

2019



Point-in-Time



Count



*Everyone Counts, No Matter Where They Live*

## 2019 POINT IN TIME COUNT REPORT

VERMONT'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE COUNT OF THE HOMELESS



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness &  
Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

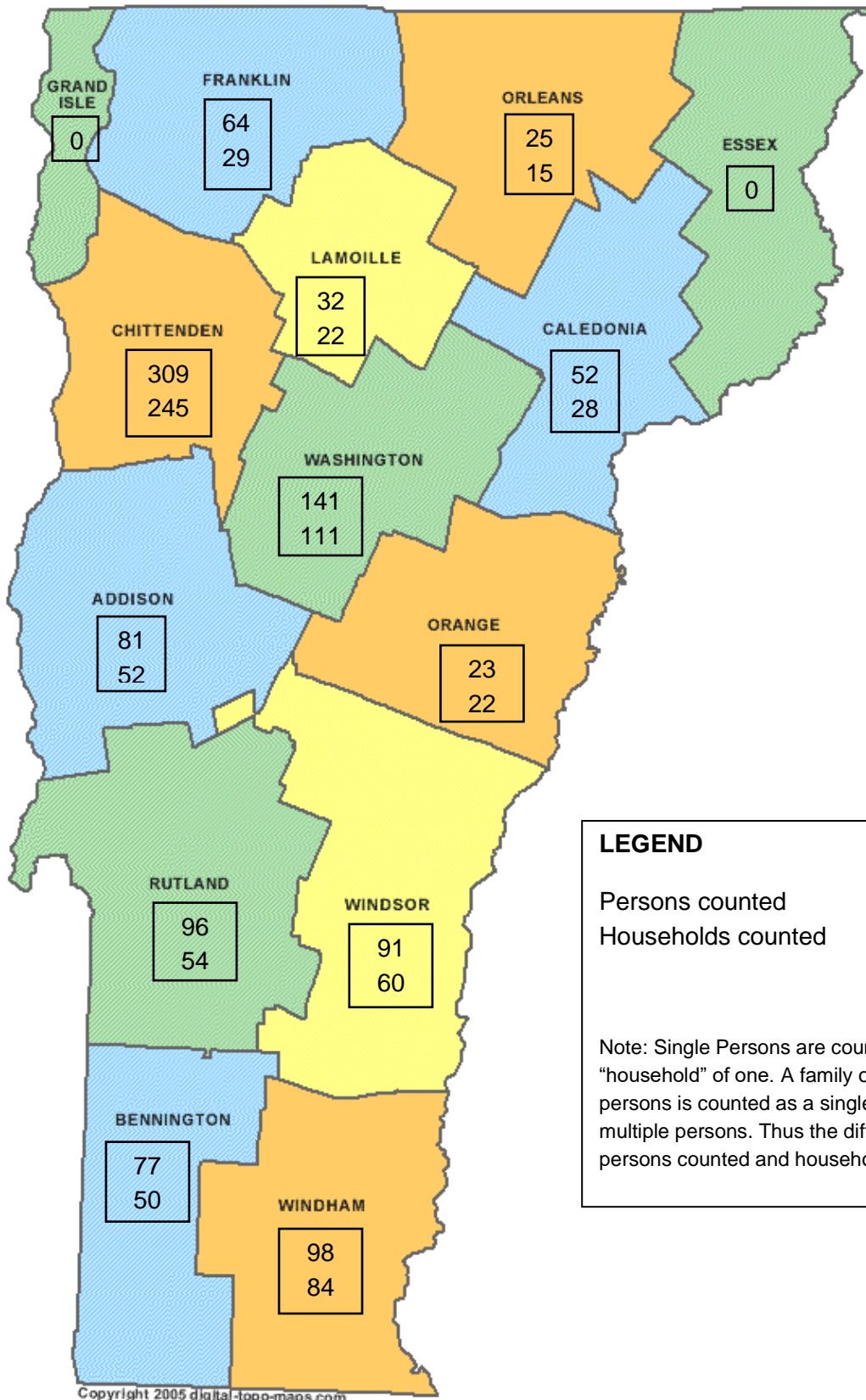


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# HOMELESS PERSONS BY COUNTY

## 2019 POINT IN TIME COUNT



### LEGEND

Persons counted  
Households counted

Note: Single Persons are counted as a "household" of one. A family of multiple persons is counted as a single household and multiple persons. Thus the difference between persons counted and households counted.

## SUMMARY

This report chronicles the landscape of and changes in overall homelessness, as well as breakdowns by location of homelessness, household type, subpopulation, and county. The Annual Point in Time Count is an unduplicated statewide count of persons experiencing literal homelessness<sup>1</sup> on a single night in January. The Count captures the most vulnerable population, those *literally homeless* and does not include those at risk of homelessness, *doubled up* or *couch surfing*. Vermont's two Continua of Care (CoC) — the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (Balance of State CoC) and Chittenden Homeless Alliance (Chittenden County CoC)—are the lead organizers of this effort. These CoCs, along with 11 local Continua of Care that are part of the Balance of State, are comprised of service and housing providers, state agencies, those with lived experience of homelessness, and other key partners in the work to make all homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

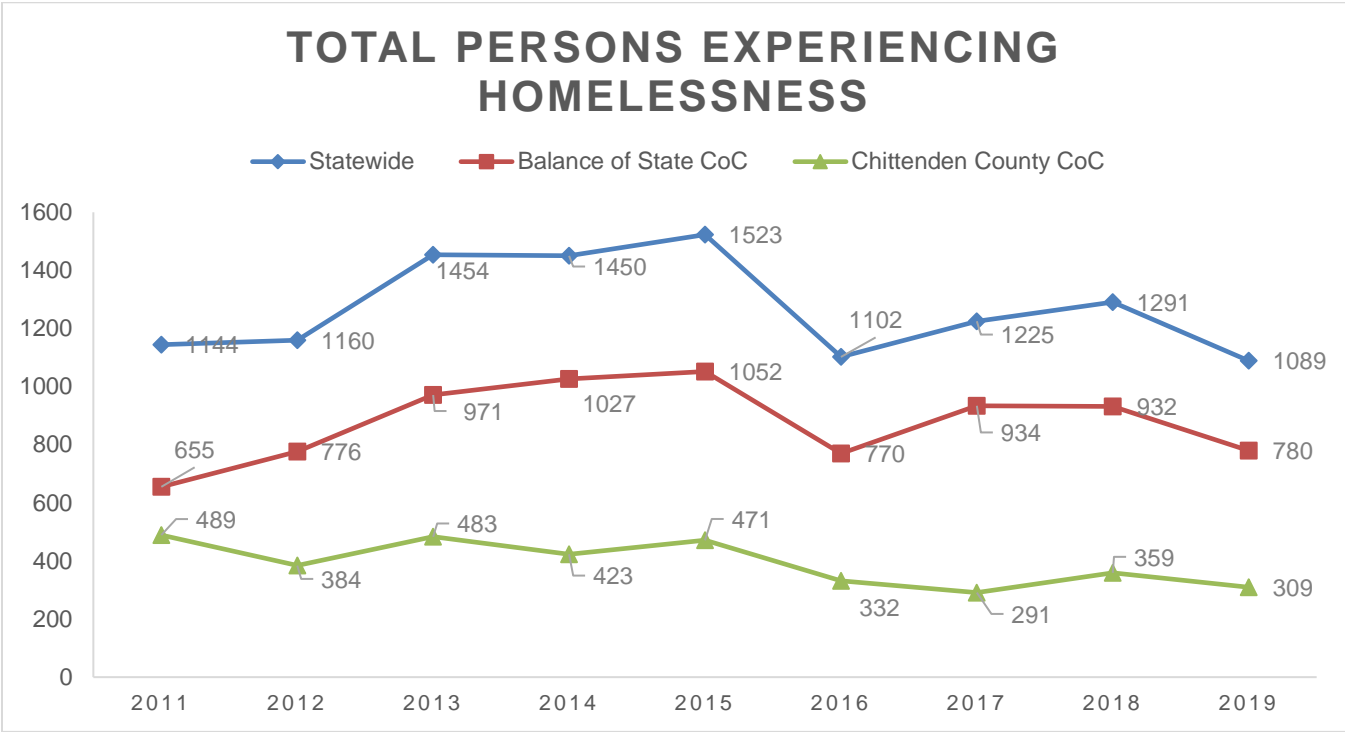
- During the one-day count on January 23, 2019, 1,089 Vermonters experienced literal homelessness, a decrease of 202 people, or 15.5% decrease, compared to the 2018 one-day count.
- A total of 772 households were counted, a 16% decrease (145 fewer households) from 2018.
- The number of unsheltered persons counted 114, a 39% increase from 2018.
- 251 persons were children 18 and under, representing 23% of the entire homeless population counted; this percentage is unchanged from 2018.
- 133 people, or 12%, reported they were fleeing domestic or sexual violence. 2018 was the first year (baseline) where information was collected on those fleeing domestic or sexual violence (instead of survivors of domestic or sexual violence). In 2019, the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence supported statewide collection aggregate data for the PIT Count to ensure safety for survivors and a more comprehensive count. In 2019, there was an 18 person decrease or 12% from 2018 PIT Count.
- A disproportionate amount of people identified as Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino, compared to state demographics; 8% were Black or African American, compared to 1% of the state population; 4% were Hispanic or Latino, compared to 1% of the state population.

The Count provides a valuable measure of Vermont's homeless population; the data is used to assess and identify housing service gaps and needs. Insufficient affordable housing units, housing subsidies and capacity to provide individualized services that fit the needs of individuals and families who are homeless continue to burden prevention and intervention efforts. All Continua of Care are working to implement Coordinated Entry, a uniform system to streamline access to housing-related services and resources. Coordinated Entry also supports providers in more effectively prioritizing and matching families and individuals with housing and services that meets their needs.

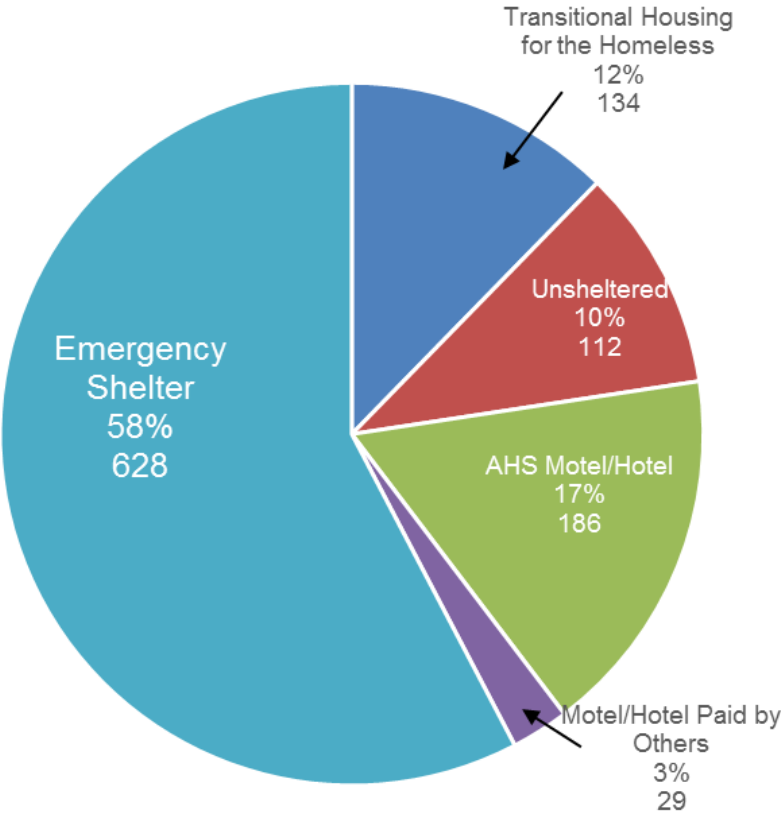
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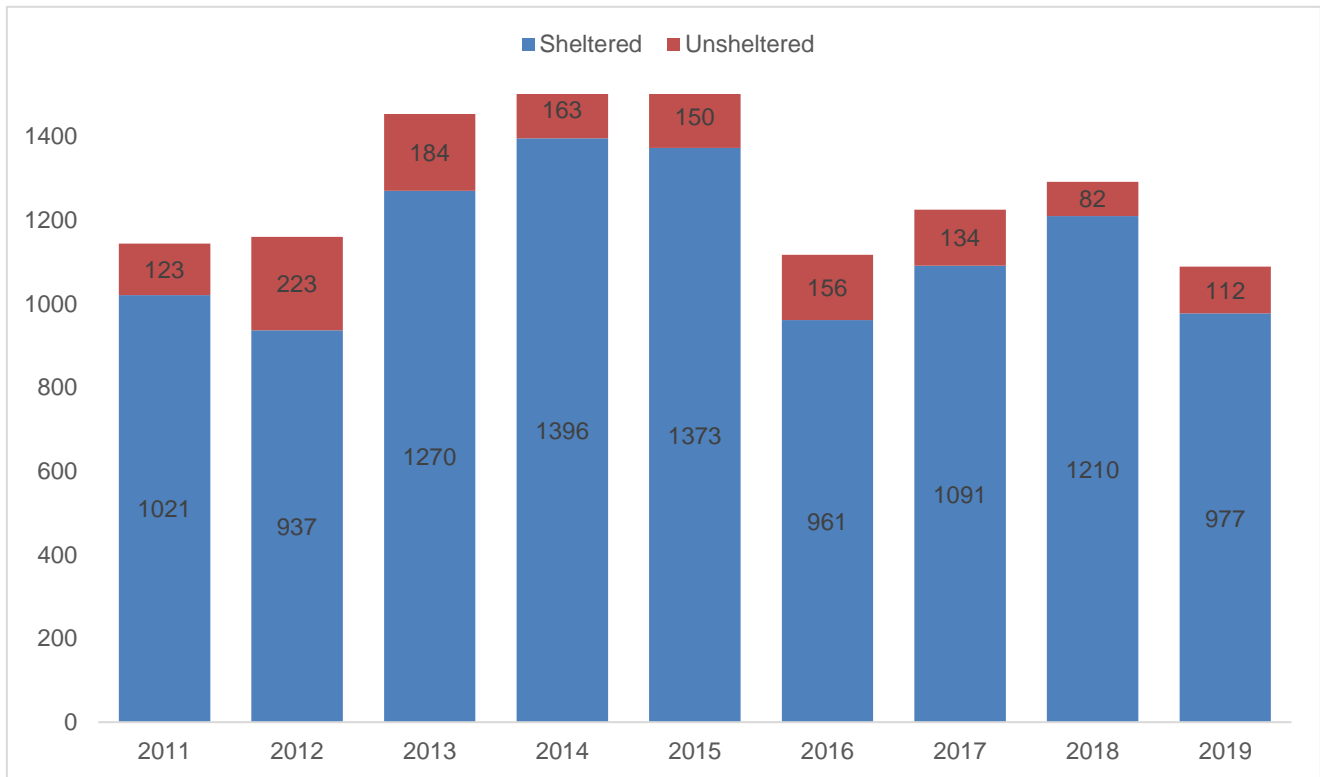
<sup>1</sup> Staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing for homeless persons, a place not meant for human habitation, or a motel with a voucher.

