CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

2009-2016
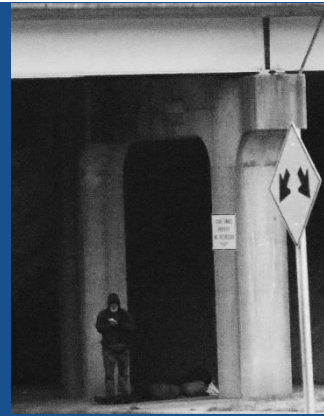
The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (HAB), formerly known as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing, is a community based board appointed to implement the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ten Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness. Members are appointed by the Mayor, City Council and the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. HAB works with service providers and community stakeholders to determine comprehensive, data-driven strategies to prevent and end homelessness. HAB looks to national best practices and local research to make its recommendations to community stakeholders and providers and advocates and advices on a strategic level to reduce homelessness and increase affordable housing. In addition, HAB is responsible for the governance of the Continuum of Care in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, which carries out all activities as specified in 24 CFR part 578.5(b) of the Federal Register of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is a nonpartisan, applied research and community outreach center at UNC Charlotte. Founded in 1969, it provides services including technical assistance and training in operations and data management; public opinion surveys; and research and analysis around economic, environmental, and social issues affecting the Charlotte region.

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About

The 2016 Housing Instability & Homelessness Report Series is a collection of local reports designed to better equip our community to make data-informed decisions around housing instability and homelessness. Utilizing local data and research, these reports are designed to provide informative and actionable research to providers, funders, public officials and the media as well as the general population who might have an interest in this work.

In 2014, the Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg outlined four key reporting areas that, together, would comprise an annual series of reports for community stakeholders. The four areas include:

1. Point-in-Time Count

An annual snapshot of the population experiencing homelessness in Mecklenburg County. This local report is similar to the national report on Point-in-Time Count numbers, and provides descriptive information about both the sheltered and unsheltered population experiencing homelessness on one night in January.

2. Cumulative Count

An annual count of the population experiencing sheltered homelessness over twelve months. Like the Point-in-Time Count Report, this local report is similar to the national report on annual counts of sheltered homelessness, providing descriptive information about the population experiencing sheltered homelessness throughout the year. The Point-in-Time Count and Cumulative Count Reports are complements, and together help paint a picture of homelessness and trends in our community.

3. Housing Instability

An annual report focusing on the characteristics and impact of housing instability in the community. During the 2016 reporting cycle, this report will feature innovative affordable housing strategies that other communities have implemented.

4. Spotlight

An annual focus on a trend or specific population within housing instability and homelessness. During the 2016 reporting cycle, this report will focus on households with adults and children experiencing homelessness within Mecklenburg County.

Key Definitions

These definitions are based on guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Child Only Households
Households where all members are under the age of 18.

Chronically Homeless*
Individual or head of household with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and who has either been continuously homeless for at least 12 months or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months. Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights. Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break.

Continuum of Care (CoC)
Local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or even an entire state.

Emergency / Seasonal Housing (ES)
A facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for homeless people.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
A software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless people. Each CoC maintains its own HMIS, which can be tailored to meet local needs, but must also conform to HUD's HMIS Data and Technical Standards.

Households with Adults and Children
People who are homeless as part of households that have at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

Households with Adults Only
Households with single adults and adult couples unaccompanied by children under the age of 18.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
A report on the capacity to house persons who are homeless.

Parenting Youth
Youth (under age 25) who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
Designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis to formerly homeless people. This is considered permanent housing.

Point-in-Time Count (PIT)
An unduplicated one-night estimate of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
A program that provides financial assistance and services to help those experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. This is considered permanent housing.

Transitional Housing (TH)
A program that provides temporary housing and supportive services for up to 24 months with the intent for the person to move towards permanent housing.

Sheltered Homeless People
People who are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (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.)

Unaccompanied Youth
People who are not part of a family during their episode of homelessness and who are between the ages of 18 and 24.

Unsheltered Homeless People
People 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.

Veteran
Someone who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

* This definition is new in 2016 and reflects revisions made by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Introduction

The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) is federally mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all communities receiving federal funds through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program. The PIT Count takes an annual unduplicated census of people experiencing homelessness—sheltered or unsheltered—on a given night in January and helps communities better advocate for additional federal, state, and local resources to provide services for the homeless population.

There are two components to the PIT Count using HUD's definition of homeless: a sheltered count of how many people are in shelters (transitional housing, emergency and seasonal shelter, and safe havens) and an unsheltered count of how many people are living in places unfit for human habitation (e.g. streets, camps, abandoned buildings).

This report highlights the findings from the 2016 Charlotte-Mecklenburg PIT Count and provides a longitudinal examination of PIT data from 2009 to 2016. To provide context to the changes seen in the PIT data, this report includes a section on national and local changes happening around homelessness funding, policies, and programs.

The findings provided in this report are estimates of how many people are homeless on a given night in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, which includes the City of Charlotte. There are several limitations to the 2016 PIT Count, as well as the PIT Count overall. Given its limitations, the PIT Count should not be viewed as an exact number, but rather a useful tool that can be used to estimate characteristics of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg homeless population and gauge changes in the homeless population over time (see "Limitations" section for more details).

The PIT Count in Mecklenburg County identified 1,818 people experiencing homelessness on the night of Wednesday, January 27, 2016. This was a 36% decrease from 2010 and a 9% decrease from 2015.

Key Findings

On a single night in January 2016 in Charlotte-Mecklenburg

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,818

187 UNSHELTERED (10%)

482 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (27%)

1,149 EMERGENCY SHELTER (63%)

HOUSEHOLDS WITH **ADULTS ONLY**	HOUSEHOLDS WITH **ADULTS & CHILDREN**	HOUSEHOLDS WITH **ONLY CHILDREN**
1,160	226	8

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS	**PARENTING YOUTH**	**VETERANS**	**CHRONICALLY** HOMELESS
78	34	149	170
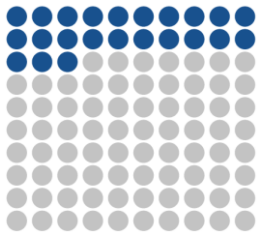
23% Children
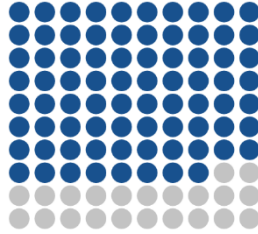
78% Black
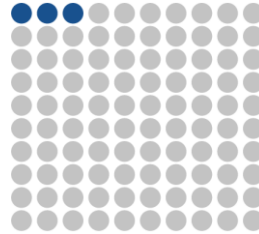
3% Latino
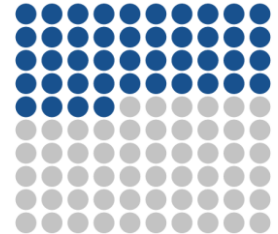
44% Female

Trends

▲ = Increase   ▼ = Decrease

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ON A GIVEN NIGHT
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG, 2016

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2481	2824	2848	2567	2418	2014	2001	1818
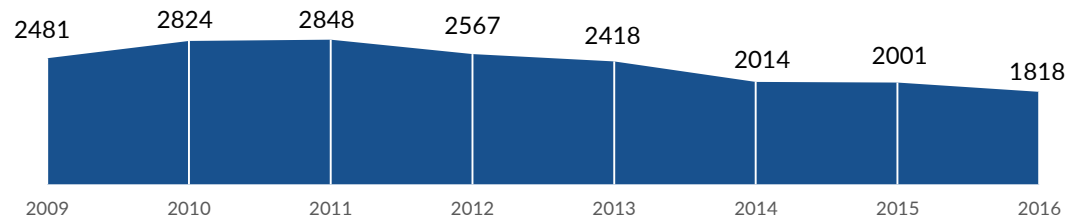
	2010 - 2016	2015 - 2016
OVERALL		
Homelessness rate per 1,000 residents	▼ 1.4 Decreased from 3.1 to 1.7	▼ 0.2 Decreased from 1.9 to 1.7
Total homeless people	▼ 1,006 (36%) Decreased from 2,824 to 1,818	▼ 183 (9%) Decreased from 2,001 to 1,818
HOUSEHOLD TYPE		
People in households with adults and children	▼ 23 (3%) Decreased from 673 to 650	▼ 108 (14%) Decreased from 758 to 650
Households with adults only	▼ 991 (46%) Decreased from 2,151 to 1,160	▼ 71 (6%) Decreased from 1,231 to 1,160
People in households with only children	▼ 9 (53%) Decreased from 17 to 8	▼ 4 (33%) Decreased from 12 to 8
Homeless veterans	▼ 19 (11%) Decreased from 168 to 149	▼ 36 (19%) Decreased from 185 to 149
Chronically homeless	▼ 137 (45%) Decreased from 307 to 170	▼ 110 (39%) Decreased from 280 to 170
Unaccompanied Youth (under 25)	No data available in 2010.	▼ 7 (8%) Decreased slightly from 85 to 78
SHELTER TYPE		
Unsheltered people	▼ 564 (75%) Decreased from 751 to 187	▲ 7 (4%) Increased slightly from 180 to 187
People in emergency & seasonal shelter	▲ 187 (19%) Increased from 962 to 1,149	▼ 34 (3%) Decreased from 1,183 to 1,149
People in transitional housing	▼ 629 (57%) Decreased from 1,111 to 482	▼ 156 (24%) Decreased from 638 to 482

Progress Report

In addition to Charlotte-Mecklenburg's "Ten-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness,"[1] community efforts are also guided by the four goals outlined in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's June 2010 plan, "Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness." Below is Charlotte-Mecklenburg's progress on each of the four goals based on the January 2016 PIT Count.

END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS BY 2017*

- On a night in January 2016, 170 people were identified as chronically homeless, 60 (35%) of which were unsheltered.

- The number of people experiencing chronic homelessness has decreased by 45% (137 people) since 2010.

PREVENT AND END FAMILY, YOUTH, AND CHILD HOMELESSNESS BY 2020

- On a night in January 2016, 650 people in 226 households with adults and children experienced homelessness.

- The number of people in homeless households with adults and children decreased 3% (23 people) since 2010.

GOALS

PREVENT AND END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS BY 2015

- On a night in January 2016, 149 homeless veterans were identified, 25 (17%) of which were unsheltered.

- The number of homeless veterans has decreased 11% (19 people) since 2010.

SET A PATH TO ENDING ALL TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

- On a night in January 2016, 1,818 people experienced homelessness, with 1,631 (90%) sleeping in a shelter.

- Since 2010, homelessness decreased by 36% (1,006 people). The decrease is largely due to a decrease of 991 people in households with adults only.
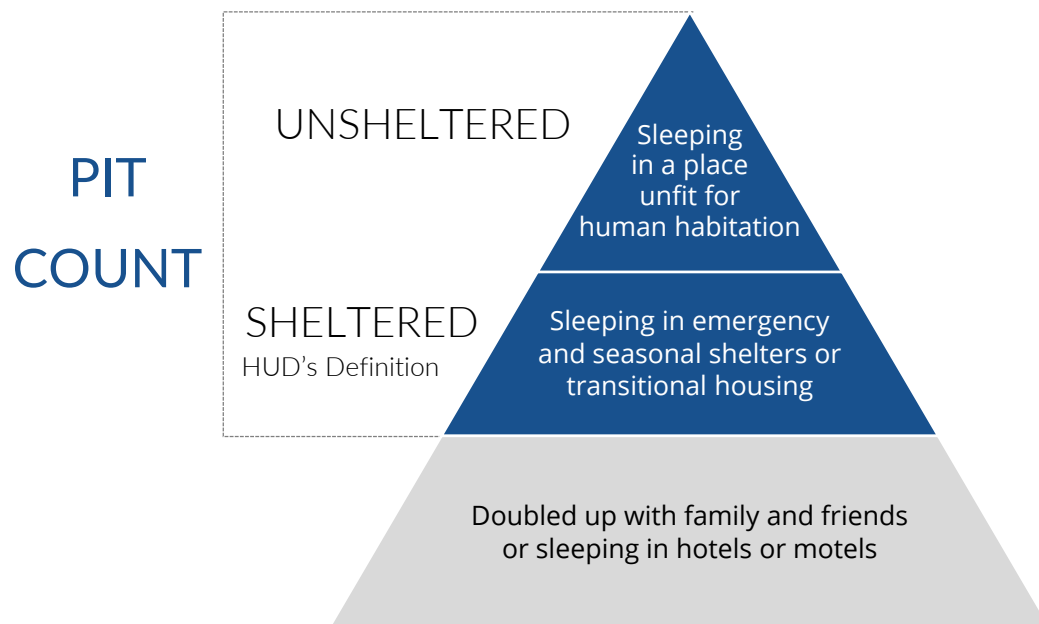
* The original goal for ending chronic homelessness was 2016. In February 2015, the Obama Administration extended this goal to 2017.

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[1] http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/housing/documents/10yearplantoendandpreventhomelessness.pdf

Point-in-Time Count Data & Methodology

The PIT Count uses the HUD definition of homelessness in Federal regulation 24 CFR §578.3 to estimate the number of people "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" or residing in a shelter (emergency/seasonal shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing). While the federal government determines the PIT reporting requirements for both the unsheltered and sheltered counts, the methodology for conducting the unsheltered count is up to each individual community to develop and implement.

PIT COUNT

UNSHELTERED

Sleeping in a place unfit for human habitation

SHELTERED
HUD's Definition

Sleeping in emergency and seasonal shelters or transitional housing

Doubled up with family and friends or sleeping in hotels or motels

UNSHELTERED COUNT

The unsheltered portion of the PIT Count attempts to estimate the number of persons living in places unfit for human habitation on the night of Wednesday, January 27, 2016.

The 2016 PIT Count occurred with the assistance of over 150 volunteers on 27 survey and data entry teams. Volunteers went out on Wednesday night to identify people sleeping in places unfit for human habitation and early Thursday morning to ask people where they had slept the night before. In an attempt to strengthen the identification of unaccompanied children and youth households, two agencies that specifically work with unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, were involved in planning for the PIT Count.

Volunteers received training for the unsheltered count through either an in-person training or through materials sent electronically. Survey locations included uptown streets, homeless camps, greenways, soup kitchens, the library, and hospital waiting rooms.

Data collection

For the unsheltered count data in 2016, volunteers collected data on a printed form. Once collected, the data were entered into a specially-designed electronic form that could be exported into Excel. If a person was homeless but unwilling to answer all the questions for the PIT Count, volunteers were allowed to answer the following items through observation: age, gender, race, and ethnicity. For the first time, these data were cross-referenced with HMIS data to improve accuracy and prevent duplicate entries for the sheltered and unsheltered count.

UNSHELTERED COUNT

Estimates the number of unsheltered persons living in places unfit for human habitation on
January 27, 2016

150+
volunteers

27
teams

LOCATIONS

Uptown streets, homeless camps, greenways, soup kitchens, the library, and hospital waiting rooms

SHELTERED COUNT

The sheltered count provides census data on all households with adults and children, households with adults only, and child only households sleeping in "a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (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) on the night designated for the count."[2]

The sheltered count excludes persons who are precariously housed, such as staying with family or friends, living in a motel or hotel paid for without a voucher, living in permanent housing units, receiving temporary assistance while living in conventional housing, or staying at a hospital, residential treatment facility, foster care, or detention facility.

