest incidence of the primary cause given for homelessness; next is job loss (17%); family break-up and drugs and/or alcohol are both at 13%. Incarceration is 9%.	12. Drugs or/and Alcohol (16%), Eviction Due To Non Payment (16%) and Mental Health (15%) are the highest incidence of the primary cause of homelessness. Next is job loss (12%), family break up (11%) and incarceration (10%).
13. Mental Health (34%); Drug or/and Alcohol (21%) are the highest secondary causes of homelessness; Medical Problems is next at 18%.	13. Job loss (24%) is the highest secondary causes of homelessness followed by drugs and/or alcohol (21%).	13. Mental Health (35%) and Drugs or/and Alcohol (22%) are the highest secondary causes of homelessness, followed by job loss (17%) and “Other” (16%).
14. Almost half (49%) have a Mental Health disability, a third have Chronic Health Problems (34%) and a quarter stated Drugs or Alcohol (24%).	14. Disability: Mental Health is the highest (24%) followed by Drugs and Alcohol combined (23%), and then Chronic Health Problems (17%).	14. Disability: Mental Health (34%); Chronic Health Problems (23%); Drugs and Alcohol combined (22%).
15. 26% (9) chronic homeless	15. 28% (13) chronic homeless.	15. 27% (22) chronic homeless.
16. 42% homeless the first time.	16. 33% homeless the first time.	16. 8% homeless the first time.
17. 14% are currently homeless for 1 - 3 months; 23% for 4 months to nearly a year; 17% over a year; 46% do not know or choose not to answer.	17. 57% are currently homelessness for 1 – 3 months; 9% for 4 months to	17. 38% are currently homeless for 1 – 3 months; 15% for 4

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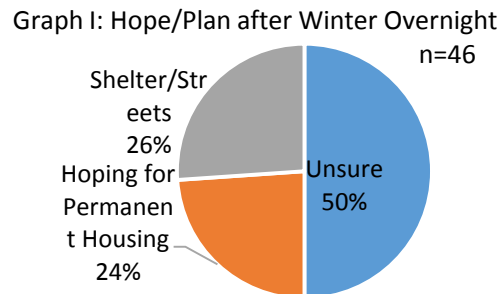
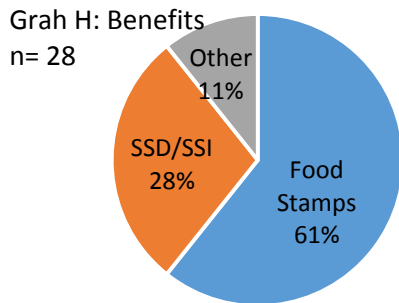
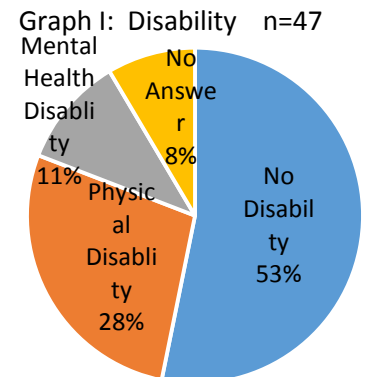
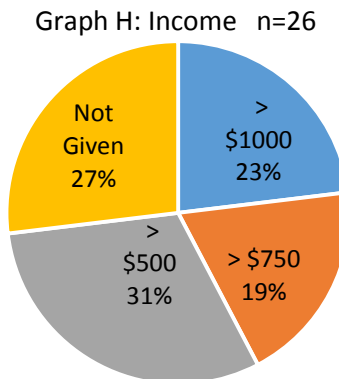
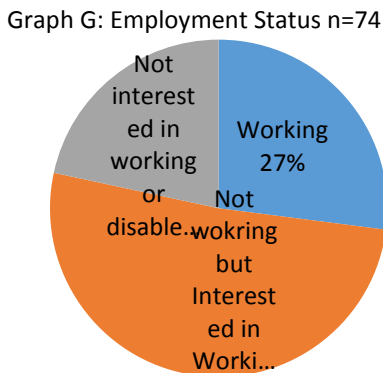
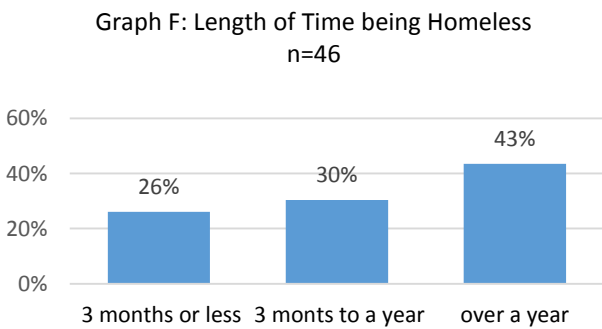
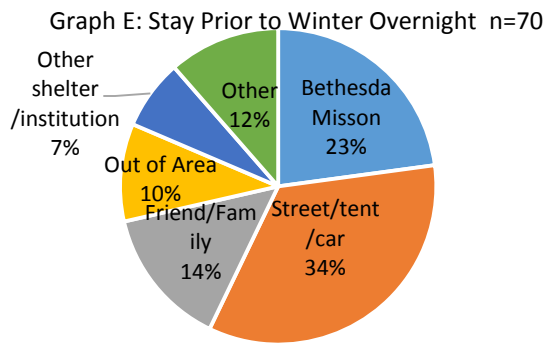
	nearly a year; 22% over a year; 13% do not know or choose not to answer.	months to nearly a year; 20% over a year; 27% don't know or choose not to answer.
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Winter Overnight Shelter