# ANNUAL VT POINT IN TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESSNESS: 2011-2019



## LOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS

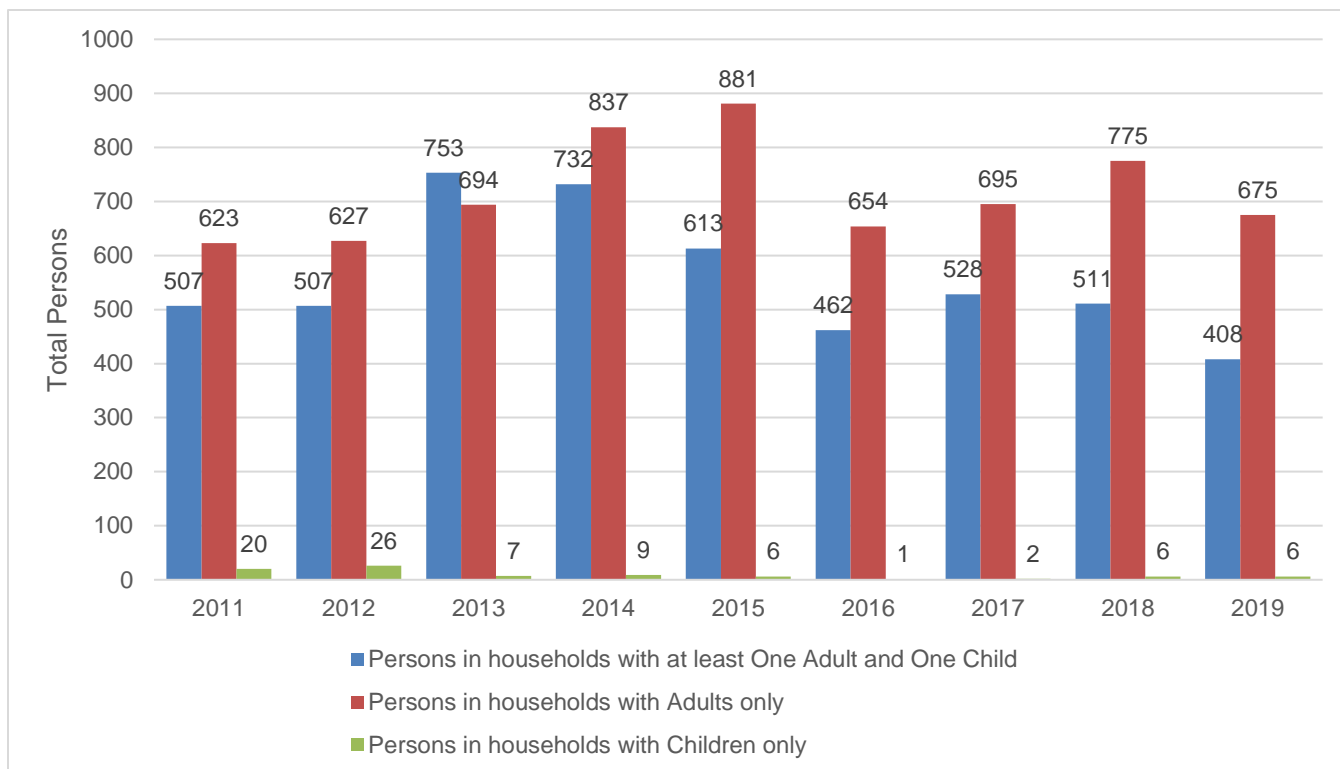




## KEY FINDINGS

- This year's Count saw the lowest number of homeless in the past 9 years.
- While the statewide number of homeless decreased by about 16%, the number of unsheltered persons increased by almost 37%.
  - This increase is at least partially a result of a decreased utilization in state-funded motel vouchers on the night of the Count due to milder temperatures. Adverse Weather Condition (AWC) relaxes eligibility for the General Assistance Emergency Housing vouchers when temperatures or wind chills are below 20 degrees, or 32 degrees with precipitation.
    - In 2019, only one Agency of Human Services (AHS) district had an Adverse Weather Condition status (Newport district).
    - In 2018, many AHS districts had an Adverse Weather Condition status issued. In 2018, 373 persons were staying in motels with vouchers through the General Assistance Emergency Housing program, as compared to 186 in 2019, a 50% decrease (187 fewer persons) in utilization on the night of the Count.

## HOUSEHOLD TYPE

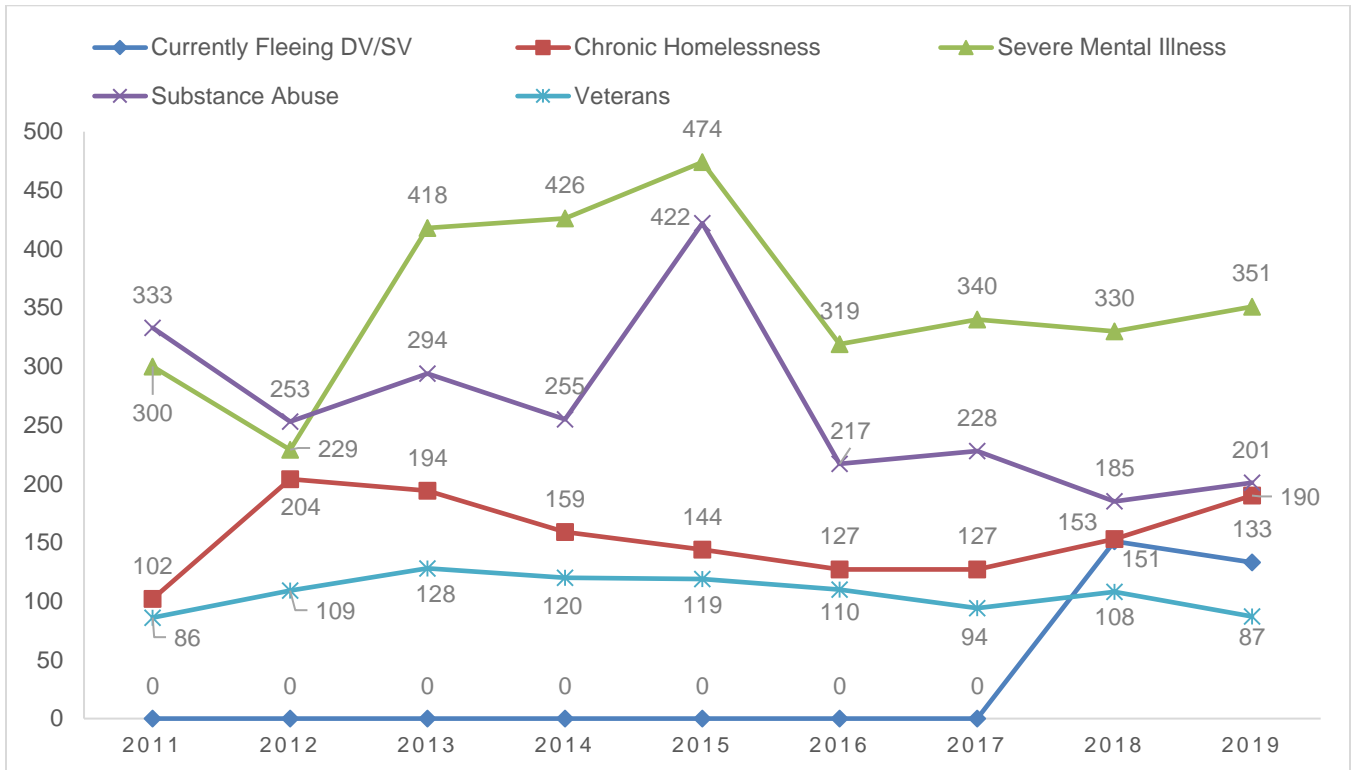


## KEY FINDINGS

- **Families with Children** (at least one adult and one child): approximately 38% of persons (408) experiencing homelessness were persons in households with at least one adult and one child.
  - This is a decrease of 20% (103 persons) from 2018 to 2019.
- **Adults** (households with adults only): approximately 62% of persons (607) were in households with adults only.
  - This is a decrease of 13% (100 persons) from 2018 to 2019.
- **Unaccompanied Minors** (households with children only): approximately .5% of persons (6) were in households with children only.

## SUBPOPULATIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

For the following data, people may be included under multiple subpopulation categories (i.e., they are not mutually exclusive categories). All data is based on self-reported information.



## KEY FINDINGS

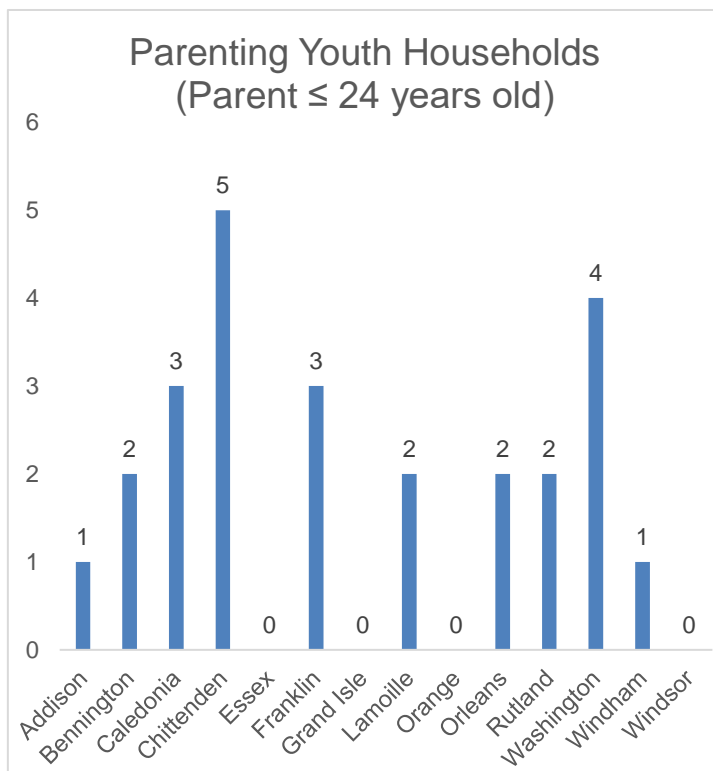
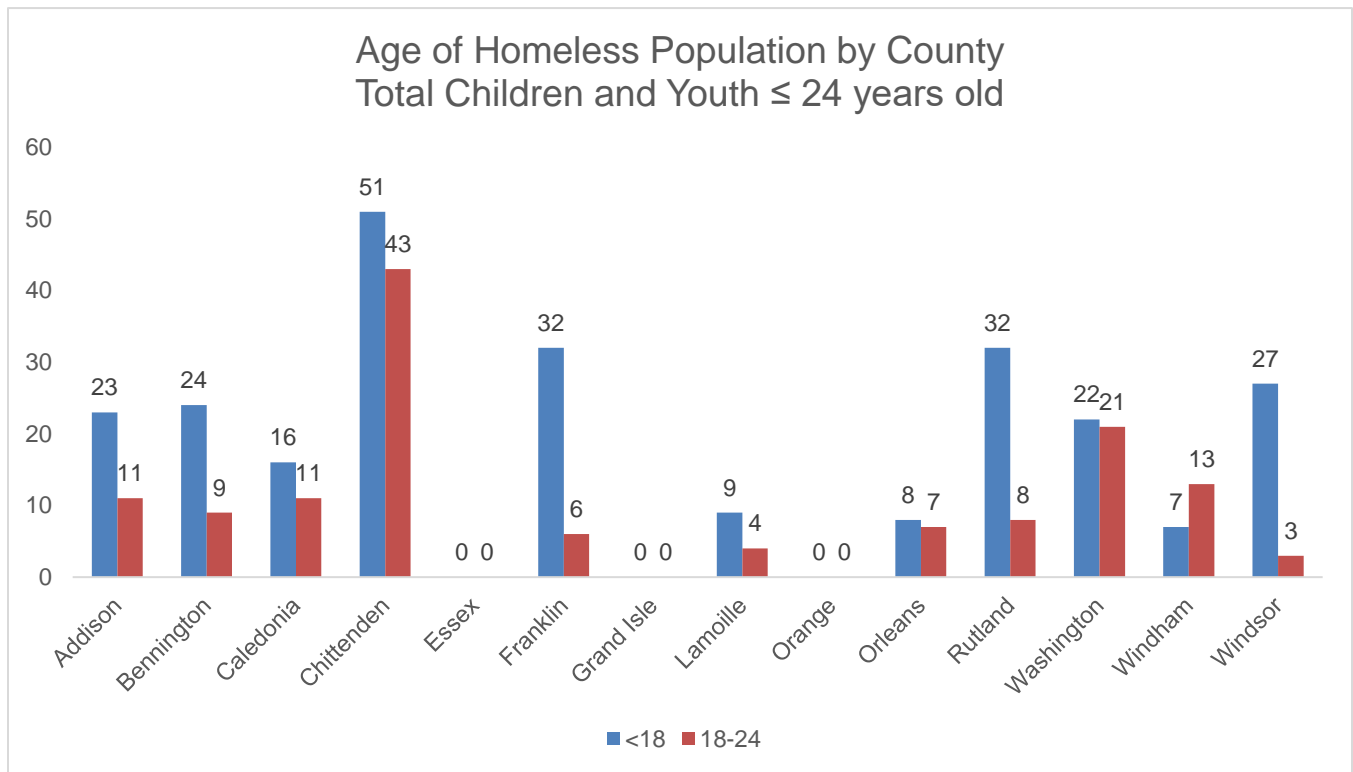
- In all subpopulations, there was an increase, with the exception of Veteran's homelessness and those currently fleeing domestic/sexual violence.
- While there was an overall decrease in persons experiencing homeless, there was an increase in those identifying as one or more subpopulation. This may suggest that those experiencing homelessness have higher needs than previous years.
- In Vermont, 190 persons (17.5% of total persons counted) self-identify as chronically homeless<sup>2</sup> which is a 24% increase compared to 2018.
- 351 persons (32% of total persons counted), reported having a severe mental illness, a 6% increase (21) from 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Comprised of persons with a disability who have experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years (cumulative of at least 12 months).