SHELTERED COUNT

A census of households sleeping in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements on January 27, 2016

SHELTER TYPES

Emergency/Seasonal shelter
Safe havens
Transitional housing

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[2] https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-CPD-15-010-2016-HIC-PIT-Data-Collection-Notice.pdf

Data collection

For the sheltered count data in 2016, all agencies in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care (CoC) were required to submit their census data for the PIT Count.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg HMIS database was used to compile the sheltered count data for CoC agencies that use HMIS. Reports pulled from HMIS were checked for data quality issues and to verify that data were accurate. For CoC agencies that do not use HMIS and domestic violence agencies, forms were provided for data entry. Once the forms were collected, the data in the forms were reviewed for completeness and accuracy before being entered into HMIS as project entries. In total, 15 agencies, representing 18 programs, participated in the sheltered count.

CHANGES IN DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Data requirements and definitions are established by HUD and may change from year to year as the HUD PIT Count data collection requirements expand and strengthen, and as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community makes enhancements to the data collection methodology.   See Table 1 for a summary of changes made to the PIT Count data and methodology from 2009 to 2016. The following changes to data collection occurred in 2016:

- ▶ **HMIS:** In 2016 the Charlotte-Mecklenburg HMIS data were used for the first time to assist in cross-referencing unsheltered count data with sheltered count data to ensure there were no duplicate entries.

- ▶ **Chronically homeless:** HUD revised the definition for chronically homeless in 2016. The revised definition adds language specifying that for those people who have 4 episodes of homelessness in 3 years, those 4 episodes have to total at least 12 months in order to be considered chronically homeless. For the PIT Count, the revised definition for chronically homeless is an individual or head of household with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and who has either been continuously homeless for at least 12 months or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months. Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights. Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break.[3]

- ▶ **Gender:** After expanding the transgender category to specify transgender male to female (M-F) or female to male (F-M) in 2015, in 2016 HUD decided to return to the gender categories included in the 2014 count and collapse the option to specify transgender M-F or F-M into one "transgender" reporting category. This change was made based on feedback HUD received.[4]

- ▶ **Additional survey questions added:** Based on feedback from the community, the decision was made by the PIT Count Planning Committee, to collect additional information on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, specifically related to: whether a person lived anywhere besides Charlotte-Mecklenburg during the last 2 years, where a person lived prior to Charlotte-Mecklenburg, why they came to Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and why they were not sleeping at the shelter.
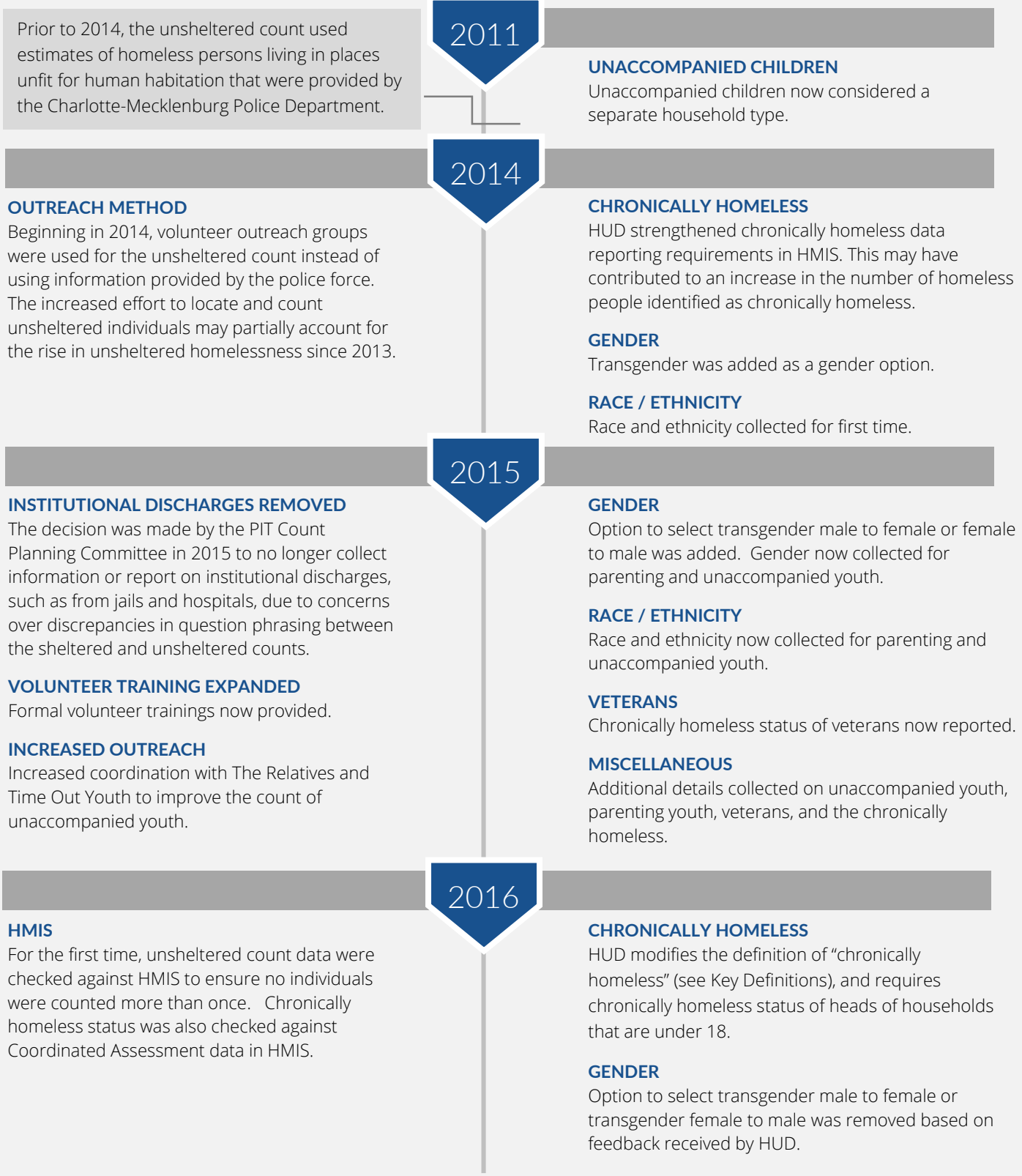
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[3] https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf

[4] http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=15-10cpdn.pdf

TABLE 1. CHANGES IN PIT METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION FROM 2011-2016

METHODOLOGY

DATA

2011

Prior to 2014, the unsheltered count used estimates of homeless persons living in places unfit for human habitation that were provided by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN
Unaccompanied children now considered a separate household type.

2014

OUTREACH METHOD
Beginning in 2014, volunteer outreach groups were used for the unsheltered count instead of using information provided by the police force. The increased effort to locate and count unsheltered individuals may partially account for the rise in unsheltered homelessness since 2013.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
HUD strengthened chronically homeless data reporting requirements in HMIS. This may have contributed to an increase in the number of homeless people identified as chronically homeless.

GENDER
Transgender was added as a gender option.

RACE / ETHNICITY
Race and ethnicity collected for first time.

2015

INSTITUTIONAL DISCHARGES REMOVED
The decision was made by the PIT Count Planning Committee in 2015 to no longer collect information or report on institutional discharges, such as from jails and hospitals, due to concerns over discrepancies in question phrasing between the sheltered and unsheltered counts.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING EXPANDED
Formal volunteer trainings now provided.

INCREASED OUTREACH
Increased coordination with The Relatives and Time Out Youth to improve the count of unaccompanied youth.

GENDER
Option to select transgender male to female or female to male was added. Gender now collected for parenting and unaccompanied youth.

RACE / ETHNICITY
Race and ethnicity now collected for parenting and unaccompanied youth.

VETERANS
Chronically homeless status of veterans now reported.

MISCELLANEOUS
Additional details collected on unaccompanied youth, parenting youth, veterans, and the chronically homeless.

2016

HMIS
For the first time, unsheltered count data were checked against HMIS to ensure no individuals were counted more than once. Chronically homeless status was also checked against Coordinated Assessment data in HMIS.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
HUD modifies the definition of "chronically homeless" (see Key Definitions), and requires chronically homeless status of heads of households that are under 18.

GENDER
Option to select transgender male to female or transgender female to male was removed based on feedback received by HUD.

LIMITATIONS

There are several limitations to the 2016 PIT Count, as well as the PIT Count overall. Given its limitations, the 2016 PIT Count should not be viewed as an exact number, but rather an estimate that can be used to examine characteristics of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg homeless population and trends over time. Limitations include:

Changes in categorization of housing types. Changes at the agency level for how housing units are categorized may have an impact on findings. For example, units classified as transitional housing units may be reclassified as rapid re-housing, which would result in a decrease in the number of people counted in transitional housing for the PIT Count.

Changes in definitions. HUD may occasionally change the definition of certain elements. These changes in definition may expand or reduce the number of people who get included in the count.

Homeless definition. The HUD definition of homelessness may be narrower or different from other definitions of homelessness, and caution should be used in making direct comparisons with estimates of homelessness using different definitions of homelessness.   For example, the HUD definition does not include those who are unstably housed in hotels or living doubled up with relatives or friends, however those people would be considered homeless under the Federal McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

SUMMARY OF LIMITATIONS

- Changes in count methodology over time
- Count is a one-night estimate
- Definitions and housing type classifications may change
- Longitudinal analyses should be viewed as general trends
- PIT homeless definition different from others (ex. McKinney-Vento)
- Self-reported data have reliability issues and not all people answer these questions
- Undercount of people experiencing homelessness

Methodology changes.   Because of the methodological changes beginning in the 2014 PIT Count, caution should be used in interpreting changes over time. Beginning in 2014, volunteer outreach groups were used for the unsheltered count instead of solely using information provided by the police force. The increased effort to locate and count unsheltered individuals may partially account for the rise in unsheltered homelessness since 2013.

Self-reported data.   Self-reported data should not be viewed as an exact number.   Individuals may choose whether or not to answer these highly personal questions or to do so truthfully.   Therefore, the numbers provided in this report are only reflective of those who chose to answer these questions. Due to the potential inaccuracies of self-reported data, the findings provided in this report regarding self-reported data should be used with caution.

Unaccompanied children and youth. Unaccompanied children and youth are typically undercounted because they tend to not reside in the same areas as older adults experiencing homelessness, not self-identify as homeless, stay on friends' couches, or try to blend in.

Undercount. The PIT Count is a useful tool in understanding homelessness at a point in time and overall trends, but does not capture all the people who:

- Experience periods of homelessness over the course of a year
- Are unsheltered but not visible on the day of the count
- Fall under a broader definition of homelessness (ex. living in motels, staying with family/friends, in jail or in a treatment facility)

National Context

In the last seven years, federal policy governing the national response to homelessness shifted from a focus on programs that manage the problem of homelessness to local systems that prevent and end the problem of homelessness.

▶ Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition (HEARTH) Act of 2009

The HEARTH Act reauthorized McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs that provide funding to states and local communities to address homelessness. The Act requires local Continuums of Care to incorporate a number of changes that will impact local service-delivery, including:

- ### System responses instead of program responses to homelessness

  As a system, communities that receive federal funding will have to coordinate their response to homelessness and use system and program level data to inform decision-making.

- ### Measuring outcomes instead of reporting activities

  Communities that receive federal funding will be expected to show progress on key outcomes including the reduction in overall homelessness, the reduction of people who return to homelessness, increased access to housing and services through outreach, and job and income growth.

- ### Permanent housing instead of shelter

  Funding decisions will be weighted toward housing solutions, specifically Permanent Supportive Housing opportunities for chronically homeless households and rapid re-housing opportunities for those who are not chronically homeless.

▶ Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness

In 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness launched the Federal Strategic Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness "as a roadmap for joint action" by 19 member agencies and state and local partners. The plan established the following goals:

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years.[5]
- Prevent and end homelessness among veterans in five years.
- Prevent and end family homelessness in 10 years.
- Set a path toward ending all types of homelessness.

The plan also established strategies for meeting its goals, including increased leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement; increased access to and provision of stable and affordable housing; expanding opportunities for sustainable employment; improving health by linking health care with homeless assistance and housing programs; and, transforming homeless service systems into crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and return people quickly to stable housing.

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[5] The original goal for ending chronic homelessness was 2016. In February 2015, the Obama Administration extended this goal to 2017.

▶ Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness by 2015

In 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary announced the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. This initiative challenged communities to end homelessness among their veteran population by the end of 2015. In October 2015, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs adopted a vision of what it means to end all homelessness and released the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks Review Tool and the Master List Template and Benchmark Generation tool for ending homelessness among veterans. The tools have been updated for consistency with revised Federal partner specifications. To date, 22 communities and 2 states have achieved this goal. Charlotte-Mecklenburg accepted this challenge. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing our Heroes is the local expression of this national initiative. See "Local Context" section for additional details.

▶ 100,000 Homes and Zero:2016 Campaigns

Community Solutions led two national campaigns to organize communities around housing the chronically homeless. The "100,000 Homes Campaign" was an effort to permanently house 100,000 of the country's most vulnerable homeless individuals by July 2014. Communities across the nation, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg, set the goal to house 100 homeless individuals in 100 days as part of this initiative. The term "housed" in this case refers to an individual placed in permanent housing or permanently living with family or friends. In 2014, as a follow up to the 100,000 Homes Campaign, the Zero:2016 campaign began, with the goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015 and chronic homelessness by 2016. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the local expression of the Zero:2016 national initiative to end chronic homelessness. See "Local Context" section for additional details.

Local Context

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community has been active in its efforts to end and prevent homelessness. From January 2009 to January 2016, there were a number of initiatives, developments and programs aimed at addressing homelessness in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. This historical context and combination of current strategies and initiatives help provide context for the PIT Count findings. Table 2 provides an overview of the initiatives and strategies to end and prevent homelessness that were in place in 2015. This list is intended to provide an overview of system wide initiatives, however there are many agency specific initiatives that contribute to this work as well. Table 3 provides a historical overview of community efforts from 2009 to 2015. Additional details can be found in the Appendix.

TABLE 2. OVERVIEW OF 2015-2016 INTIATIVES AND STRATEGIES

GOALS	INITIATIVES	STRATEGIES
End chronic homelessness By 2017	Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg	• Community coordination and collaboration
Prevent and end family, youth, and child homelessness by 2020	A Way Home Housing Endowment	• Coordinated assessment • Engagement and advocacy • Low barrier rapid-rehousing initiatives
Prevent and end veteran homelessness by 2015	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Our Heroes	• Permanent Supportive Housing • Data, research, and best practice informed decision making

2015-2016 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

➧ A Way Home Housing Endowment

In 2013, the City of Charlotte and Foundation For The Carolinas established the A Way Home housing endowment, which will be fully funded in 2018. This $20 million endowment, funded through public and private dollars, will be aimed at providing housing and rental assistance for families at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness, with veteran households receiving priority. In 2014, a group of local faith leaders raised operational funds, along with grant dollars from the Foundation For The Carolinas, to begin a pilot program until the endowment is fully funded. As of January 2016, four agencies receive funds through the pilot program: Charlotte Family Housing, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Salvation Army, and Renaissance West Community Initiative. In addition, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services partnered with A Way Home by providing grants to Charlotte Family Housing and Salvation Army that cover the cost of supportive services for families receiving housing subsidies through A Way Home.

◗ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Our Heroes

On Veterans Day 2014, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center accepted the Mayors Challenge with a goal of housing 204 Veterans by the end of 2015. As part of this initiative, best practices adopted in Charlotte-Mecklenburg include:

- Creating a by-name registry of homeless veterans in our community
- Accelerating and streamlining existing operational processes
- Agency coordination and outreach
- Active engagement of landlords
- Expediting determination of veteran status

As of January 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg surpassed the goal of housing 204 veterans and in total housed 385 veterans. Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to work with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to meet the federal criteria of ending veteran homelessness.

