



2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count MWCOG Jurisdictional Narrative

About Our Continuum

The Prince William Area Continuum of Care (PWA CoC) is comprised of nonprofit, faith-based, and government agencies throughout Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The Prince William County Department of Social Services (PWC DSS) serves as the lead agency for the PWA CoC and is responsible for managing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and leading the local homeless services continuum. The PWA CoC operates a comprehensive homeless response system and works collaboratively through various committees to review policies and procedures, establish best practices, and monitor program performance.

Programs within the PWA CoC include prevention, diversion, street outreach, drop-in center, emergency sheltering, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and housing location services. Providers work together to coordinate and increase access to services such as housing, employment, benefits, education, health, and wellness.

The PWA CoC uses a centralized and systematic homeless response system called the "Coordinated Entry System (CES)" to coordinate services. CES is operated by trained staff who work to assess barriers and connect persons experiencing a housing crisis with services. CES assists persons actively experiencing homelessness as well as those who may be at-risk of homelessness. CES serves as the "front door" to services, as all persons in need of assistance are prioritized for resources based on data collection and a needs assessment conducted by CES staff.

The PWA CoC includes thirty-eight (38) member organizations and fifteen (15) funded homeless service providers; then (10) of which contribute data into the CoC's HMIS. The PWA CoC was recently awarded \$1.4 million dollars in HUD CoC Program funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This is the single highest fiscal year award in PWA CoC's history and represents a 35% increase in year-over-year funding since last year and a 95% increase in funding since FY2020.

What is the Point in Time (PIT) Count?

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of persons experiencing "literal homelessness" on a single night in January each year and is conducted by homeless services continuums across the country as required by the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The PIT provides a "snapshot" of the nature and extent of homelessness and provides valuable information used to inform funding decisions, support service and resource planning, as well as to raise public awareness about homelessness on the local and national level. Persons that are "literally homeless" would be those living in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or places not meant for human habitation (known as "unsheltered locations") the night of the conducted count.

PIT Count Outcomes

The PWA CoC conducted its annual count on the night of January 26, 2022, as well as an additional “Service-Based Count” the following day. The “Service-Based Count” is a supplemental count and attempts to capture anyone that may have been missed the night before. Volunteers visit places persons experiencing homelessness are known to congregate during the day such as public libraries, parks, and fast-food restaurants. Volunteers also survey persons observed panhandling to determine if they are actively experiencing homelessness.



PWA CoC volunteer teams preparing to conduct the 2022 PIT Count

PIT Count methodology was largely unchanged from last year and continued utilizing best practices and safety measures to ensure a safe and successful count occurred. The PWA CoC provided training, conducted health screenings and temperature checks, and provided volunteers with Personal Protective Equipment and safety gear such as reflective vests and head lamps. The PWA CoC added a new question to the PIT survey related to housing assistance, which will be reviewed later in this report.

1. Persons Served

The literally homeless count decreased by 15% from 2021 to 2022. Counts of persons served decreased across the board except for Transitional Housing which increased by three persons or 12.5%. The increase in persons needing Transitional Housing is immaterial and therefore not attributable to any significant program changes.

A positive factor contributing to the overall count reduction is the increase of federal, state, and local prevention and rental assistance funds received by the PWA CoC. Between FY2021 and FY2022, the PWA CoC received an additional \$1 million in funding to help prevent persons from losing their housing and entering homelessness. Another contributing factor is the reduction of available emergency shelter beds within the PWA CoC. One of the PWA CoC's year-round shelters was closed for repairs the night of the PIT count, and other shelters have reduced bed capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions. Table 1.0 below reports the count of persons from 2019 – 2022 while Table 1.1 reports the percent change from 2021 to 2022.

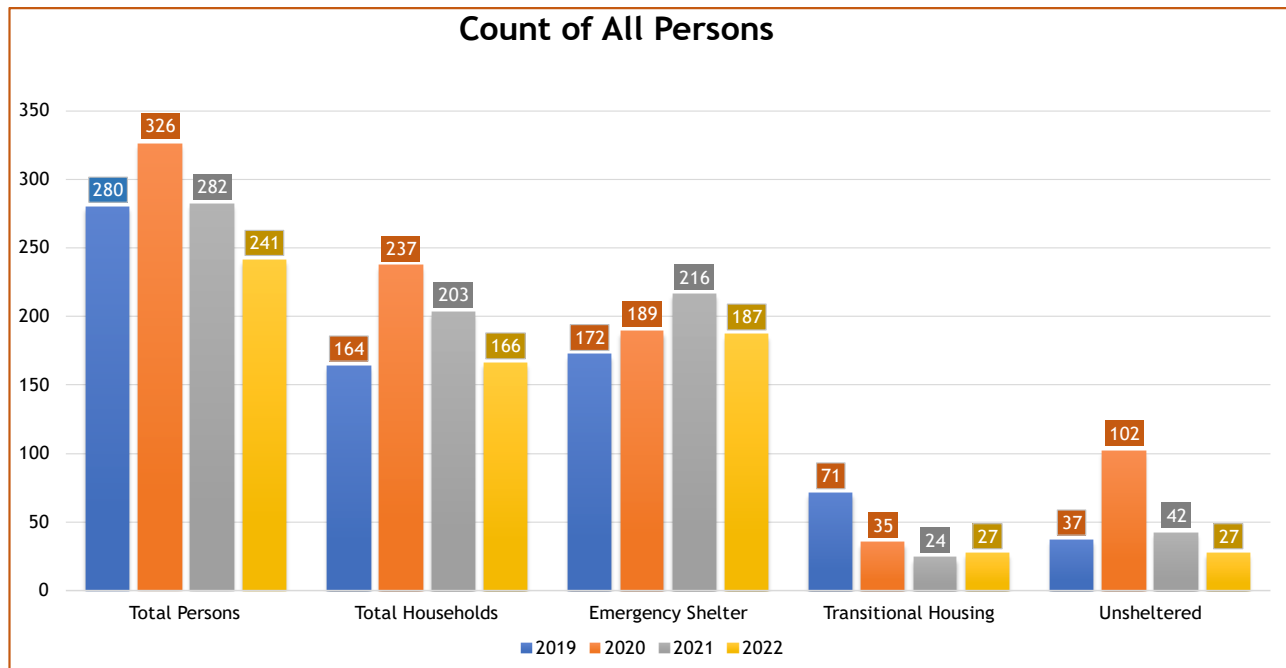


Table 1.0 – Count of All Persons



Table 1.1 – Percent Change from 2021 to 2022

Unsheltered Homelessness

PWA CoC's unsheltered count decreased by 36% from the 2021 to 2022. The PWA CoC continues to improve and standardize street outreach services (through local funding awards) and has been able to increase the number of staff and programs dedicated to this work. Outreach efforts have resulted in better coordination of services and expedited referrals for housing options, thereby reducing the number of unsheltered persons.

The PWA CoC continues to experience challenges obtaining information on encampments (i.e., places not meant for human habitation where persons experiencing homelessness may be sleeping) despite improved street outreach services, increased communication with local law enforcement, and the development of an electronic encampment form. Improved communication and data collection is needed throughout the next year to improve count accuracy.



Photo of one of the encampments surveyed the night of the 2022 PIT

Another challenge was the weather as it was a particularly cold night this year with a nightly high of only 14 degrees. This is an 18-degree difference between the 2021 and 2022 PIT count, as the overnight temperature from 2021 was 32 degrees. Many of the encampments visited the night of the count were visibly clean and well-kept but no one was physically there at the time. It is possible many of these persons were in hypothermia shelter, self-paid hotel/motel rooms, or doubled-up with family/friends based on anecdotal information received from the community and service providers.

Households with Children

The number of persons in households with children decreased by 7% from the 2021 to 2022, and the household count decreased by 20%. The PWA CoC continues to successfully reduce family homelessness and has experienced a 41% reduction since 2019. Fortunately, the PWA CoC has not encountered unsheltered households with children during the PIT count. Table 1.2 below reports the counts of households with children from 2019 – 2022, while Table 1.3 reports the percent change from 2021 to 2022.

