

2020



Point-in-Time



Count



Everyone Counts, No Matter Where They Live

2020 POINT IN TIME COUNT REPORT

VERMONT'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE COUNT OF THE HOMELESS



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness &
Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

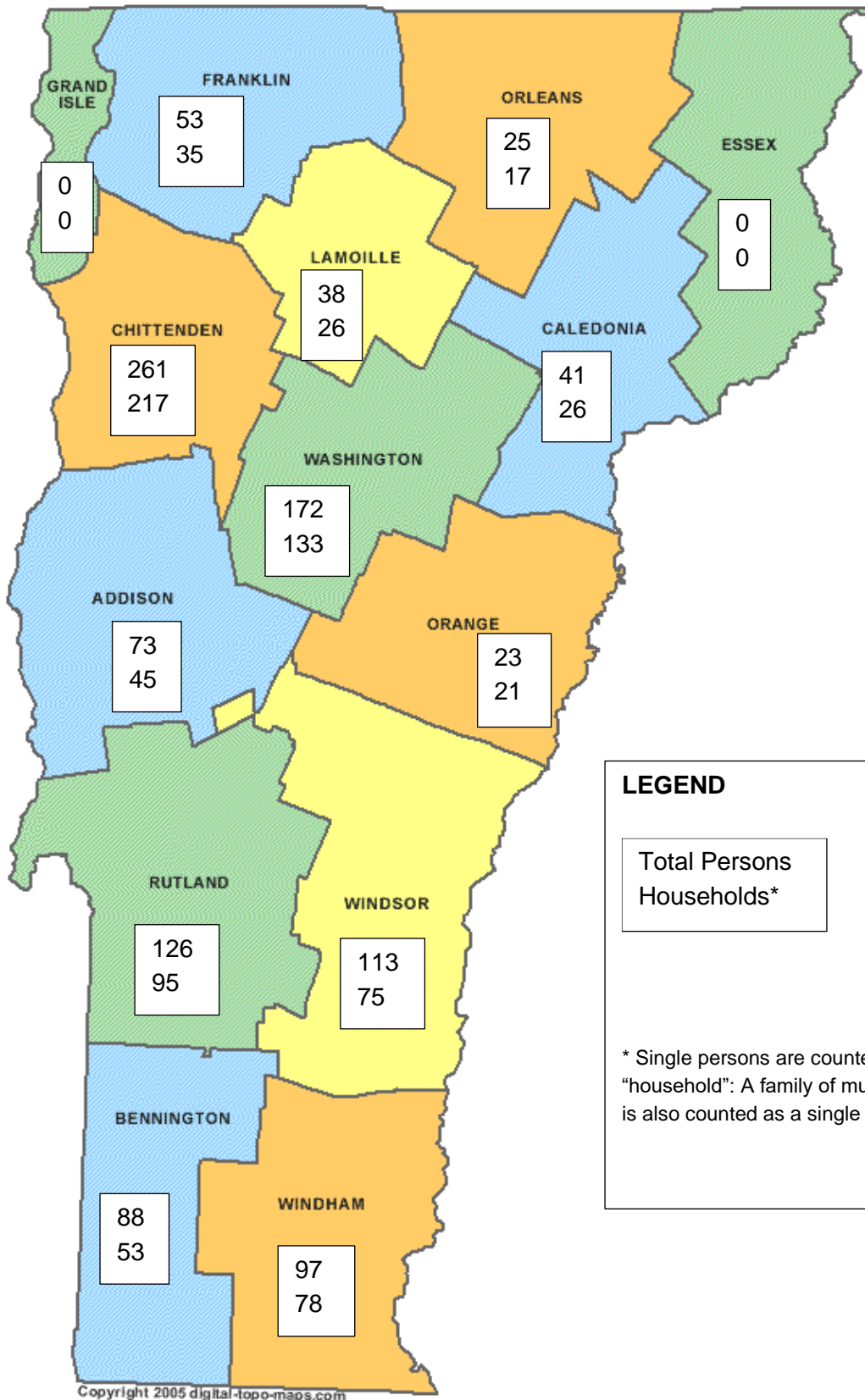


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Vermont Homeless By County

2020 POINT IN TIME COUNT



LEGEND

Total Persons
Households*

* Single persons are counted as a single "household": A family of multiple persons is also counted as a single "household"

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 homelessness¹ 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.

Notable Findings 2020:

- During the one-day count on January 22, 2020, 1,110 Vermonters experienced literal homelessness, an increase of 21 persons compared to the 2019 one-day count.
- A total of 821 households were counted, an increase of 49 households from 2019.
- The number of unsheltered persons counted 114, staying nearly the same from 2019
- 216 persons were children under 18, representing 19% of the entire homeless population counted; as compared to 2019, 251 children at 23%.
- 128 people, or 11.5%, reported they were fleeing domestic or sexual violence, this is a slight decrease from 2019 which was 133 persons at 12%.
- Although we saw a decrease a disproportionate amount of people identified as Black or African American compared to state demographics; 5.6% or 62 persons (a decrease of 2.4% from 2019) were Black or African American, 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.

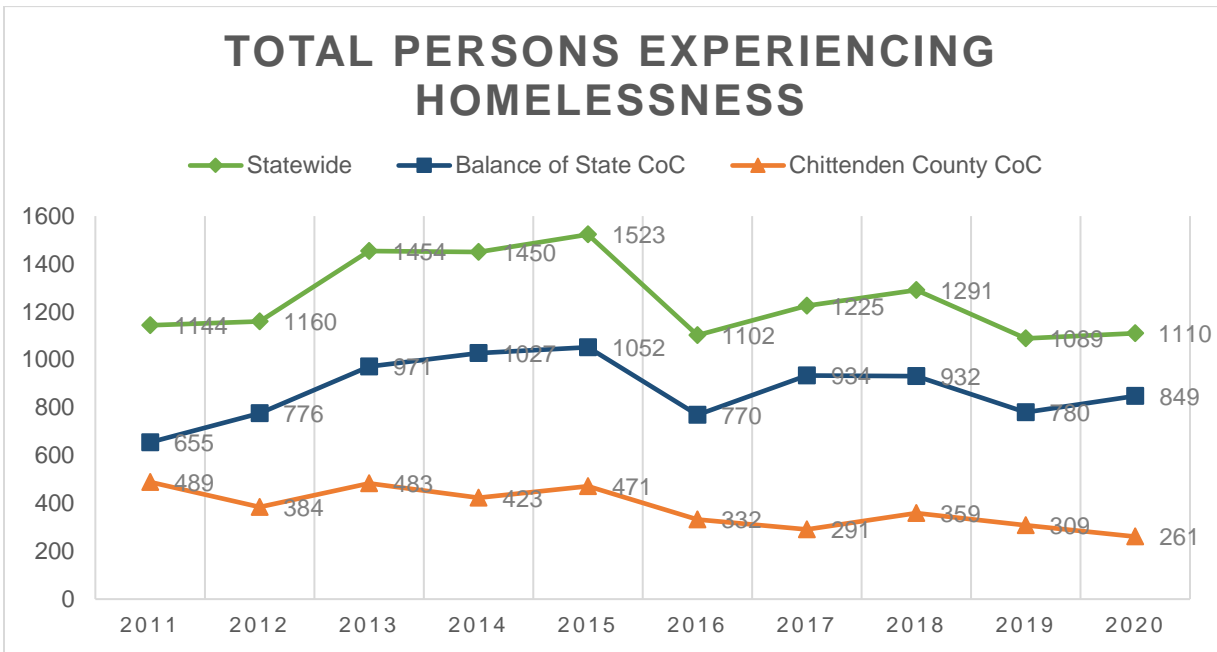
¹ Staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing for homeless persons, a place not meant for human habitation, or a motel with a voucher.

WHAT THE PIT COUNT DOES AND DOES NOT TELL US.

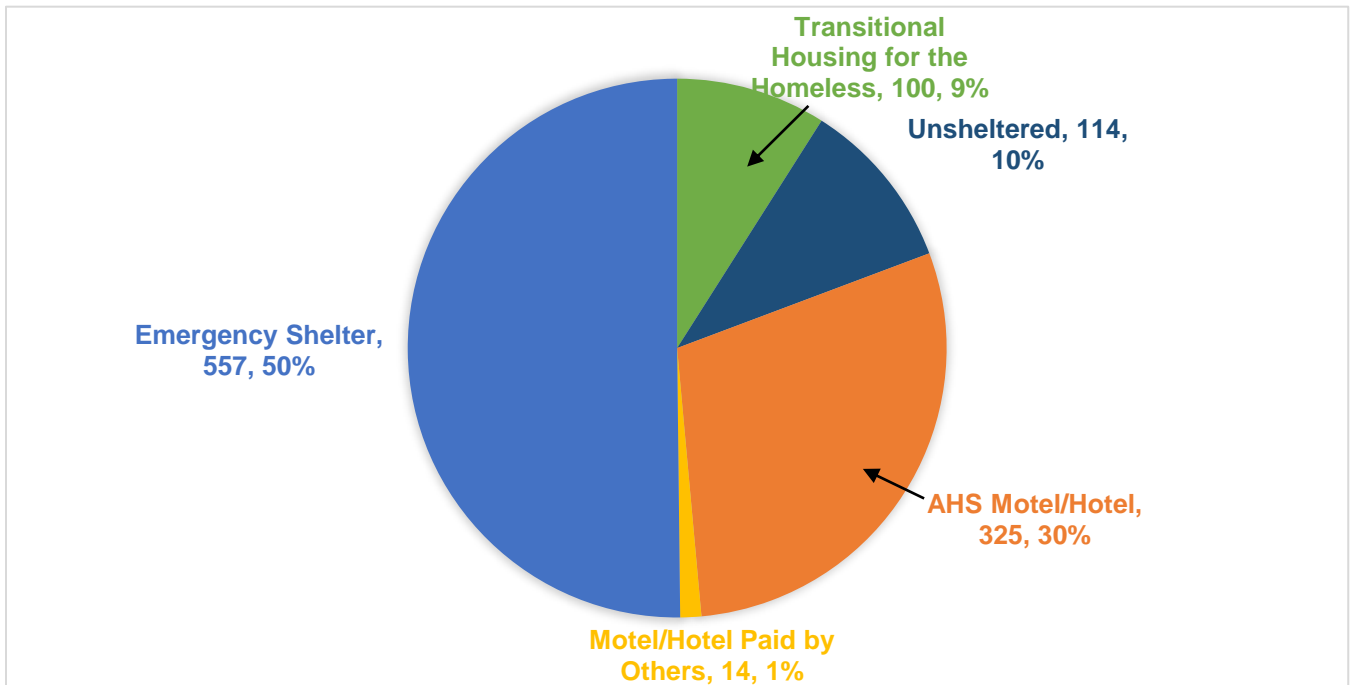
The PIT Count provides important information about the nature of unmet need in our community and show trends over time. During the night of the PIT count we are able to gather a snapshot of insight into the demographics and characteristics of those who are unsheltered, living in emergency shelter, accessing Vermont's Agency of Human Services General Assistance (GA) motel voucher program, or residing in transitional housing for the homeless. In Vermont, the PIT count is also the only time in which community partners from across the state collaborate to do an unsheltered count at the same time. Many areas have outreach teams, but do not coordinate with other areas of the state, and those areas without outreach teams come together to count those who are unsheltered in the area.