◗ Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg, launched in January 2015, is a collaboration between business, city, county and non-profit agencies to end chronic homelessness by 2016, focusing on the Housing First model. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the local expression of the Zero:2016 national initiative.

As part of this effort, a by-name registry of the chronically homeless coincided with the PIT Count in January 2015. This registry is used to help target outreach efforts and interventions, as well as prioritize housing placements to the most vulnerable. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is also working to expand outreach efforts, create 250 permanent supportive housing units, and develop additional leadership and staff support for the Housing First model. As of December 2015, Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg had housed 214 chronically homeless individuals.

2015-2016 COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

◗ Coordinated Assessment

Coordinated Assessment seeks to better connect households currently experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness with the services that are best able to serve them. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care launched Coordinated Assessment in 2014, with funding from Wells Fargo through the United Way of Central Carolinas and funding from Mecklenburg County Community Support Services for five positions. The National Alliance to End Homelessness and the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness provided assistance in developing and implementing the new system. Social workers stationed at three sites administer a standardized assessment that helps identify the services that can best address the housing needs of households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness within 72 hours.

◗ Engagement and Advocacy

The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (HAB) and the Homeless Services Network (HSN), a network of agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness, have developed a collaborative working relationship to support community engagement and advocacy on affordable housing and homelessness issues and research and evaluation of the community's homelessness and affordable housing efforts.

◗ Low Barrier Rapid Re-Housing Initiatives

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is shifting to funding rapid re-housing initiatives with low barriers to program entry. These initiatives help households with adults and children successfully exit homelessness and maintain permanent housing by integrating employment assistance, case management and housing services. Community Link, Men's Shelter of Charlotte and the Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte's Center of Hope are currently engaged in low-barrier rapid re-housing programs.

▶ Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

The community is using a system-wide Housing First model, which creates permanent supportive housing for a household that is experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness and has a condition of disability such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health issues or other conditions that create multiple and serious ongoing barriers to housing stability. PSH units are provided through community agencies and scattered-site programs located throughout the community.

▶ Data, Research, and Best Practice Informed Decision-Making

- **Mecklenburg County hires two new positions committed to improving data and research**

  The Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners approved two management analyst positions within Mecklenburg County Community Support Services to serve the roles of an HMIS System Administrator (data in) and a Housing and Homelessness Research Coordinator (data out). The City of Charlotte assisted with the initial funding.

  The HMIS Administrator is responsible for overseeing the data entry process for Charlotte-Mecklenburg's HMIS system. This includes providing regular training to agencies to ensure accurate and consistent data entry. It also includes monitoring data quality and completeness and creating reports to provide timely, relevant and quality data on the community's progress to end and prevent homelessness.

  The Housing and Homelessness Research Coordinator's primary role is to help the community engage with data and research around housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. On an agency level, this includes providing technical assistance in order to strengthen agency outcome measurement and evaluation work and connect data to decision-making. On a system level, this includes connecting actionable data and research with all community stakeholders.

- **Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Research and Evaluation Committee**

  The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Research and Evaluation committee coordinates and advocates on issues concerning data collection, research on homelessness and housing instability, and system level outcomes to measure progress.

- **Housing Data Consortium**

  In 2013, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute received funding from Foundation For The Carolinas through a Catalyst Grant to create a Homeless and Housing Data Consortium within the Institute for Social Capital (ISC). ISC houses Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data along with other key data from agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

- **Research and Evaluation efforts**

  The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is working to strengthen research and evaluation efforts to better understand homelessness and housing instability.

TABLE 3. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND HISTORICAL EFFORTS (SEE APPENDIX FOR DETAILS)

2009

HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM
Charlotte-Mecklenburg receives $1.9M in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program federal funds from 2009 to 2012.

2010

HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG AND THE TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS
Charlotte City Council and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners create the Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board (formerly known as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing) to oversee the ten-year plan to end and prevent homelessness.

2013

A WAY HOME HOUSING ENDOWMENT
The City of Charlotte and Foundation For The Carolinas establish A Way Home housing endowment.

ACCELERATION TO HOUSING 100 IN 100 DAYS INITIATIVE
Acceleration to Housing 100 in 100 Days initiative begins. From May 2013 to May 2014, 442 chronically homeless persons are housed.

2014

CHARLOTTE HOUSING AUTHORITY HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITING LIST
Charlotte Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher waiting list opens.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HOUSING OUR HEROES
Charlotte-Mecklenburg accepts the Mayors Challenge with a goal of housing 204 Veterans by the end of 2015.

COORDINATED ASSESSMENT
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care launches Coordinated Assessment.

HOUSING TRUST FUND
Charlotte voters approve a $15 million bond for the Housing Trust Fund.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY HOUSING STABILITY PARTNERSHIP
Mecklenburg County Housing Stability Partnership forms.

2015

HOUSING FIRST CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG
Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg initiative to end chronic homelessness by 2016 launches. Charlotte joins the national campaign Zero:2016 to end chronic homelessness by 2016.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY HIRES TWO NEW POSITIONS
Mecklenburg County hires two new positions committed to improving data and research.

Overall

Overall

- The per capita homelessness rate (homeless persons per 1,000 people in Mecklenburg County) **decreased** from 2009 to 2016 as the Mecklenburg County population grew.

Mecklenburg County Population and Rate of Homelessness (per 1,000)
2009 - 2016*
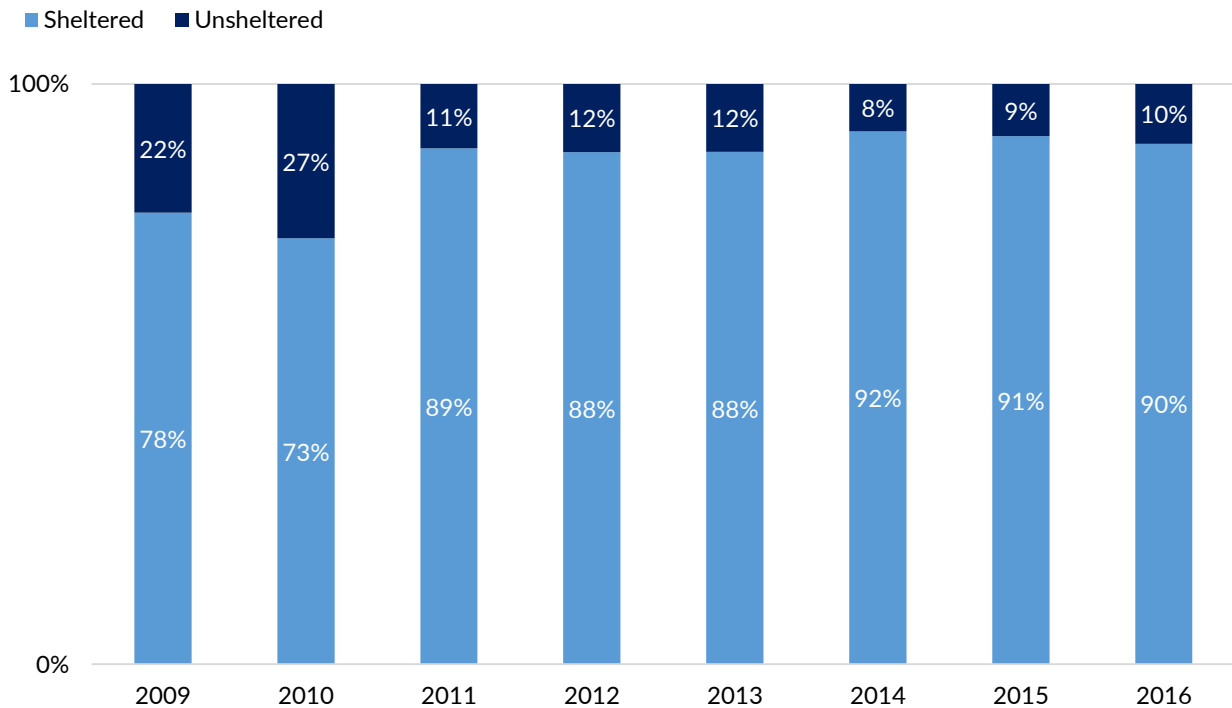
Meck County Population ——— Homeless persons per 1000
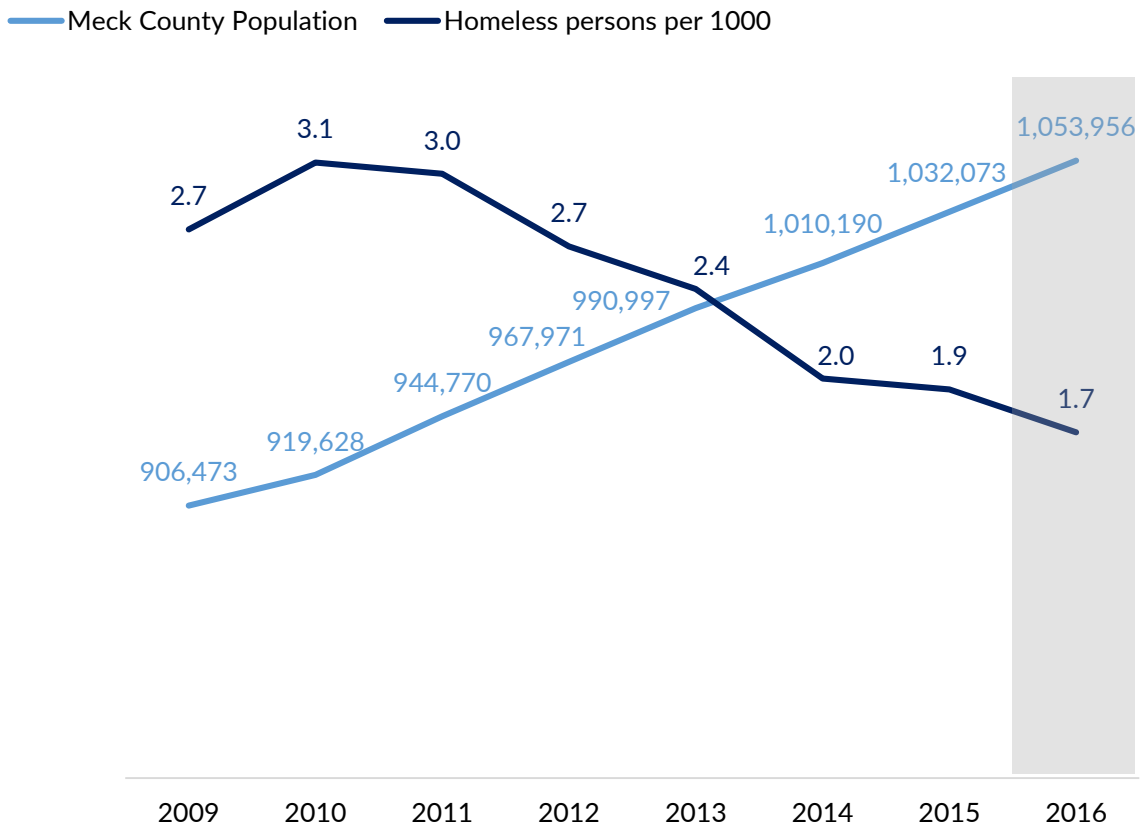
* 2009-2015 Population data obtained from Census Population Estimates.
2016 population projection obtained from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management.

Shelter Type

- **90%** (1,631) of homeless persons identified were sheltered, and the remaining **10%** (187 people) were unsheltered.

- Unsheltered homelessness increased by **4%** (7 people) and sheltered homelessness decreased by **10%** (190 people) from 2015 to 2016.

Percent of Homeless Population by Shelter Type
2009-2016

■ Sheltered   ■ Unsheltered

Year	Sheltered	Unsheltered
2009	78%	22%
2010	73%	27%
2011	89%	11%
2012	88%	12%
2013	88%	12%
2014	92%	8%
2015	91%	9%
2016	90%	10%

2016 **Overview**

1,818
Homeless Persons Identified On
a Night in January

▼ 36%   ▼ 9%

From 2010 to 2016   From 2015 to 2016

Overall

- The 2016 count identified **1,818** homeless persons on the night of January 27, 2016.

- There was a **9%** decrease in homeless persons from 2015 to 2016 and a **36%** decrease from 2010 to 2016.

Total Homeless Population by Shelter Type
2016

Unsheltered   10%
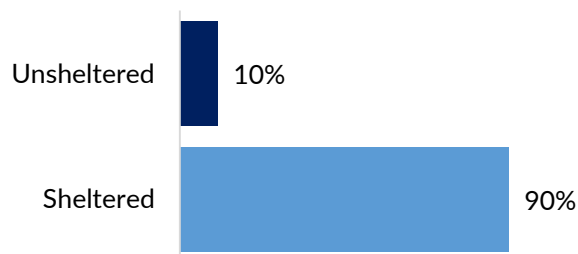
Sheltered   90%

Shelter Type

- **90%** (1,631) of homeless persons identified were sheltered, and the remaining **10%** (or 187 people) were unsheltered.

- Unsheltered homelessness increased by **4%** and sheltered homelessness decreased by **10%** from 2015 to 2016. From 2010 to 2016 unsheltered homelessness decreased **75%** from 751 to 187 individuals.

226
Households with adults and children
1,160   8
Adult only households   Child only households

Household Type

Households with adults and children

- There were **650** homeless people identified in **226** households with adults and children, representing **36%** of all homeless people on a single night.

- This represents a **12%** (30 household) decrease in homeless households with adults and children from 2015 and a **7%** (17 household) decrease from 2010.

- **99.6%** (225) of households identified with adults and children were sheltered.

Adult only households

- **1,160** people identified as homeless in households with adults only represented approximately **64%** of all homeless people on a single night.

- This represents a **6%** (71 person) decrease from 2015 and a **46%** (991 person) decrease from 2010.

- **84%** of people identified in households with adults only were sheltered.
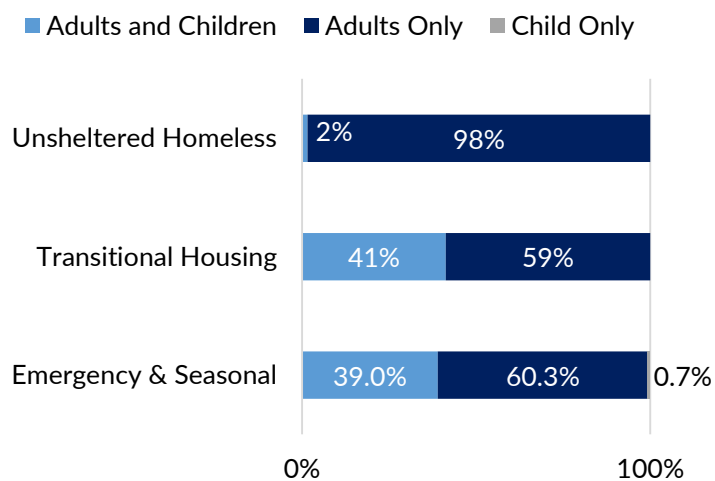
Child only households

- There were **8** unaccompanied homeless children identified on a single night in January 2016.

- This represents a **9** person (53%) decrease from 2010.