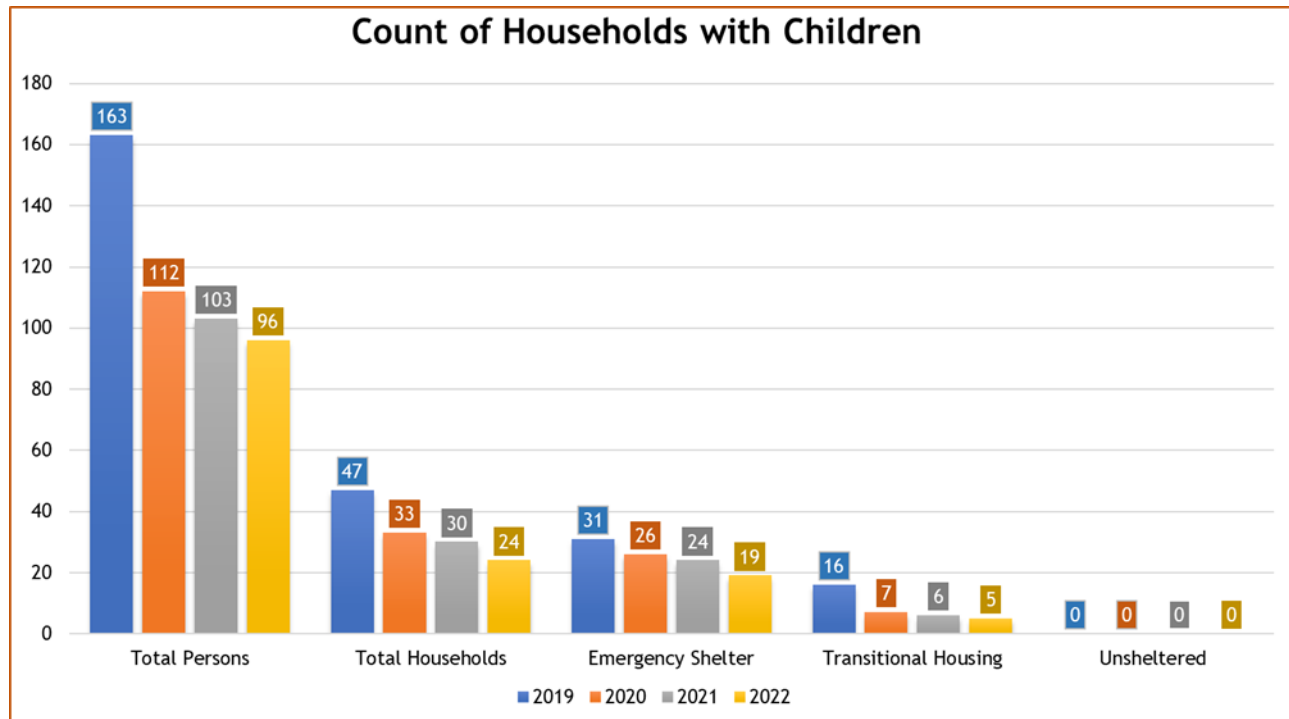


Table 1.2 – Count of Households with Children



Table 1.3 – Percent Change from 2021 to 2022

Adult-Only Households

The number of persons in adult-only households decreased by 19% from the 2021 to 2022. Adult-only households continue to be a vulnerable population in the PWA CoC and represent 100% of the unsheltered population and 60% of the total population counted. Table 1.4 below reports the counts of adult-only households from 2019 – 2022.

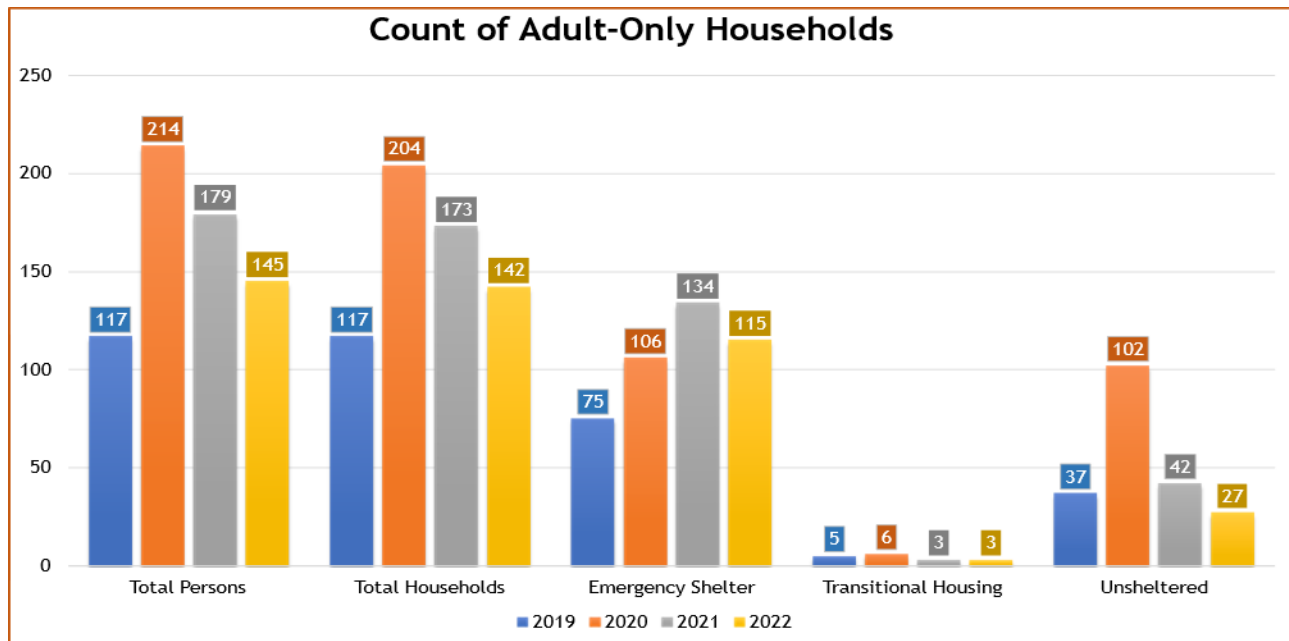


Table 1.4 – Count of Adult-Only Households

Race & Ethnicity of Persons Served

The PWA CoC strives to provide services in a manner that is equitable and free of discrimination and has conducted extensive work over the past three years to address systemic racial inequity to include participating in a regional “Racial Equity Project” in collaboration with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and supported by a project consultant, C4 Innovations. This project provided valuable insight and improved methods for delivering homeless services through an equitable lens.

The distribution of race remains consistent with previous years except for a 50% decrease in persons identifying as multiple races. The greatest disparity in the PWA CoC’s PIT data exists among persons identifying as Black, African American, or African, as they represent 53% of all persons counted. This disparity is concerning when compared to 2020 US Census Data as only 20% of the PWA CoC’s general population identifies as Black, African American, or African. This means persons in this racial category are 2.7 times more likely to experience homelessness in the PWA. It is important to note the HUD data standards for race were updated in FY22 to provide more inclusivity and representative language for a person’s self-identification of race. Table 1.5 below reports the percentage of persons counted by race.