From December 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, the following unduplicated total stayed at:

- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg: **97 persons (76 women and 29 children)**. PIT was 12.
- Downtown Daily Bread: **222 men**. The count for the PIT night was 28.
- Susquehanna Safe Haven: **105 men**. The count for the PIT night was 18.

A separate survey was conducted by a homeless taskforce that surveyed 70 men over a few weeks who stayed at the new Downtown Daily Bread Overnight Shelter.



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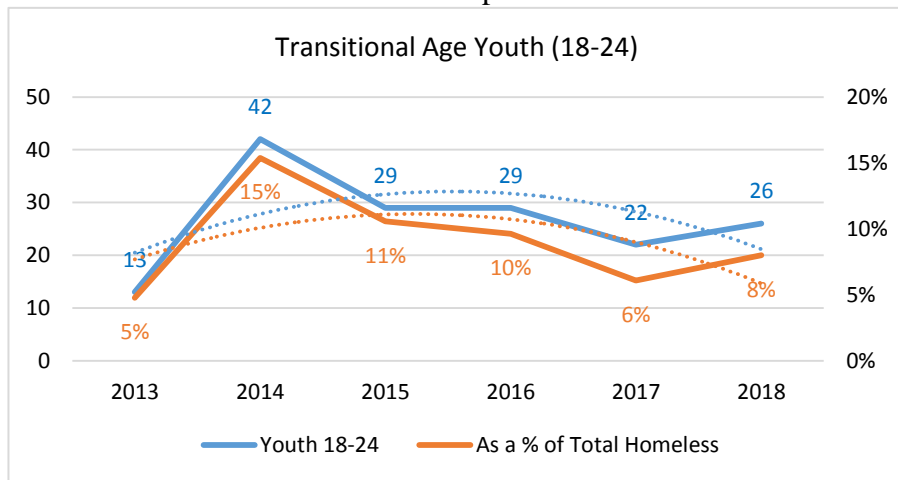
Homeless Unaccompanied Youth and Minors

A. Transitional Age Youth (18-24 years old)

The 2018 PIT counted **26 Transitional Age Youth**. 13 were single and 13 were single mothers with 20 children. All were sheltered except one. 18 were African American, 5 were Caucasian, and 3 multiple races. 10 were also Latino in ethnicity. One was chronically homeless.

As a percentage of total homeless population, Transitional Age Youth has grown and then declined over the past 10 years for those in shelter or on the streets (Graph J). However, the number who are near homeless i.e. without a home and moving around from friend or family because shelters and other housing options are full, has been increasing according to Homeless “Coordinated Entry” applications and referrals.