- **100%** of the identified child only households were sheltered in 2016.
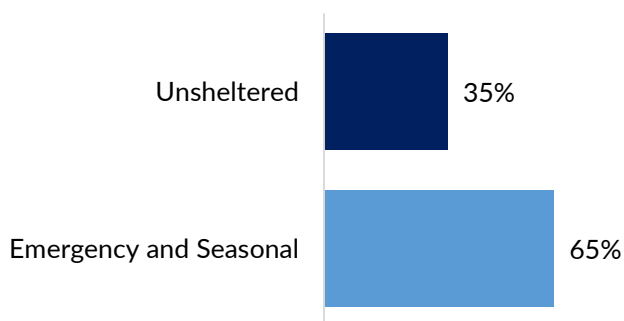
Persons by Household Type
2016

Adults and Children — 35.8%

Adult Only — 63.8%

Child Only — 0.4%
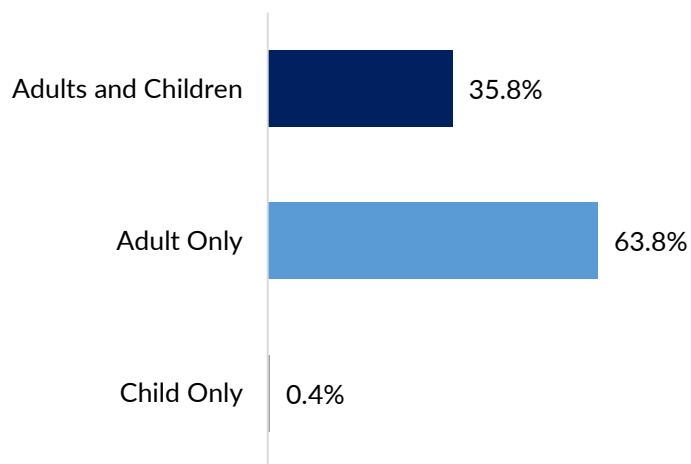
Persons by Household and Shelter Type
2016

■ Adults and Children ■ Adults Only ■ Child Only

Unsheltered Homeless — 2% / 98%

Transitional Housing — 41% / 59%

Emergency & Seasonal — 39.0% / 60.3% / 0.7%

0%   100%

170
Chronically homeless persons

Chronically Homeless Persons
2016

Unsheltered **35%**

Emergency and Seasonal **65%**

Chronically Homeless

- **9%** (or 170 people) of the homeless population identified as chronically homeless.

- This is a **39%** (110 person) decrease from 2015, and a **45%** (137 person) decrease since 2010.

Note: In 2014 and 2015, the volunteer effort to count homeless individuals expanded and in 2014, HUD strengthened data reporting requirements for identifying the chronically homeless, resulting in changes in how the chronically homeless were identified in HMIS. This could have contributed to an increase in the number of chronically homeless.

149
Veterans

Homeless Veterans by Shelter Type
2016

Emergency & Seasonal **44%**

Transitional Housing **39%**

Unsheltered Homeless **17%**
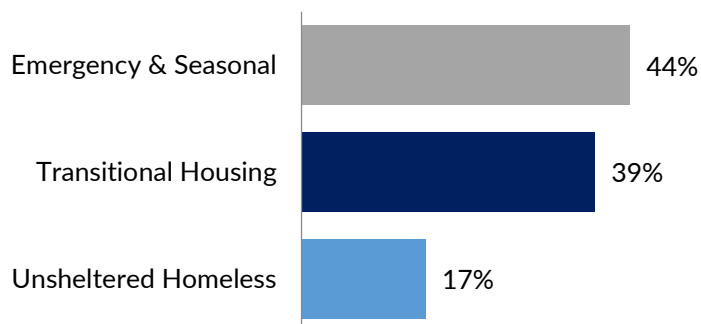
Homeless Veterans

- There were **149** homeless veterans identified in Mecklenburg County. Homeless veterans accounted for nearly **11%** of all homeless adults.

- This represents a **19%** (36 person) decrease from 2015 and a **11%** (19 person) decrease from 2010.
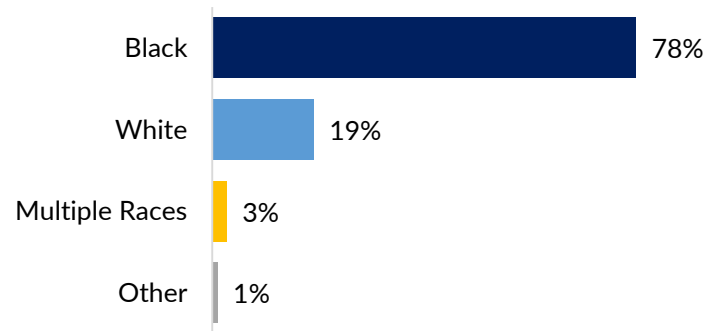
Race

- **78%** (1,415 people) of the total homeless population were Black. This is disproportionately high considering only **32%** of the general population in Mecklenburg County was Black. In Mecklenburg County, **24%** of Blacks lived under the poverty line accounting for **47%** of all people under the poverty line in Mecklenburg County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey.

- **55%** (103 people) of the unsheltered homeless population were Black.

- Whites comprised about **19%** of the homeless population (338 people) but **56%** of the general population and **35%** of all people in poverty in Mecklenburg County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey.
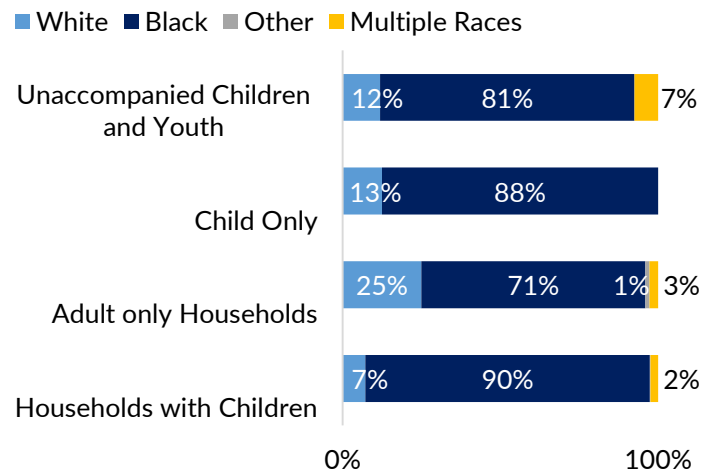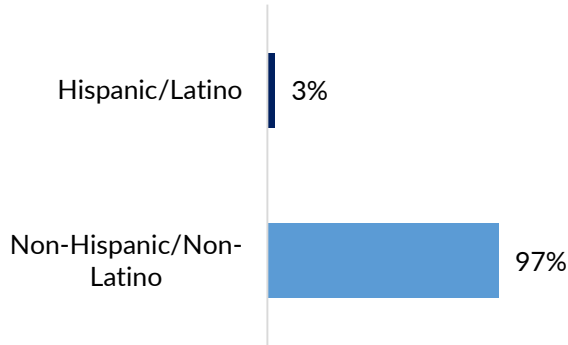
78%
Black

Homeless People by Race
2016

Race	Percentage
Black	78%
White	19%
Multiple Races	3%
Other	1%

Homeless People by Race and Household Type
2016

Legend: ■ White ■ Black ■ Other ■ Multiple Races

Household Type	White	Black	Other	Multiple Races
Unaccompanied Children and Youth	12%	81%		7%
Child Only	13%	88%		
Adult only Households	25%	71%	1%	3%
Households with Children	7%	90%		2%

0% — 100%

3%

Latino

Homeless People by Ethnicity
2016

Hispanic/Latino 3%

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino 97%

Ethnicity

- **3%** (60 people) of all homeless people identified on a single night were of Hispanic/Latino descent. In comparison, the Latino population comprises **13%** of the general population and **23%** of people below the poverty level in Mecklenburg County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey

- **17%** (177 people) of homeless people of Hispanic/Latino descent were unsheltered.

- **5%** (10 people) of the unsheltered homeless population were Hispanic/Latino.

Homeless People by Ethnicity and Household Type, 2016

■ Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino   ■ Hispanic/Latino

Child Only — 88% / 13%

Unaccompanied Children and Youth — 96% / 4%

Adult only Households — 97% / 3%

Households with Children — 96% / 4%

0%   100%

Gender

- ▶ **56%** (1,016) of all homeless people identified were male in 2016, yet males accounted for **85%** of the unsheltered homeless population.

- ▶ **44%** (800) of all homeless people identified were women in 2016, however women accounted for **66%** of people in households with adults and children.

- ▶ **0.1%** (2) of all homeless people identified were transgender, 1 of which was in emergency and seasonal housing and 1 was unsheltered.
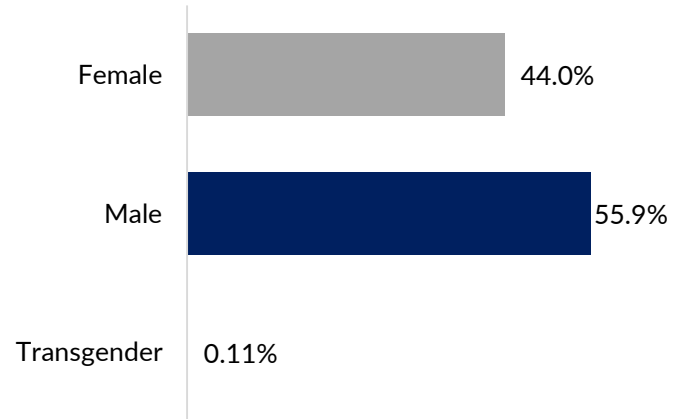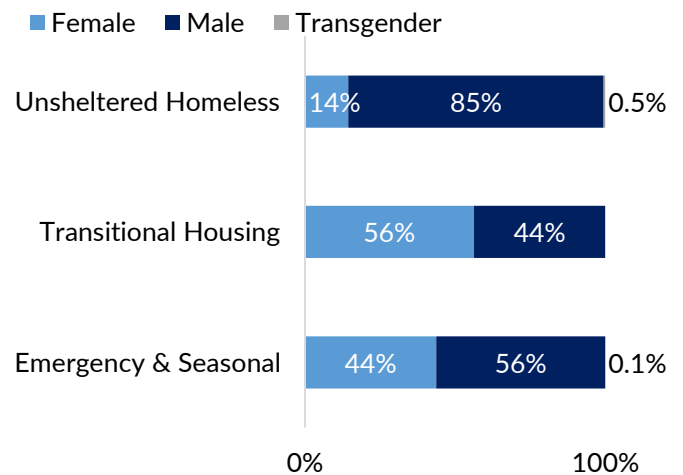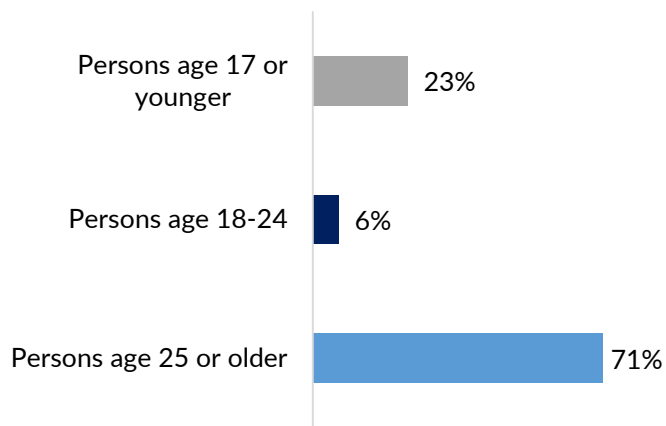
44% Female   **56%** Male   **0.1%** Transgender

Homeless Persons by Gender
2016

Female	44.0%
Male	55.9%
Transgender	0.11%

Gender by Shelter Type
2016

■ Female ■ Male ■ Transgender

	Female	Male	Transgender
Unsheltered Homeless	14%	85%	0.5%
Transitional Housing	56%	44%	
Emergency & Seasonal	44%	56%	0.1%

0%   100%

Homeless Persons by Age
2016

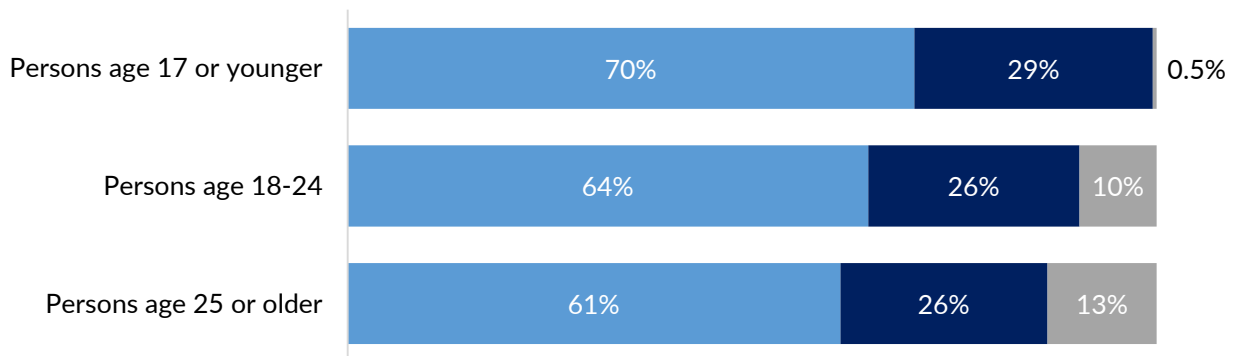| Age Group	Percentage
Persons age 17 or younger	23%
Persons age 18-24	6%
Persons age 25 or older	71%

Age

▶ **23%** (414 people) of all homeless people identified on a single night in January 2016 were under the age of 18.

▶ The majority of homeless people identified (**71%** or 1,289 people) were age 25 or older.

▶ Persons age 25 or older were predominantly (**61%**) in emergency and seasonal shelter, but had the highest proportion (**13%**) of unsheltered persons of all the age groups (versus **10%** for ages 18-24 and **0.5%** for under 18).

Age by Shelter Type
2016

■ Emergency & Seasonal ■ Transitional Housing ■ Unsheltered Homeless

Age Group	Emergency & Seasonal	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Homeless
Persons age 17 or younger	70%	29%	0.5%
Persons age 18-24	64%	26%	10%
Persons age 25 or older	61%	26%	13%

Households with
Adults & Children

CONTEXT

- Given changes in methodology for the unsheltered count since 2013, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

- Due to Charlotte Family Housing's transition to reporting its transitional housing units as rapid re-housing or other unit types in 2013 and Community Link's programmatic change from providing transitional units to rapid re-housing units in 2014, the decrease in people identified in transitional housing in 2014 and 2015 should be interpreted with caution.

- In 2013 the A Way Home housing endowment was established. A Way Home is aimed at providing housing and rental assistance for families at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness, with veteran households receiving priority.

- The HUD definition of homelessness used in the PIT Count differs from the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Due to this difference in definition, comparisons cannot be made between the two numbers. See "Limitations" section for more details.

On A Single Night in January 2016

- There were **650** homeless people identified in **226** households with adults and children, representing **36%** of all homeless people on a single night.

650

Homeless persons in households with adults and children

▼ 3%

From 2010 to 2016

▼ 14%

From 2015 to 2016

## 226

Households identified with adults and children

36%

Of all people experiencing homelessness were identified in a household with adults and children

Shelter Type, 2016

- **69%** (448 people) identified in households with adults and children were in emergency and seasonal shelter.

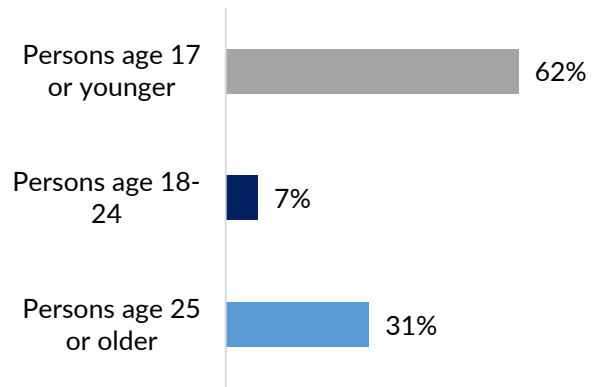- **99%** of households with adults and children were sheltered.