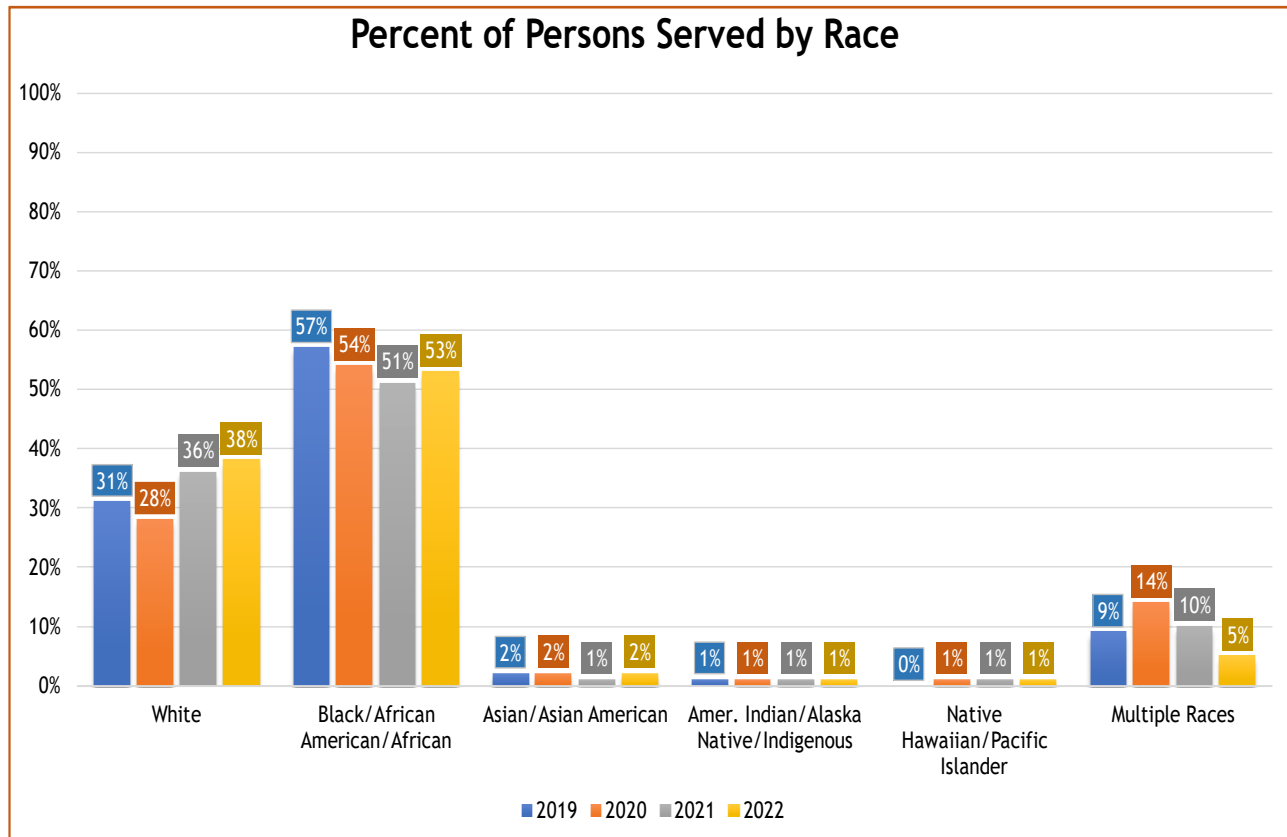


Table 1.5 – Percent of Persons Served by Race

Ethnicity data for persons served since 2019 continues to fluctuate year-to-year with a 41% decrease in persons identifying as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) and an 8% increase in persons identifying as Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) in 2022. The decrease in persons identifying as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) is the largest change since 2019 and could correlate to the reduction in persons identifying as multiple races. There has been a continuous data quality concern here as the federally defined “default” race for Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) persons is White unless they indicate otherwise. Often persons identifying as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) report they are multiple races as they do not feel comfortable being reported as White. This reduction is also reflective of improved data collection practices for this measure. It is important to note the HUD data standards for ethnicity were updated in FY22 to provide more inclusivity and representative language for a person’s gender identity in their self-identification of ethnicity.

Table 1.6 below reports the percentage of persons counted by ethnicity.

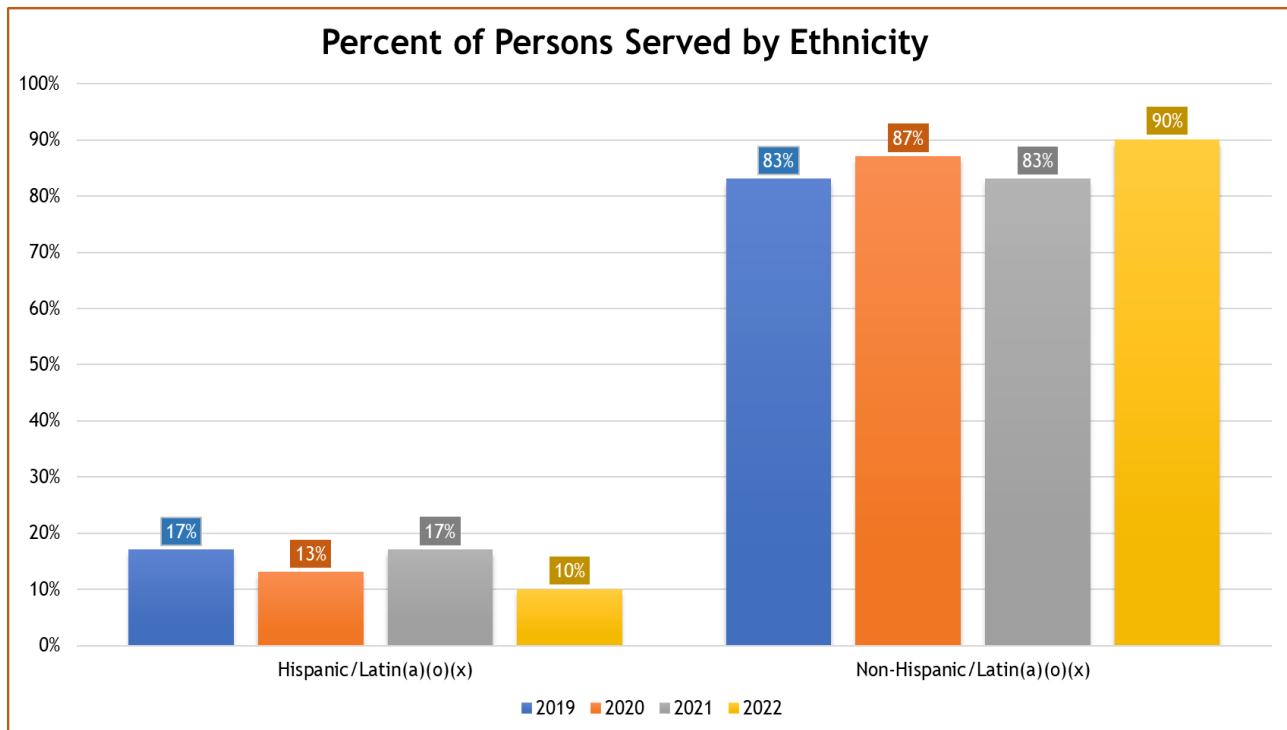


Table 1.6 – Percent of Persons Served by Ethnicity

2. Income & Employment

Data on income and employment is provided for all adults (18+) counted the night of PIT. The PWA CoC saw an increase in adults receiving income for the first time since 2019. The number of adults receiving income has increased by 24% when compared to the 2021 count. Table 2.0 below reports the percent of adults reporting any type of income from 2019 – 2022.

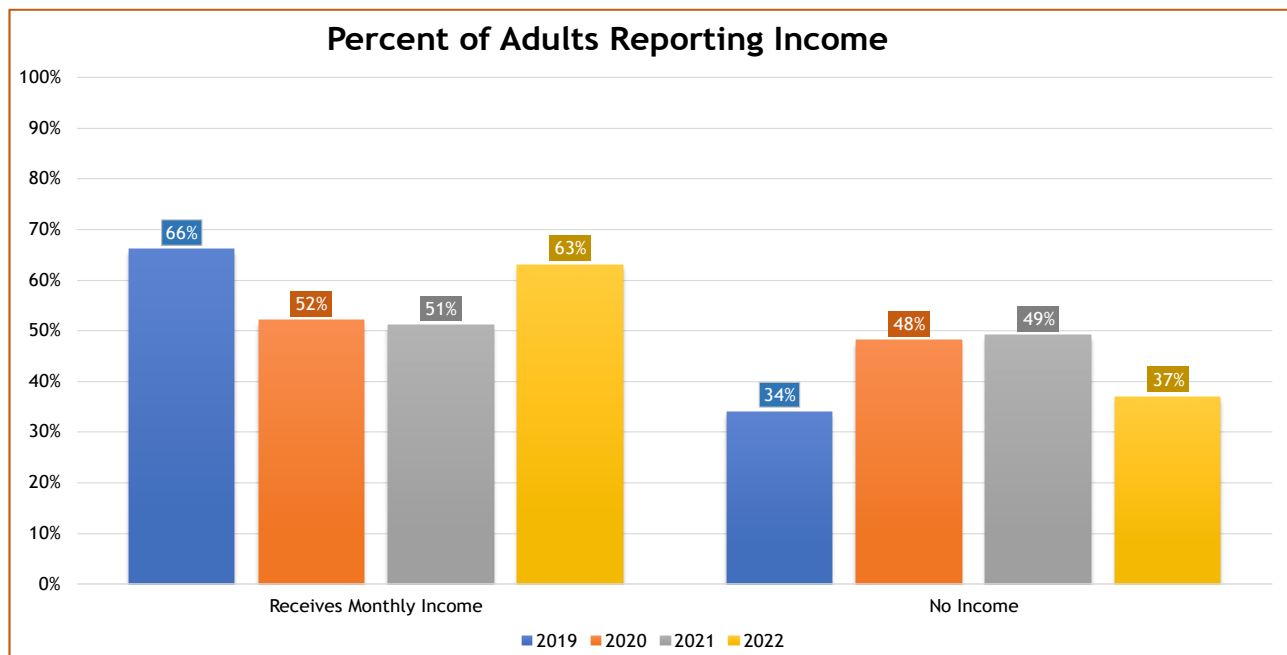


Table 2.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Income

The number of adults who are employed increased by 14% from the 2021 to 2022. This is the first time the PWA CoC experienced an increase in this measure since 2019 and indicates efforts to improve employment programs have been effective. Table 2.1 below reports the percent of adults reporting employment income from 2019 – 2022.