Graph J:



B. Homeless Students in the School System (Minors)

There were 64 homeless unaccompanied students who still attend their school districts but live doubled up with other friends or family members. There were no unaccompanied minors that were by themselves at a shelter or were counted as unsheltered.

Near Homeless

39 persons or 14% of those surveyed who were not in shelter were near homeless, i.e. doubled up with friends or family, or about to be evicted, or soon to leave an institution into homelessness.

1. Only 1 (male) was a Veteran. He was receiving Veteran benefits.
2. 54% were male and 46% were female.
3. The median age is 50.
4. 3 are Transitional Age Youth.
5. 39% African American; 44% Caucasian; 11% Hispanic.
6. The number of families and unaccompanied or singles were equal. 26 children in families.
7. Up to 54% received subsidized income. 5% were employed.
8. 56 % have public or private health insurance.

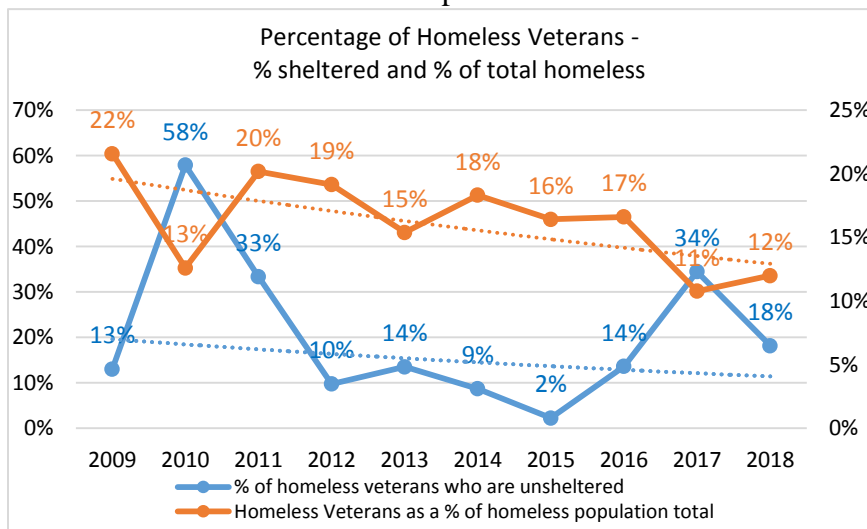
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9. 26% also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP).
10. 46% were doubled up temporarily with others while not on lease or having to leave to leave within 2 weeks; **23% were being discharged from institutions**; 13% were being evicted; 5% were staying at motel/hotel
11. 72% from Harrisburg; 31% from Dauphin County outside Harrisburg; 7% from out of area.
12. Mental Health and Eviction due to non-payment of rent were the highest incidence primary cause for homelessness, both at 15%. Temporary living situation and family breakup were the next highest, both at 13% Drugs or/and Alcohol is the highest incidence of primary cause given for homelessness, each at 21%; incarceration and eviction both at (11%). Drugs and alcohol; leaving incarceration, and job loss were each 8%.
13. Mental Health (41%); Drug or/and Alcohol (18%) are the highest secondary causes of homelessness; 23% indicated “other” non-specific reasons.
14. 64% have a Mental Health disability, 10% PTSD; 13% Intellectual Disabilities; Drugs or Alcohol (23%). 13% had physical disabilities and 8% had chronic health problems. 36% experienced their homelessness for over 12 months.
15. One third or 33% was experiencing their near homeless for the first time.

Homeless Veterans

The total number of homeless veterans while fluctuating between 40 and 50, decreased from 52 to 39 in the past ten years (Graph E). This is due to increased homeless Veterans’ housing: VA Bridge and transitional housing; VA Supportive Services for Veterans with Families (SSVF) and HUD – VA Supportive Housing or HUD VASH. **As a result, homeless Veterans as a percentage of the overall homeless population decreased significantly in the past ten years from 22 percent to 12 percent. The percentage of unsheltered Veterans decreased from as high as 58 percent in 2010 to 2 percent in 2015, as conversely they were offered and accepted temporary housing (Graph E).** The increase in unsheltered veterans in 2016 & 2017 reflects the aforementioned overall upsurge of unsheltered homeless persons in those years.