Homeless Households with Adults and Children by Shelter Type
2016

Shelter Type	Percentage
Unsheltered	0.4%
Transitional	33.2%
Emergency and Seasonal	66.4%
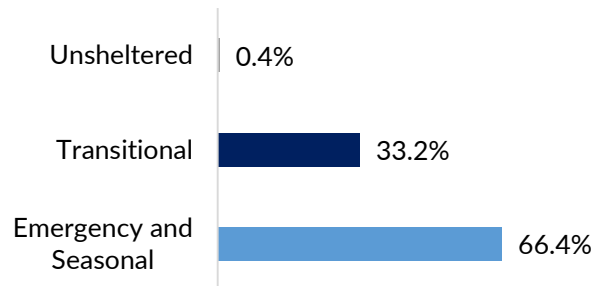
Age of Homeless People in Households with Adults and Children, 2016

- **62%** of all homeless people identified in households with adults and children were under the age of 18.

- **7%** of all homeless people in households with adults and children were between the ages of 18 and 24.

- **31%** of people in households with adults and children were 25 years or older.

- **98%** (or 406 people) of homeless children were part of a homeless household with adults and children.
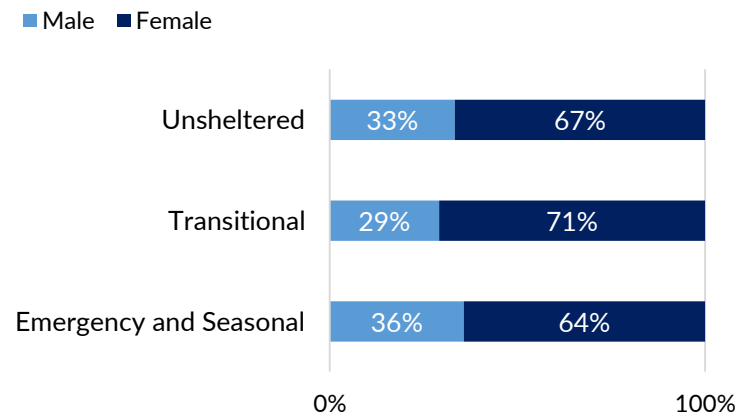
Age of People in Homeless Households with Adults and Children
2016

Persons age 17 or younger — 62%
Persons age 18-24 — 7%
Persons age 25 or older — 31%

Gender of Homeless People in Households with Adults and Children, 2016

- **66%** (431 people) of people in homeless households with adults and children were females. **34%** (219 people) of people in households with adults and children were males.

- Females and males were more likely to be sheltered. **34%** of females were in transitional housing and **70%** were in emergency and seasonal shelter. **27%** of males were in transitional housing and **75%** were in emergency and seasonal shelter.

- There were **0** people in households with adults and children who were transgender.

Total People in Homeless Households with Adults and Children by Gender
2016

■ Male ■ Female

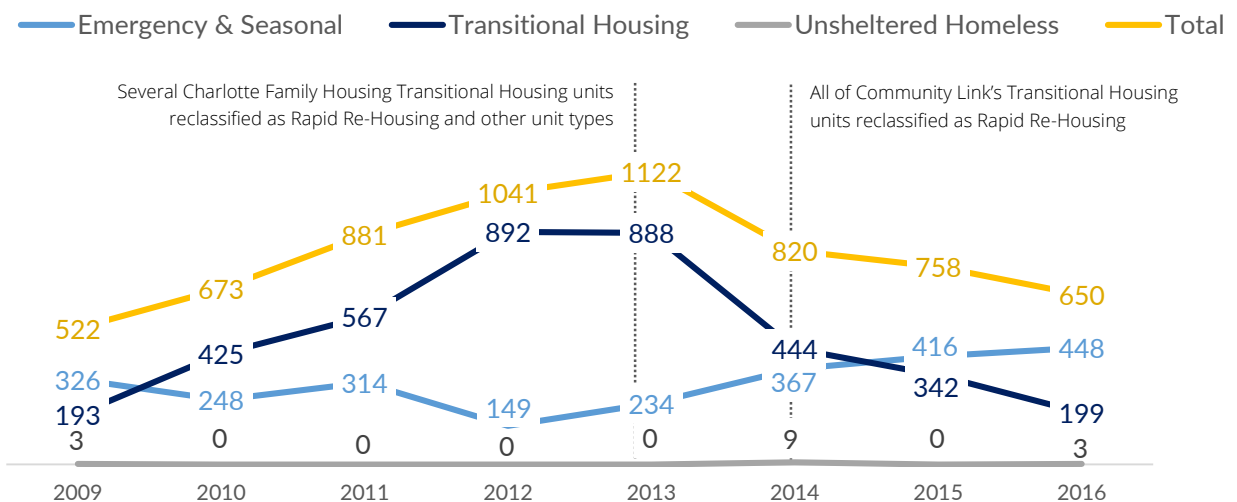|	Male	Female
Unsheltered	33%	67%
Transitional	29%	71%
Emergency and Seasonal	36%	64%

0%   100%

Since 2010

- The number of homeless people in households with adults and children decreased by **3%** (from 673 people in 2010 to 650 people in 2016) and the number of households decreased by **7%** during the same time period (from 243 households with adults and children in 2010 to 226 households with adults and children in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered people in households with adults and children increased from **0** people in 2010 to **3** people in 2016 and the number of sheltered people in households with adults and children decreased **4%** (from 673 people in 2010 to 647 people in 2016).

Since 2015

- The number of homeless households with adults and children decreased by **12%** (from 256 households in 2015 to 226 in 2016) and the number of people in those households decreased by **14%** (108 people). This decrease from 2015 to 2016 was due to a decrease in the number of people in households with adults and children in transitional housing, which decreased by **42%** (143 people), compared to emergency shelter which increased 8% (32 people).

- The number of unsheltered people in households with adults and children increased from **0** people in 2015 to **3** people in 2016 and the number of sheltered people in households with adults and children decreased by **15%** (111 people).

- The number of people in households with adults and children identified as chronically homeless decreased by **9%** (2 people).

People in Households with Adults and Children
2009-2016

Several Charlotte Family Housing Transitional Housing units reclassified as Rapid Re-Housing and other unit types

All of Community Link's Transitional Housing units reclassified as Rapid Re-Housing

— Emergency & Seasonal — Transitional Housing — Unsheltered Homeless — Total

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	522	673	881	1041	1122	820	758	650
Transitional Housing	193	425	567	892	888	444	342	199
Emergency & Seasonal	326	248	314	149	234	367	416	448
Unsheltered Homeless	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	3

Households with

Adults Only

DEFINITION
Single adults and adult couples unaccompanied by children. Also referred to as "individuals" or "households without children."

CONTEXT

- From 2014 to 2016, community initiatives and policies that include efforts to decrease the number of individuals experiencing homelessness include: Acceleration to Housing 100 in 100 Days campaign, Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg effort to end chronic homelessness, Housing Our Heroes effort to end veteran homelessness, and expansion of low barrier permanent supportive housing and low barrier rapid-rehousing initiatives. See "Local Context" section for more details.

- Given changes in the unsheltered count methodology since 2013, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

On A Single Night in January 2016

- **1,160** people were homeless in households with adults only in Mecklenburg County, representing about **64%** of all homeless people on a single night.

1,160

Homeless people in households with adults only

▼ 46%   ▼ 6%

From 2010 to 2016   From 2015 to 2016

64%

Of all people experiencing homelessness were identified in a household with adults only

Shelter Type, 2016

- People in households with adults only comprised **60%** of the total sheltered homeless population.

- More homeless individuals were sheltered (**84%**) than unsheltered (**16%**). Of those sheltered, **71%** were in emergency and seasonal shelters and **29%** were in transitional housing.
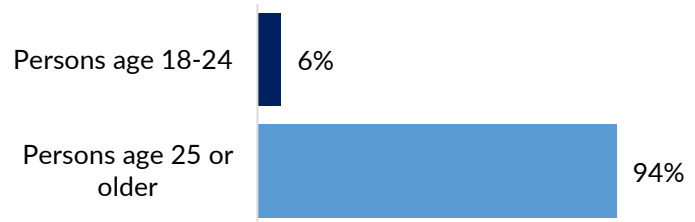
Homeless Households Adults Only by Shelter Type
2016

Shelter Type	Percentage
Unsheltered	16%
Transitional	24%
Emergency and Seasonal	60%
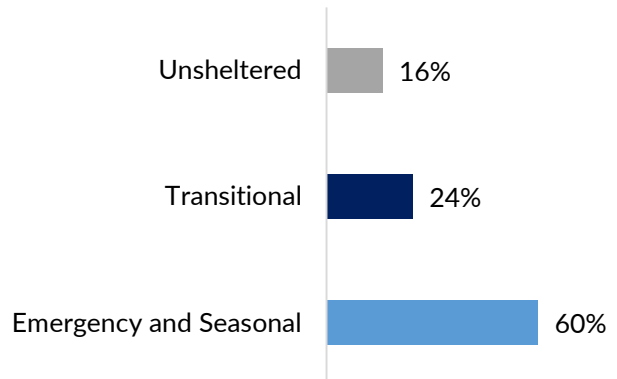
Age of Homeless People in Households with Adults Only, 2016

- **94%** (or 1,090) of people in households with adults only were 25 years or older.

- Approximately **6%** (or 70) of people in households with adults only were between the ages of 18 and 24.
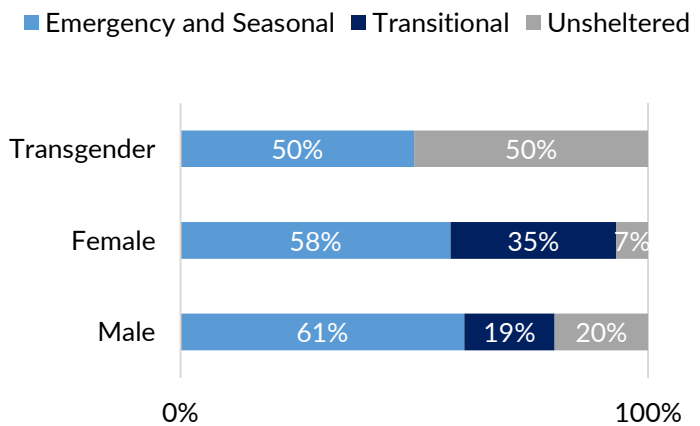
Age of Homeless Households with Adults Only
2016

Persons age 18-24 — 6%

Persons age 25 or older — 94%

Gender of Homeless People in Households with Adults Only, 2016

- **68%** (or 791) of people in households with adults only were males and **32%** (or 367 people) were females.

- **Two** people identified as transgender.

- Males were more likely to be in emergency and seasonal shelters (**61%** or 480 people) than in transitional housing (**19%** or 153 people) or in unsheltered locations (**20%** or 158 people).

- Females were more likely to be counted in emergency and seasonal shelters (**58%** or 212 people) or in transitional housing (**35%** or 130 people) than in unsheltered locations (**7%** or 25 people).

Total Homeless Households with Adults Only Gender and Shelter Type
2016

■ Emergency and Seasonal ■ Transitional ■ Unsheltered

|	Emergency and Seasonal	Transitional	Unsheltered
Transgender	50%		50%
Female	58%	35%	7%
Male	61%	19%	20%

0%   100%

Since 2010

- Individual homelessness on a single night declined by **46%** (from 2,151 individuals in 2010 to 1,160 individuals in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered homeless individuals decreased by **76%** (from 751 individuals in 2010 to 184 individuals in 2016), and the number of sheltered individuals decreased by **30%** (from 1,400 individuals in 2010 to 976 individuals in 2016).

- The number of homeless individuals in emergency and seasonal shelters declined by **3%** (from 714 individuals in 2010 to 693 individuals in 2016).

- The number of homeless individuals in transitional housing declined **59%** (from 686 individuals in 2010 to 283 individuals in 2016).

Since 2015

- The number of homeless individuals decreased by **6%** (from 1,231 people in 2015 to 1,160 people in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered homeless individuals increased only slightly from 2015 to 2016 (from **180** individuals in 2015 to **184** individuals in 2016).

- The number of sheltered homeless individuals decreased by **7%** (from 1,051 individuals in 2015 to 976 individuals in 2016).

- The number of homeless individuals in emergency and seasonal shelters decreased by **9%** (from 758 individuals in 2015 to 693 individuals in 2016), while the number in transitional housing decreased by **3%** (from 293 individuals in 2015 to 283 individuals in 2016).

People in Homeless Adult Only Households by Shelter Type
2016
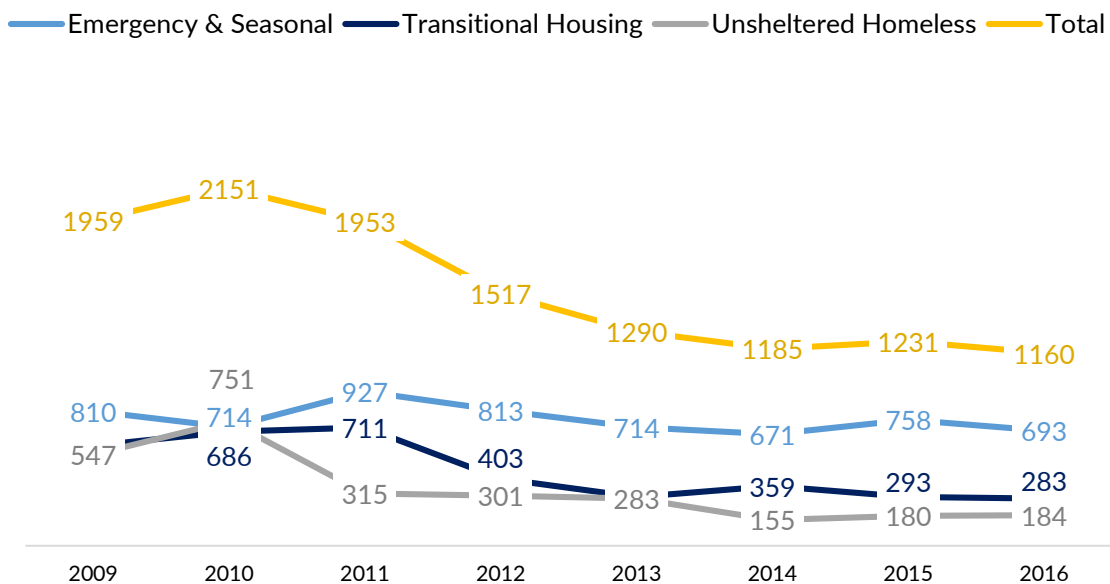
Emergency & Seasonal —— Transitional Housing —— Unsheltered Homeless —— Total

Child Only Households

CONTEXT

- As part of the 2015 and 2016 PIT Counts, special events were held at organizations that work with unaccompanied children in an effort to improve the count of unaccompanied children, which may have contributed to the increase in child only households identified in 2015 and 2016.

- Homeless unaccompanied children and youth are especially hard to identify. As a result, this population is likely undercounted. Additionally, unaccompanied children and youth often do not meet the PIT Count definition of "homeless" but may be considered homeless under other definitions. See "Methodology" section for more details.

- Given changes in the unsheltered count methodology since 2013, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

On A Single Night in January 2016

- There were 8 children in 8 child only households on a single night in January 2016—less than 1% of the total homeless population.