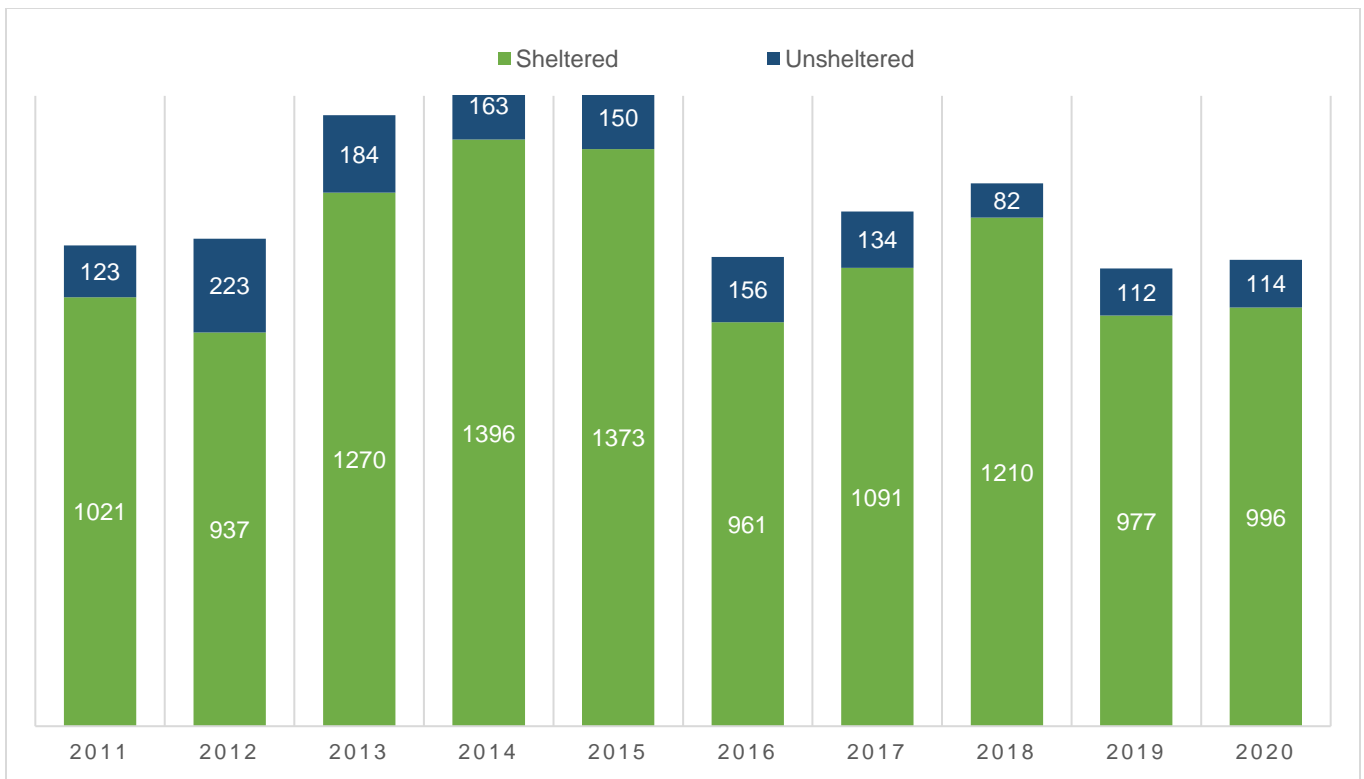
Due to its nature of only counting where someone slept on a given night, the PIT count does not reveal how many persons are entering and exiting homelessness in Vermont over the course of the year. The Count does not answer why people become homeless, how they leave homelessness when they do, or what barriers might be preventing them from returning to permanent housing. The Count cannot give explanations as to changes in rates of homelessness or different demographic groups, we must look to our partners for this information.

VERMONT POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS: 2011-2020



LOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS

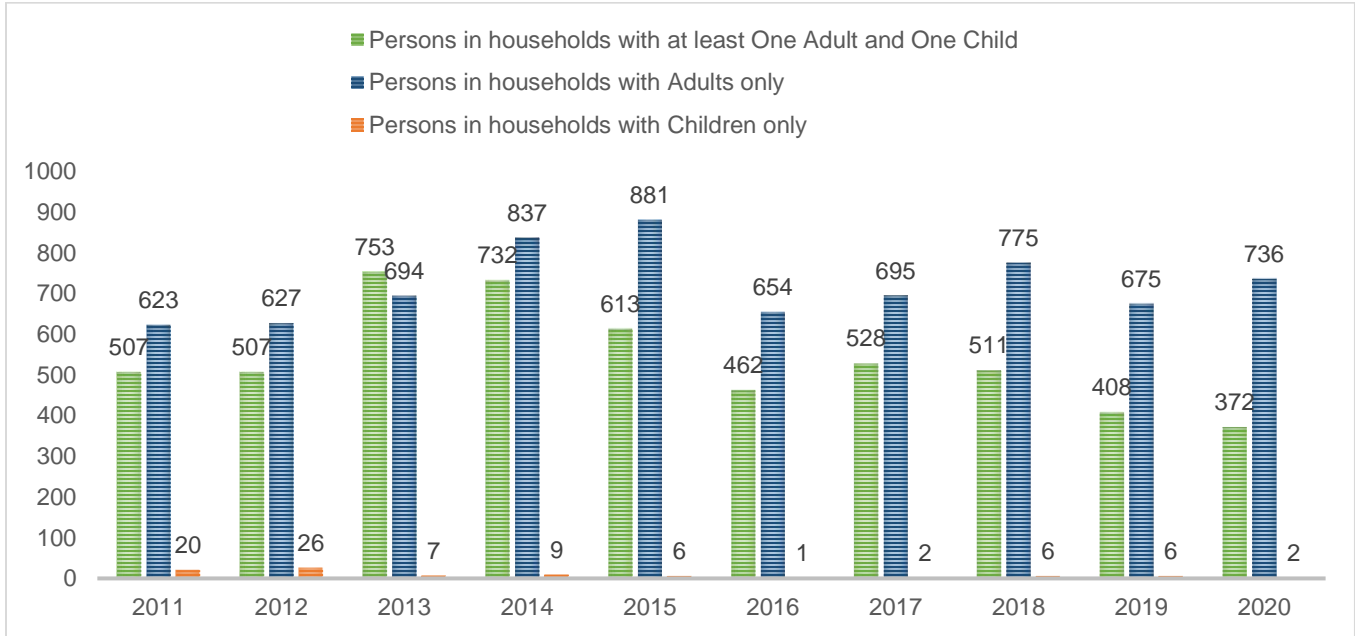




KEY FINDINGS

- All Counties in the state were under the Agency of Human Services (AHS) - Adverse Weather Condition (AWC) eligibility for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Motel Vouchers. This allowed AHS to house 325 persons. An increase of 135 persons as compared to 2019 one-night count.
 - AWC is when temperatures or wind chills are below 20 degrees, or 32 degrees with precipitation.
 - In 2019, only one AHS district had an Adverse Weather Condition status (Newport district).

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

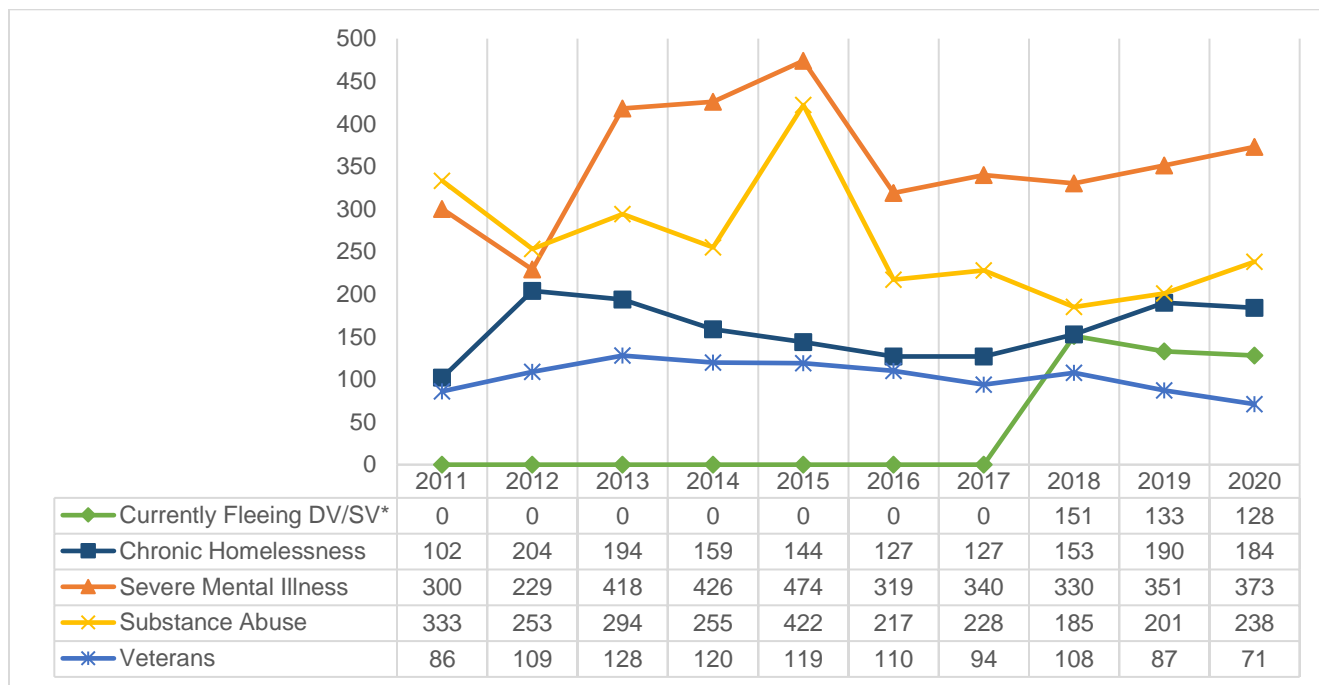


KEY FINDINGS

- **Families with Children** (at least one adult and one child): approximately 33.5% of persons (372) experiencing homelessness were persons in households with at least one adult and one child.
 - This is a decrease of 9% (36 persons) from 2019 to 2020.
- **Adults** (households with adults only): approximately 66% of persons (736) were in households with adults only.
 - This is an increase of 9% (61 persons) from 2019 to 2020.
- **Unaccompanied Minors** (households with children only): approximately .2% of persons (2) 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.



*In 2018, the DV/SV question was changed to Currently Fleeing instead of a Survivor of DV/SV.

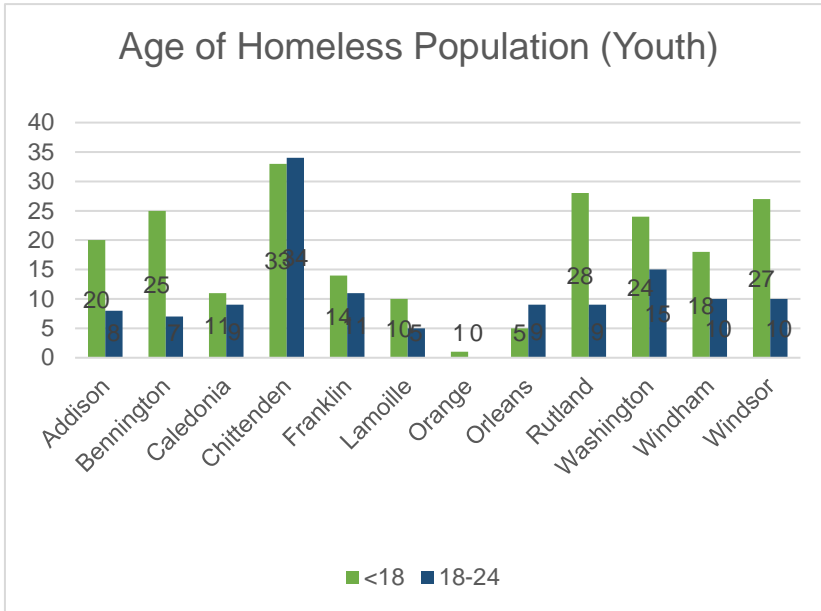
KEY FINDINGS

- In Vermont, 184 persons (16.5% of total persons counted) self-identify as chronically homeless².
 - This past year Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) reduced their Chronic Homeless Number by 12 (62 to 50 persons), this was achieved by a huge effort from everyone involved.
- 373 persons (33.6% of total persons counted), reported having a severe mental illness, a 6% increase (22) from 2019. This represents a steady incline of those reporting to have a severe mental illness since 2016.
- 238 persons (21.5% of total persons counted), reported having a substance use disorder, compared to 18.5% (201) in 2019 and 14.3% (185) in 2018.
- Veteran’s homelessness continues to decline, achieving an all-time low number again this year of 71 homeless veterans.

² 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).