Graph E

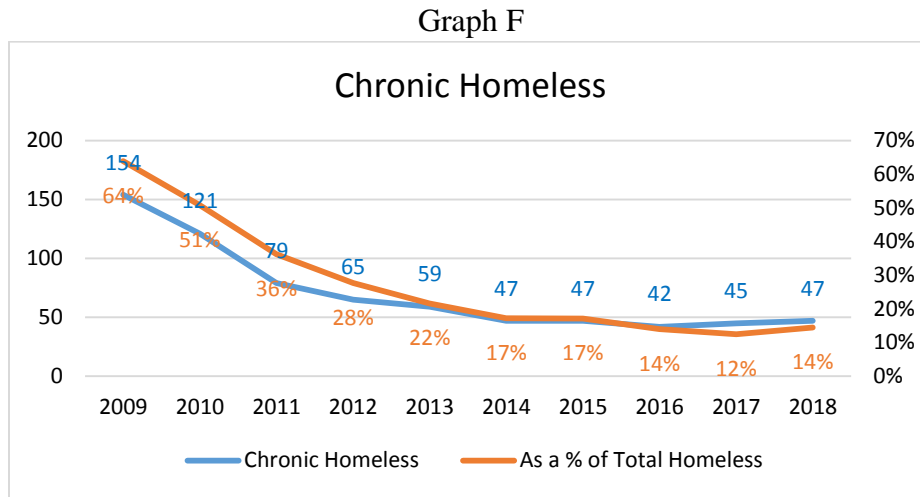


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Chronic Homelessness

Chronic Homelessness is defined as individuals or families with a disabling condition, who have experienced homelessness for 12 months either consecutively or over four episodes in the past three years, decreased in the past ten years.

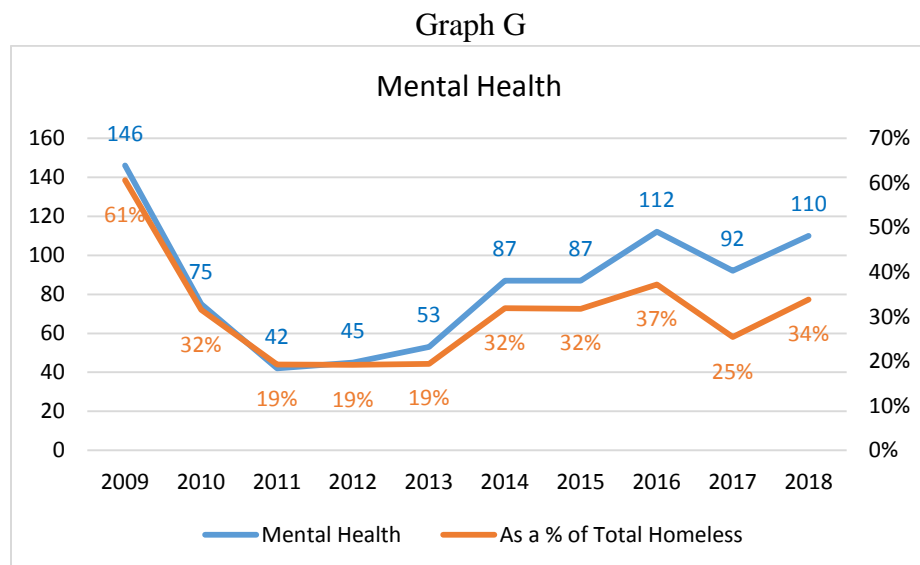
In 2018 47 persons or 14% of the homeless population were chronically homeless. This differed little from 2017. However, over the past 10 years chronic homelessness declined significantly.