- 201 persons (18.5% of total persons counted), reported having a substance use disorder, compared to 14.3% (185) in 2018 and 18.6% (228) in 2017.
- Veteran's homelessness experienced a 19.5% decrease, with 87 persons counted. This is the lowest PIT number since 2011, which was 86.
  - The decrease in the count of Veteran's experiencing homelessness could partially be due to a restructure of the question regarding Veteran status, as well as additional training for those asking the question.
- Persons currently fleeing domestic/sexual violence experienced a 19.5% decrease, with 133 persons counted.

## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

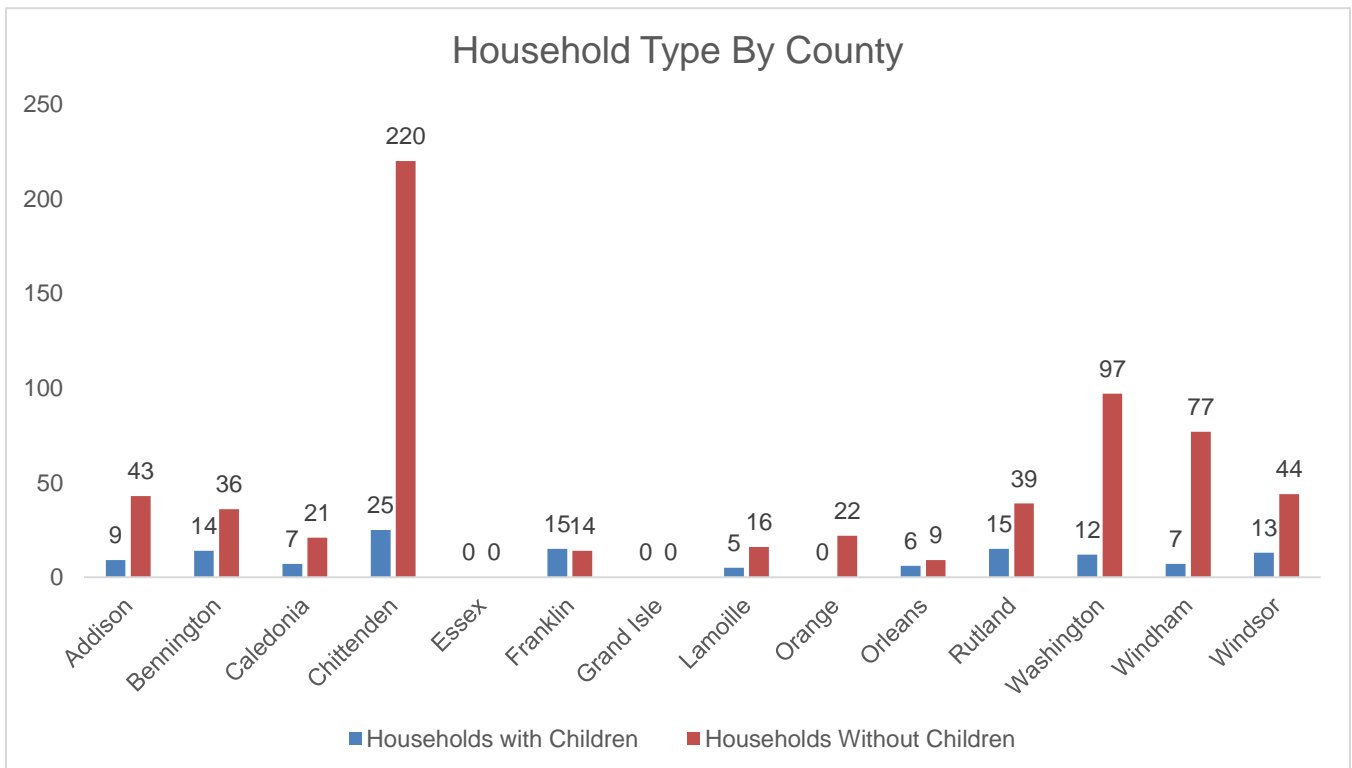
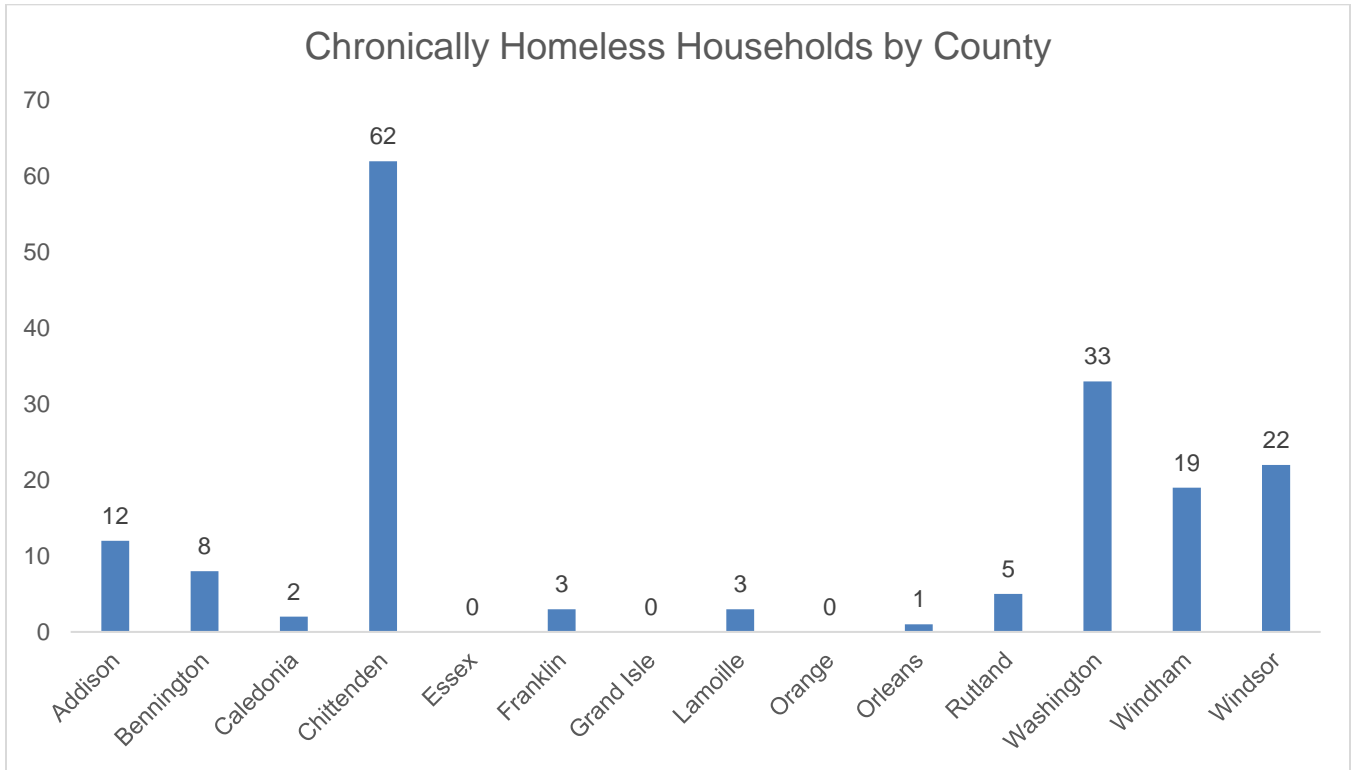


### KEY FINDINGS

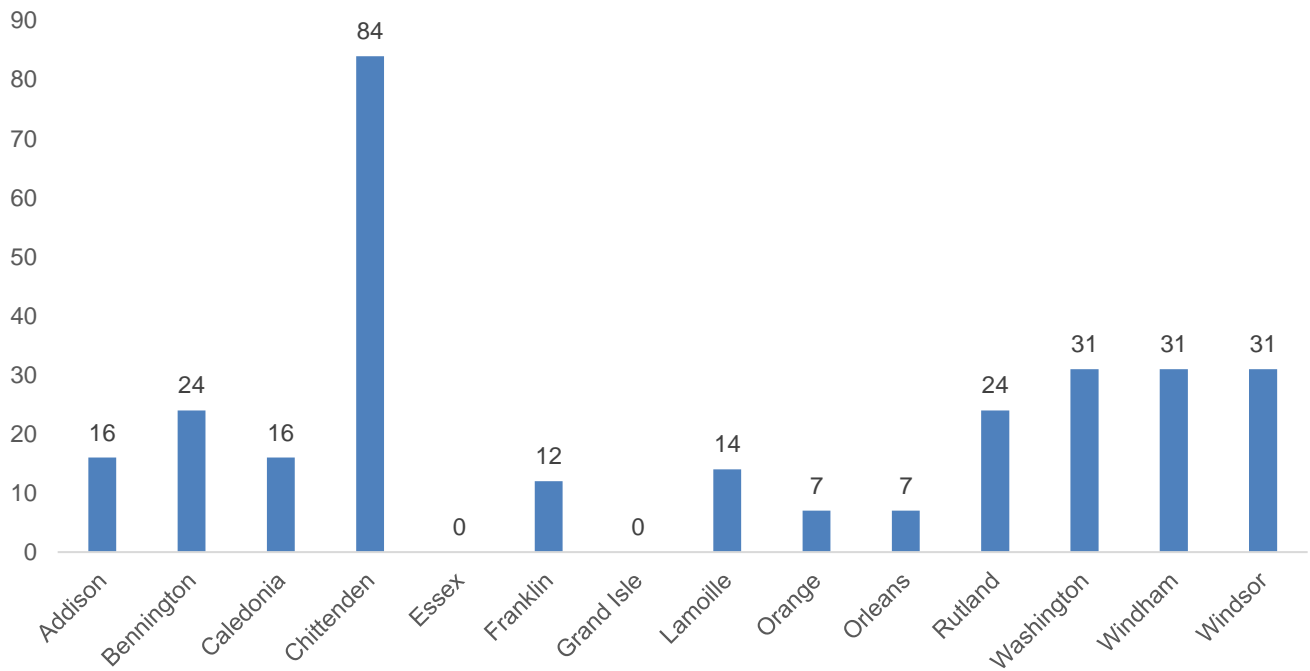
- 35.5% (387) of persons experiencing homelessness were age 24 or younger. Of these children and youth:
  - 245 were minors (< 18 years old) and living as part of a family unit
  - 6 minors (< 18 years old) were unaccompanied
  - 136 persons were 18-24 years old
- 27 persons were parenting youth (≤24 years old) with 35 children in those households. Parenting youth represented 21% (27) of all households with children (128).

## COUNTY BREAKDOWNS

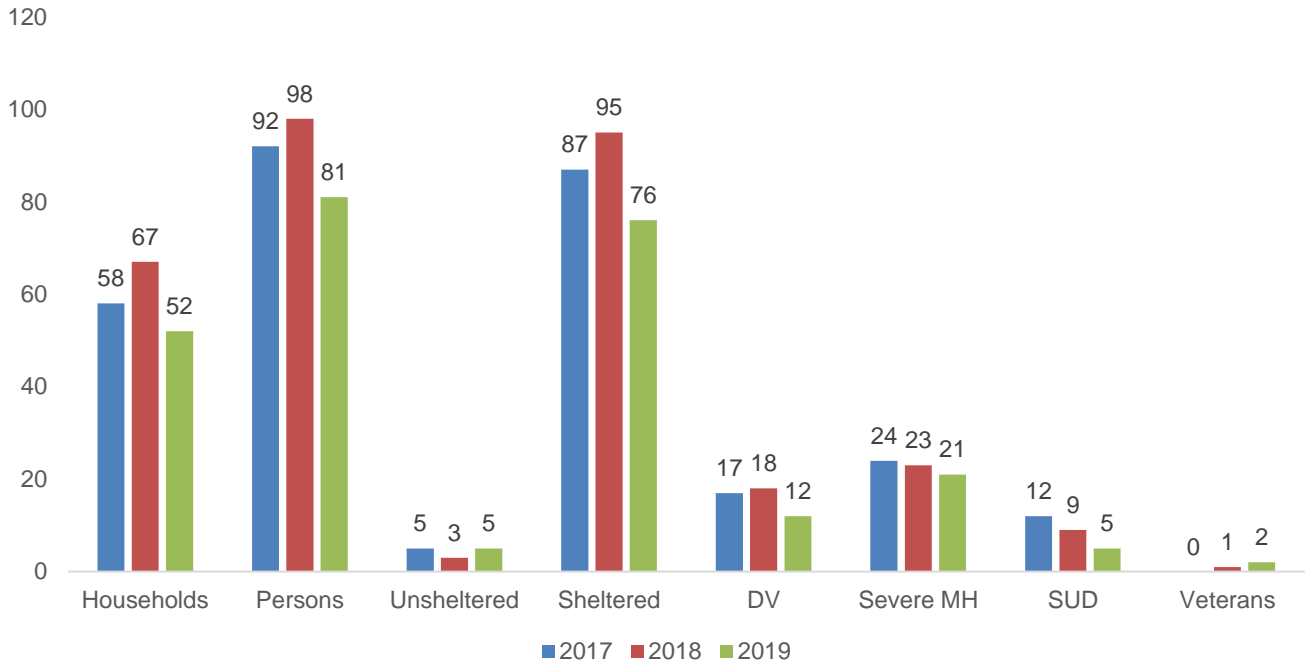
Essex and Grand Isle Counties are not included as both had a homeless count of zero persons.



