



VERMONT'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE COUNT OF THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness &
Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

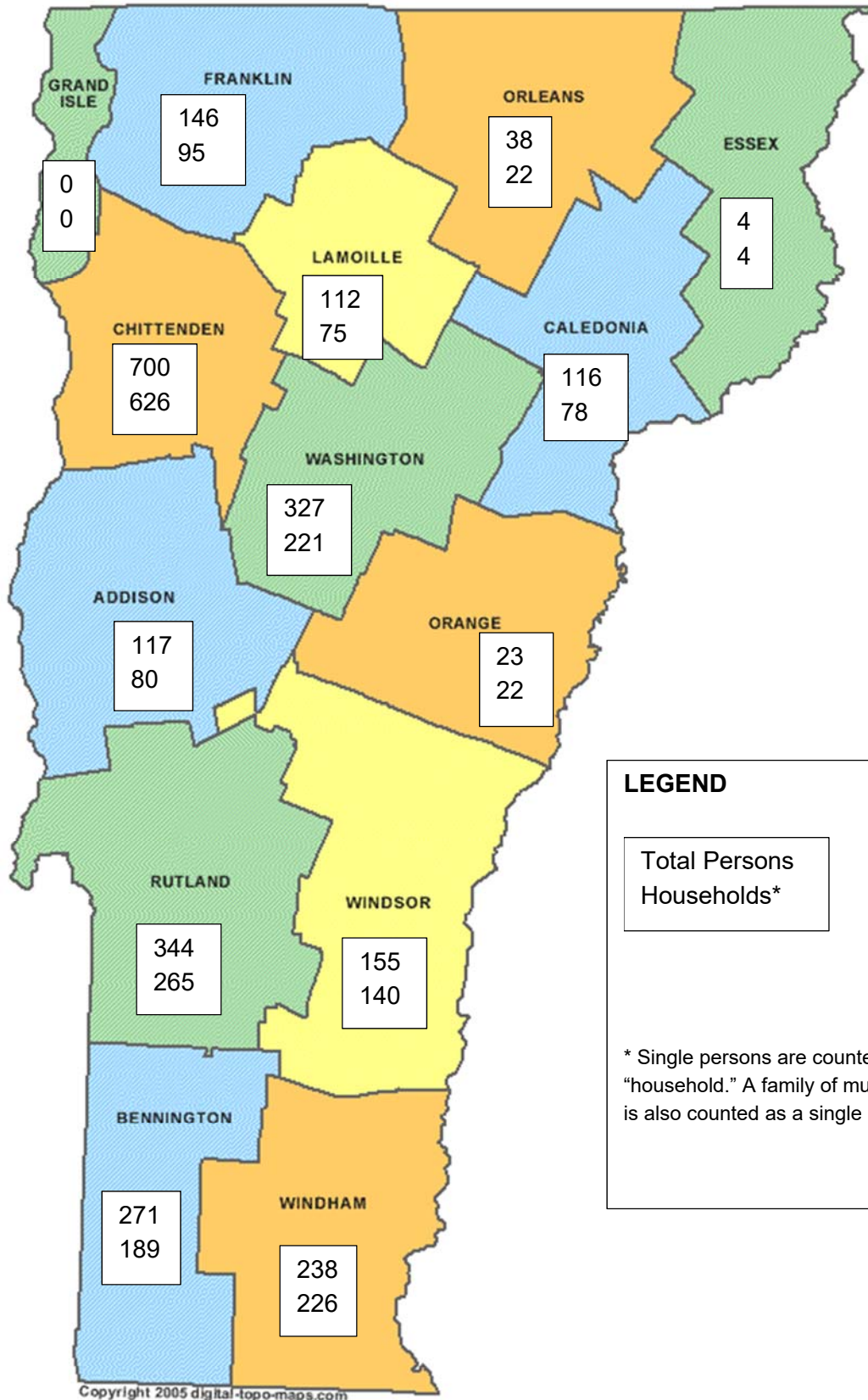


CONTENTS

Vermont Count of Those Experiencing Homelessness By County.....	2
Summary	3
What The PIT Count Does and Does Not Tell Us.....	4
Vermont Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless: 2011-2021	5
Location of Homelessness.....	6
Household Type.....	7
Subpopulations of Homelessness.....	8
Youth Homelessness	9
County Breakdowns.....	10
Contact Information	21

Vermont Count of Those Experiencing Homelessness By County

2021 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.