Homeless Subpopulations:

A. Mental Health

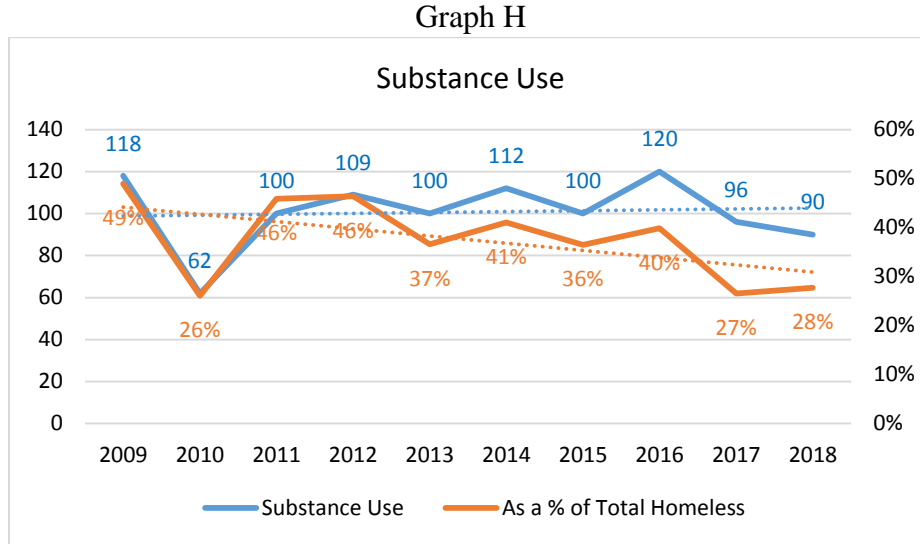
In the 2018 PIT, 110 adults or slightly over a third of the population indicated they have a Mental Health concern or diagnosis. This is up from 2017 where the percentage was one quarter. There appears to be an initial decrease and then increase in those who have a mental health concern or diagnosis over the past ten years. (Graph G)



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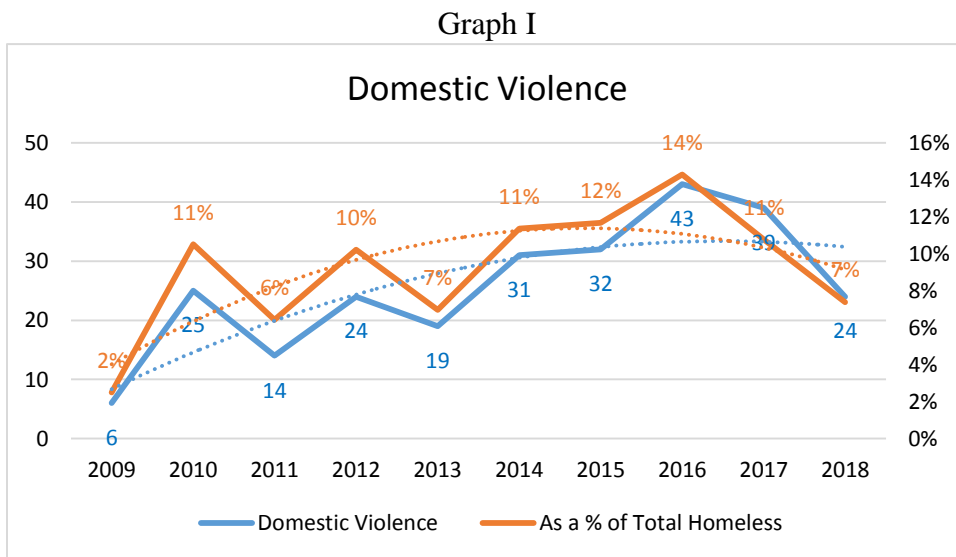
B. Substance Use

In the 2018 PIT, 90 homeless persons or 28 percent indicated a substance use disorder or concern. This is relatively unchanged from 2017. However, the percentage of homeless persons indicating substance use as a factor has decreased over the past ten years (Graph I)



C. Victims of Violence, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking

24 persons or 7 percent indicated their homelessness was as a result of either domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking. This a significant decrease from 39 percent or 14 persons in 2017 and continues a decreasing trend from 2016. Prior to that the trend has been increasing the past ten years (Graph I)



Submitted by Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness.

For any questions about this report or the 2018 Point in Time Survey, please contact George Payne at 717-255-6431 or gpayn@hra-harrisburgpa.org.

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[Appendix: Data Tables](#)