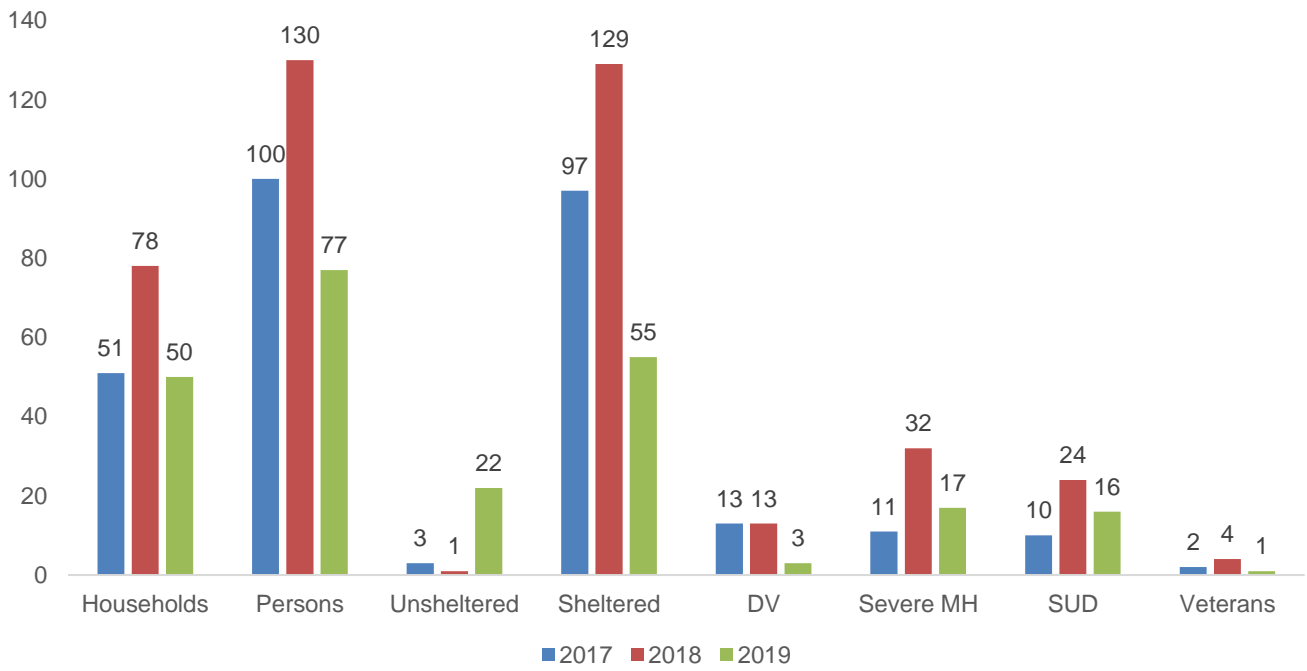
## Households Experiencing Homelessness for the First Time



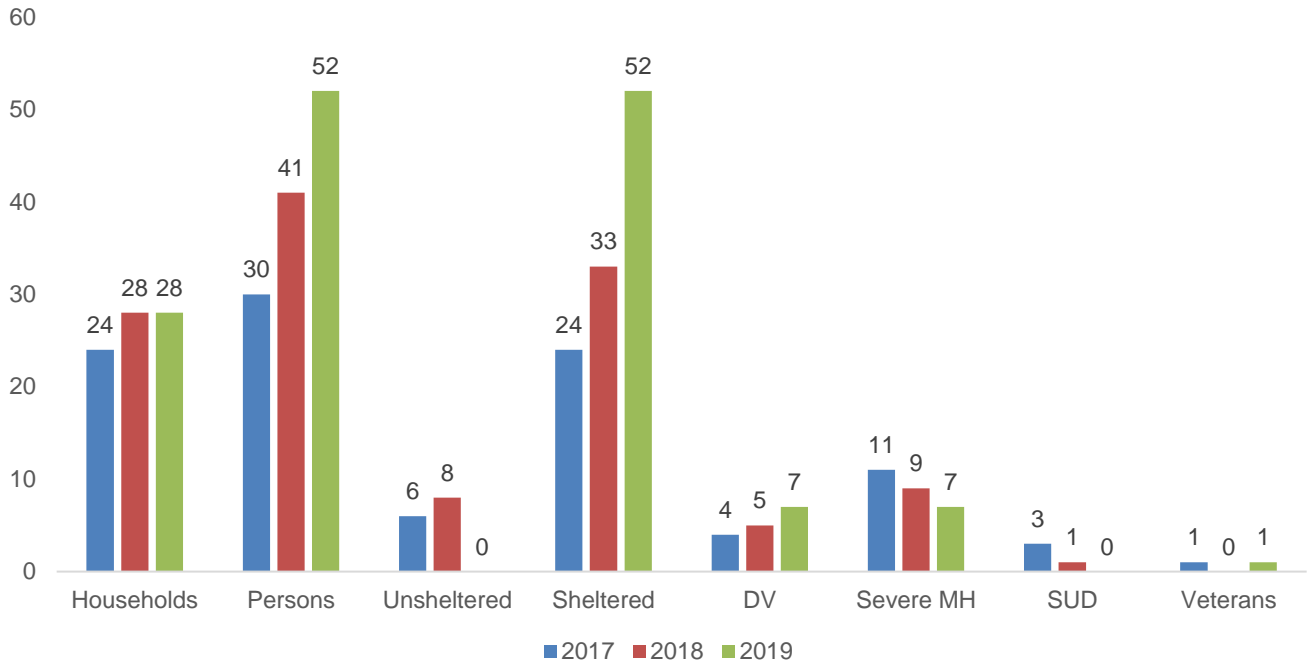
### Addison



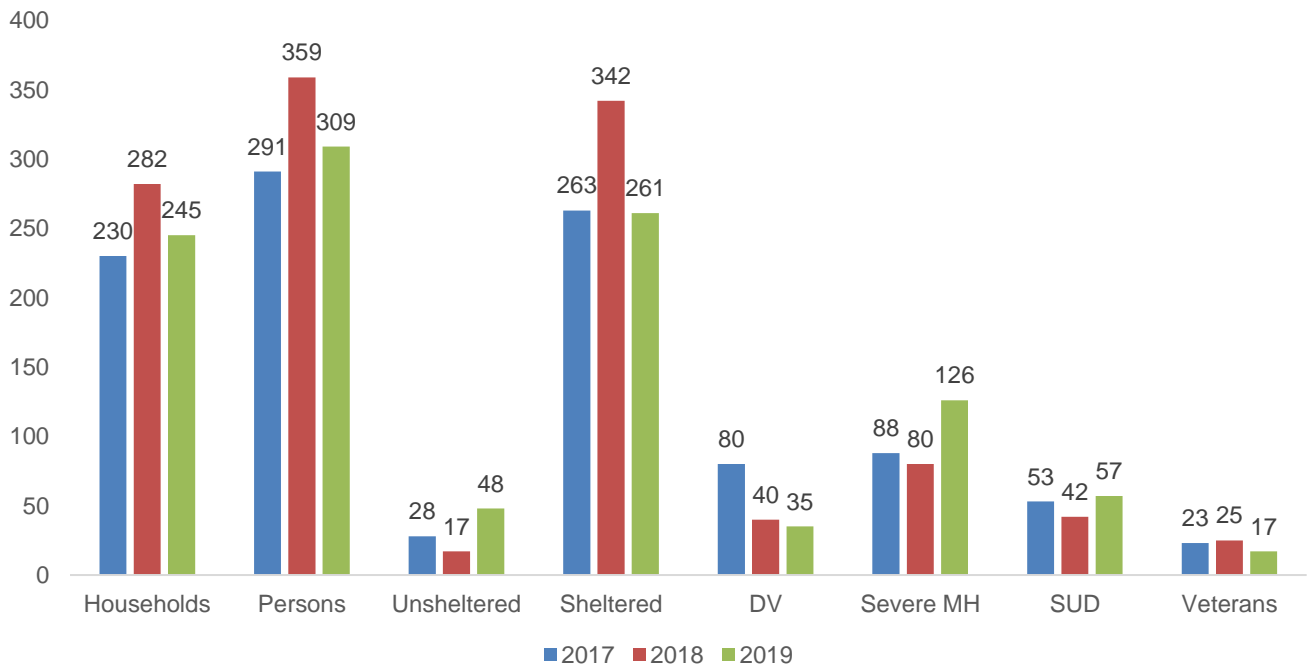
### Bennington

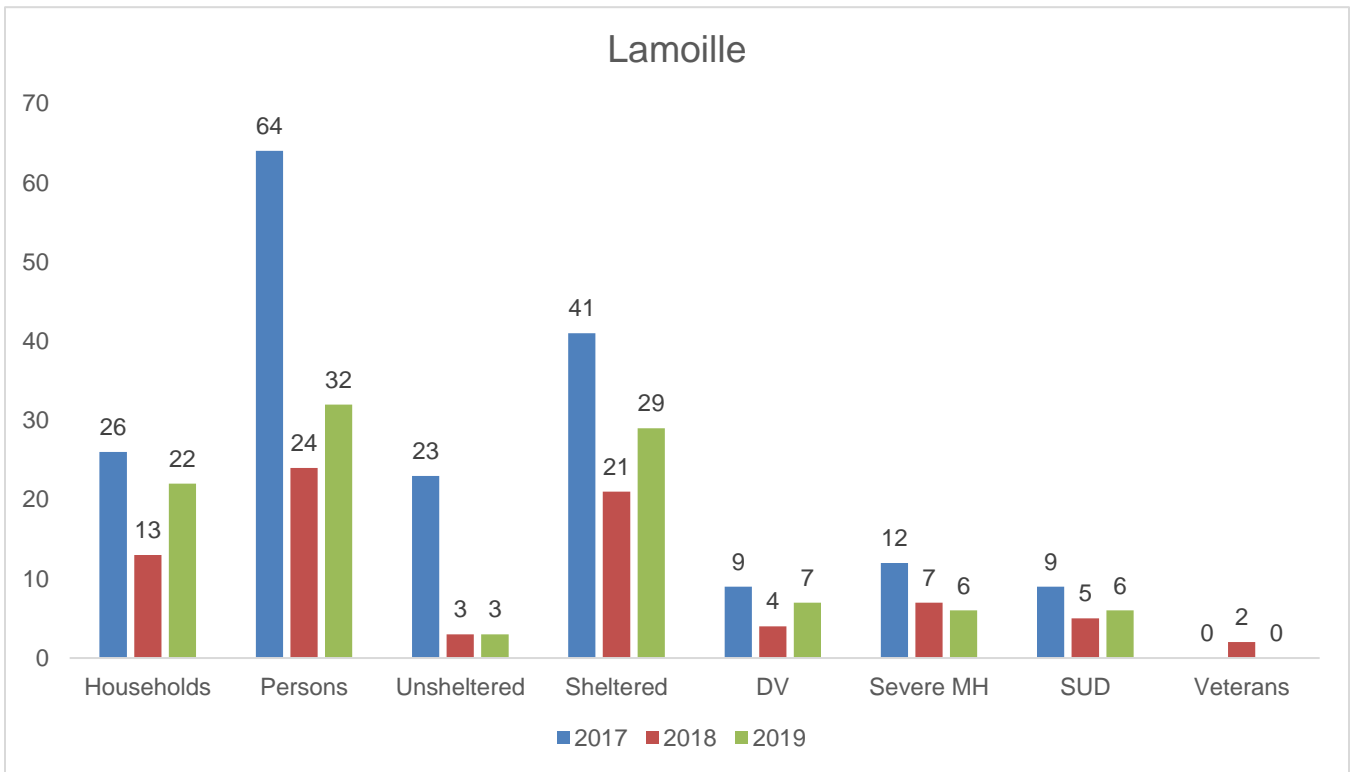
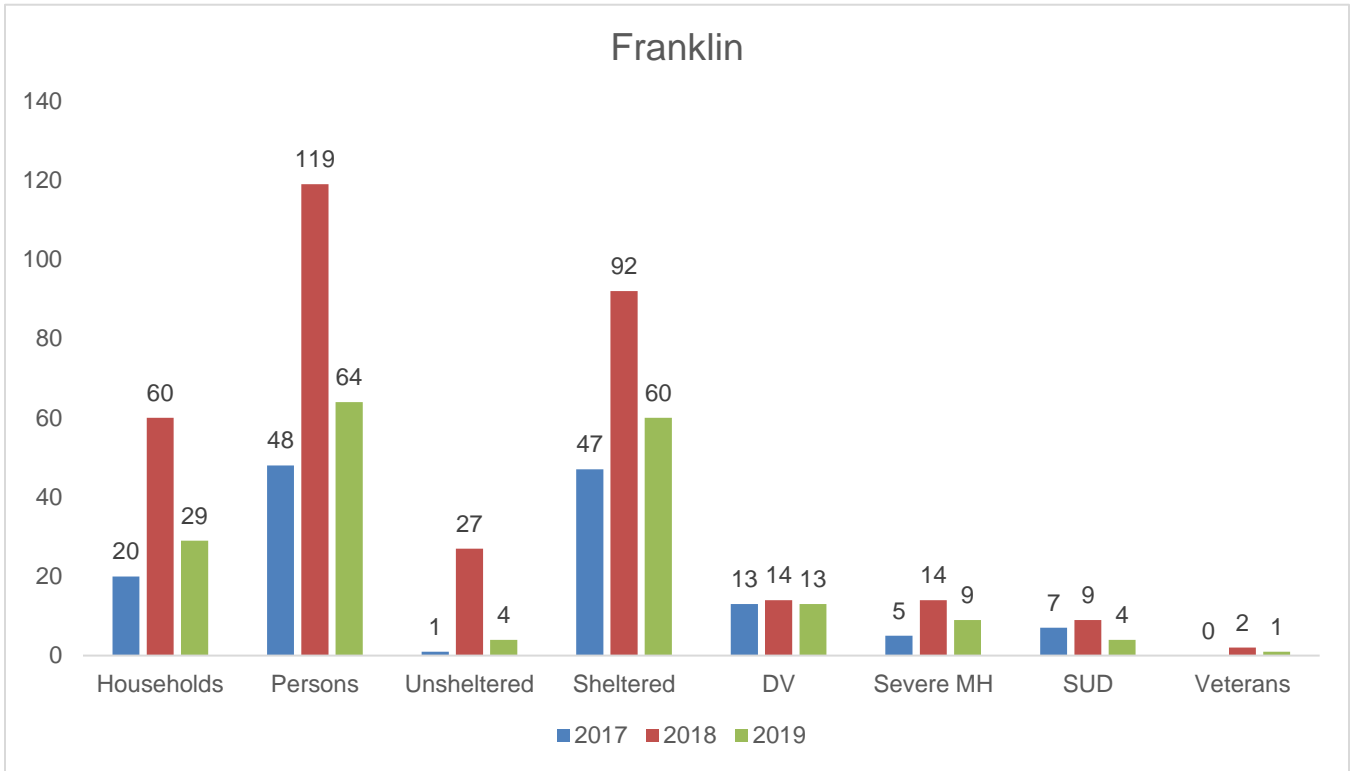