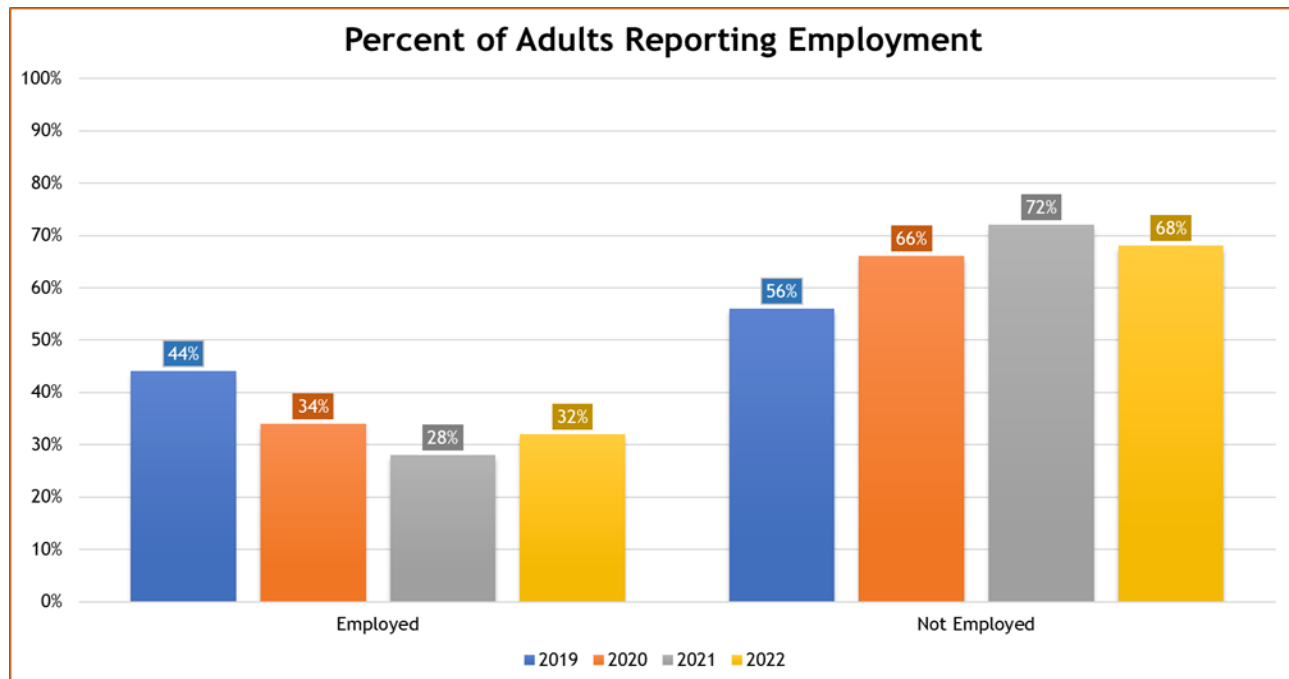


Table 2.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Employment

Table 2.2 below reports the “primary income source” for all households surveyed. The PWA CoC experienced an increase in income in this measurement for the first time since 2019, with an 11% increase in households whose primary source is employment income from 2021 to 2022, and a 29% increase in households whose primary source is some form of disability income for the same time period.

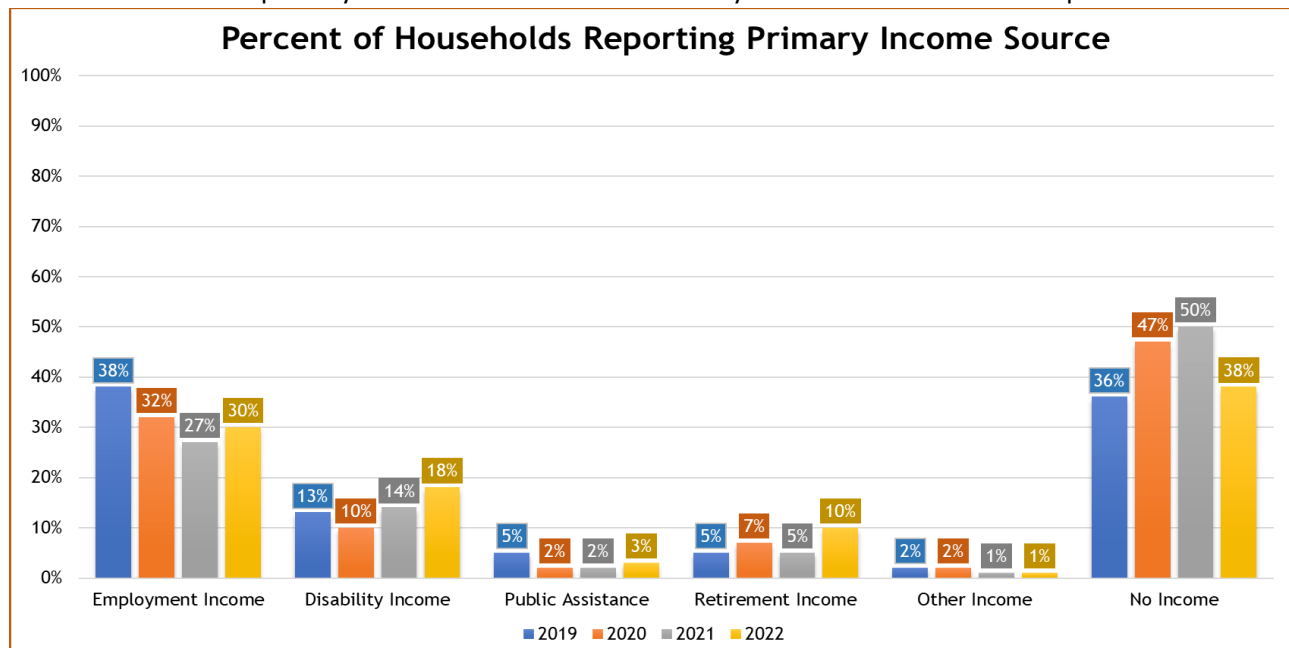


Table 2.2 – Percent of Households Reporting Primary Income Source

3. Priority Populations

Table 3.0 below reports the number of adults (18+) reporting under one or more “priority populations.” There has been a decrease across all categories when compared to the 2021 data, with the most significant being for persons reporting as having limited or no ability to speak or understand English (58% decrease). This could correlate to the 41% reduction in persons identifying as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x).

There were also significant decreases in persons reporting as chronically homeless (40% decrease) as well as those reporting their current episode of homelessness is due to a release from an institutional setting (39% decrease). Improved data collection practices, increased housing services, and collaboration with area institutions could account for these reductions.