8

Homeless children in child only households

▼ 53%   ▼ 33%

From 2010 to 2016   From 2015 to 2016

<1%

Of all people experiencing homelessness were identified in child only households

Shelter Type, 2016

- None of the child only households were unsheltered in 2016. 8 (100%) of the child only households were in emergency and seasonal shelters.

Homeless Child Only Households by Shelter Type
2016

Shelter Type	Percentage
Unsheltered Homeless	0%
Transitional Housing	0%
Emergency & Seasonal	100%
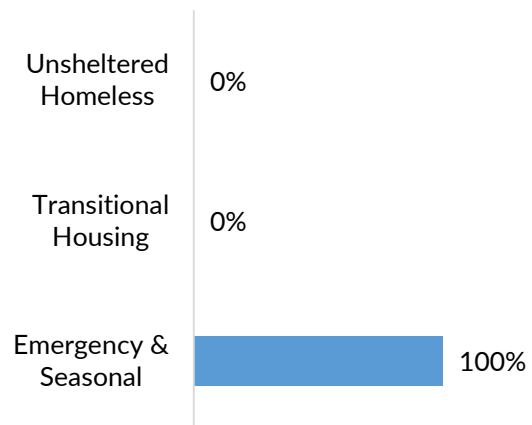
Gender of Homeless People in Child Only Households, 2016

- **Six** (75%) people in child only households were males and **2** (25%) were females.

- **Zero** people in child only households identified as transgender.

- **100%** of children in child only households were in emergency and seasonal shelters.

Total People in Homeless Child Only Households by Gender
2016

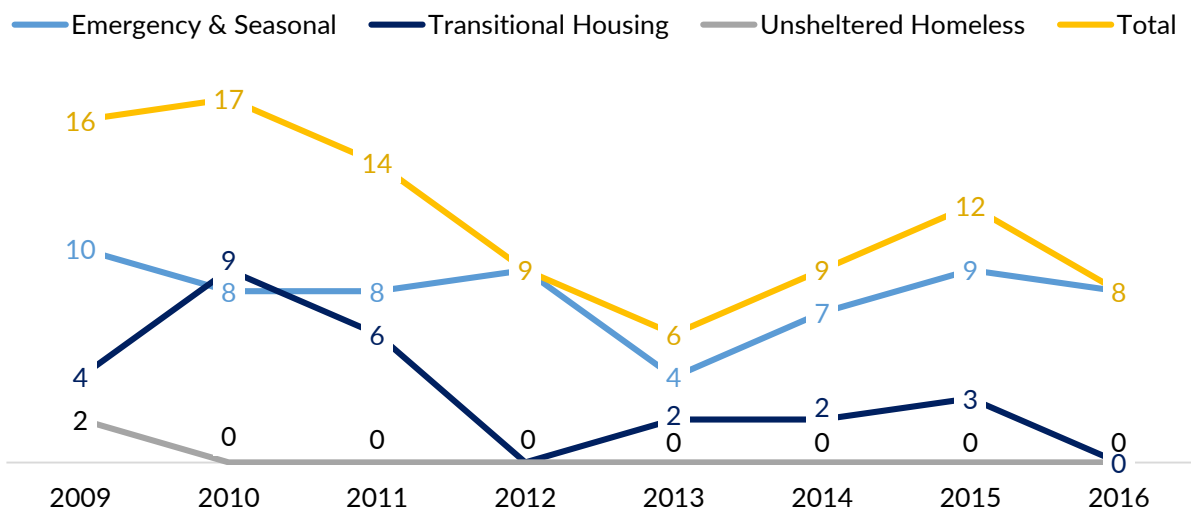Transgender   0%

Female   25%

Male   75%
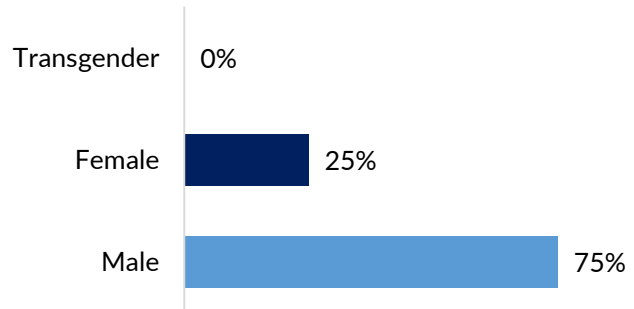
Since 2010

- The number of people in child only households on a single night decreased by **9** children (from 17 children in 2010 to 8 children in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered unaccompanied people in child only households remained constant at **zero** children for the past six years.

- The number of sheltered people in child only households decreased by **53%** (from 17 children in 2010 to 8 children in 2016).

- The number of children in child only households in emergency and seasonal shelters remained constant at **8** from 2010 to 2016.

- The number of people in child only households in transitional housing decreased from **9** children in 2010 to **0** children in 2016.

Since 2015

- The number of people in child only households decreased from **12** in 2015 to **8** children in 2016.

- The number of people in child only households in emergency and seasonal shelters decreased only slightly from **9** in 2015 to **8** in 2016.

- The number of people in child only households in transitional housing decreased from **3** in 2015 to **0** in 2016.

- The number of unsheltered people in child only households was **zero** in 2014 and 2015.

Child Only Households by Shelter Status
2009-2016

Legend: Emergency & Seasonal — Transitional Housing — Unsheltered Homeless — Total

Unaccompanied & Parenting Youth

Households

CONTEXT

- As part of the PIT Count, special events were held at organizations that work with unaccompanied youth in an effort to improve the count of unaccompanied youth.

- Homeless unaccompanied children and youth are especially hard to identify. As a result, this population is likely undercounted. Additionally, unaccompanied children and youth often do not meet the PIT Count definition of "homeless" but may be considered homeless under other definitions. See "Methodology" section for more details.

- Given changes in the unsheltered count methodology since 2013, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

- Prior to 2011, unaccompanied youth were not considered a separate household type, so changes since 2010 cannot be analyzed.

On a Single Night in January 2016

- There were **78** unaccompanied youth on a single night in January 2016—approximately **4%** of the total homeless population.

- There were **34** parenting youth.

78
Homeless persons in unaccompanied youth households

34
Parenting Youth

▼ 8%
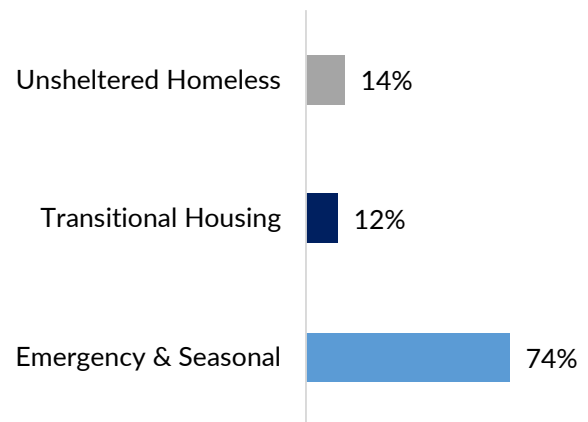unaccompanied youth
From 2015 to 2016

4%
Of all people experiencing homelessness were identified in unaccompanied youth households

Shelter Type, 2016

- **14%** (11 people) of the unaccompanied children were unsheltered in 2016. **74%** (58 people) of the unaccompanied homeless youth were in emergency and seasonal shelters while the remaining **12%** (9 people) were in transitional housing.
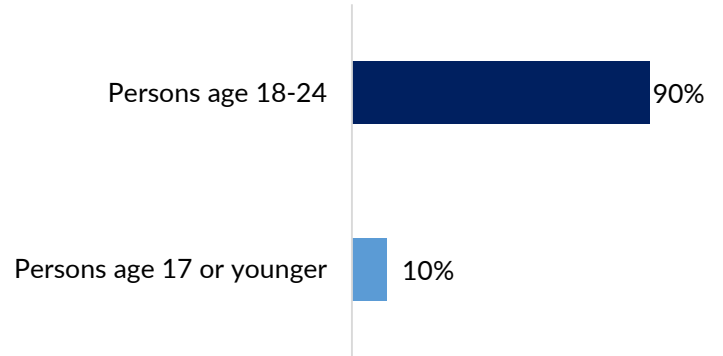
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
2016

Unsheltered Homeless	14%
Transitional Housing	12%
Emergency & Seasonal	74%

Age of Homeless People in Unaccompanied Youth Households, 2016

- **10%** (or 8) of people in unaccompanied youth households were under the age of 18.

- Approximately **90%** (or 70) of people in unaccompanied youth households were ages 18 to 24.

Age of Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Households
2016

Persons age 18-24 — 90%

Persons age 17 or younger — 10%

Gender of Homeless People in Unaccompanied Youth Households, 2016

- **63%** (49) of people in unaccompanied youth households were males and **36%** (28) were females.

- **One** person in an unaccompanied youth household identified as transgender.

- More males were identified in emergency and seasonal shelters (**82%** or 42 people) than in unsheltered locations (**12%** or 6 people) or in transitional housing (**2%** or 1 person).

- More females were identified in emergency and seasonal shelters (**53%** or 16 people) or in transitional housing (**27%** or 8 people) than in unsheltered locations (**13%** or 4 people).

Total People in Homeless Unaccompanied Youth Households by Gender
2016

Transgender — 1%

Female — 36%

Male — 63%
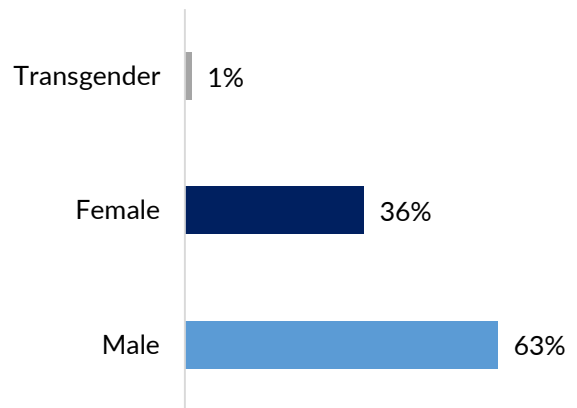
Since 2015

- The number of people in unaccompanied youth households decreased slightly from 85 youth to 78 youth.

- The number of people in unaccompanied youth households in emergency and seasonal shelters remained constant at 58 from 2015 to 2016.

- The number of people in unaccompanied youth households in transitional housing decreased by 47% (from 17 in 2015 to 9 in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered people in unaccompanied youth households increased slightly from 10 to 11.

Unaccompanied Youth by Shelter Type
2016

— Emergency & Seasonal — Transitional Housing
— Unsheltered Homeless — Total

85
78
58 — 58
17
11
10
9

2015   2016
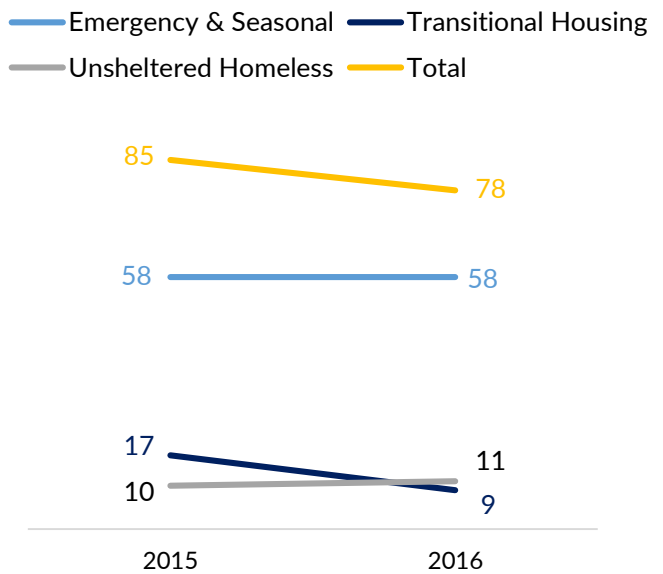
Chronically Homeless

DEFINITION

Individual or head of household with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and who has either been continuously homeless for at least 12 months or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months. Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights and stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break.

CONTEXT

- From 2015 to 2016, community initiatives and policies that specifically targeted decreasing the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness included: Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg effort to end chronic homelessness and a focus on permanent supportive housing and housing first models. See "Local Context" section for more details.

- Unique to the 2015 PIT count was that it coincided with a Chronically Homeless Registry (the Registry) effort by Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a collaborative initiative to end chronic homelessness by 2016. It is important to note that the number of people counted as chronically homeless through the PIT Count will differ from the number of chronically homeless people identified in the registry. The PIT Count is a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness on a given night, whereas the registry was initially developed over three days and continues to be updated throughout the year.

- In 2014 HUD strengthened data reporting requirements for identifying the chronically homeless, resulting in changes in how the chronically homeless were identified in HMIS. In 2016, HUD modified the definition of chronically homeless. This change in definition could have contributed to changes observed in the number of sheltered chronically homeless in 2015 and the number of unsheltered homeless in 2016. See "Methodology" section for more details.

- Since 2013, the volunteer effort to count unsheltered homeless individuals expanded. As a result, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

- Only certain data fields were collected on the chronically homeless.

On a Single Night in January 2016

- 170 people were identified in chronically homeless households, representing 9% of all homeless people on a single night.

- 87% of the 170 people identified as chronically homeless were individuals (148) and 12% (21) were in households with adults and children.

- Chronically homeless individuals in adult only households represented 13% of the total number of people in adult only households.

170

Chronically Homeless People Experiencing Homelessness

▼ 45%   ▼ 39%

From 2010 to 2016   From 2015 to 2016

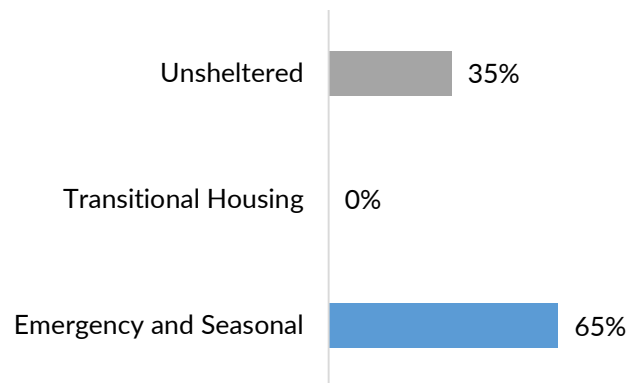# 9%

Of all homeless people

Shelter Type, 2016

- 65% (110 people) of chronically homeless people were identified in emergency and seasonal shelters. The other 35% (60 people) were unsheltered.