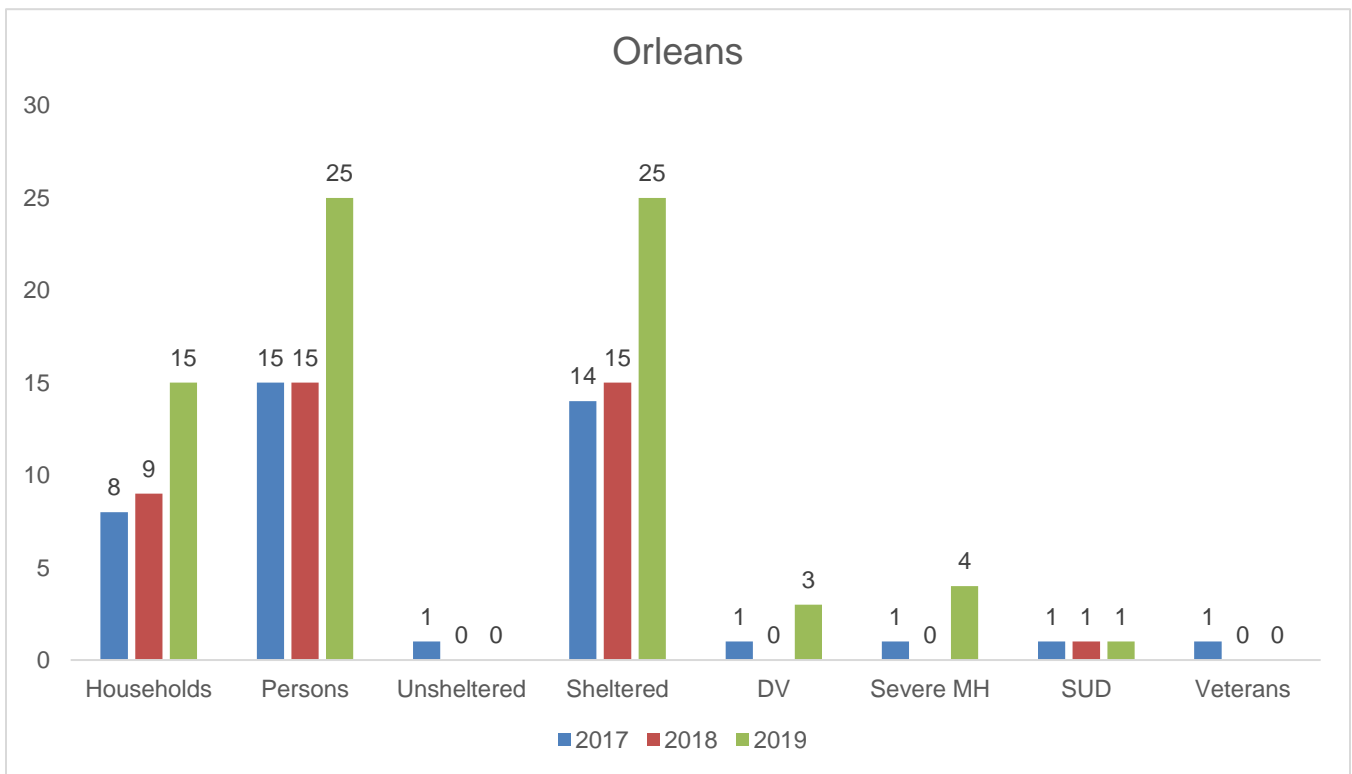
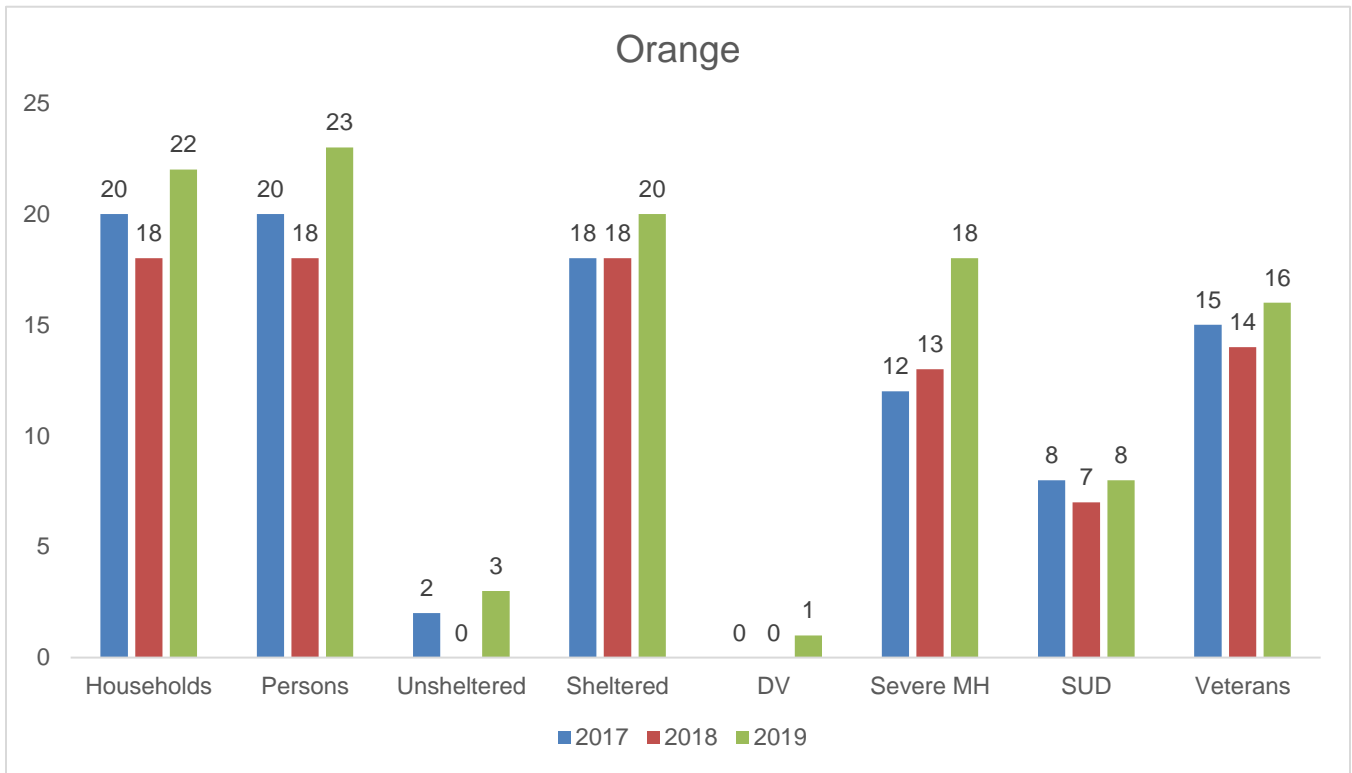
### Caledonia



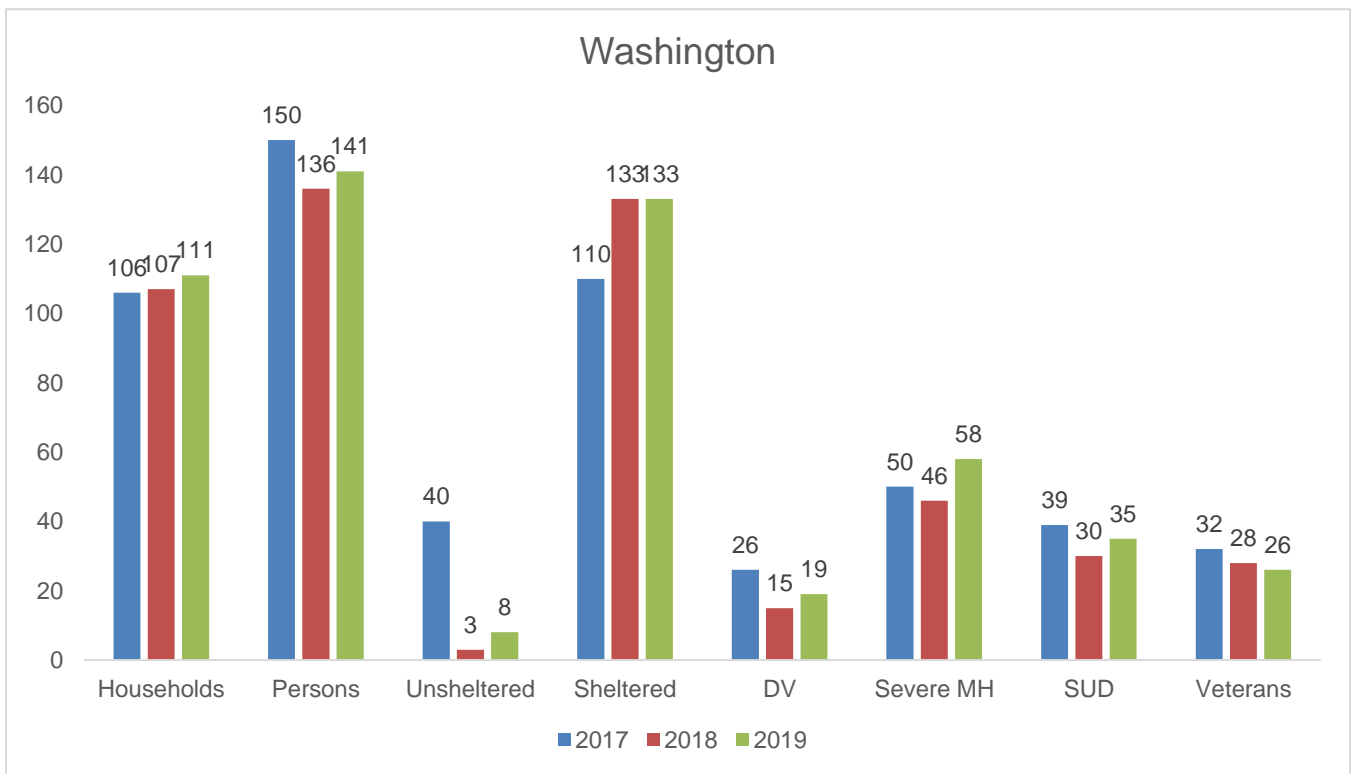
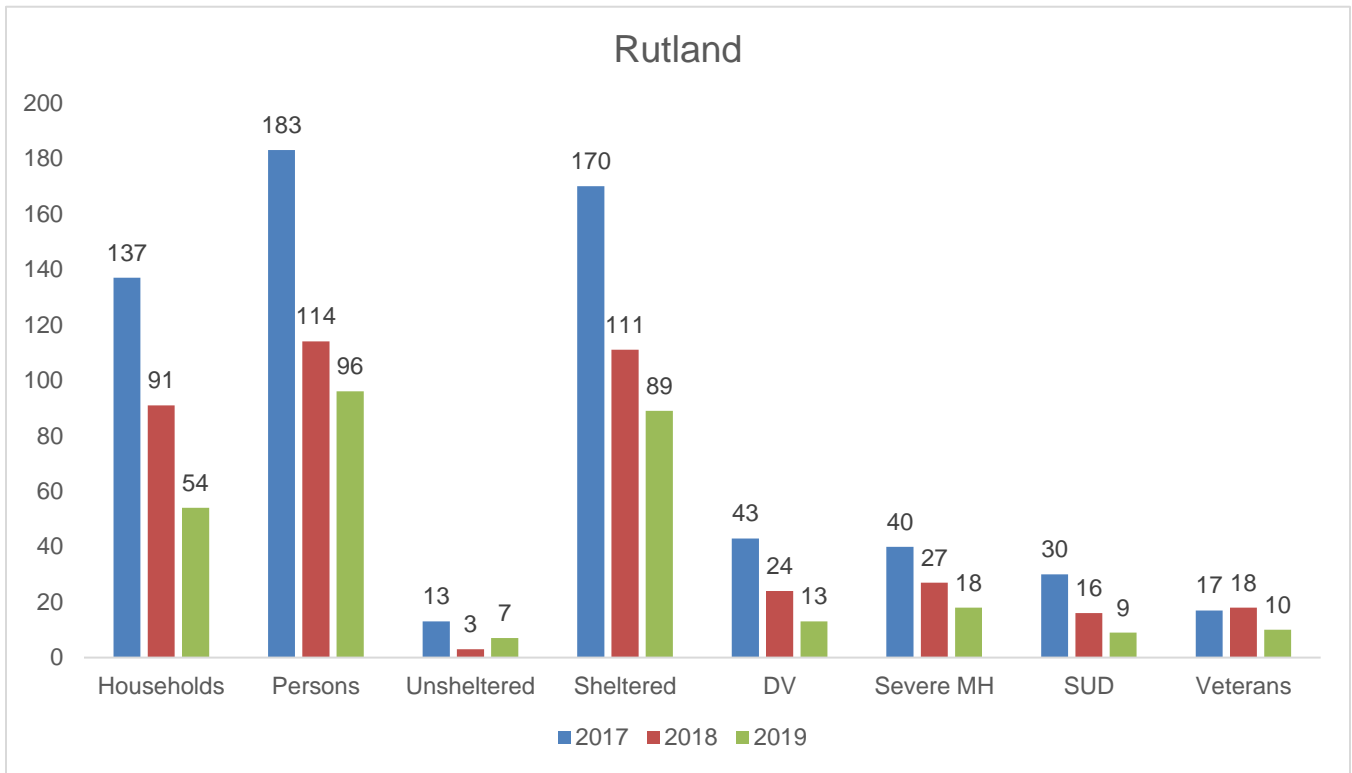
### Chittenden