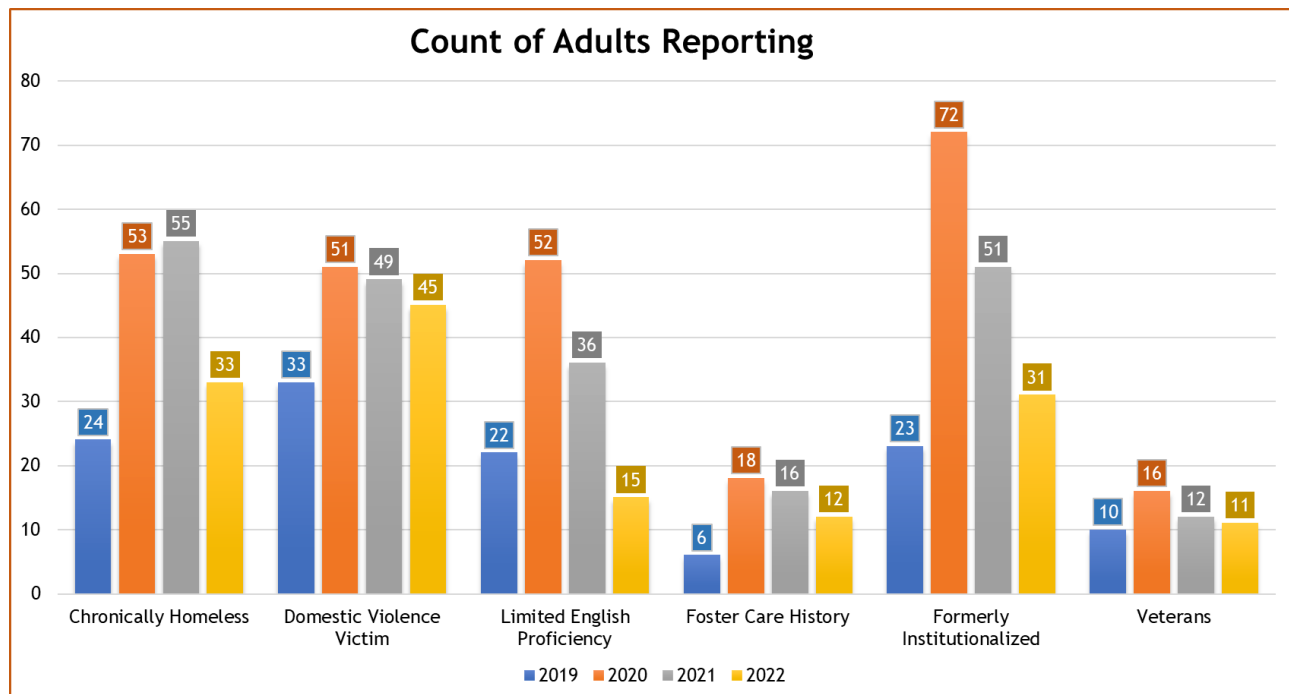


Table 3.0 – Counts of Adults Reporting as one or more “Priority Population”

Disabling Conditions

Nearly 50% of all adults (18+) surveyed reported living with one or more disabling conditions that significantly impacts their day-to-day life, which is the same percentage reported in 2021. There was a 29% decrease in the number of persons reporting living with a chronic health condition and a 32% decrease in persons reporting some form of physical disability. The PWA CoC did count one person living with HIV/AIDS for the first time since 2019. Table 3.1 below reports the number of adults reporting one or more disabling conditions.

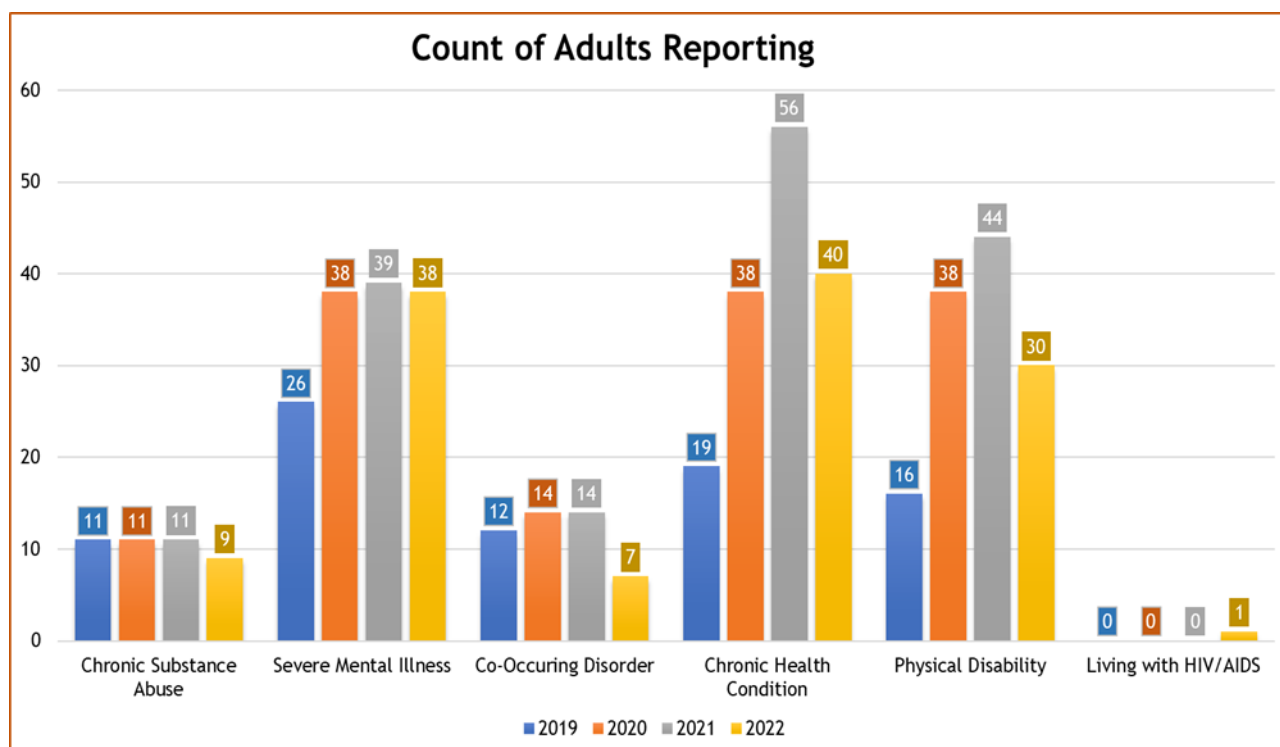


Table 3.1 – Count of Adults Reporting One or More Disabling Conditions

4. Inventory and Housing Outcomes

Shelter Inventory

The PWA CoC had a total of 273 sheltered beds (emergency shelter and transitional housing) available the night of the 2022 PIT count, which is a 12% reduction from 2021. This results in a utilization rate of 78% based on the 214 persons served in sheltered projects. COVID-19 restrictions continue to affect capacity due to social distancing requirements as well as the need to utilize family rooms for isolation. Additionally, one PWA CoC shelter was closed the night of PIT due to maintenance repairs. This shelter normally offers 18 beds to singles and families when operating.

When viewing the utilization by project type (emergency shelter versus transitional housing), it should be noted that utilization for emergency shelter is at 81% while the utilization for transitional housing is 66% (with one project at only 18% capacity). The project reports difficulty in finding eligible participants for their program and has expressed this concern to the PWA CoC as well as the CES. The PWA CoC will continue working with the provider to identify eligible participants.

Table 4.0 below reports the total available beds by year, project type, household type, and availability (emergency shelter only) as well as the change in beds from the previous year.

Project Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change in Beds 2021 - 2022	Percent Change 2021 - 2022
EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES)						
Total Beds	204	270	277	232	45	-16%
Beds for AO HH	78	120	148	126	22	-15%
Beds for AC HH	126	150	129	106	23	-18%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) SHELTER						
Total Beds	21	21	23	23	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	3	3	5	5	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	18	18	18	18	0	0%
ES BEDS BY AVAILABILITY						
Year-Round Beds	204	230	211	180	31	-15%
Overflow Beds	0	0	2	2	0	0%
Seasonal Beds	0	40	64	50	14	-22%
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)						
Total Beds	78	41	33	41	8	24%
Beds for AO HH	6	6	3	3	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	72	35	30	38	8	27%
TOTAL BEDS	282	311	310	273		

Table 4.0 – Sheltered Inventory From 2019 – 2022

Permanent Housing Placements

The PWA CoC currently receives federal and state funding to operate multiple Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH) projects. The PWA CoC also collaborates with the Veteran's Administration and the Office of Housing to identify eligible participants for their programs such as VASH and Housing Choice Vouchers. Additionally, the PWA CoC collaborates with several nonprofit and faith-based organizations that operate affordable housing programs within the community.

Despite increases in available funding, providers continue to struggle with identifying affordable housing units for persons they serve. Based on PWA CoC's HMIS data, there were 233 persons enrolled in housing programs the night of PIT, and 66% of those persons were physically housed. This can also be seen in reviewing the VASH numbers as the PWA CoC has 75 available vouchers and 52 were in use the night of PIT, resulting in a 69% utilization rate.