Chronically Homeless Persons by Shelter Type
2016

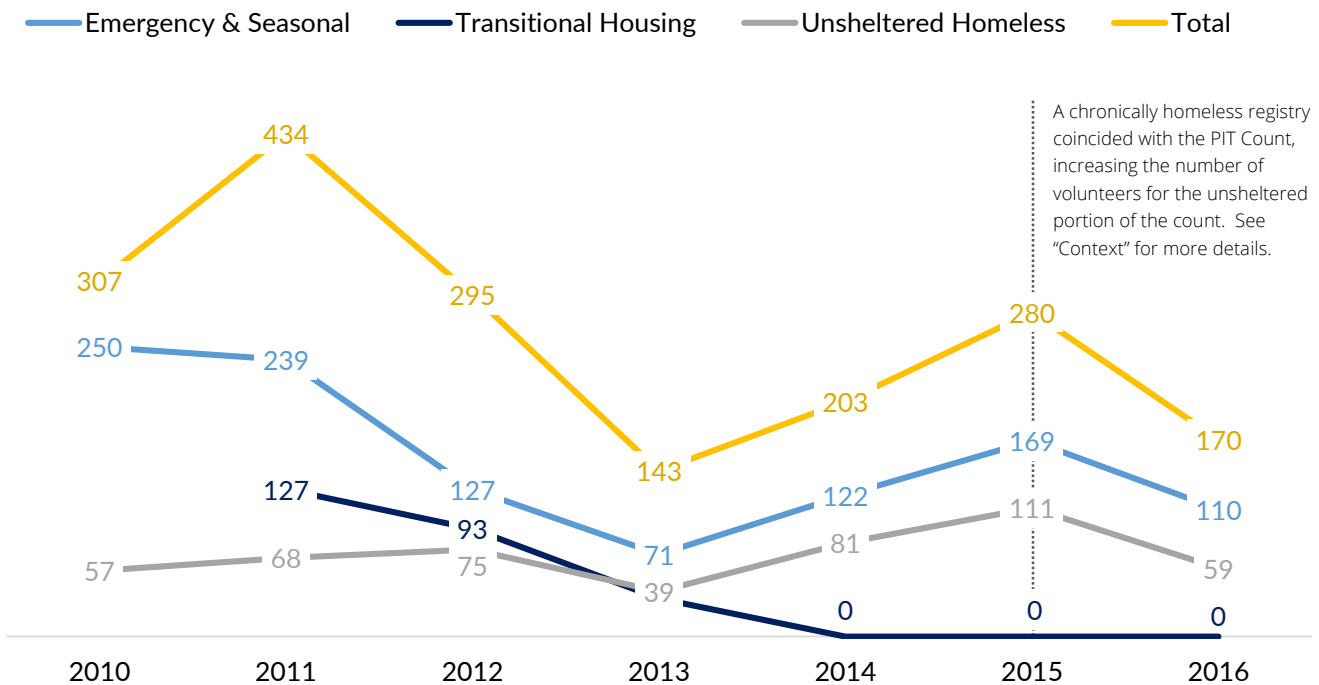| Shelter Type	Percent
Unsheltered	35%
Transitional Housing	0%
Emergency and Seasonal	65%

Since 2010

- The number of chronically homeless decreased by **45%** (from 307 people in 2010 to 170 people in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered chronically homeless people increased by **5%** (from 57 people in 2010 to 60 people in 2016) and the number of sheltered chronically homeless decreased by **56%** (from 250 people in 2010 to 110 people in 2016).

Since 2015

- The number of chronically homeless people decreased by **39%** (from 280 people in 2015 to 170 people in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered chronically homeless people decreased by **47%** (from 111 people in 2015 to 60 people in 2016) and the number of sheltered chronically homeless people in emergency and seasonal housing decreased by **35%** (from 170 people in 2015 to 110 people in 2016).

Total Chronically Homeless Persons by Shelter Type 2009-2016

Legend: Emergency & Seasonal — Transitional Housing — Unsheltered Homeless — Total

A chronically homeless registry coincided with the PIT Count, increasing the number of volunteers for the unsheltered portion of the count. See "Context" for more details.

Year	Emergency & Seasonal	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Homeless	Total
2010	250		57	307
2011	239	127	68	434
2012	127	93	75	295
2013	71	39		143
2014	122	0	81	203
2015	169	0	111	280
2016	110	0	59	170

Veteran Households

CONTEXT

- From 2015 to 2016, community initiatives and policies that specifically targeted decreasing the number of homeless veterans included: The A Way Home Housing Endowment, which prioritizes veteran households with adults and children, and the Housing Our Heroes effort to end veteran homelessness. See "Local Context" section for more details.

- Given changes in the unsheltered count methodology from 2014 to 2016, historical trends should be interpreted with caution.

On A Single Night in January 2016

- There were **149** homeless veterans in Mecklenburg County and **168** people in homeless veteran households. Homeless veterans accounted for nearly **11%** of all homeless adults.

- **3%** (4 people) of veterans are chronically homeless.

- **16%** of homeless veterans were female (24 people).

149
Homeless Veterans

▼ 11%   ▼ 19%

From 2010 to 2016   From 2015 to 2016

11%
Of all adults experiencing homelessness were veterans

Shelter Type, 2016

- Homeless veterans comprised about **8%** of the total sheltered homeless population.

- The majority of homeless veterans were sheltered in emergency shelters (**44%** or 66 people) or transitional housing (**39%** or 58 people). The remaining **17%** (25 people) were in unsheltered locations.

Homeless Veterans by Shelter Type 2016

| Shelter Type	Percentage
Emergency & Seasonal	44%
Transitional Housing	39%
Unsheltered Homeless	17%
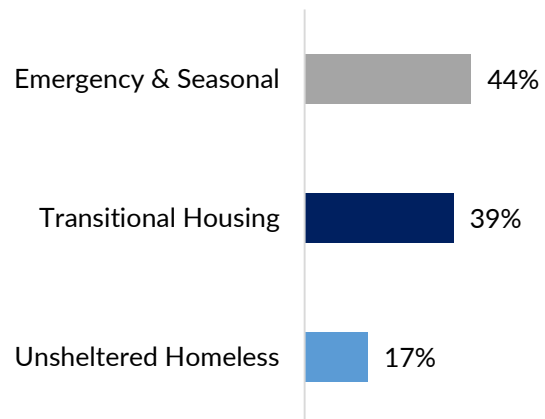
Race of Homeless Veterans, 2016

- Approximately **64%** (95 people) of homeless veterans were Black, **30%** (45 people) were White, **2%** (3 people) were Other, and approximately **4%** (6 people) were Multiracial.

- **49%** (47 people) of Black homeless veterans were in emergency and seasonal shelter compared to **35%** (33 people) in transitional housing.

- About **36%** (16 people) of White homeless veterans were in emergency and seasonal shelters. A slightly higher proportion (**47%** or 21 people) were in transitional housing.

- **18%** (8 out of 45) of White homeless veterans were counted in unsheltered locations, while **16%** (15 out of the 95) of Black veterans were counted in unsheltered locations.

- **2%** (3 people) of the homeless veterans were Hispanic/Latino.

Number of Homeless Veterans by Race
2016

White — 30%
Black — 64%
Multiple Races — 4%
Other — 2%
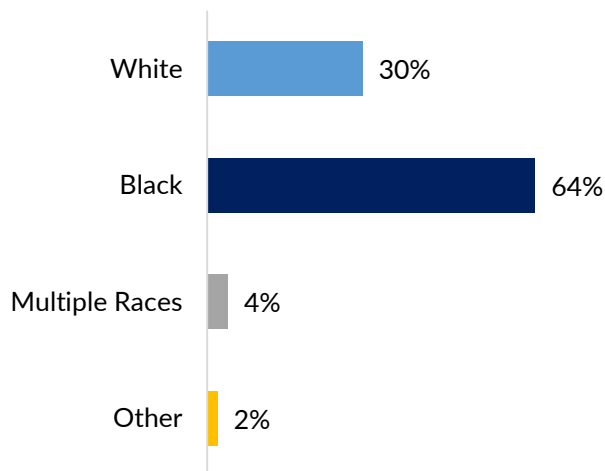
Number of Homeless Veterans by Ethnicity
2016

Hispanic — 2%
Non hispanic — 98%
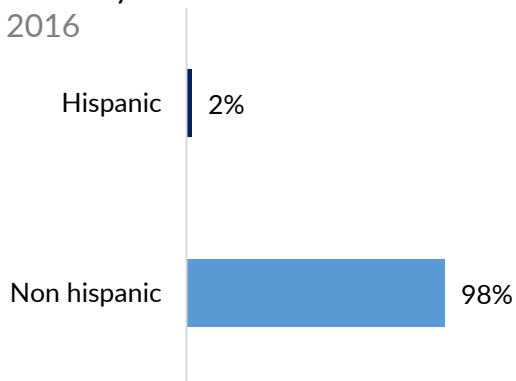
Gender of Homeless People in Households with Adults Only, 2016

- 84% (125 people) of homeless veterans were males and 16% (24 people) were females.

- 80% of homeless male veterans (100 people) and 100% of homeless female veterans (24 people) were sheltered.

Homeless Veterans by Gender
2016

Male	84%
Female	16%
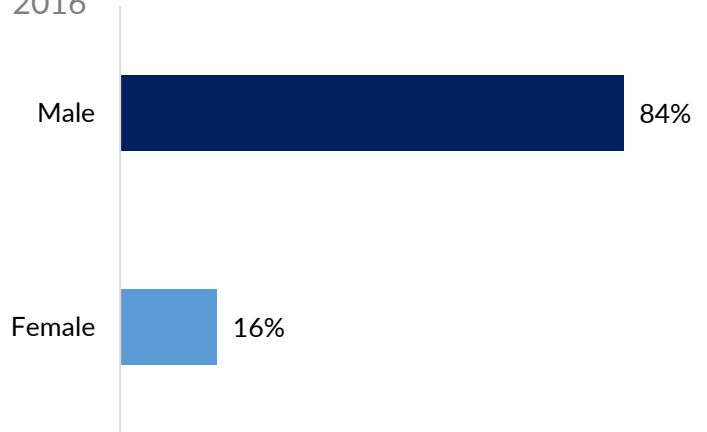
Household Type of Homeless Veterans, 2016

- 95% (142 people) of homeless veterans were in veteran households with adults only and 5% (7 people) were in veteran households with adults and children.

- Nearly half, or 44% (66 people) of homeless veterans in veteran households with adults only were in emergency and seasonal shelter. The remaining 39% (58 people) were in transitional housing and 17% (25 people) were unsheltered.

Homeless Veterans by Household Type
2016

Households with Adults and Children	5%
Households with Only Adults	95%
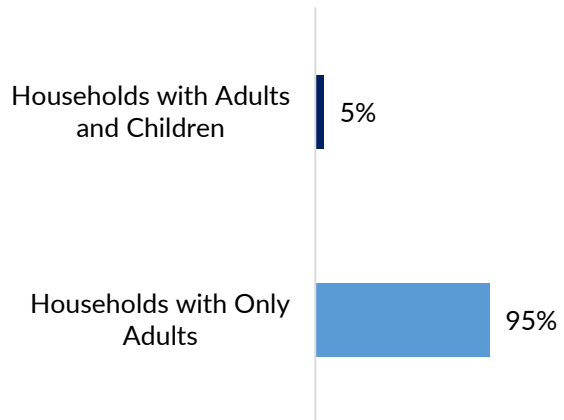
Since 2010

- The number of homeless veterans decreased by **11%** (from 168 people in 2010 to 149 people in 2016).

- The number of sheltered homeless veterans decreased by **21%** (from 157 people in 2010 to 124 people in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered veterans increased by **127%** (from 11 people in 2010 to 25 people in 2016).

Since 2015

- The number of homeless veterans decreased by **19%** (from 185 people in 2015 to 149 people in 2016).

- The number of unsheltered veterans remained constant at 25 from 2015 to 2016 and the number of sheltered veterans decreased by **23%** (from 160 people in 2015 to 124 people in 2016).

- The number of homeless individual veterans in emergency and seasonal shelters decreased by **39%** (from 108 people in 2015 to 66 people in 2016). The number of veterans in transitional housing increased, by **12%** (from 52 people in 2015 to 58 people in 2016).

Total Homeless Veterans
2009-2016
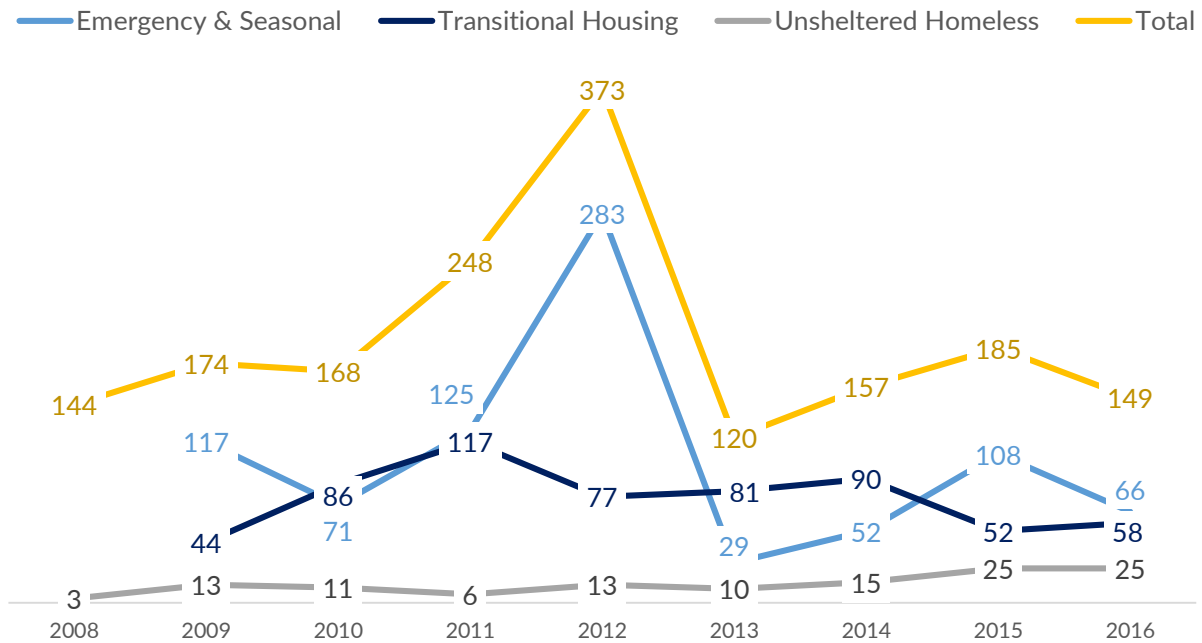
Emergency & Seasonal — Transitional Housing — Unsheltered Homeless — Total

Residence

CONTEXT

- In 2016, the PIT Planning Committee added additional questions to the unsheltered count survey in order to better understand additional characteristics of this population. These are not questions required by HUD.

Why are you not staying at a shelter?

35% of unsheltered people reported they did not stay in a shelter on the night of the count for reasons related to comfort or safety.

Reason	Percentage
Other	27%
Too many people for me to feel comfortable	19%
I do not feel safe	16%
Shelter is full (not enough space)	13%
Too structured of an environment	10%
Not eligible (other than banned)	8%
Banned from a shelter	6%

N=158

Have you lived anywhere else besides Charlotte-Mecklenburg in the last 2 years?

Only a little more than a quarter of unsheltered homeless moved to Charlotte-Mecklenburg in the last two years.
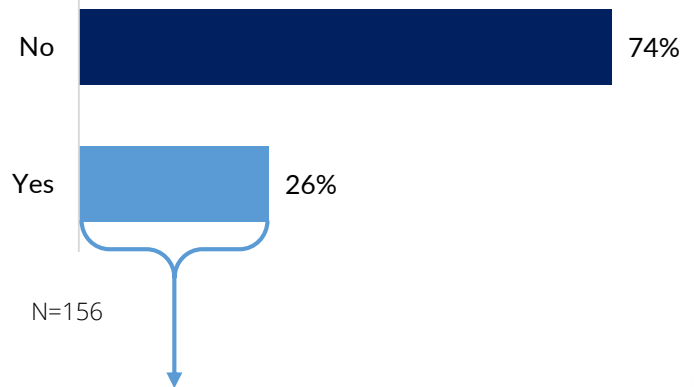
No	74%
Yes	26%

N=156

The majority (72%) that moved in the last two years came from a surrounding county or the Carolinas.

Other part of the United States 27%	Surrounding County 24%	Other part of North Carolina 24%	South Carolina 24%

N=37

Over half of the unsheltered people who came to Charlotte-Mecklenburg within the last two years did not have housing when they arrived.