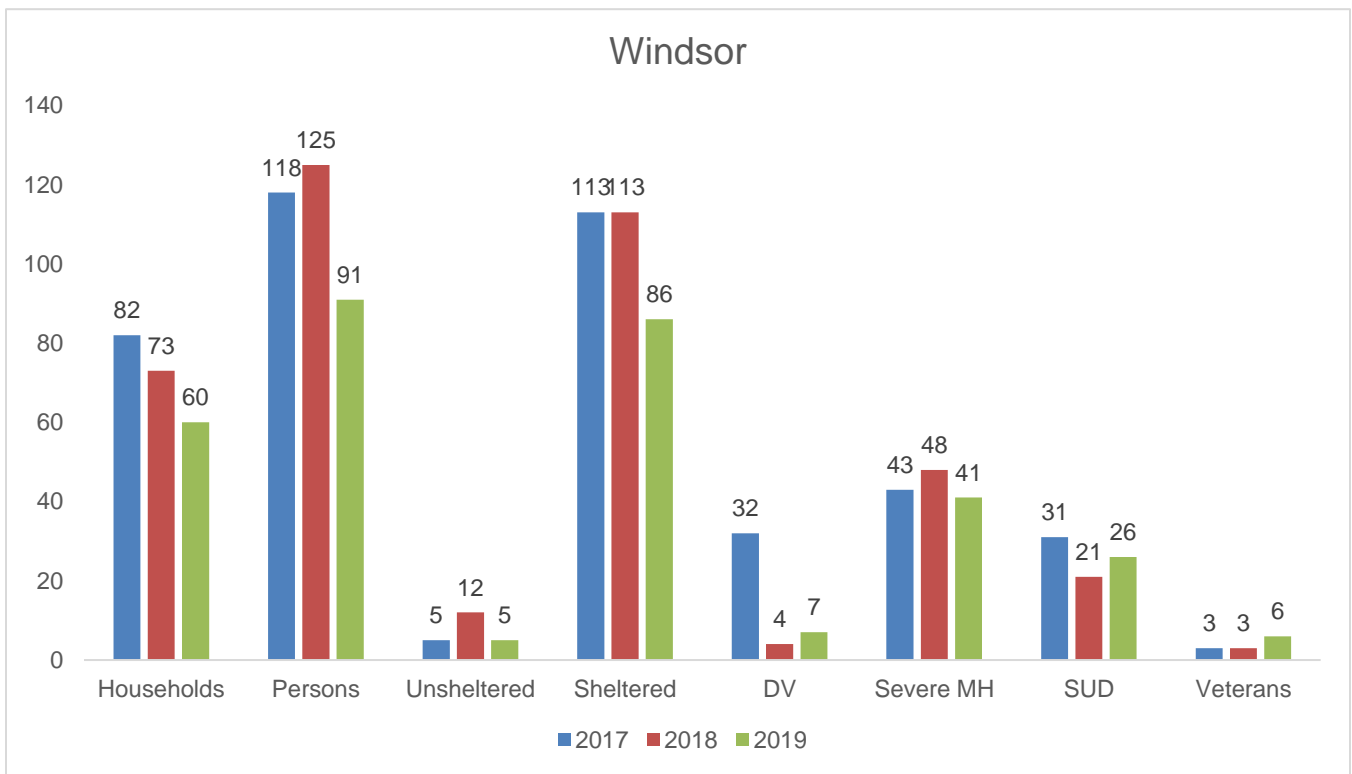
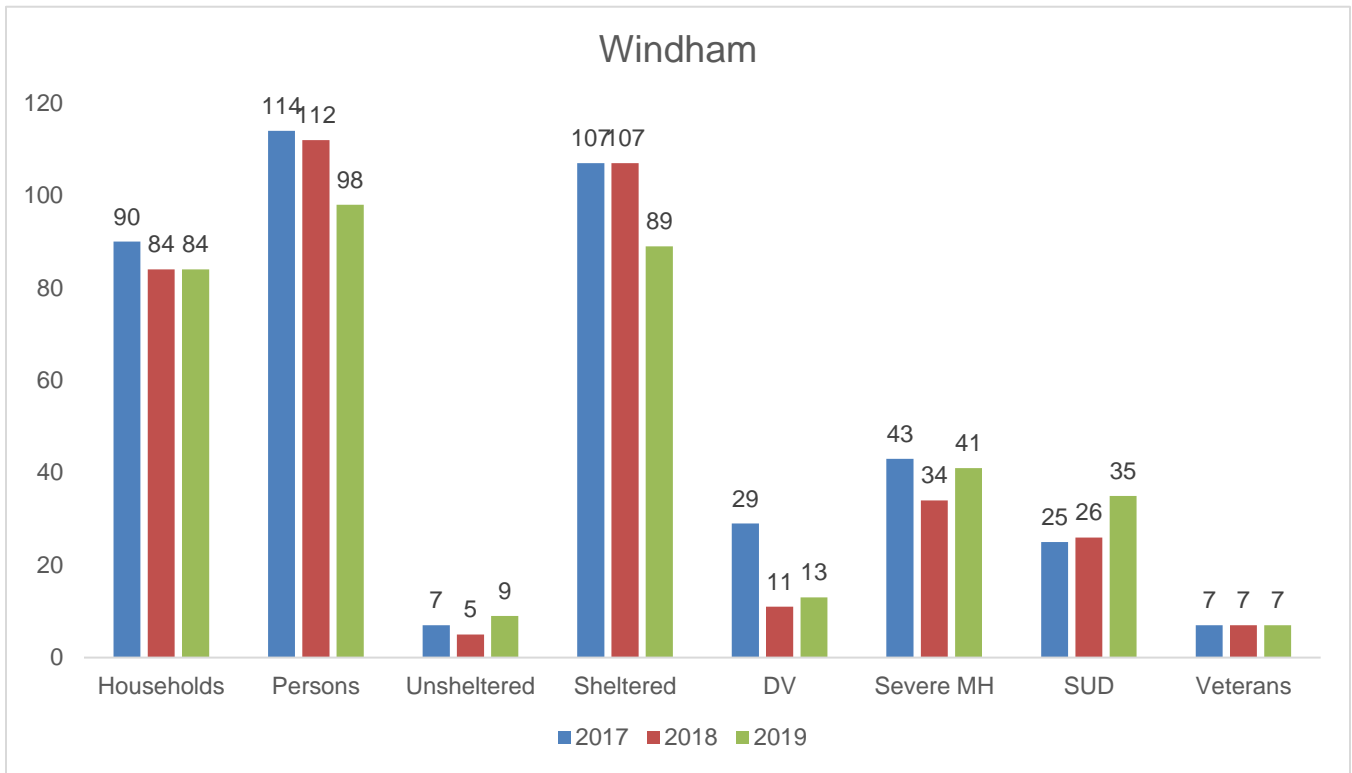