The struggle to identify affordable housing units is also reflected in reviewing the PWA CoC's HMIS data for exit destinations and length of time to housing. In FY2021, 88% of persons exiting permanent housing programs went to a positive destination, with 73% of those persons "transitioning in place," no longer requiring services and having assumed full responsibility of their rental unit. In FY2022, the number of positive exits decreased to 77% and the number of persons "transitioning in place" decreased to 60%. It is important to note some of the decrease for households "transitioning in place" can be attributed to placement in the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, which represents 22% of the positive exits.

In FY2021, 81% of persons served in permanent housing moved from homelessness to housing within 30 days. In FY2022, only 36% of persons served moved into housing within 30 days, which represents a 55% decrease from the previous year. The highest percentage of persons (40%) were moved into housing within 61 – 180 days, with an average of 80 days to housing.

The PWA CoC continues to work on identifying affordable housing units and providing increased access to those units. PWC DSS implemented a housing development program in FY2021 and has recently applied for state funding to expand housing location services beginning in FY2023.

Table 4.1 below reports the total available permanent housing beds by year, project type, and household type. The CoC saw a 15% decrease in RRH beds from the 2021 count to the 2022 count.

Category	2020	2021	2022	Change in Beds 2021 - 2022	Percent Change 2021 - 2022
OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING (OPH)					
Total Beds	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	9	9	9	0	0%
Beds for AC HH	0	0	0	0	0%
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)					
Total Beds	46	41	41	0	0%
Beds for AO HH	36	36	37	1	3%
Beds for AC HH	10	5	4	1	-20%
RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH)					
Total Beds	133	156	132	24	-15%
Beds for AO HH	39	50	45	5	-10%
Beds for AC HH	94	106	87	19	-18%
<i>* Table excludes HUD/VASH program</i>					

Table 4.1 – Permanent Housing Inventory from 2020 - 2022

Positive Exit Destinations from Sheltered Projects

PWA CoC's HMIS data for sheltered projects (emergency shelter and transitional housing) reports that 73% of persons exiting these projects have gone to a positive exit destination (i.e., some form of permanent housing) since the beginning of FY2021 (7/1/2021), which is an 8% decrease from the previous year.

HMIS data also shows that 70% of persons exited to positive destinations other than PSH or RRH. More than 50% of these exits were accomplished using the Housing Choice or Emergency Housing Voucher programs. Exit data outcomes highlight successful efforts to provide diversion services beyond coordinated entry, therefore preserving limited housing resources for households with higher barriers.

Other Permanent Housing

The PWA CoC also operates two "other" permanent housing projects that are privately funded but still participate in the HMIS and reporting. These projects offer permanent housing to single individuals with or without a disability as well as supportive services.

5. Local Measurements

The PWA CoC collects certain data for local use in addition to data gathering requirements promulgated by the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG). This additional data helps the PWA CoC better understand the experiences and needs of their homeless population.

Prior Year Participation

This measure collects information from all adults (18+) on whether or not they participated(i.e., completed a survey) in the prior year's count. This information is important as it indicates the effectiveness of PWA CoC efforts to quickly move persons from homelessness to housing as well as concerns with rates of housing retention/recidivism.

Table 5.0 below reports the percentage of adults (18+) that participated in the prior year's count. Year-over-year change from 2021 to 2022 is nominal.

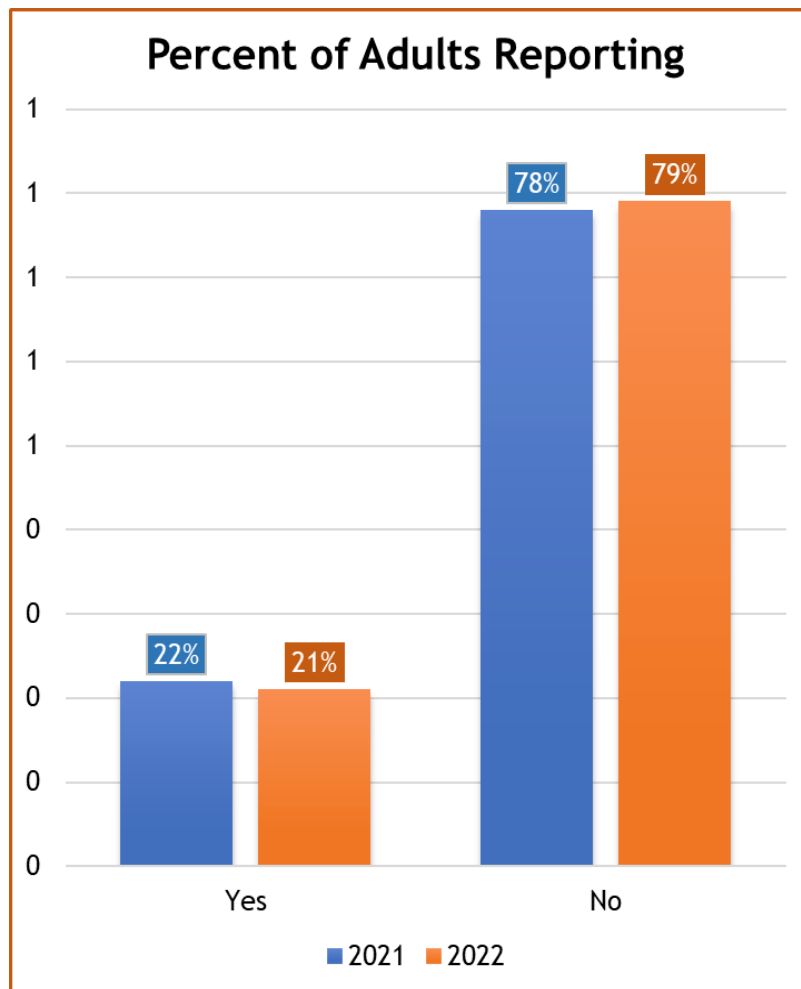


Table 5.0 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation

Table 5.1 below reports the number of adults (18+) that participated in the prior year's count by project type. It is important to note that unsheltered persons represent the highest percentage of prior participation in 2022 at 52%, which is a 21% increase from 2021. There was a 45% decrease in prior participation for transitional housing, however, this can be attributed to the fact there was program "turnover" and several families moved on to permanent housing. It is not uncommon to see persons in this project type respond "yes" to this question as transitional housing is a 2-year program.