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

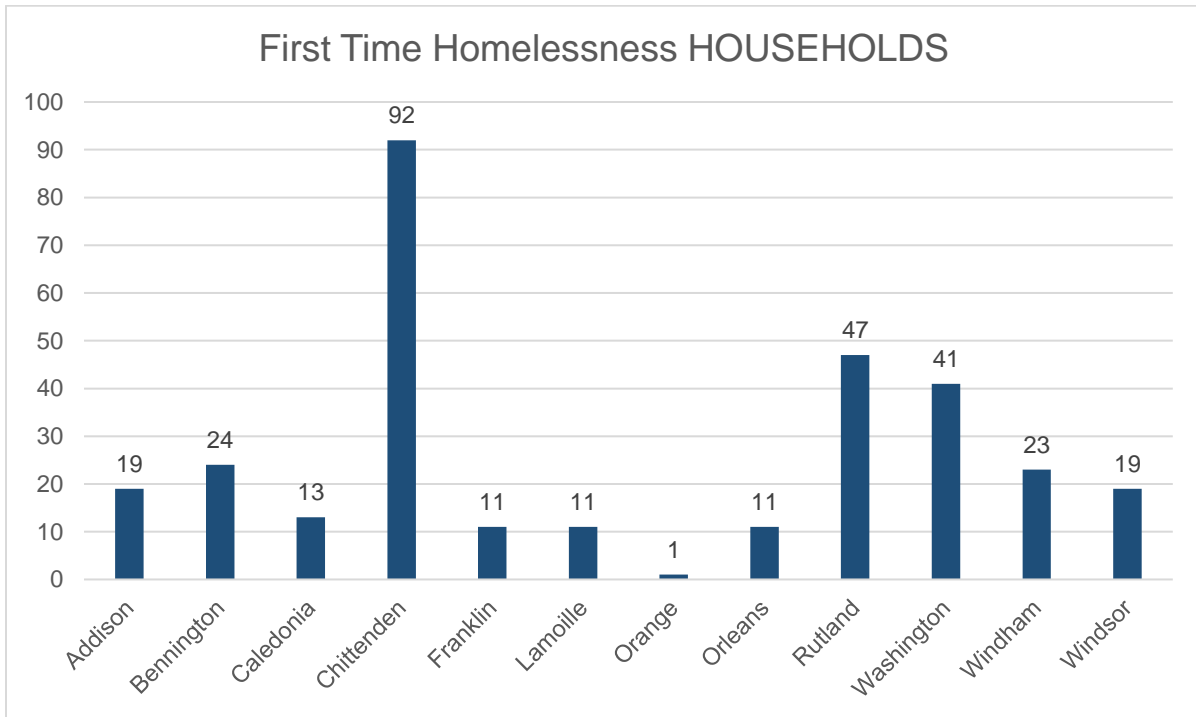
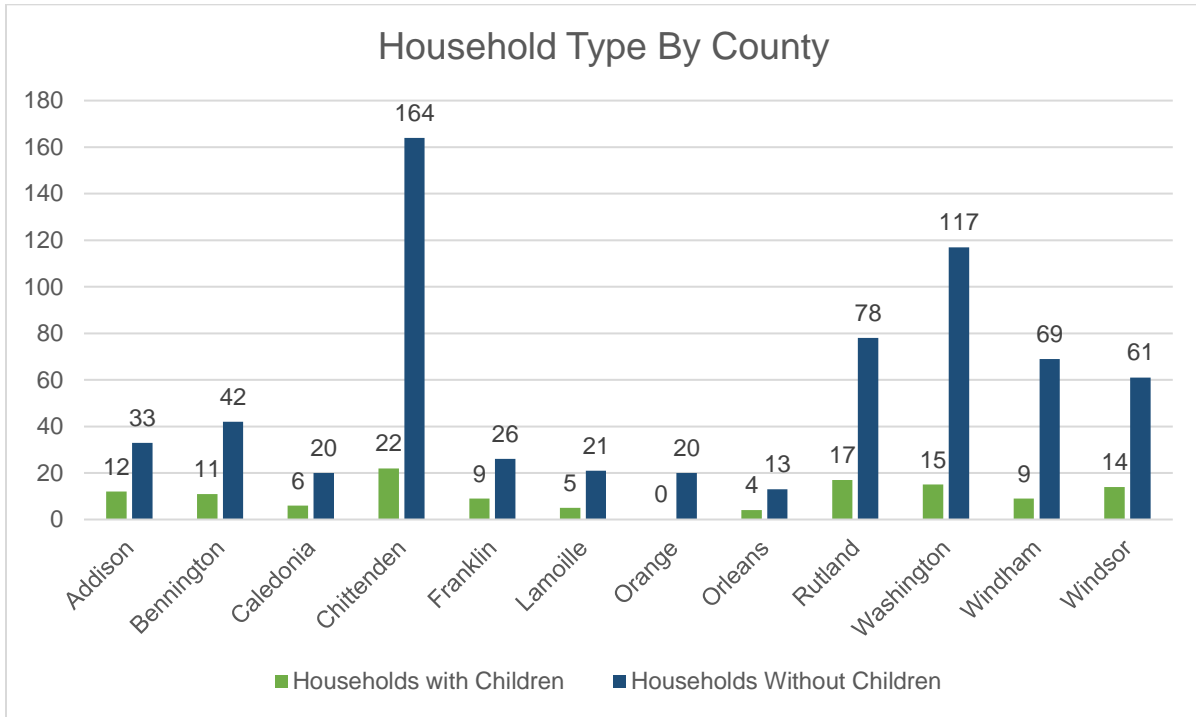
KEY FINDINGS



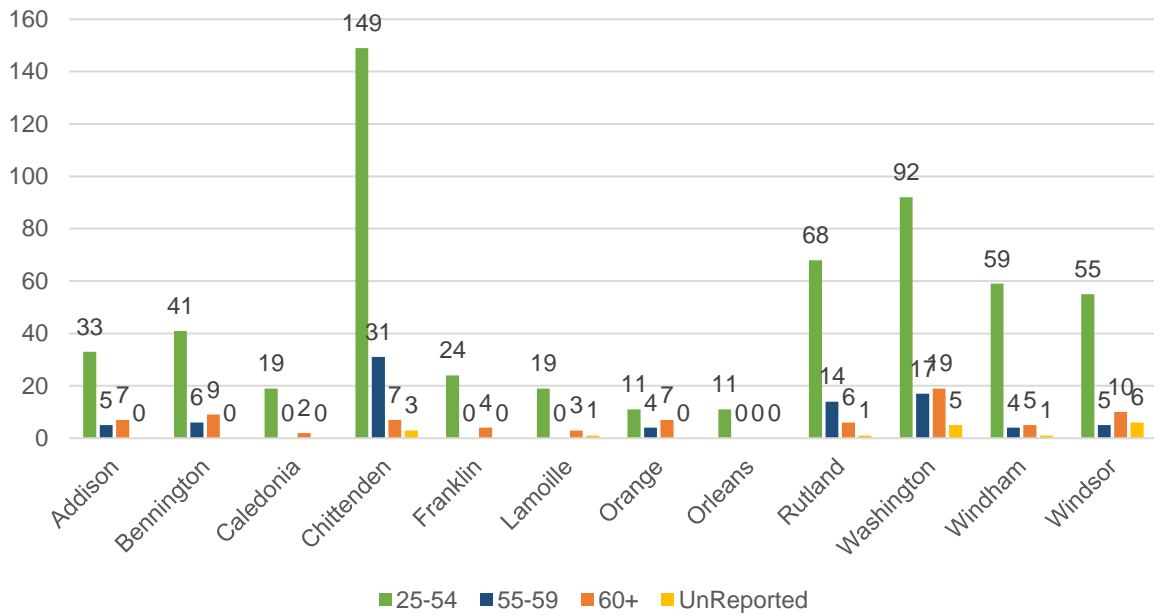
- 31% (343) of persons experiencing homelessness were age 24 or younger. Of these children and youth:
 - 216 were minors (< 18 years old) and living as part of a family unit
 - 2 minors (< 18 years old) were unaccompanied
 - 127 persons were 18-24 years old
 - 16 persons were parenting youth (<=24 years old) with 20 children in those households. Parenting youth and their children represented 10% (36) of all households with children (372).

COUNTY BREAKDOWNS

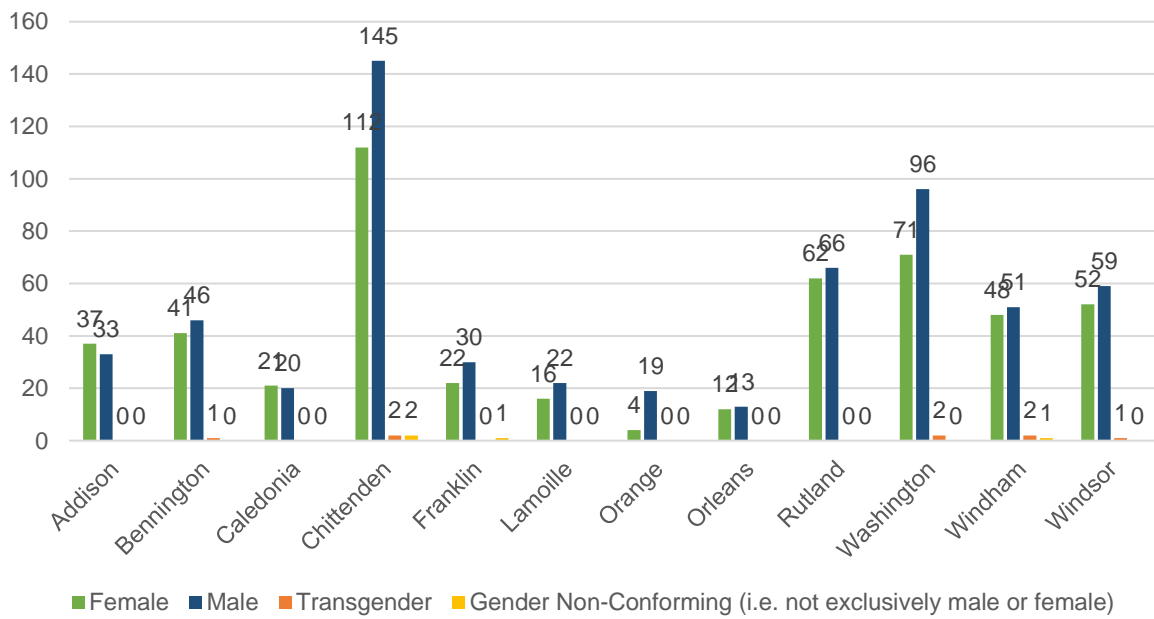
Essex and Grand Isle Counties are not included as both had a homeless count of zero persons.