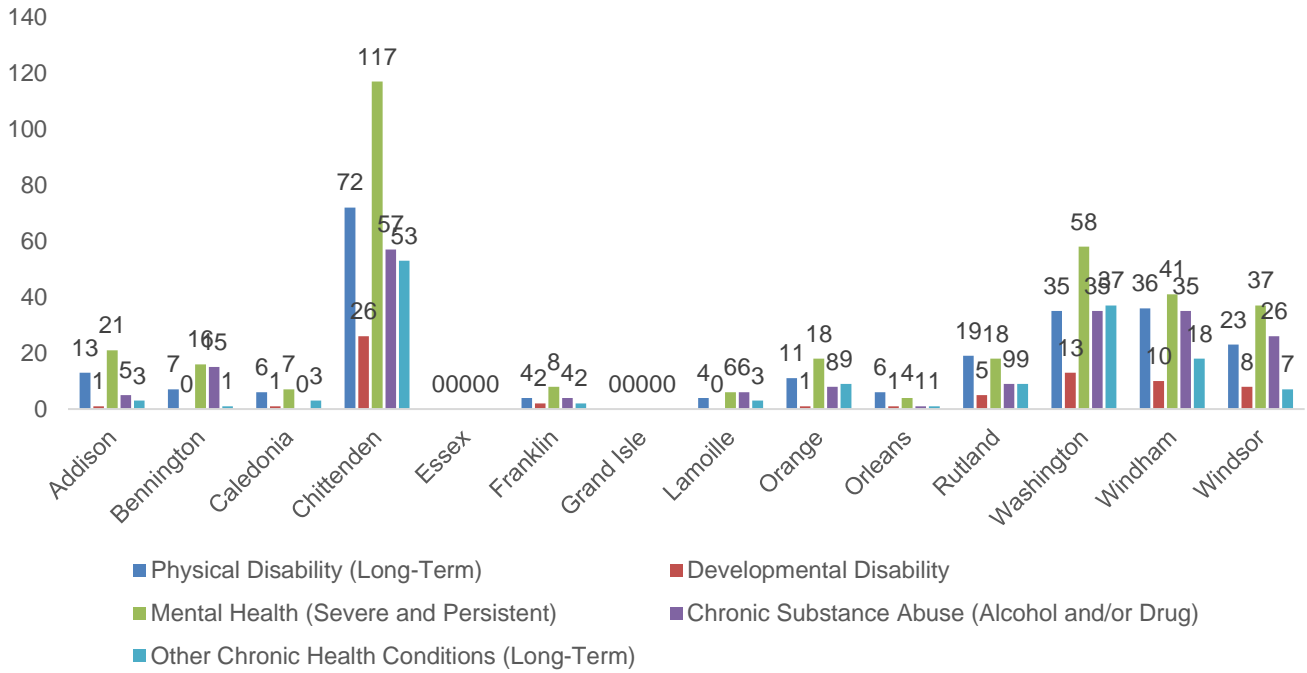




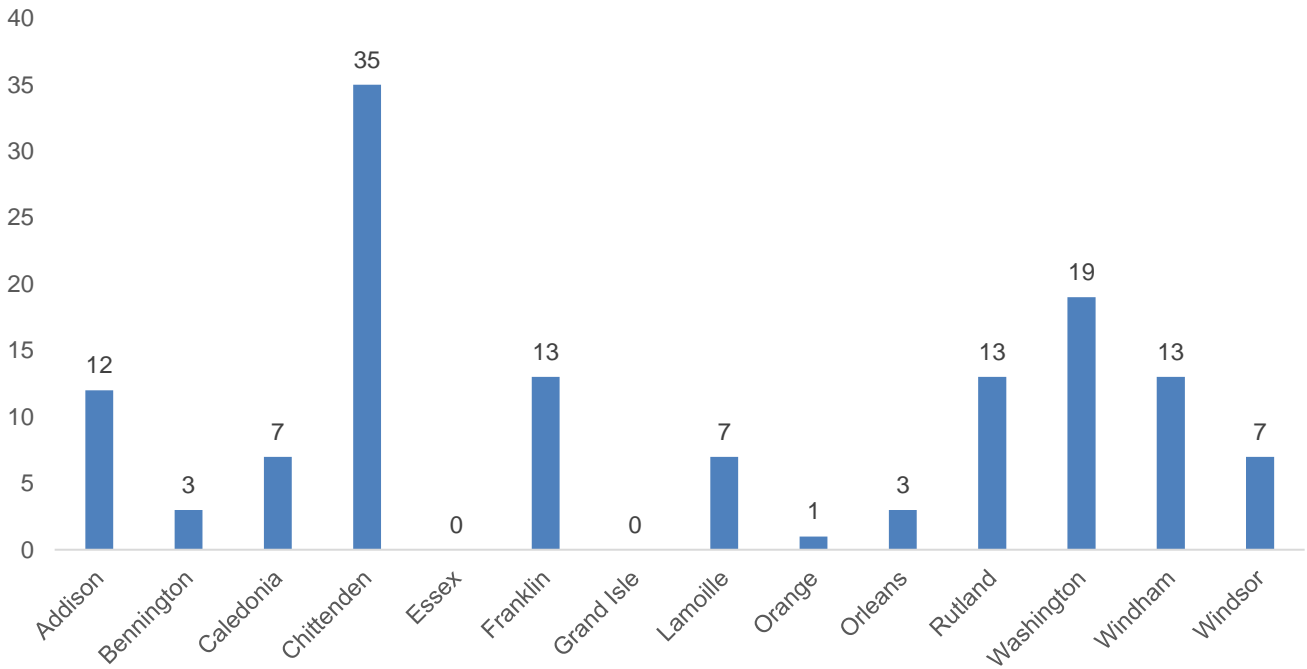




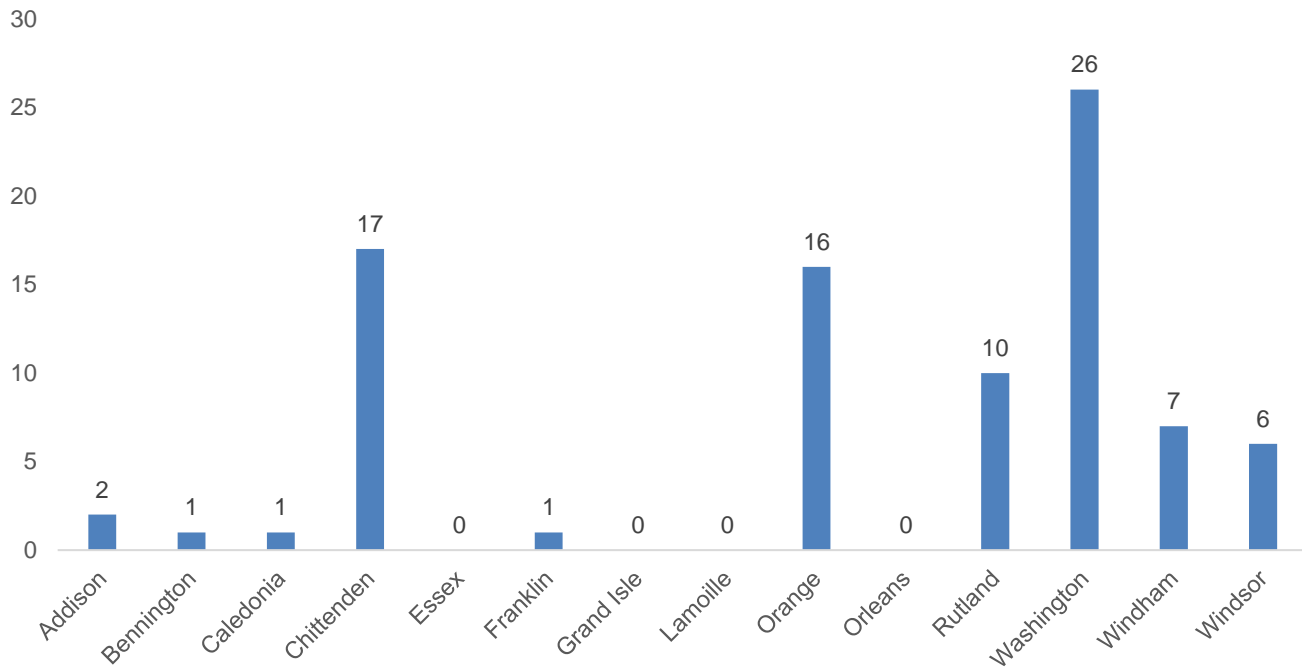
## Chronic Health Conditions



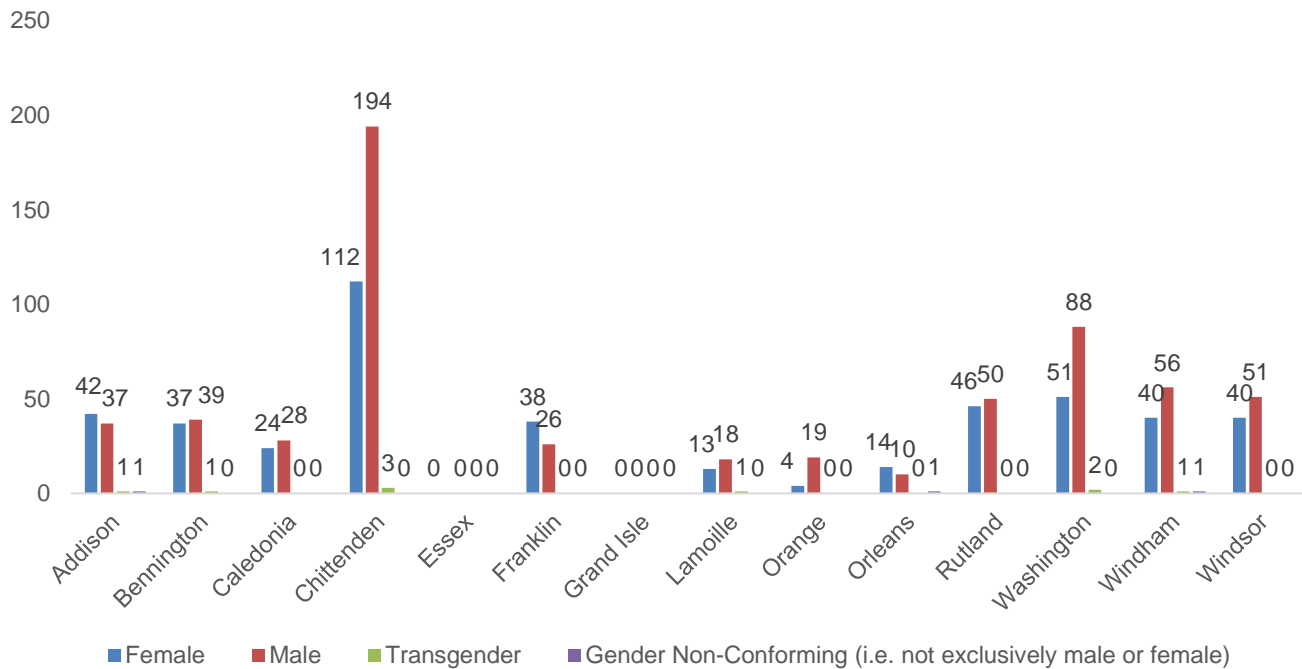
## Fleeing Domestic or Sexual Violence



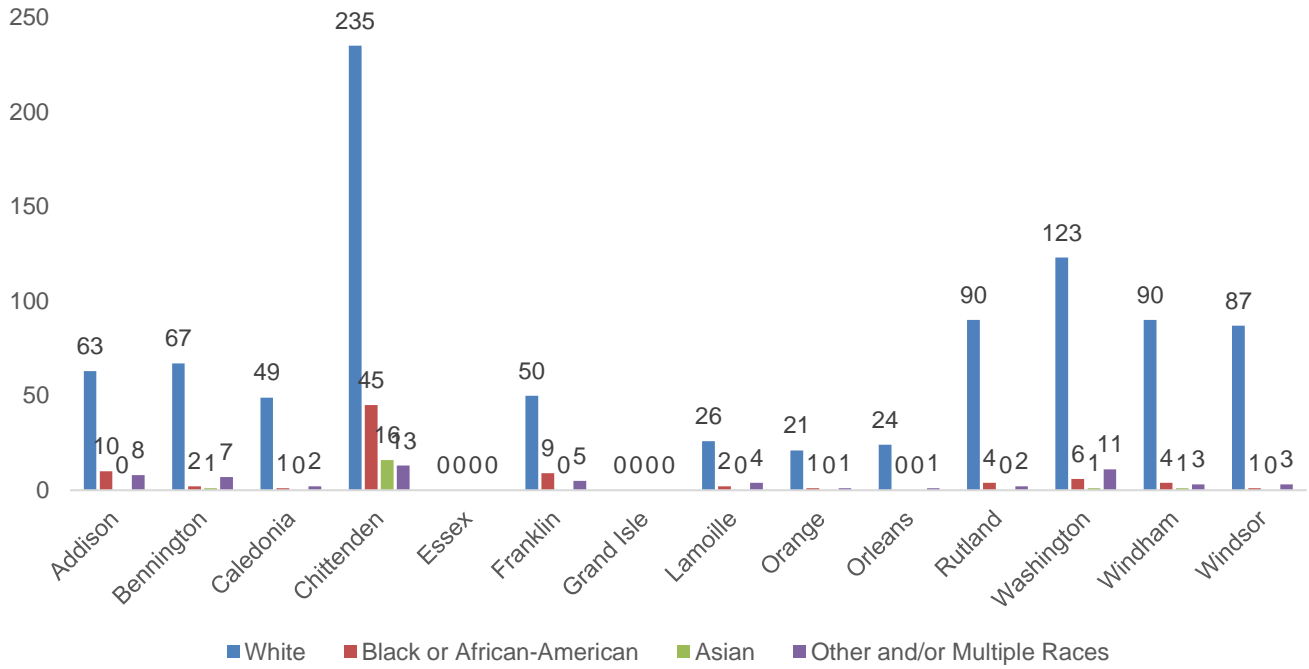
### Veterans



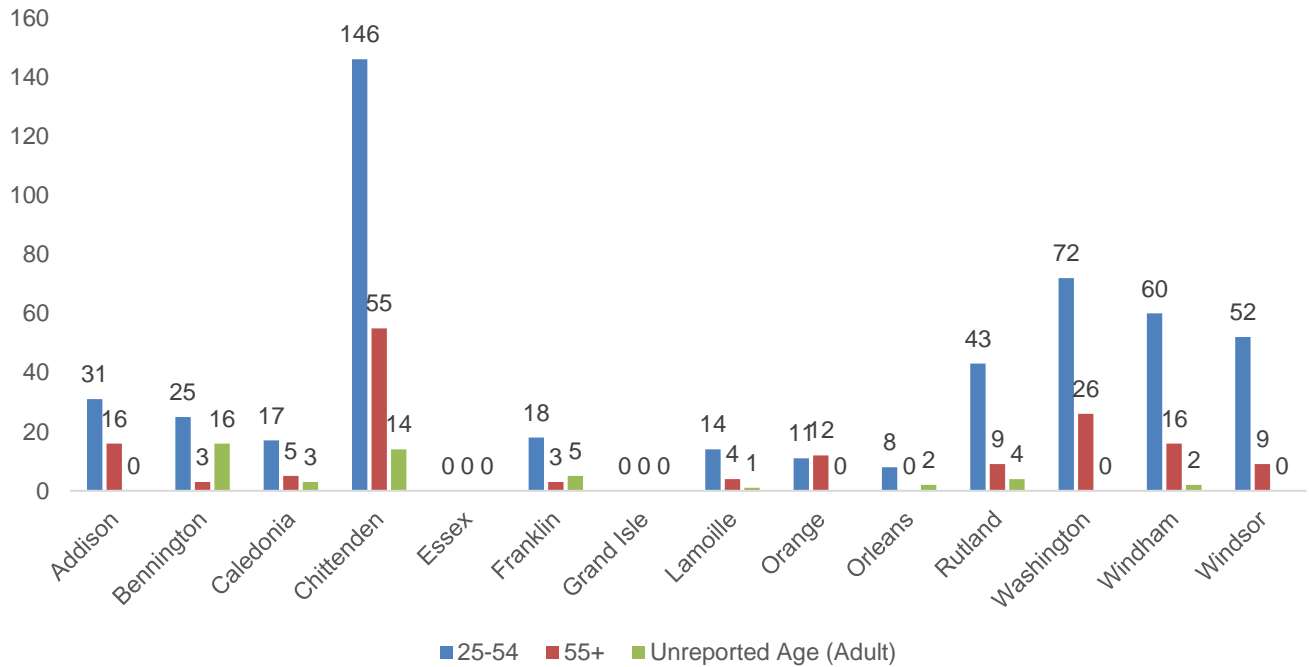
### Gender



### Racial Composition



### Age of Homeless Population (Adult 25+)

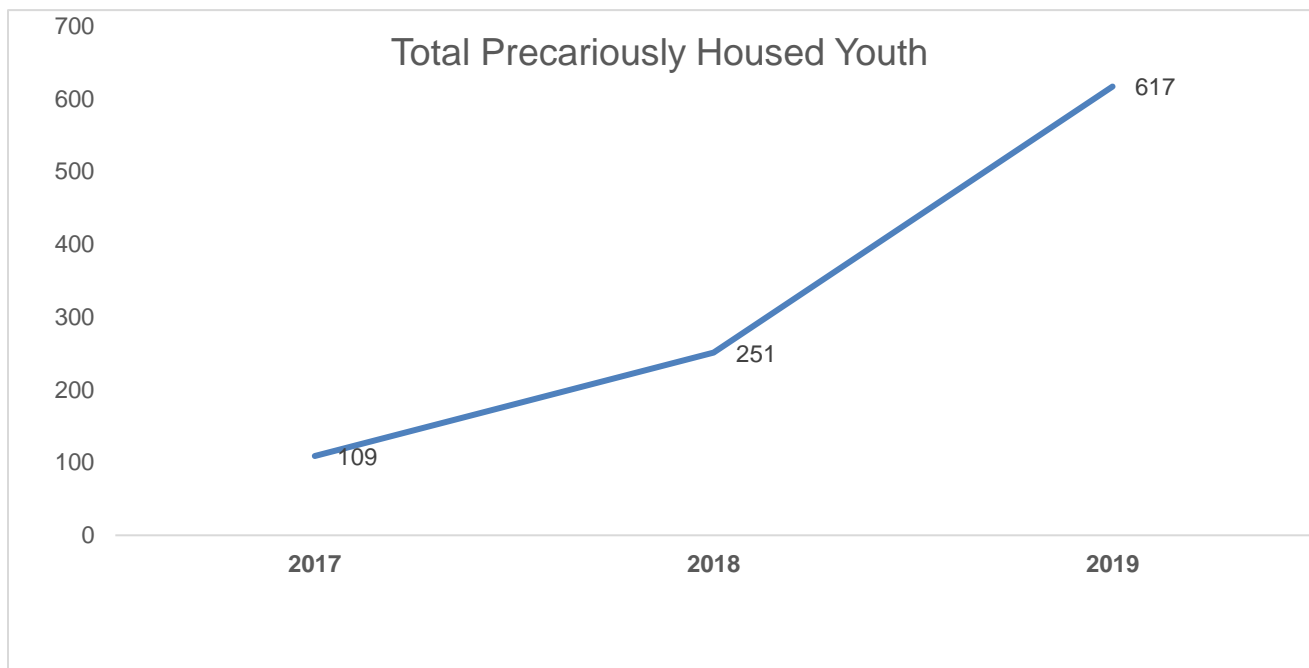


# 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED YOUTH COUNT

## Summary

In FY 2018, just over half (51%) of youth and young adults aged 12-24 utilizing crisis beds were precariously housed the night prior to entering a bed in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.<sup>3</sup> Understanding more about the experience of youth and young adults prior to becoming homeless will help to identify the interventions (i.e., types of housing and services) needed to prevent their homelessness. As explained, the Point-in-Time Count does not count those who are precariously housed, "couch surfing", "doubled up", facing eviction, *etc.* For this reason, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs (VCRHYP) and the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) conduct a count of precariously housed youth and young adults on a single night, in conjunction with the Point in Time Count.

Now in its third year, the precariously housed Youth Count has provided vital information to youth and housing providers. Counting youth and young adults who are precariously housed requires a concerted effort amongst partner organizations and schools. With each year, outreach and data collection efforts have improved. As a result, the data collected during the count continues to grow, providing an ever more complete picture of the number of youth and young adults experiencing precarious housing around the state.