Did not have housing 60%	Had housing 40%

N=40
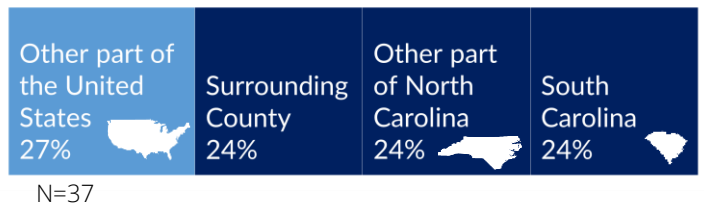
Of those that moved to Charlotte-Mecklenburg within the last two years, one of the main reason cited was relocating for job opportunities.

Reason	Percentage
Job Opportunities	33%
Other	30%
Family/Friends	18%
Access to Services/Resources	13%
I like it here	8%
Good Weather	0%
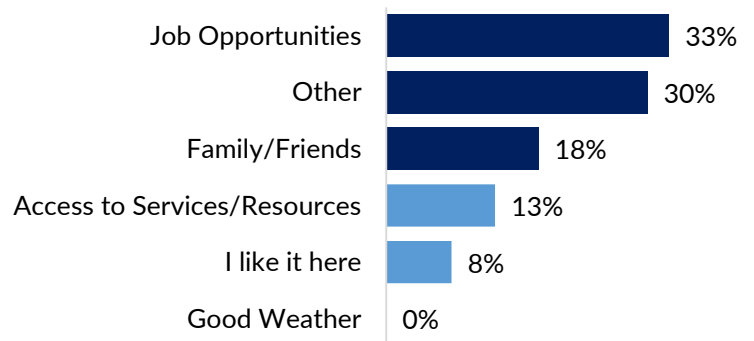
N=40

Appendix

Expanded Local Context

Listed below are expanded details on the strategies, initiatives, and historical efforts that are outlined in the "Local Context" section of the report.

▶ A Way Home Housing Endowment

In 2013, the City of Charlotte and Foundation For The Carolinas established the A Way Home housing endowment, which will be fully funded in 2018. This $20 million endowment, funded through public and private dollars, will be aimed at providing housing and rental assistance for families at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness, with veteran households receiving priority. In 2014, a group of local faith leaders raised operational funds, along with grant dollars from Foundation For The Carolinas, to begin a pilot program until the endowment is fully funded. As of January 2016, four agencies receive funds through the pilot program: Charlotte Family Housing, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Salvation Army, and Renaissance West Community Initiative. In addition, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services partnered with A Way Home by providing grants to Charlotte Family Housing and Salvation Army that will cover the cost of supportive services for families receiving housing subsidies through A Way Home.

▶ Acceleration to Housing 100 in 100 Days Initiative

The "Acceleration to Housing 100 in 100 Days" campaign was part of a national effort, "100,000 Homes Campaign," to permanently house 100,000 of the country's most vulnerable homeless individuals. As part of this national initiative, our community set the goal to house 100 homeless individuals in 100 days. From May 2013 to May 2014, the Charlotte community surpassed its goal and housed 442 chronically homeless persons. In large part, this was due to a commitment that all new Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers would go to chronically homeless veterans and that all new units at McCreesh Place (a permanent supportive housing community) would be prioritized for chronically homeless men. In Charlotte, this effort was a collaboration between the Veterans Administration, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and local service providers in conjunction with the national 100,000 Homes Campaign. The work of this initiative has continued through Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Housing our Heroes, which continue to address chronic homelessness among veterans and individuals.

▶ Charlotte Housing Choice Voucher Waitlist Opened

After being closed for seven years, the Charlotte Housing Authority opened its waitlist for housing choice vouchers and public housing from September 22 – 26, 2014. Over 34,000 households applied by the time the waitlist closed. Homelessness is considered a prioritization tool for housing placement within this waitlist.

▶ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Our Heroes

On Veterans Day 2014, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center accepted the Mayors Challenge with a goal of housing 204 Veterans by the end of 2015. As part of this initiative, Best practices adopted in Charlotte-Mecklenburg include:

- Creating by-name registry of homeless veterans in our community
- Accelerating and streamlining existing operational processes
- Agency coordination and outreach
- Active engagement of landlords
- Expediting determination of veteran status

As of January 2016, Charlotte-Mecklenburg surpassed the goal of housing 2014 veterans and in total housed 385 veterans. Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to work with USICH to meet the federal criteria of ending veteran homelessness.

▶ Coordinated Assessment

Coordinated Assessment seeks to better connect households currently experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness with the services that are best able to serve them. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care launched Coordinated Assessment in May 2014, with funding from Wells Fargo through the United Way of Central Carolinas and funding from Mecklenburg County Community Support Services for five positions. The National Alliance to End Homelessness and the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness provided assistance in developing and implementing the new system. Social workers stationed at three sites administer a standardized assessment that helps identify the services that can best address the housing needs of households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness within 72 hours.

▶ Engagement and Advocacy

The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (HAB) and the Homeless Services Network (HSN), a network of agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness, have developed a collaborative working relationship to support community engagement and advocacy on affordable housing and homelessness issues and research and evaluation of the community's homelessness and affordable housing efforts.

▶ Housing Data Consortium

In 2013, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute received funding from Foundation For The Carolinas through a Catalyst Grant to create a Homeless and Housing Data Consortium within the Institute for Social Capital (ISC). ISC houses Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data along with other key data from agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

▶ Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg, launched in January 2015, is a collaboration between business, city, county and non-profit agencies to end chronic homelessness by 2016, focusing on the Housing First model. The goal of ending chronic homelessness will be achieved by reaching a "functional zero," which means that the number of chronically homeless people at any time will be less than the current average monthly housing placement rate for the chronically homeless. As part of this effort, a registry of the chronically homeless coincided with the PIT Count in January 2015. This by-name registry is used to help target outreach efforts and interventions, as well as prioritize housing placements to the most vulnerable. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is also working to expand outreach efforts, create 250 permanent supportive housing units, and develop additional leadership and staff support for the Housing First model. As of December 2015, Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg had housed 214 chronically homeless individuals.

▶ Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community received $1.9 million in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) federal funds from 2009-2012. These funds helped promote coordination among agencies active in the community to use the funds for prevention and rapid re-housing responses. The programs continue with support from other funding sources.

▶ **Housing Trust Fund**

In 2014, Charlotte voters approved a $15 million bond for the Housing Trust Fund, which is administered by the City of Charlotte's Neighborhood and Business Services. Recognizing the connection between lack of affordable housing and homelessness, the Charlotte Housing Trust Fund uses these funds to support the development of affordable housing for low and moderate income households.

▶ **Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte Mecklenburg and the Ten-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness**

In 2010, the Charlotte City Council and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners created the Housing Advisory Board (HAB) of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, formerly known as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing Board, to oversee the ten-year plan to end and prevent homelessness. The goals of HAB include moving homeless households into appropriate and safe permanent housing as soon as possible; linking the chronically homeless to housing, treatment and services through intensive outreach and engagement; and promoting housing stability for households at risk of becoming homeless. HAB is supported by the City of Charlotte's Director of Neighborhood and Business Services, Mecklenburg County's Director of Community Support Services and the Charlotte Housing Authority's Chief Executive Officer. In 2014, HAB released "Forward Movement: Ending and preventing Homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg," a progress report on the 10-Year Plan.

▶ **Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Research and Evaluation Committee**

The Housing Advisory Board of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Research and Evaluation committee coordinates and advocates on issues concerning data collection, research on homelessness and housing instability, and system level outcomes to measure progress.

▶ **Low Barrier Rapid Re-Housing Initiatives**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is shifting to funding rapid re-housing initiatives with low barriers to program entry. These initiatives help households with adults and children successfully exit homelessness and maintain permanent housing by integrating employment assistance, case management and housing services. Community Link, Men's Shelter of Charlotte and the Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte's Center of Hope are currently engaged in low-barrier rapid re-housing programs.

▶ **Mecklenburg County Hires Two New Positions Committed to Improving Data and Research**

The Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners approved two management analyst positions within Mecklenburg County Community Support Services to serve the roles of an HMIS System Administrator (data in) and a Housing and Homelessness Research Coordinator (data out). The City of Charlotte assisted with the initial funding for these positions.

The HMIS Administrator is responsible for overseeing the data entry process for Charlotte-Mecklenburg's HMIS system. This includes providing regular training to agencies to ensure accurate and consistent data entry. It also includes monitoring data quality and completeness and creating reports to provide timely, relevant and quality data on the community's progress to end and prevent homelessness.

The Housing and Homelessness Research Coordinator's primary role is to help the community engage with data and research around housing instability and homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. On an agency level, this includes providing technical assistance in order to strengthen agency outcome measurement and evaluation work and connect data to decision-making. On a system level, this includes connecting actionable data and research with all community stakeholders.

◗ Mecklenburg County Housing Stability Partnership

The Mecklenburg County Housing Stability Partnership is a partnership between the City of Charlotte, the Charlotte Housing Authority, Foundation For The Carolinas, and Mecklenburg County. Formed in 2014, the partnership coordinates funding processes for supportive housing development, supportive services, and rental subsidies. As of January 2016, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services had allotted, through a competitive request for proposal process, over $2.3M in supportive services funding to four local agencies. These agencies will serve over 250 homeless households over a two to three-year period.

◗ Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

The community is using a system-wide Housing First model, which creates permanent supportive housing for a household that is experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness and has a condition of disability such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health issues or other conditions that create multiple and serious ongoing barriers to housing stability. PSH units are provided through community agencies and scattered-site programs built throughout the community.

◗ Zero:2016

Zero:2016 is a national campaign organized by Community Solutions to end chronic homelessness by 2016. Charlotte was selected as a participating community and is working closely with the Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg initiative.

Expanded Data & Methodology

Agencies that participated in the PIT Count

- Charlotte Family Housing
- Family Forum
- Florence Crittendon
- Friendship Community Development Corporation
- Homecare of the Carolinas
- Hope Haven
- Hope House Foundation
- Men's Shelter of Charlotte
- Safe Alliance
- Salvation Army Center of Hope
- Samaritan's House of Charlotte
- Sunshine Village
- The Relatives
- Urban Ministry Center
- YWCA of the Central Carolinas

2009-2013

Prior to 2014, the unsheltered count used estimates of homeless persons living in places unfit for human habitation that were provided by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. This approach was used because police officers are often very familiar with the locations of homeless people within their service areas. The North Tryon, Central, and Metro service areas were excluded from the unsheltered count since the persons identified in those areas were often simultaneously being served in shelters. In addition, outreach volunteers interviewed people experiencing homelessness in uptown Charlotte and at a local soup kitchen the following day to collect demographic data.

2014-2015

Beginning in 2014, the unsheltered methodology was expanded to include a larger outreach effort by service providers and volunteers. Prior to the Count, there was outreach to community members in an effort to gather information on the locations where they believed there might be homeless persons. Police officers also provided information for each of their districts on where homeless people might reside. Teams of volunteers were organized to cover each police district and went out the day of the PIT Count to identify (and count) people experiencing homelessness at services centers, soup kitchens, and places unfit for human habitation.

In an effort to improve the count of unaccompanied youth, in 2015 the PIT Count Planning Committee coordinated with The Relatives' On Ramp Center and Time Out Youth to have events on the date of the PIT Count in an effort to attract unaccompanied youth that may not have been found through traditional outreach efforts. For the first time, two volunteer training sessions were held to better equip volunteers in administering the PIT Count and to gain comfort with approaching people and asking sensitive questions.

Unique to the 2015 count was that it coincided with a Chronically Homeless Registry (the Registry) effort by Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Housing First Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a collaborative initiative to end chronic homelessness by 2016. Whereas the annual PIT Count identifies people experiencing homelessness on one night, the Registry sought to connect with chronically homeless individuals over the course of three days and administer the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). It is important to note that the number of people counted as chronically homeless through the PIT Count differed from the number of chronically homeless people identified in the Registry. This is because the PIT Count is a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness on a given night, whereas the Registry was developed over three days and continues to add individuals as they are identified as chronically homeless. The PIT Count is used to help identify trends and is a static number each year, whereas the Registry will grow and change as more chronically homeless people are identified and housed over the course of the year.

2016

The 2016 Count occurred with the assistance of over 150 volunteers on 27 survey and data entry teams. Volunteers went out on Wednesday night to identify people sleeping in places unfit for human habitation and early Thursday morning to ask people where they had slept the night before. In an attempt to strengthen the identification of unaccompanied children and youth households, two agencies that specifically work with unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, were involved in planning for the PIT Count.

Volunteers received training for the unsheltered count either through an in-person training or through materials sent electronically. Survey locations included uptown streets, homeless camps, the greenway, soup kitchens, the library, and hospital waiting rooms.

Data Tables

TOTAL PERSONS					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	962	1183	1149	19%	-3%
Transitional	1111	638	482	-57%	-24%
Unsheltered	751	180	187	-75%	4%
Total	2824	2001	1818	-36%	-9%
% Sheltered	73%	91%	90%	23%	-1%
% Unsheltered	27%	9%	10%	-63%	11%

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ADULTS AND CHILDREN					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	248	416	448	81%	8%
Transitional	425	342	199	-53%	-42%
Unsheltered	0	0	3	-	-
Total	673	758	650	-3%	-14%
% Sheltered	100%	100%	99.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%
% Unsheltered	0%	0%	0.5%	-	-

HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	714	758	693	-3%	-9%
Transitional	686	293	283	-59%	-3%
Unsheltered	751	180	184	-75%	2%
Total	2151	1231	1160	-46%	-6%
% Sheltered	65%	85%	84%	29%	-1%
% Unsheltered	35%	15%	16%	-54%	7%

CHILD ONLY HOUSEHOLDS					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	8	9	8	-	-11%
Transitional	9	3	0	-100%	-100%
Unsheltered	0	0	0	-	-
Total	17	12	8	-53%	-33%
% Sheltered	100%	100%	100%	-	-
% Unsheltered	0%	0%	0%	-	-

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal		58	58		0%
Transitional		17	9		-47%
Unsheltered		10	11		10%
Total		85	78		-8%
% Sheltered		88%	86%		-2%
% Unsheltered		12%	14%		17%

PARENTING YOUTH		
Emergency & Seasonal		14
Transitional		20
Unsheltered		0
Total		34
% Sheltered		100%
% Unsheltered		0%

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	250	169	110	-56%	-35%
Transitional					
Unsheltered	57	111	60	5%	-46%
Total	307	280	170	-45%	-39%
% Sheltered	81%	60%	65%	-20%	8%
% Unsheltered	19%	40%	35%	84%	-13%

VETERANS					
	2010	2015	2016	% change 2010-2016	% change 2015-2016
Emergency & Seasonal	71	108	66	-7%	-39%
Transitional	86	52	58	-33%	12%
Unsheltered	11	25	25	127%	0%
Total	168	185	149	-11%	-19%
% Sheltered	93%	86%	83%	-11%	-3%
% Unsheltered	7%	14%	17%	143%	21%

AGE - 2016				
	Emergency & Seasonal	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Persons age 25 or older	785	330	174	1289
Persons age 18-24	74	30	11	115
Persons age 17 or younger	290	122	2	414

GENDER - 2016				
	Emergency & Seasonal	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Male	646	211	159	1016
Female	502	271	27	800
Transgender	1	0	1	2

RACE/ETHNICITY - 2016				
	Emergency & Seasonal	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1110	471	177	1758
Hispanic/Latino	39	11	10	60

Race				
White	184	88	66	338
Black or African American	928	384	103	1415
Multiple Races	30	7	11	48
Other	7	3	7	17