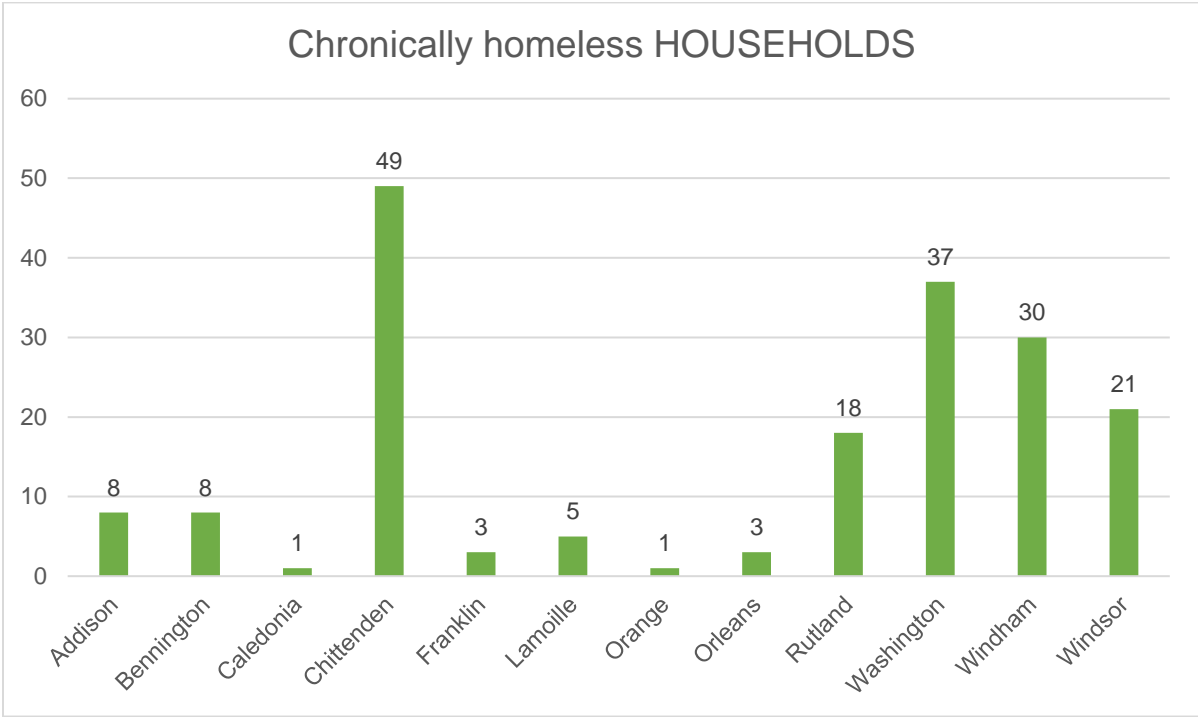
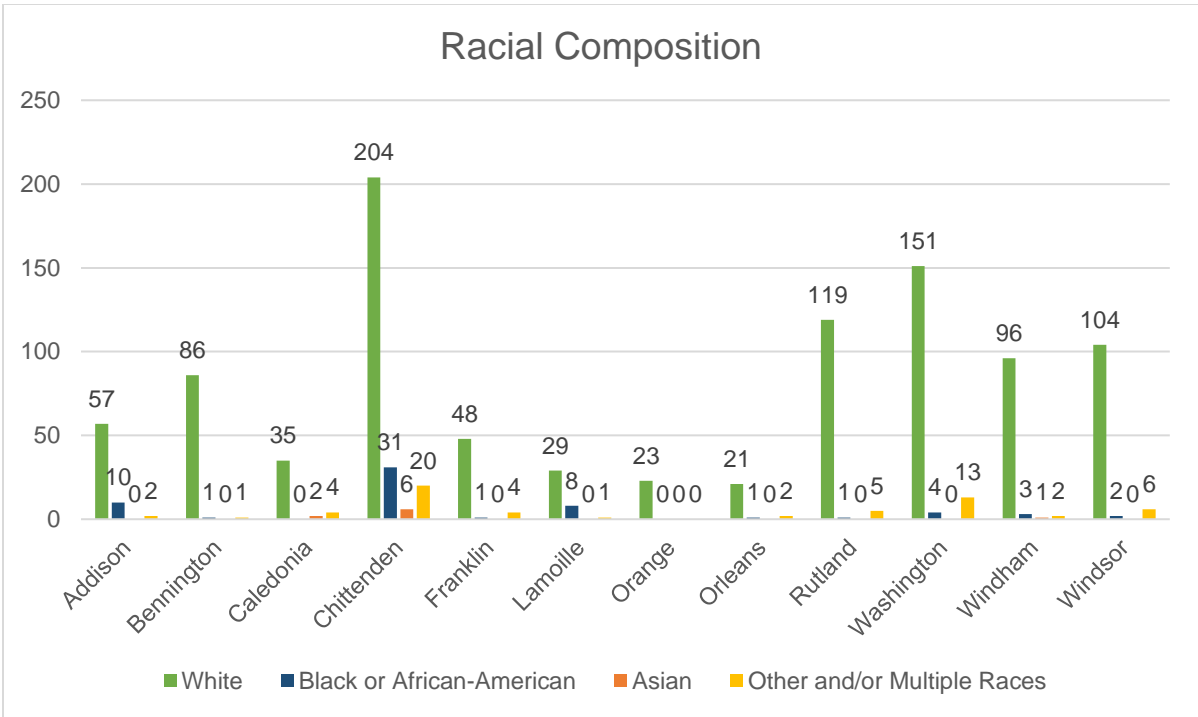


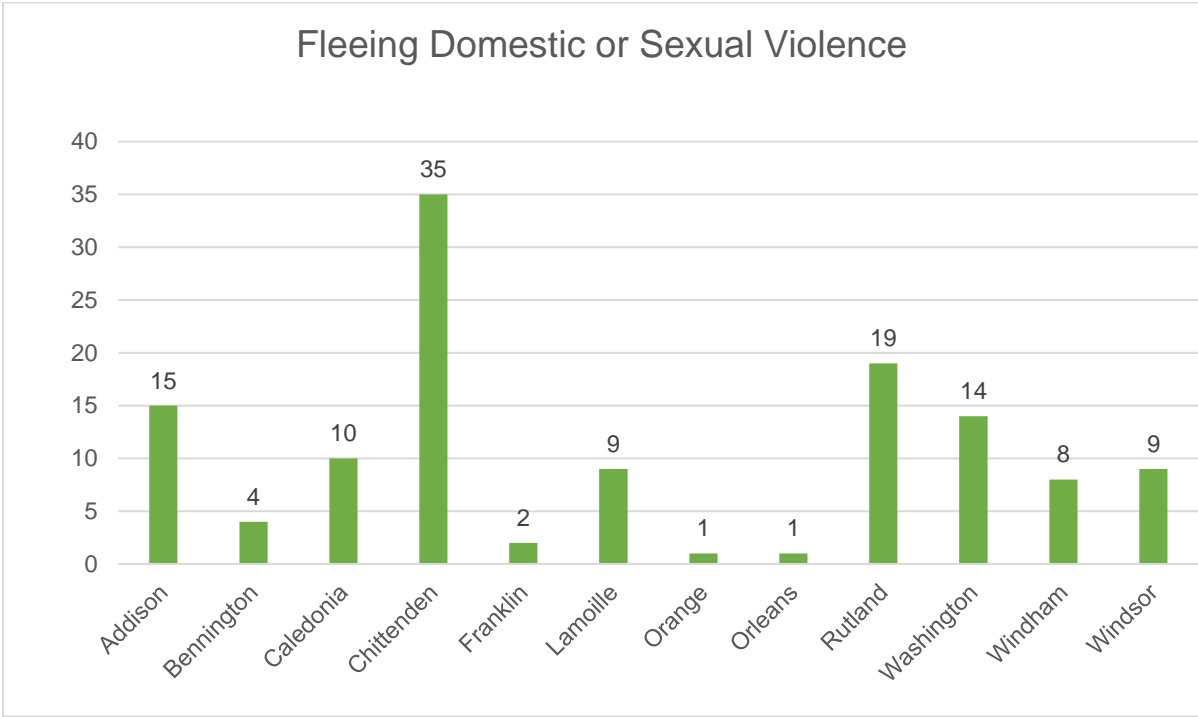
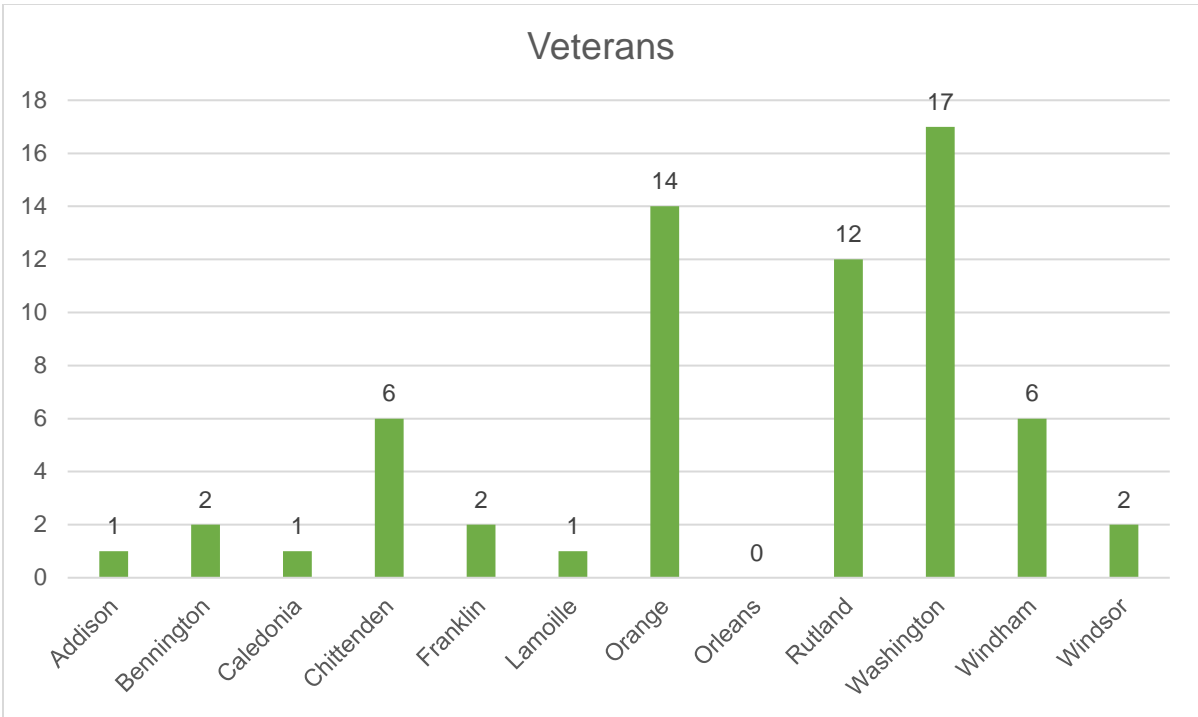
Age of Homeless Population (Adult)

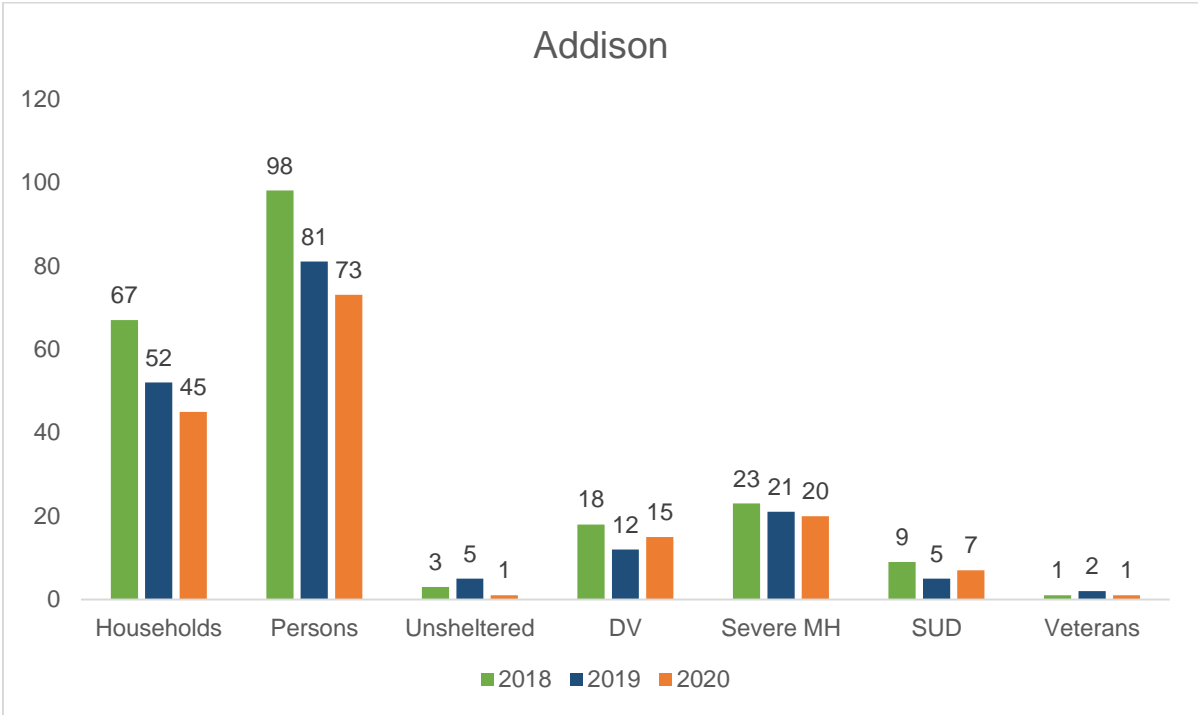
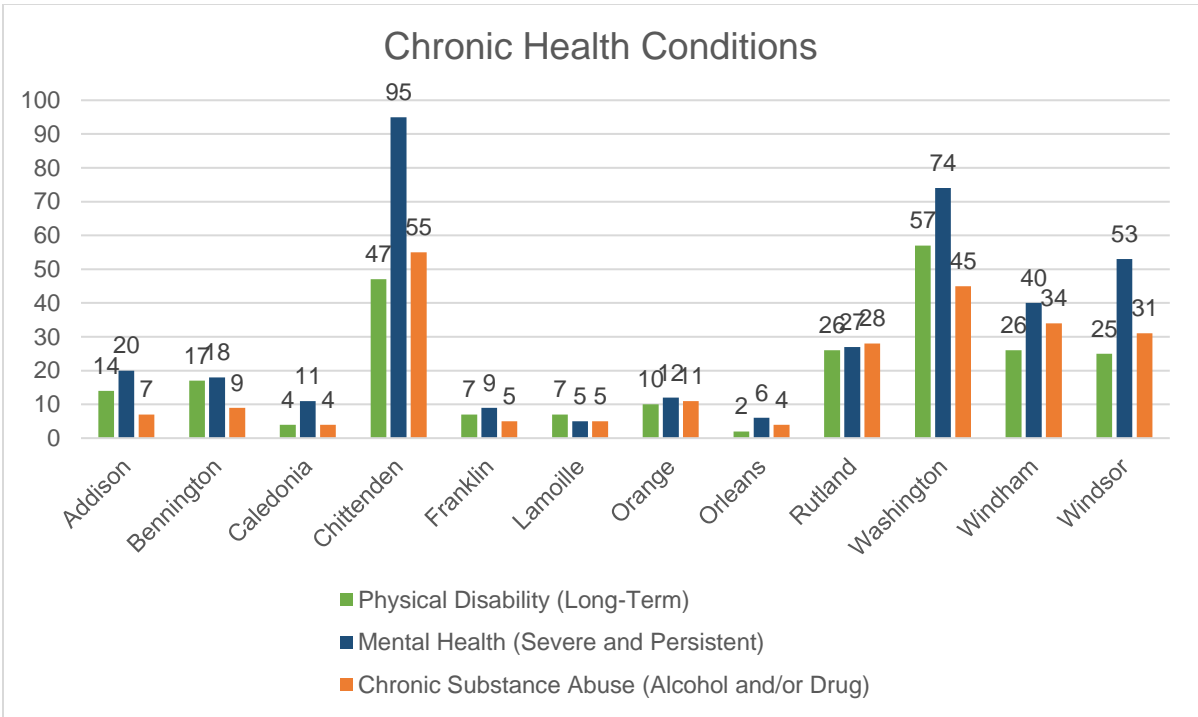