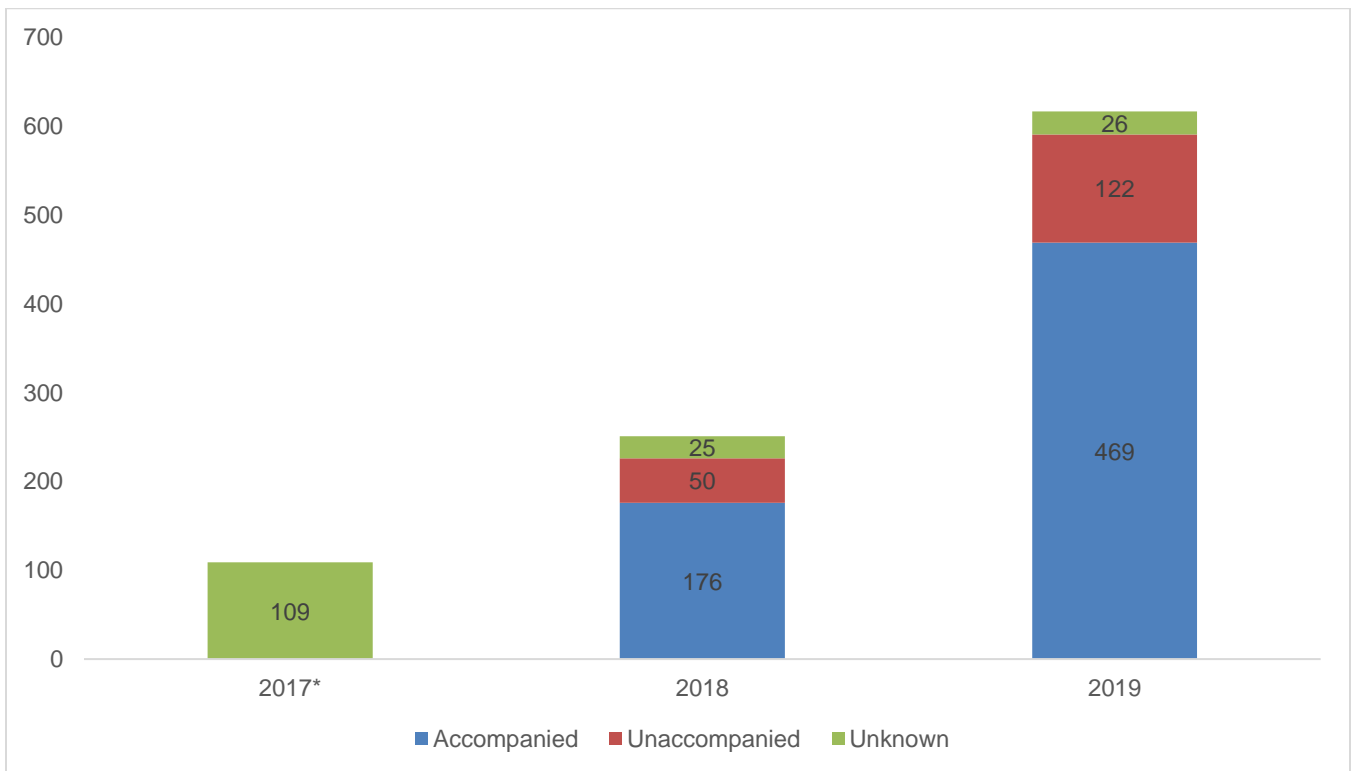
<sup>3</sup> Data from the Vermont Homelessness Management Information System (VT HMIS) Balance of State ONLY.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The number of partner organizations participating in the Youth Count has grown each year: 23, 34, 45 respectively.
  - This increase in participation and outreach is a clear factor in the 146% increase of precariously housed youth between 2018 to 2019.
  - Community partners included: Homeless Education Liaisons from School Districts and Supervisory Unions, Runaway & Homeless Youth Service providers, Parent Child Centers, Youth Development Program providers, Youth in Transition (YIT) providers, and others.
- 46.5% of Homeless Education Liaisons (McKinney-Vento staff) responded in 2019, compared to 25% in 2018. This represents an 84% increase in responses from McKinney-Vento Liaisons. The Agency of Education provided particularly strong support for the Youth Count in 2019.

## Accompanied vs. Unaccompanied Youth

In addition to counting the number of youth who were precariously housed, the Youth Count gathered information on whether youth were with family (accompanied) or on their own (unaccompanied).



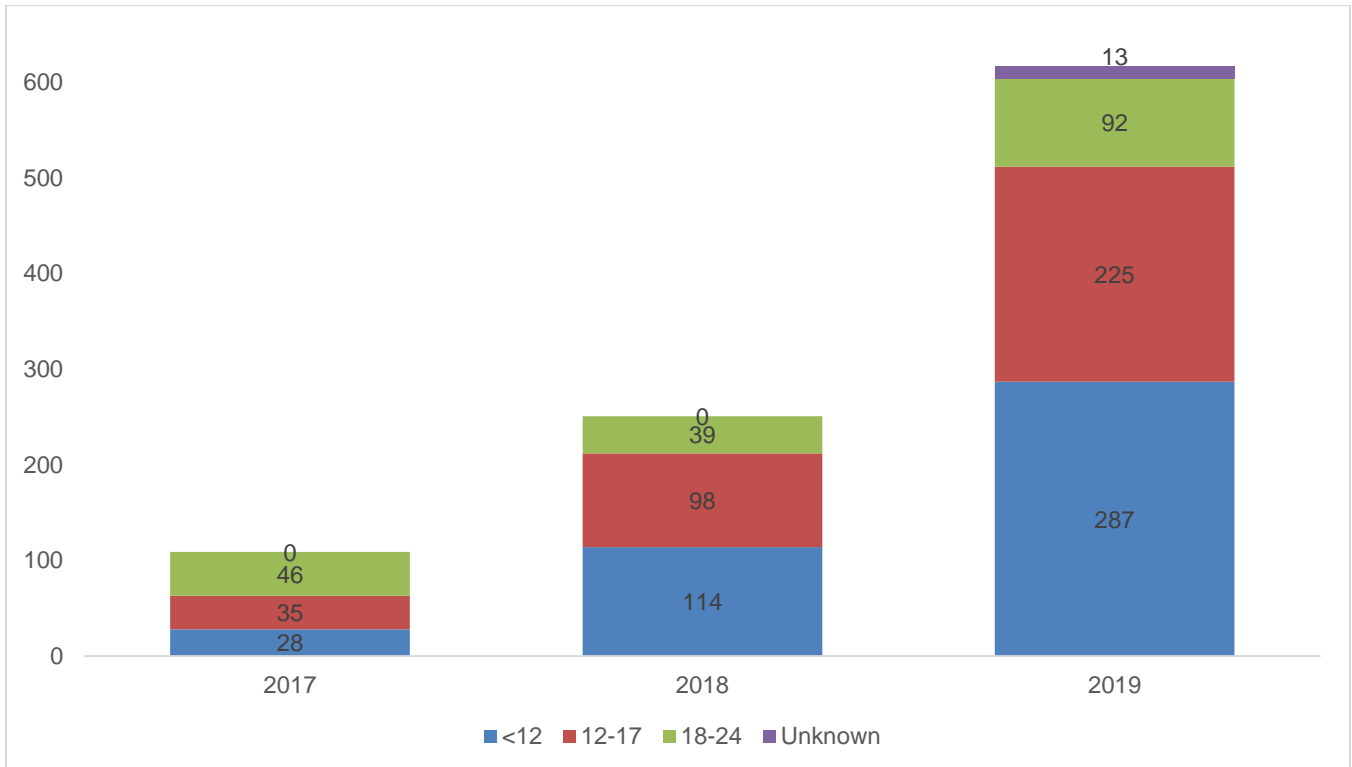
\* In 2017, accompanied v. unaccompanied was not collected.

## KEY FINDINGS

- While the total number of precariously housed youth counted increased significantly, the percentage that were unaccompanied remained at 20% of total youth.

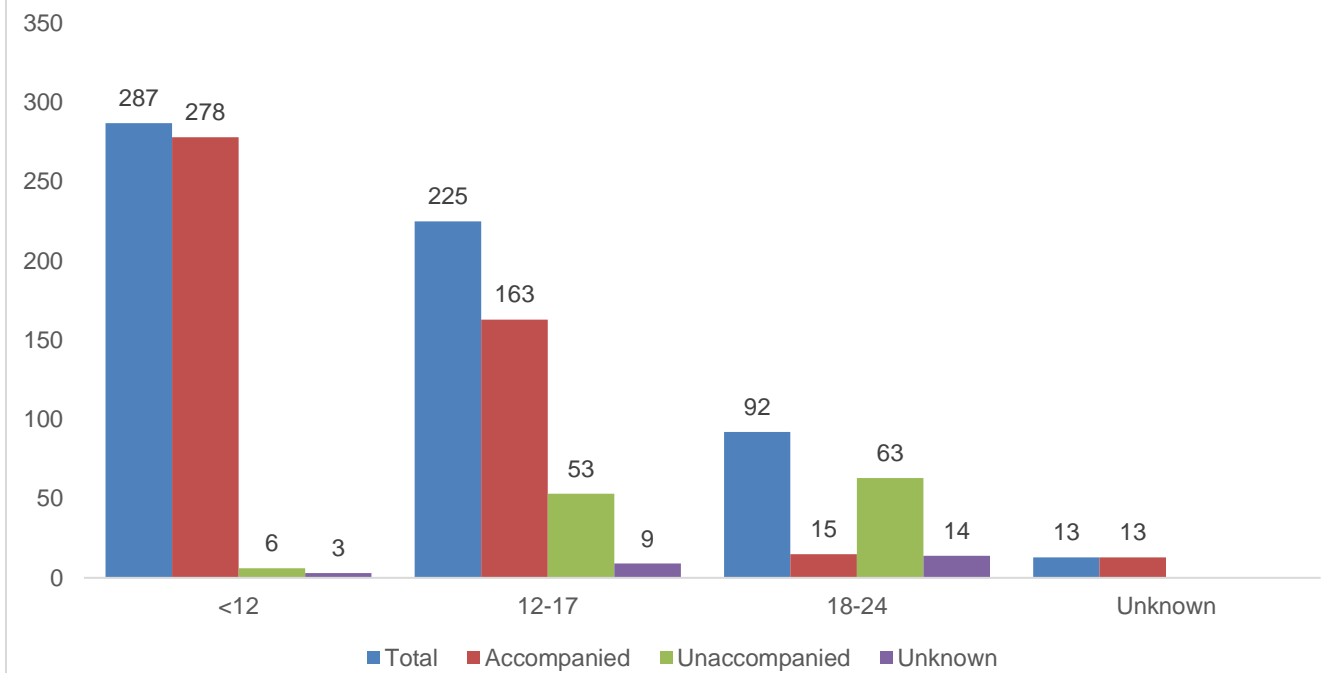
## Ages of Precariously Housed Youth

Ages presented below are approximate, as community partners provide different types of data to the Count, such as date of birth, age range, or a school grade.





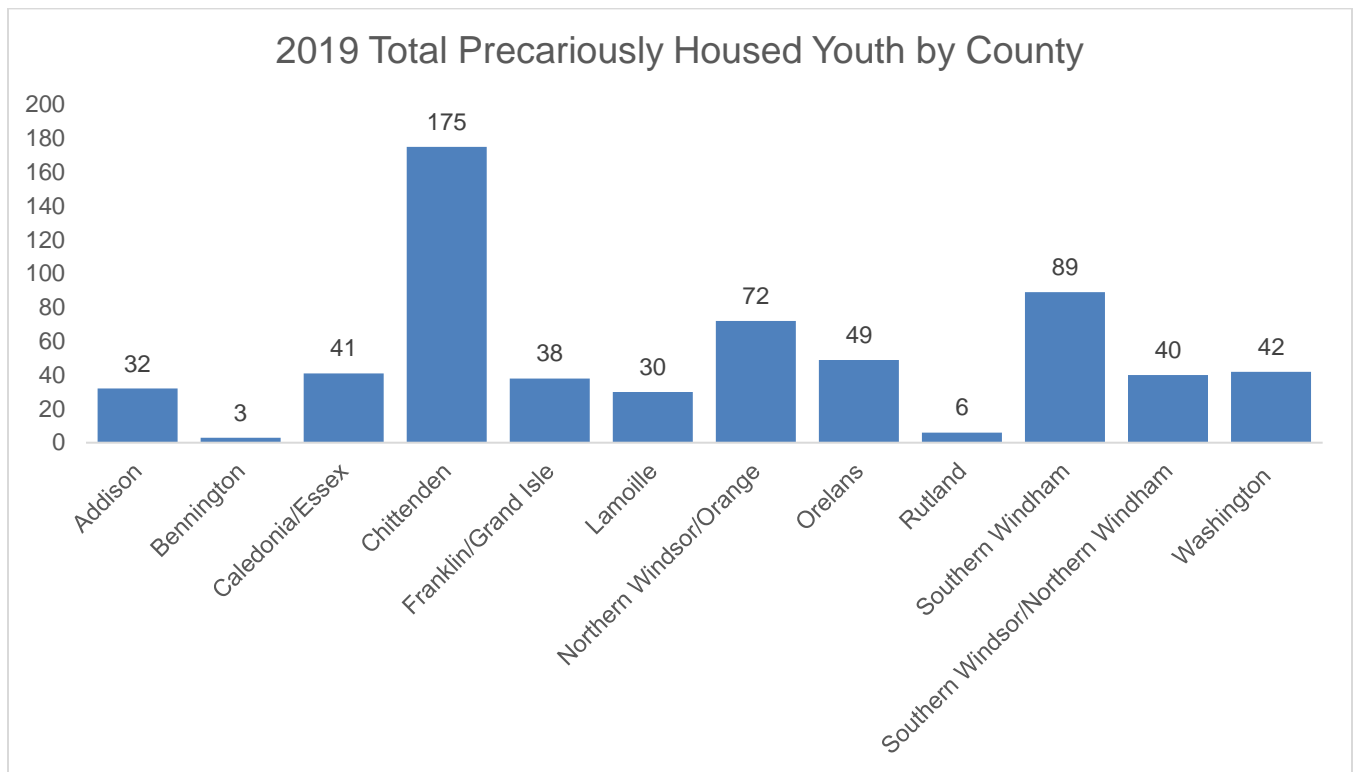
## 2019 Youth Count by Age and Accompanied v. Unaccompanied



### KEY FINDINGS

- In the last two Youth Counts, children under 12 has consistently represented the largest portion of youth.
- 76% of youth (469) were accompanied.
  - 59% (278) of accompanied youth were under the age of 12.
  - 35% (163) of accompanied youth were between the ages of 12-17.
  - 3% (15) accompanied youth were between the ages of 18-24.
- 20% of youth (122) were unaccompanied.
  - 5% (6) unaccompanied youth were under the age of 12.
  - 43% (53) unaccompanied youth were between the ages of 12-17.
  - 52% (63) unaccompanied youth were between the ages of 18-24.

## Precariously Housed Youth by County



**Note:** Low response rates from Bennington and Rutland Counties are likely a factor in the low number of youth reported for these areas. In Bennington County, 2 (out of 6) community partners participated. In Rutland County, 1 (of 11) community partners participated.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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