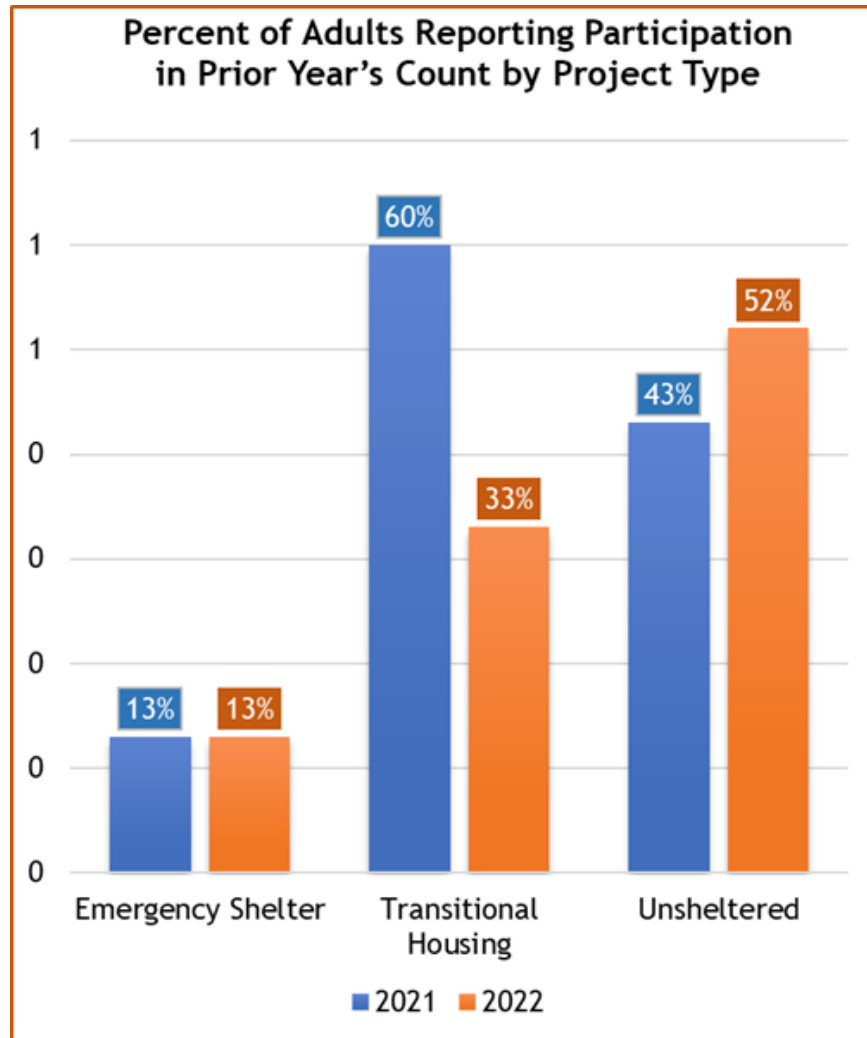


Table 5.1 – Percent of Adults Reporting Prior Year Participation by Project Type

Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness

Table 5.2 below reports the last permanent residence of adults (18+) where they lived for at least 90 days prior to their current episode of homelessness. Permanent housing is defined as any form of rental (including rooms) with or without subsidy, home ownership, or long-term stays with family or friends. Data suggests that 76% of adults surveyed in 2022 reported living in permanent housing within the PWA prior to becoming homeless. It is a common misconception that persons experiencing homelessness are largely transient, when, in reality, they are usually residents of the CoC from which they request services.

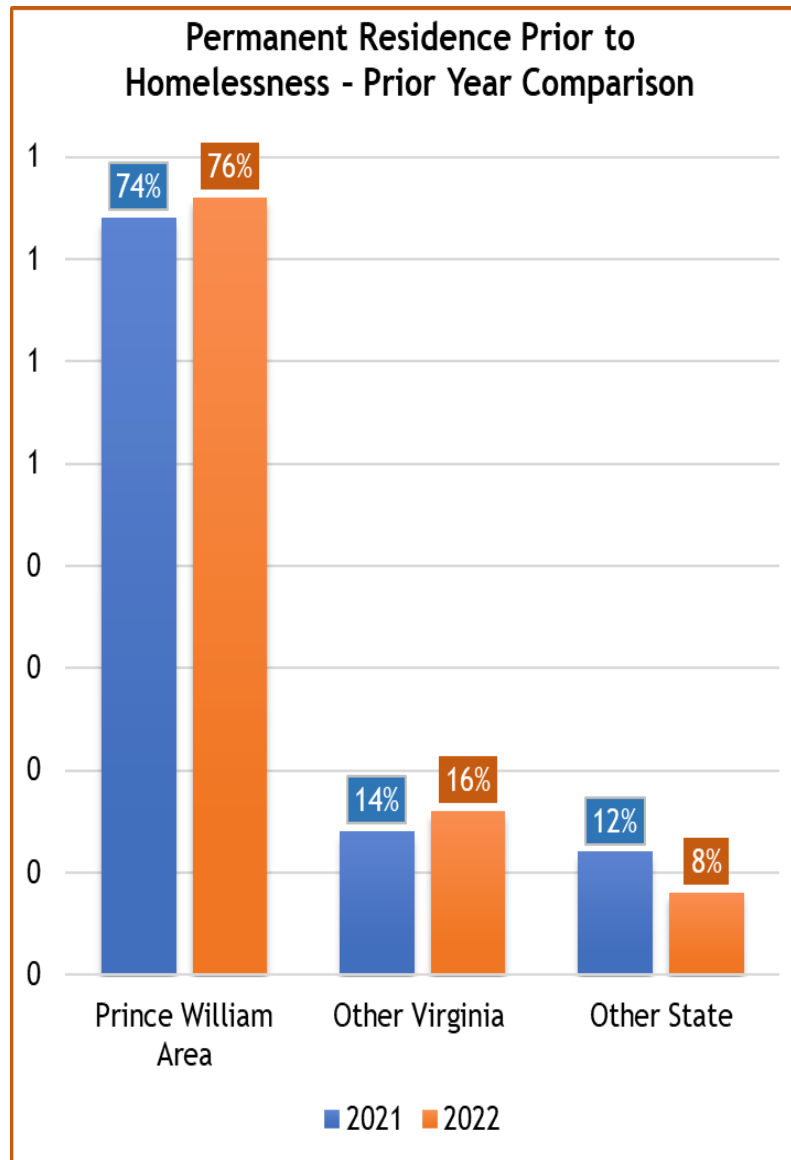


Table 5.2 – Percent of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness

Table 5.3 below provides the actual count of adults (18+) surveyed broken down by area.

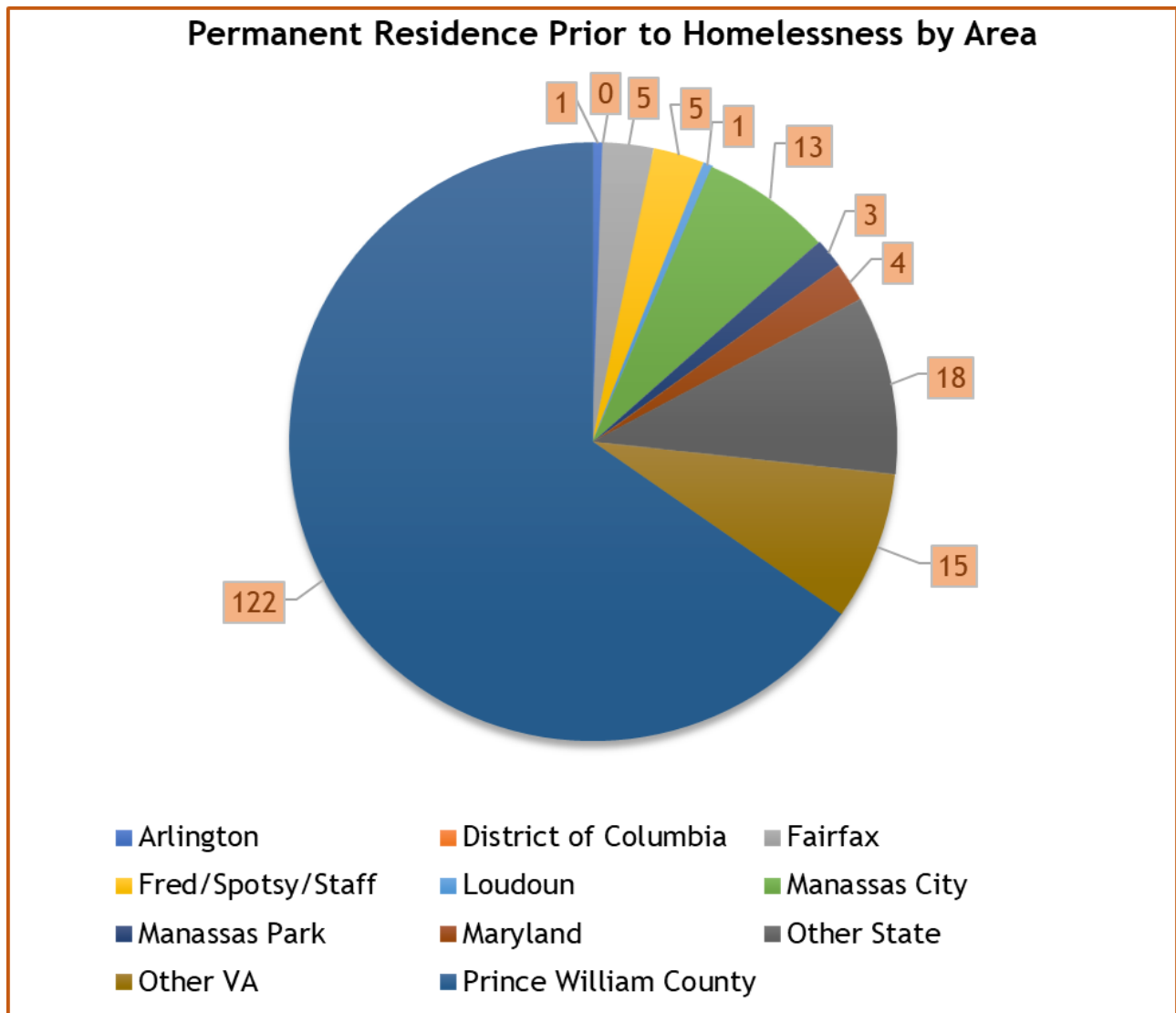


Table 5.3 – Count of Adults Reporting Permanent Residence Prior to Homelessness by Area

Level of Housing Assistance Needed to Resolve Homelessness

This question was added to the 2022 PIT Survey with the intention of better understanding the level of housing assistance persons would need to resolve homelessness and regain independence. This data is reported by households rather than persons.