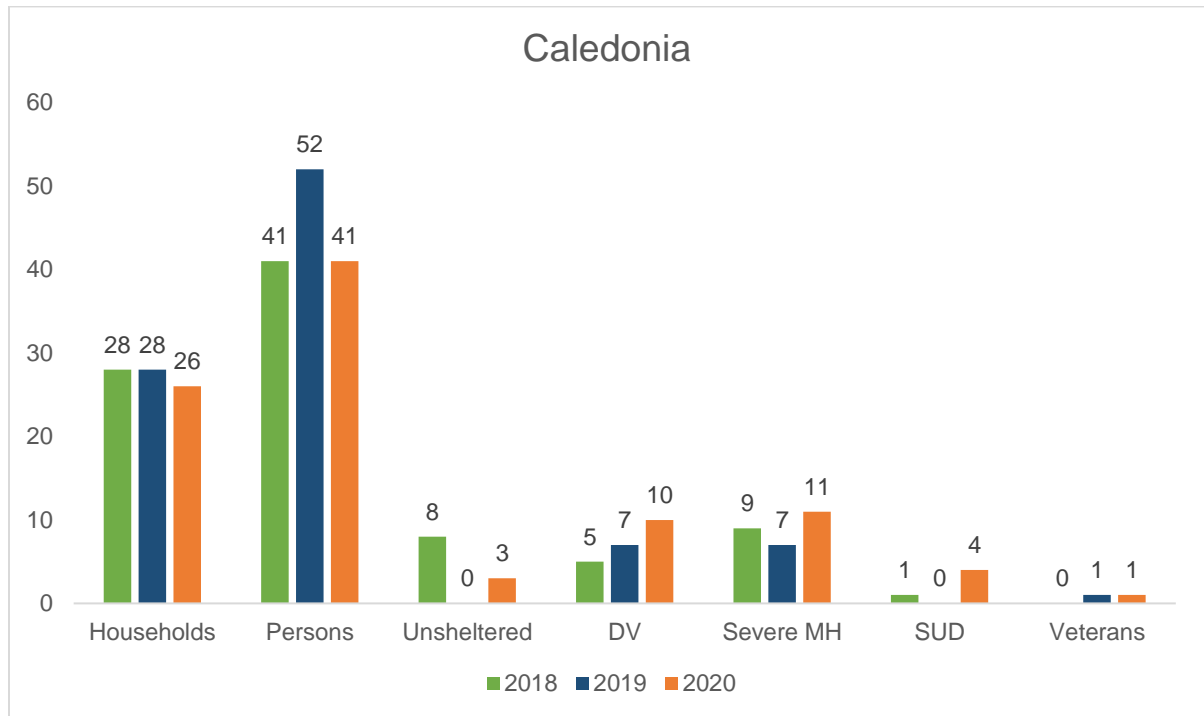
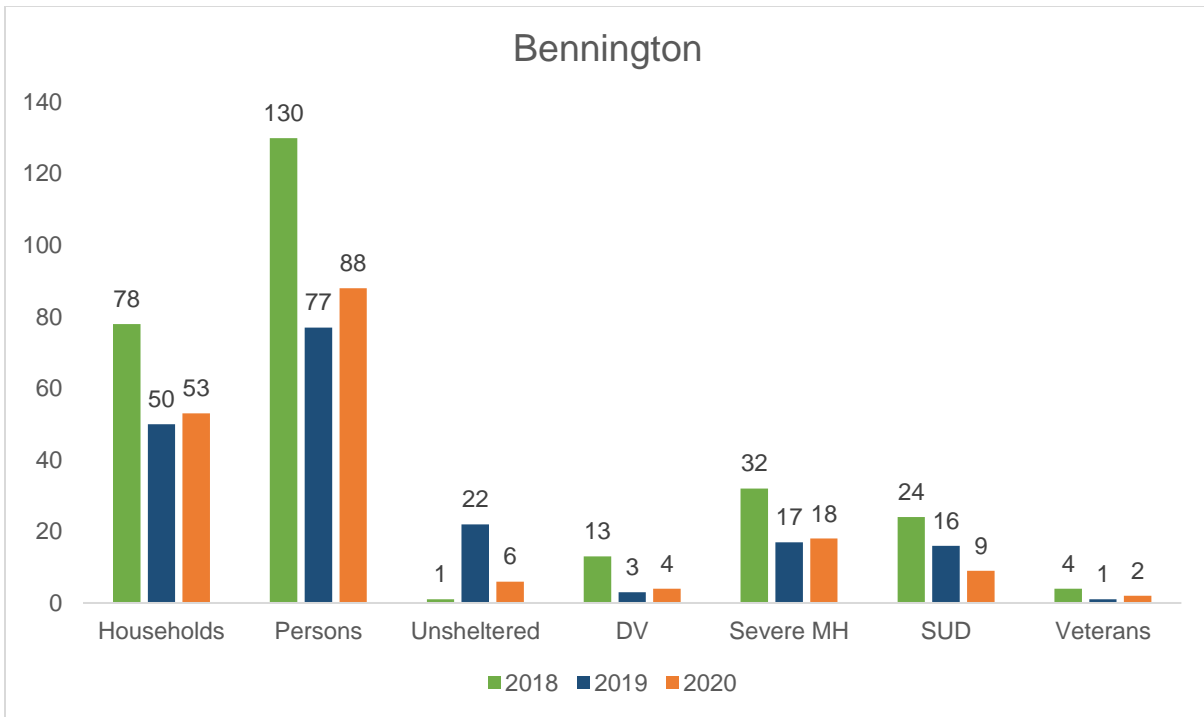
Gender

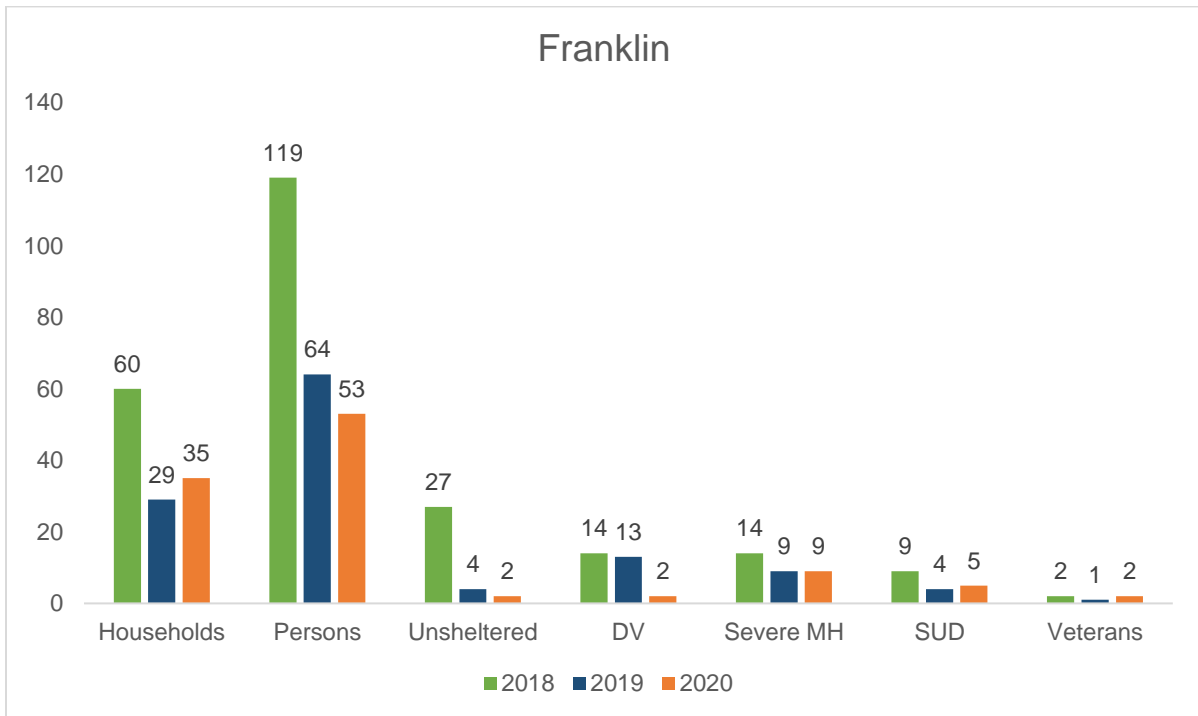
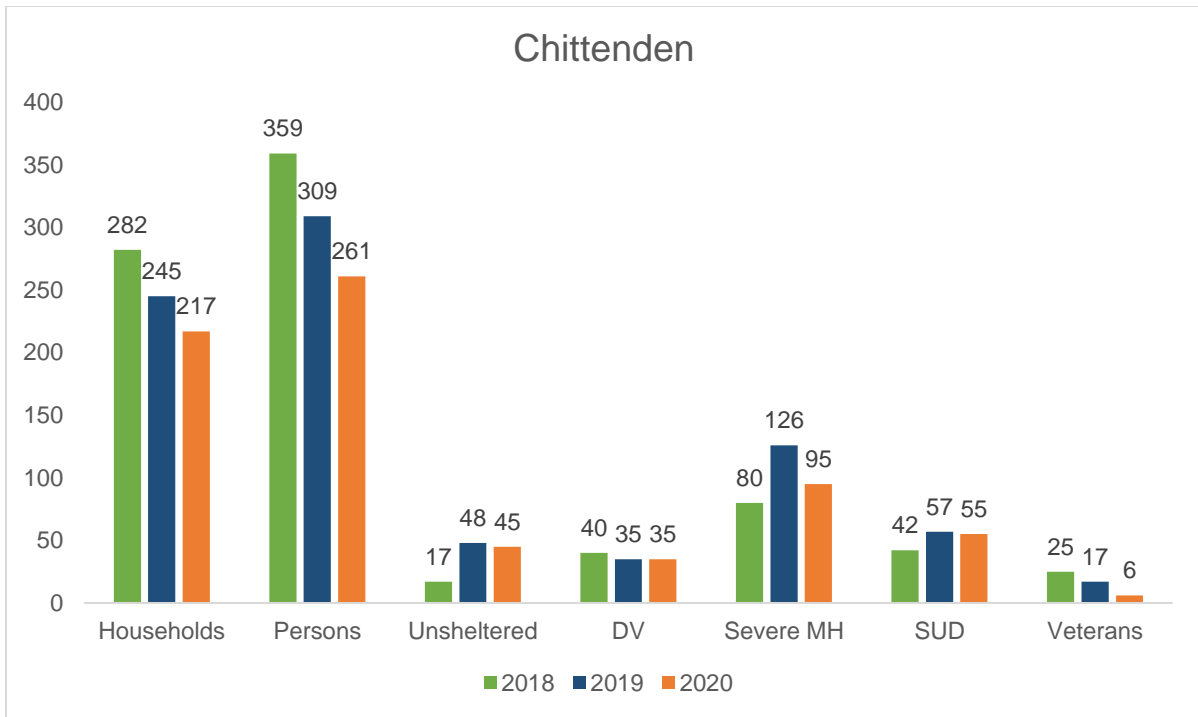