2021 saw an unprecedented increase in the number of homeless individuals counted. In response to the COVID pandemic the state's homeless response system- including the Agency of Human Services, homeless shelters, community organizations, and businesses stepped up to ensure that Vermonters experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity were able to seek shelter that was accessible and reduced the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Existing shelters reduced their capacity in order to meet CDC's physical distancing guidelines. Hyper- vulnerable Vermonters (those who were at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 due to age and underlying health conditions) were prioritized for non-congregate shelter. The state's response system supplemented limited congregate shelter by housing individuals and families in their own motel rooms throughout the state. The lifting of rules around eligibility for state-funded emergency housing in motels allowed for all households experiencing homelessness throughout the state to "stay home, stay safe". In addition to this program housing those coming from congregate shelter and literal homelessness, many individuals sought motel rooms as they moved out of doubled-up living situations that were no longer safe options due to the pandemic.

Note: Due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns a count of unsheltered households and precariously housed youth did not take place this year. In addition, the "Adverse Weather Conditions" eligibility for emergency motel stays was not a factor this winter.

Notable Findings 2021:

- During the one-day count on January 27, 2021, 2591 Vermonters experienced literal homelessness, an increase of 1481 persons compared to the 2020 one-day count.
- A total of 2043 households were counted, an increase of 1222 households from 2020.
- Vermont did not count the unsheltered persons in 2021 due to the logistics of Covid-19.

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

- 360 persons were children under 18, representing 13.9% of the entire homeless population counted; as compared to 2020, 216 children at 19%.
- 277 people, or 10.7%, reported they were fleeing domestic or sexual violence, this is a slight percentage decrease from 2020 which was 128 persons at 11.5%.
- A disproportionate amount of people identified as Black or African American compared to state demographics; 6.9% or 179 persons (an increase of 1.3% from 2020) were Black or African American, compared to 1% of the state population.