The levels of housing assistance are defined as follows:

- One-Time Housing Assistance (deposit & 1st month's rent)
- Short-Term Housing Assistance (up to 3 months of rental assistance)
- Medium-Term Housing Assistance (up to 6 months of rental assistance)
- Long-Term Housing Assistance (up to 18 months of rental assistance)
- Housing with Long-Term Subsidy (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (long-term subsidy & supportive services for disabled persons)

Table 5.4 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type. Data suggests that households would benefit most from some form of housing with long-term subsidy (35%) and benefit least from one-time rental assistance (6%). Responses were evenly distributed between other types of assistance with an average response of 16%. Response data to this question supports the notion that there is not a “one-size fits all” solution to resolving homelessness.

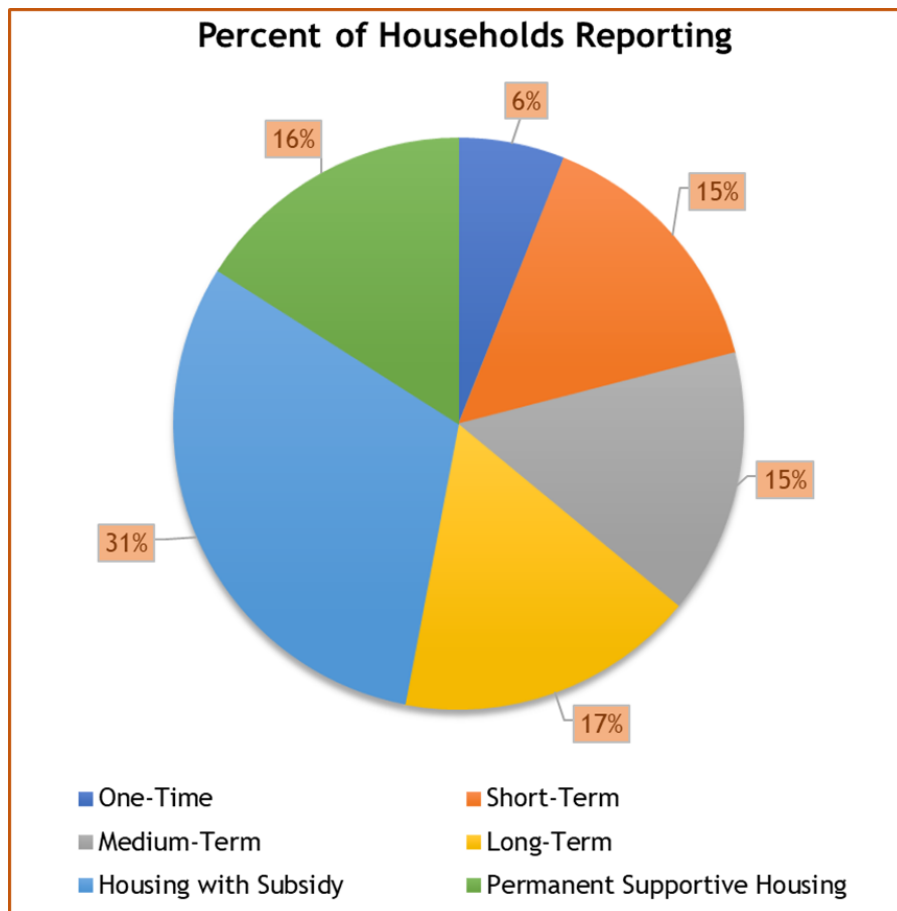


Table 5.4 – Percent of Households Reporting Level of Housing Assistance

Table 5.5 below reports the level of need for households by assistance type and project type. Data suggests that 88% of households in transitional housing would benefit from some form of long-term housing subsidy. For emergency shelter, responses are more evenly distributed with the highest percentage indicating a need for long-term subsidies (25%) and the lowest need being one-time assistance (5%). For the unsheltered population we again see the highest percentage for long-term subsidies (45%). We also see the highest percentage of persons who report they would benefit from Permanent Supportive Housing (25%) and one-time assistance (15%).

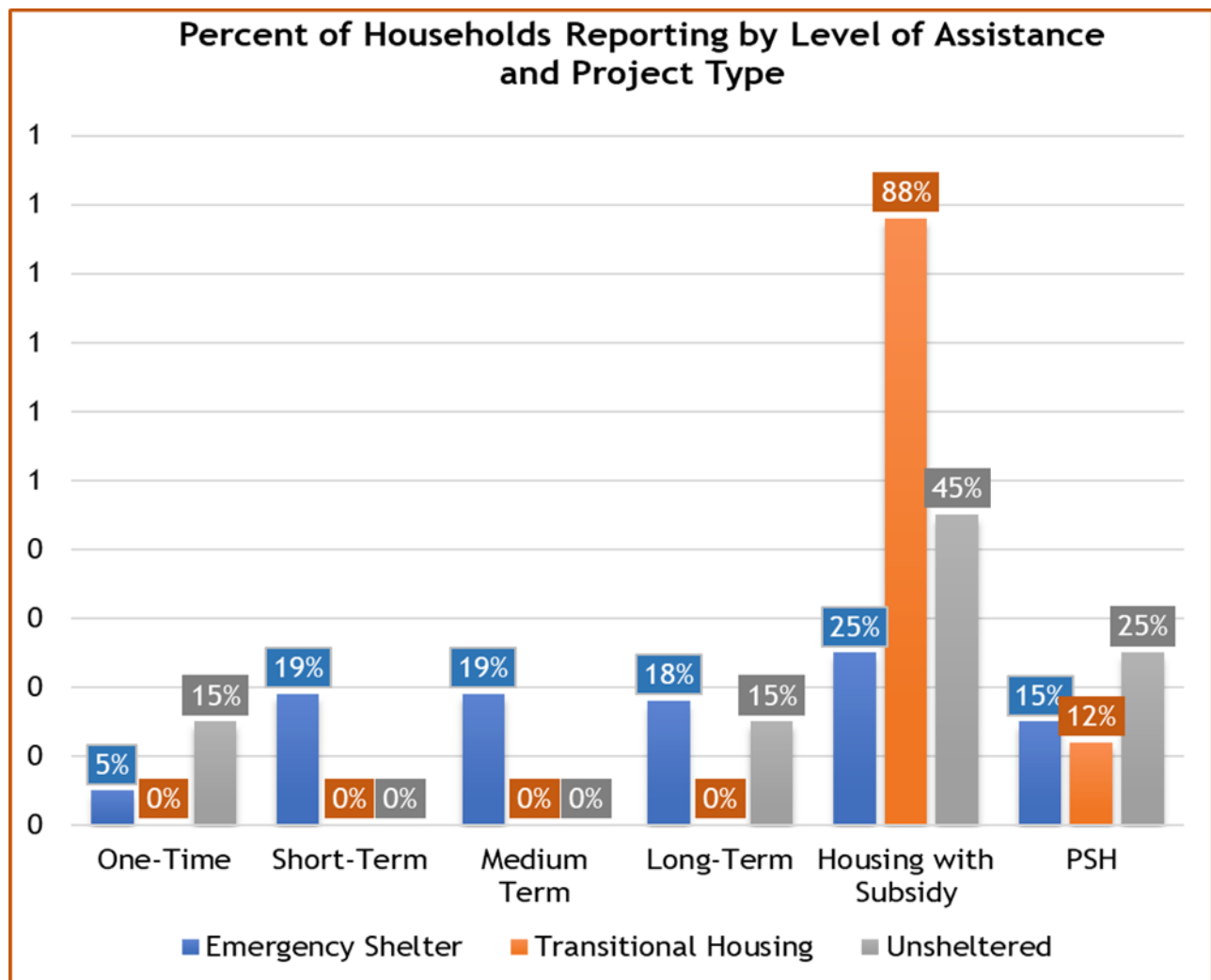


Table 5.5 – Percent of Households Reporting by Level of Assistance and Project Type