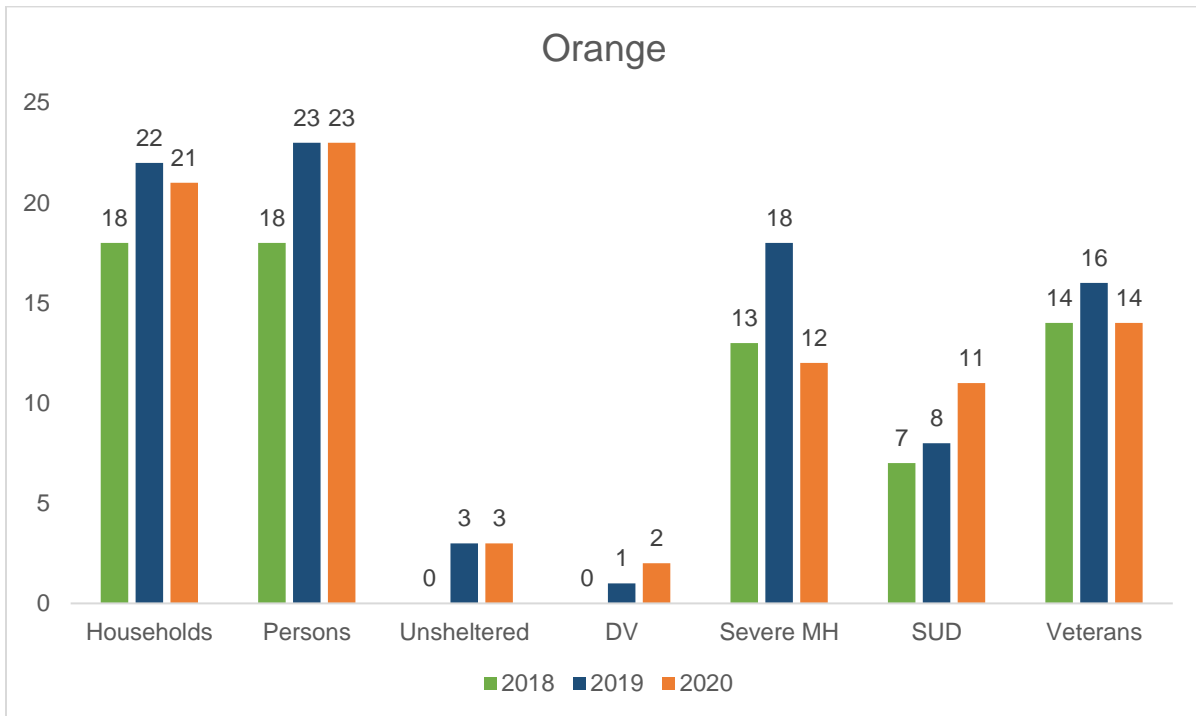
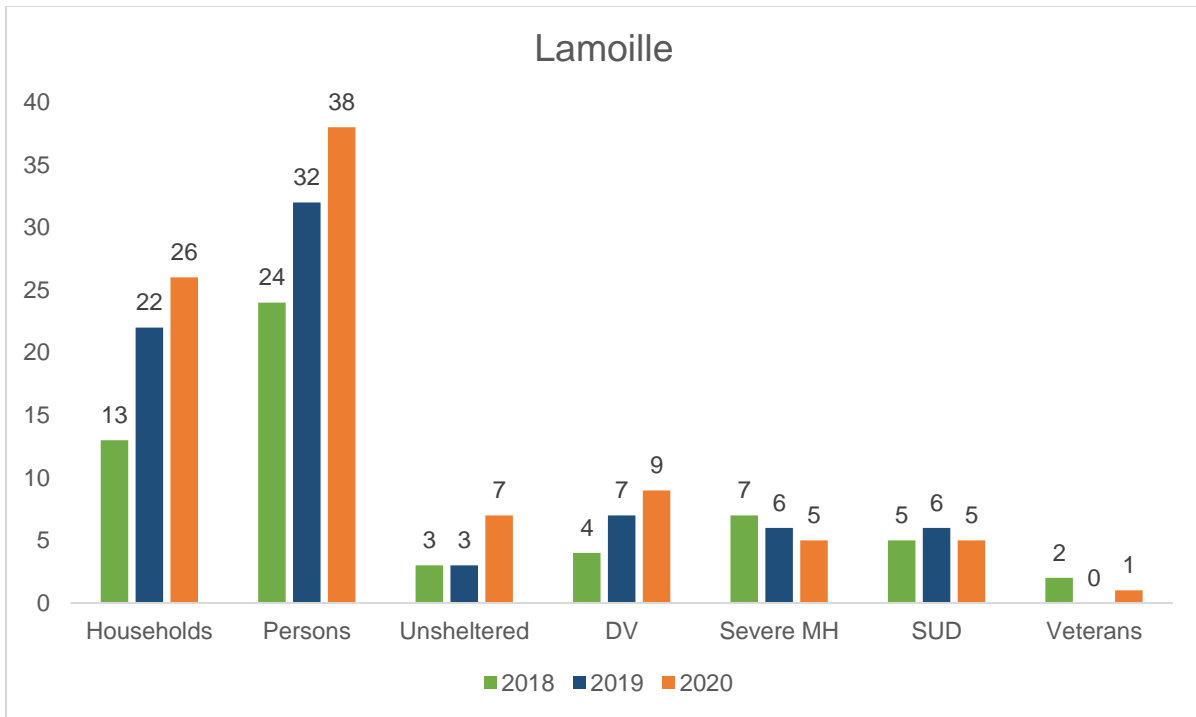


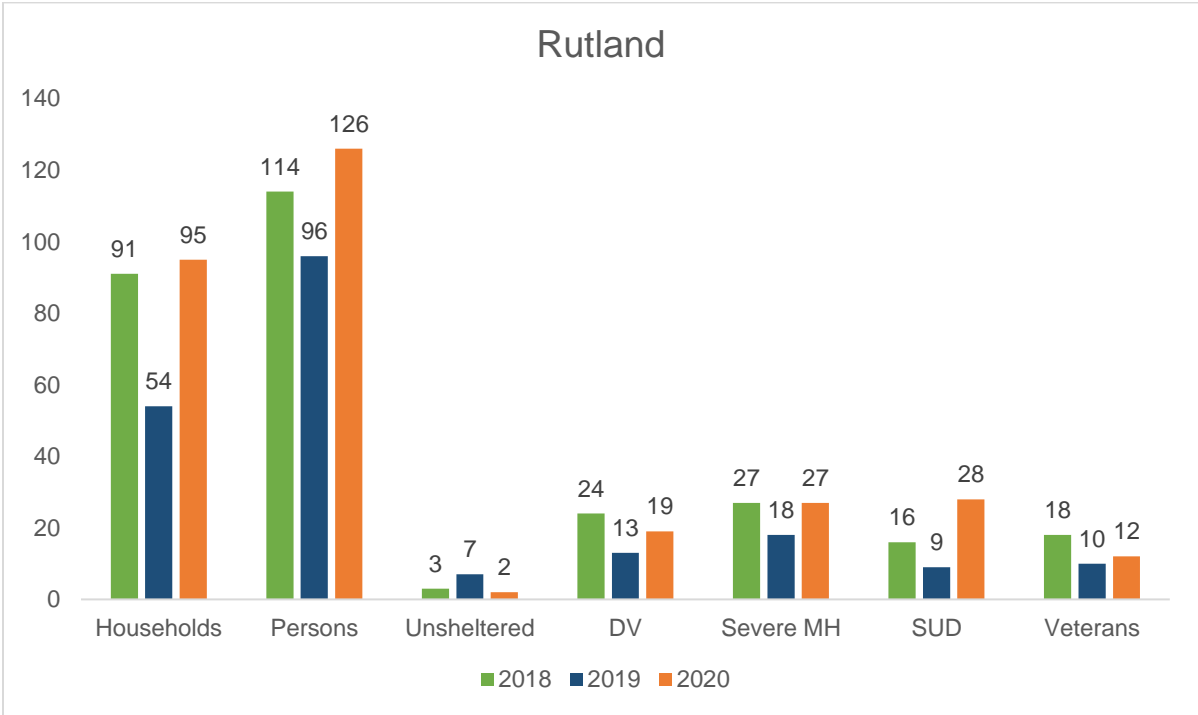
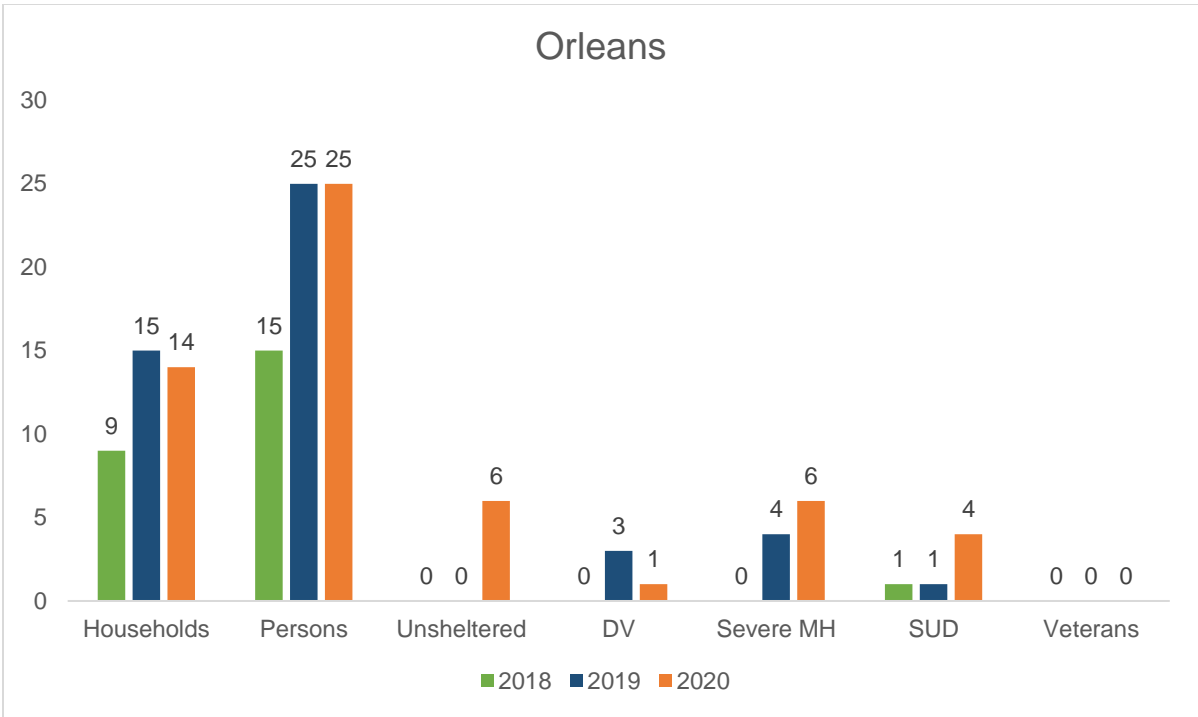