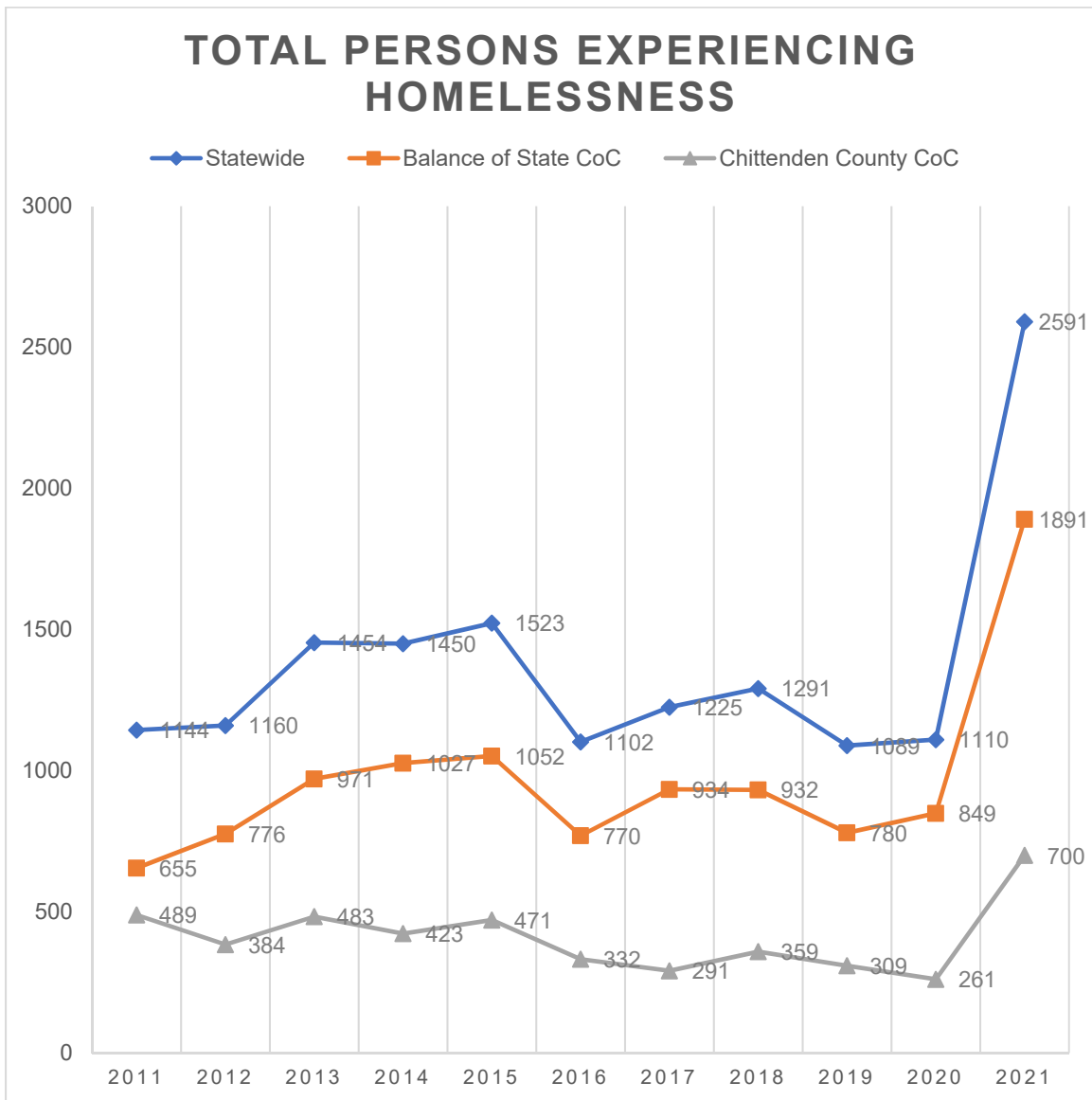
The Count provides a valuable measure of Vermont's homeless population; the data is used to assess and identify housing service gaps and needs. Insufficient affordable housing units, housing subsidies and capacity to provide individualized services that fit the needs of individuals and families who are homeless continue to burden prevention and intervention efforts. All Continua of Care are implementing 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.

WHAT THE PIT COUNT DOES AND DOES NOT TELL US.