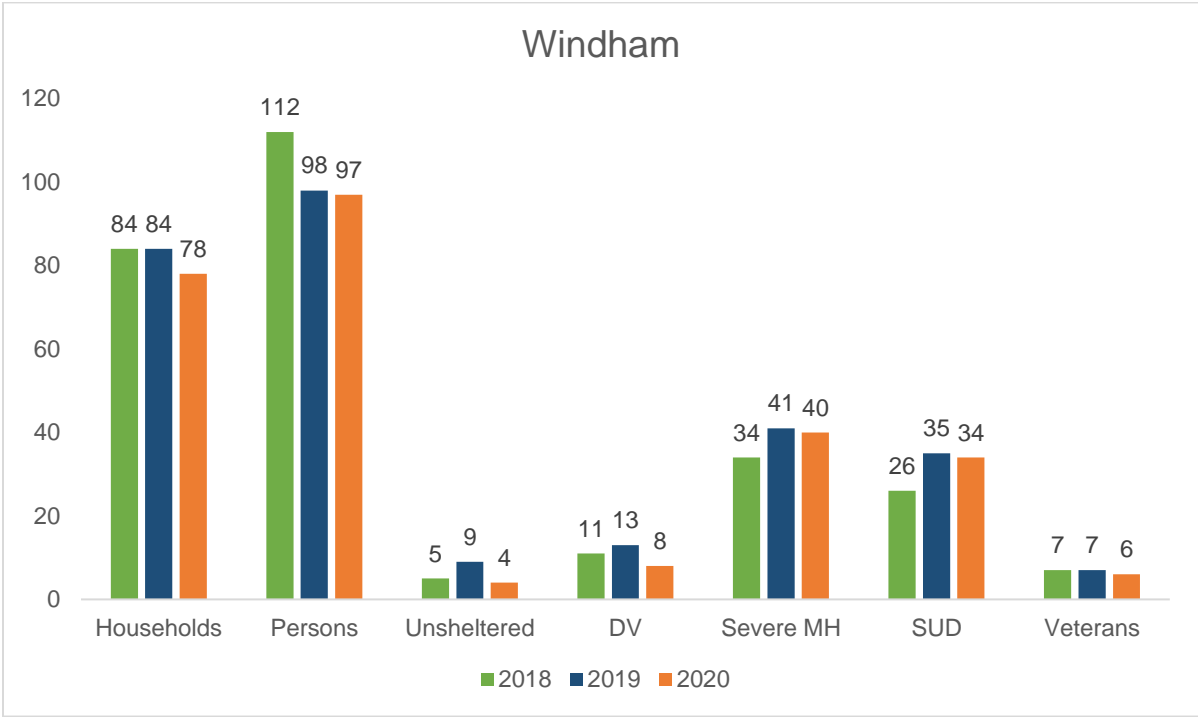
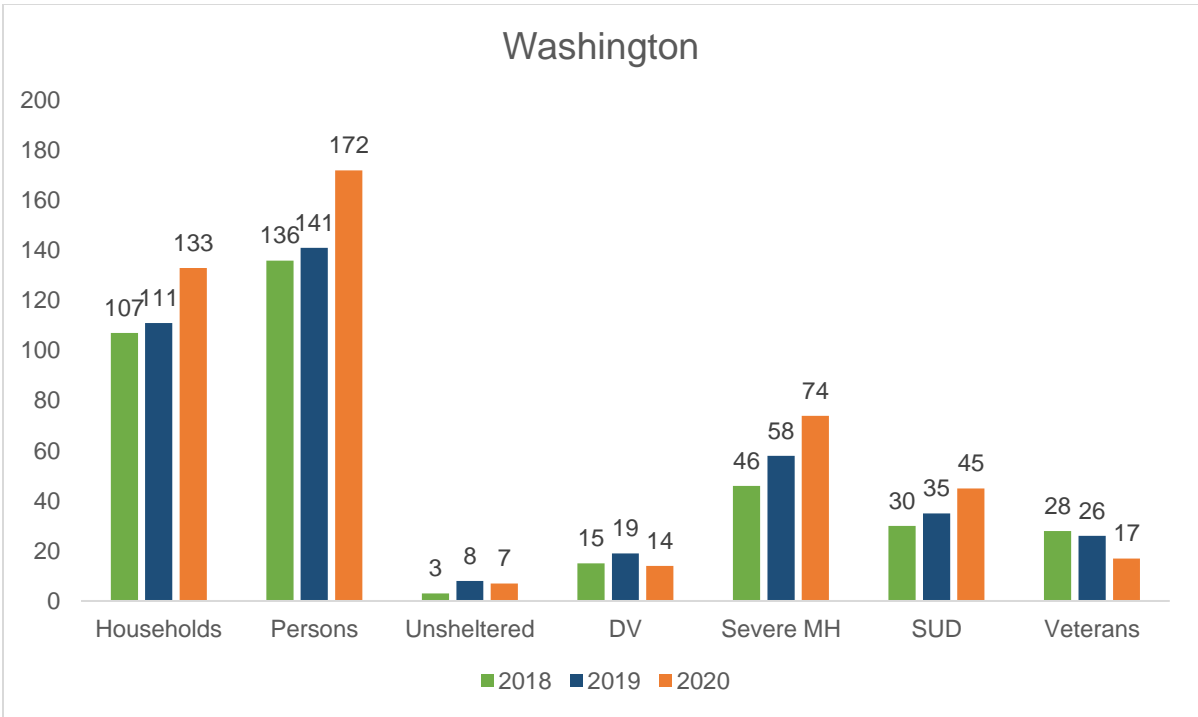




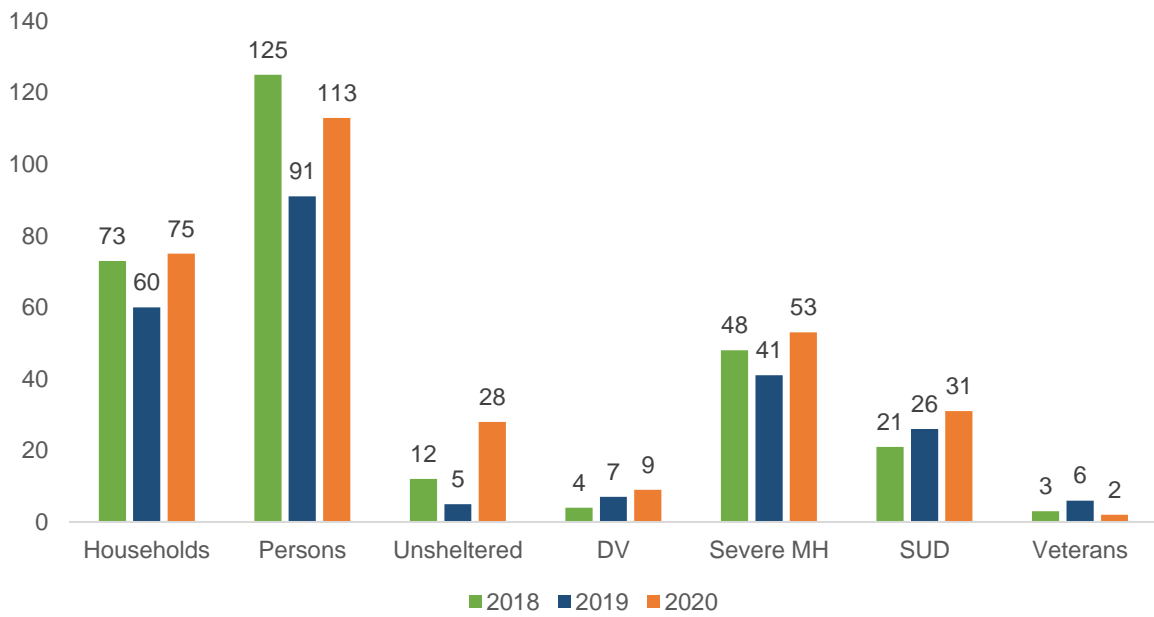








Windsor

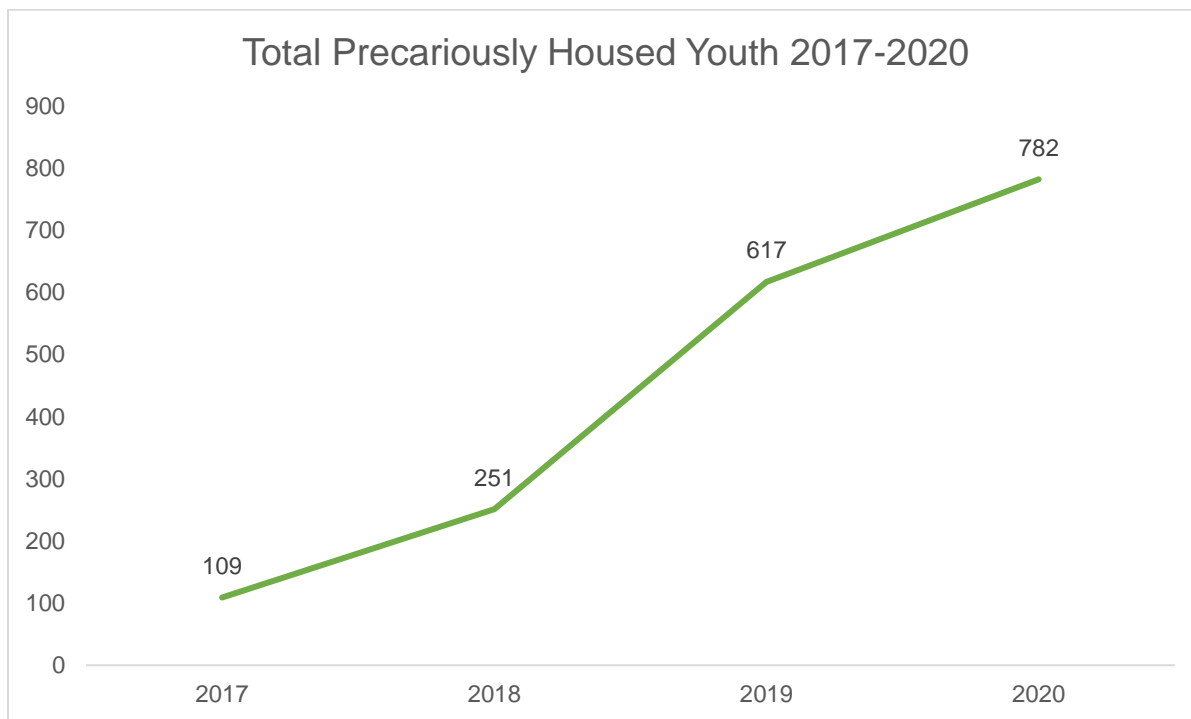


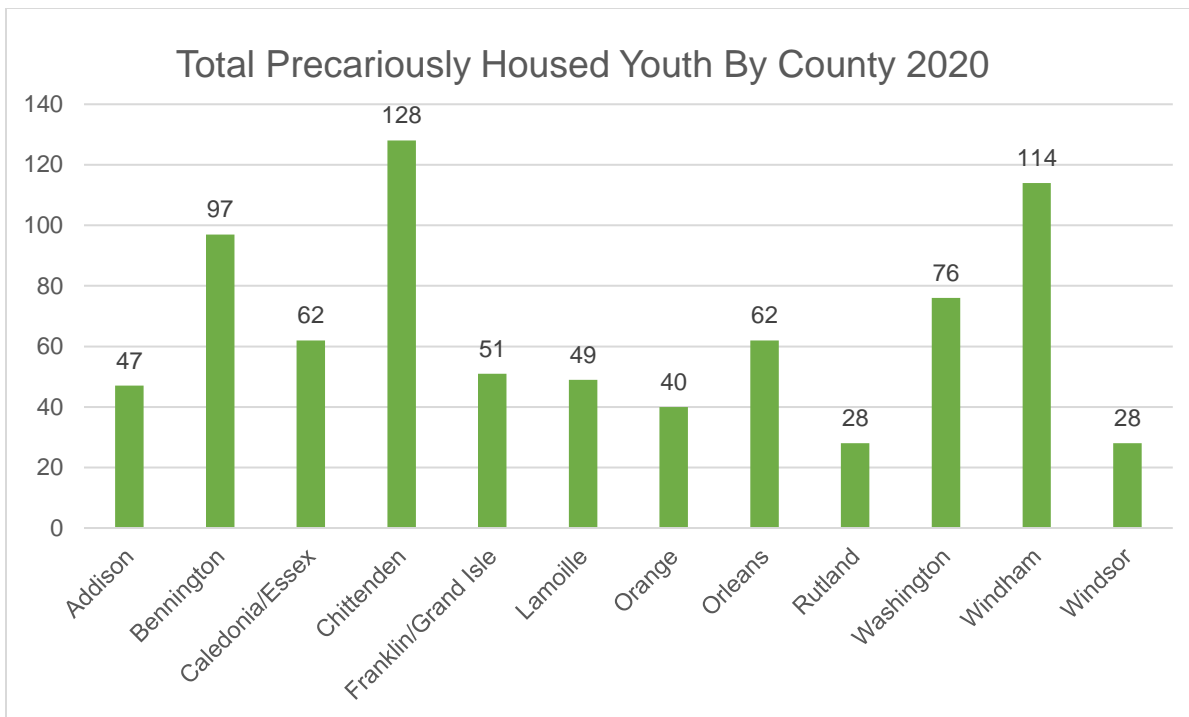
4TH ANNUAL PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED YOUTH COUNT

Summary

A national study by Chapin Hall found that couch surfing is a common experience for youth and young adults, particularly those between the ages of 18-25. Nearly two-thirds of the youth in their study who had episodes of literal homelessness also experienced episodes of couch-surfing. Precarious housing, including couch surfing, can act as a precursor to other types of homelessness for youth, but it often goes unseen and uncounted. As explained earlier, the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count does not include 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 PIT Count.