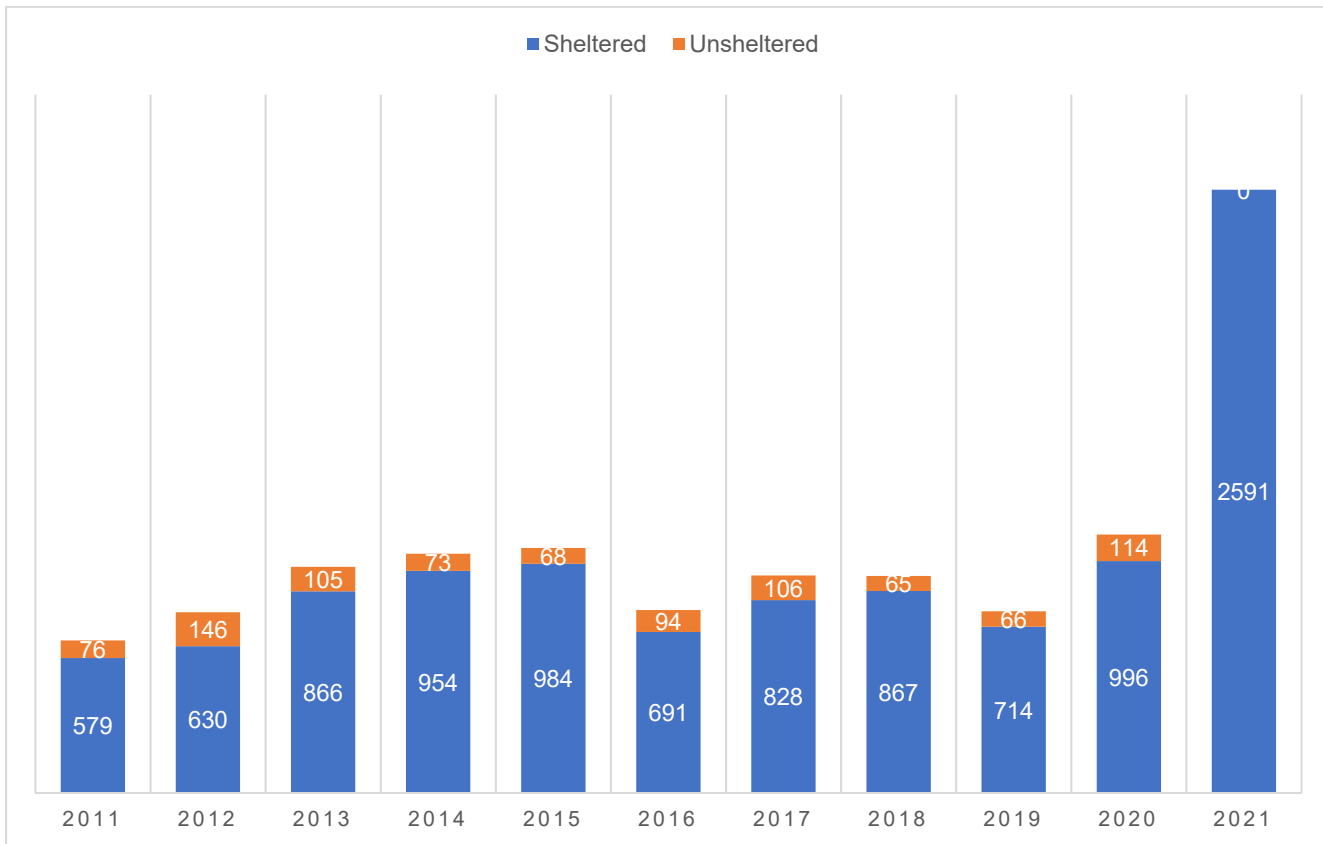
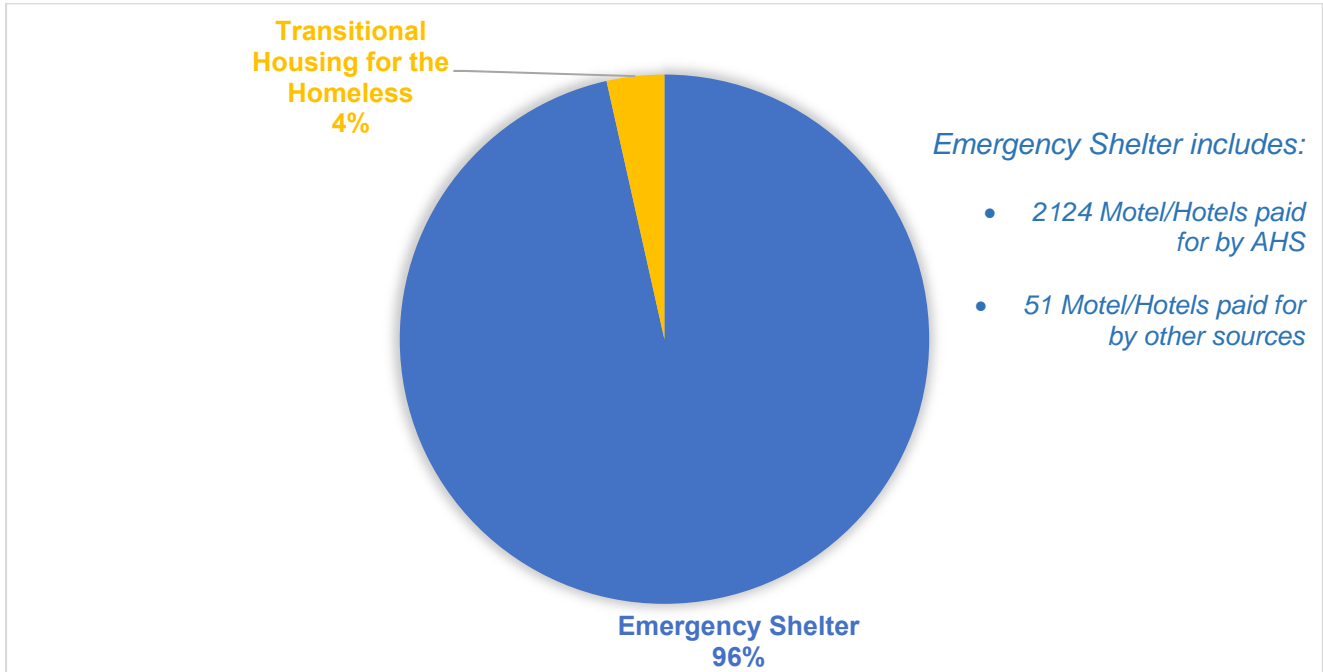
The PIT Count provides important information about the nature of unmet need in our community and show trends over time. During the night of the PIT count we are able to gather a snapshot of insight into the demographics and characteristics of those who are living in emergency shelter, accessing Vermont's Agency of Human Services General Assistance (GA) motel voucher program, or residing in transitional housing for the homeless.