Now in its fourth 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.



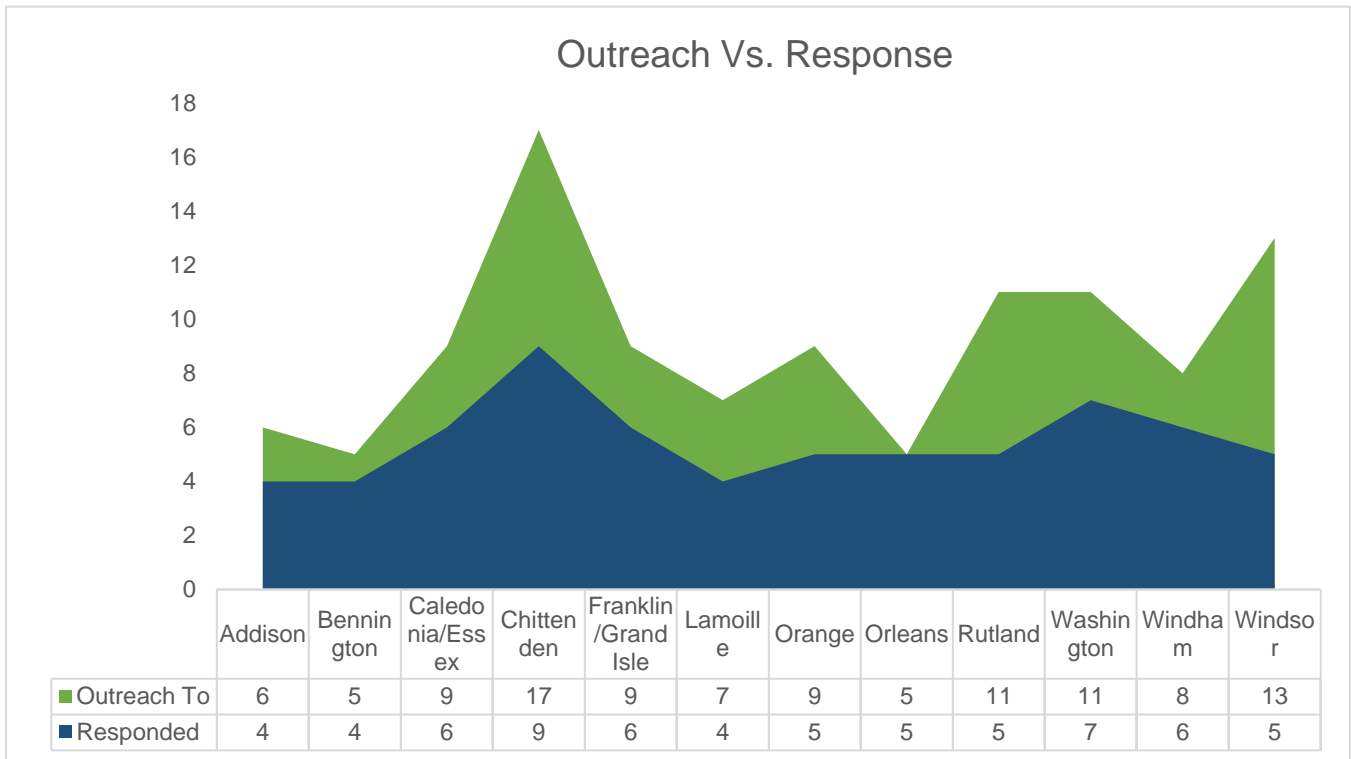


Provider Participation

VCRHYP and VCEH work together to reach out to providers around the state who are most likely to be connected to youth experiencing precarious housing. These include, among others, McKinney-Vento liaisons in all school districts/supervisory unions, runaway and homeless youth programs, and the Youth Development Program, which serves youth in or aging out of foster care. Each year we have seen the response rate increase and have targeted outreach to new providers in hopes that they will participate in the count. As such, we believe that year-to-year increases in the number of youth counted is reflective of growing provider participation rather than significant changes in how many youth are precariously housed. Although some of our new outreach efforts this year did not result in participation, we will continue to expand our efforts in hopes of determining an accurate baseline from which we can measure our success as a state to end youth homelessness.

Notes:

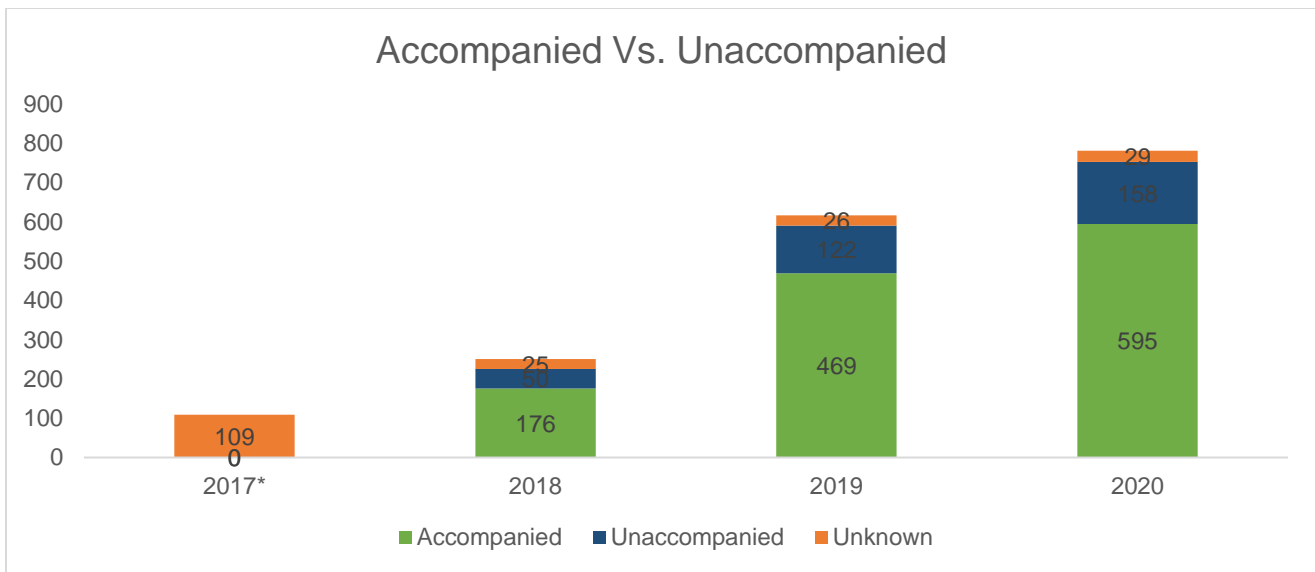
- This was the 1st year that at least one McKinney-Vento liaison participated in the count in each county!
 - McKinney-Vento participation rates have steadily increased year-to-year: 6% in 2017, 25% in 2018, 47% in 2019, 71% in 2020
 - Last year there were no participating McKinney-Vento liaisons in Bennington or Rutland counties
- The overall number of partners participating in the count has risen each year: 23 in 2017, 34 in 2018, 45 in 2019, 66 in 2020.



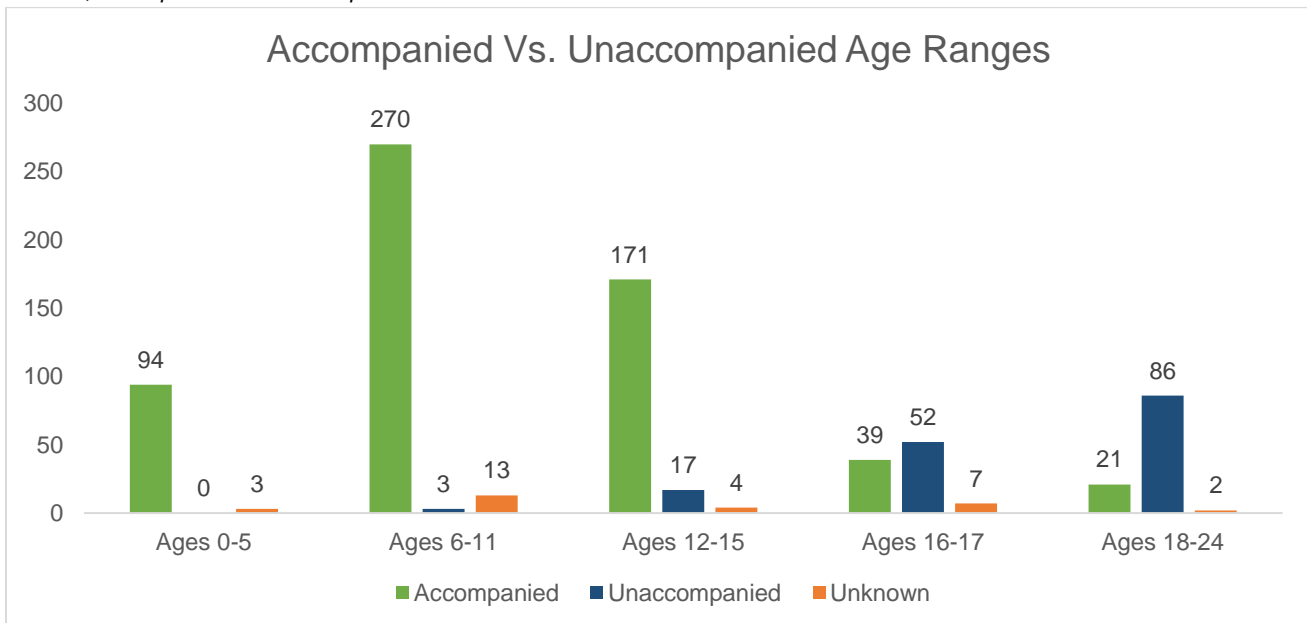
Accompanied vs. Unaccompanied Youth

In addition to counting the number of youths who were precariously housed, the Youth Count gathered information on whether youth were accompanied or unaccompanied. For the purposes of the count, we defined these as:

- Youth who were precariously housed with a parent or guardian are considered “accompanied.”
- Youth who were precariously housed without a parent/guardian are considered “unaccompanied.” These youth may have been accompanied by their own children, a partner, friends, or non-custodial adults, etc.



*In 2017, accompanied vs. unaccompanied was not collected.



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

Key findings:

- While the total number of precariously housed youth counted increased significantly, the percentage that were unaccompanied remained at 20% of total youth.
 - This has been true for the past three years.

Thank you!

Ari Kisler at VCRHYP and Andrea Hurley at VCEH would like to thank all of the providers who take the extra time to participate in this vital count each year! We also couldn't have gathered this data without the help of some key partners who assist us in getting the word out to their networks and coordinating data collection, including Katy Preston at the Agency of Education and Jen Boardman at the Youth Development Program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Contact Information is available on The Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness Website](#)

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Chittenden County Homeless Alliance:

Travis Poulin, Co-Chair, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

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Chandler Poling, BROCC

Stephannie Peters, Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

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