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 communities for this information.

VERMONT POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS: 2011-2021

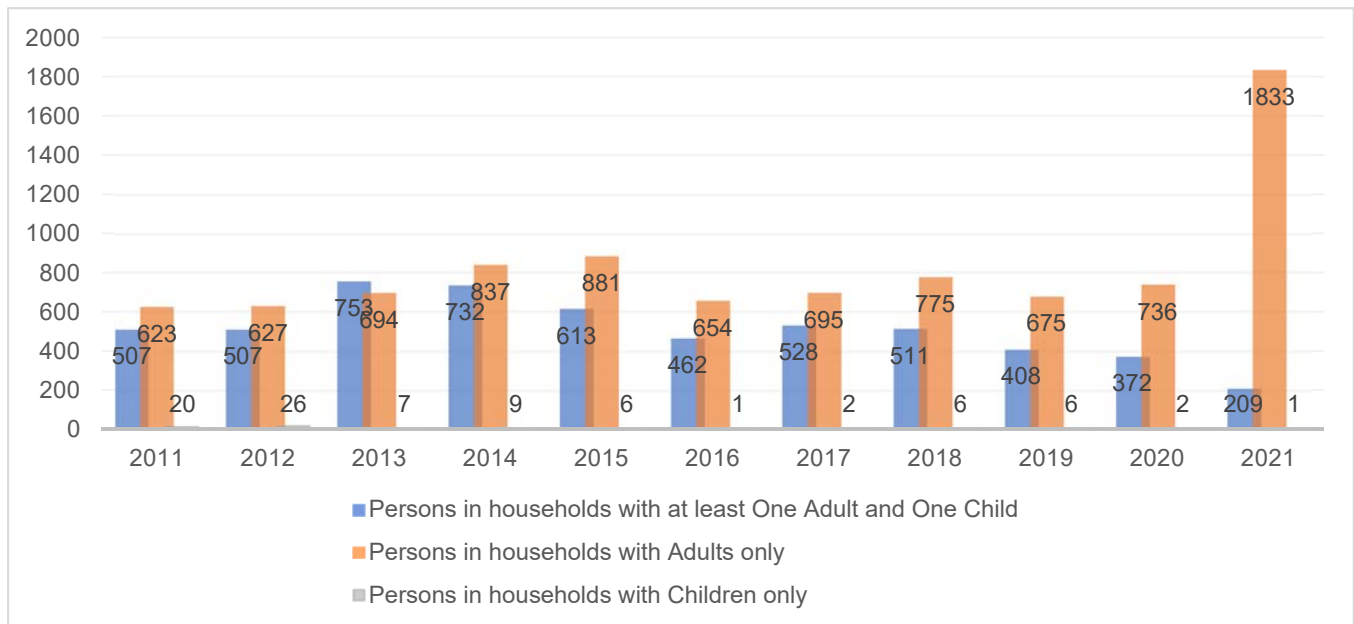


LOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS



*DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, NO UNSHELTERED COUNT WAS CONDUCTED IN 2021

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

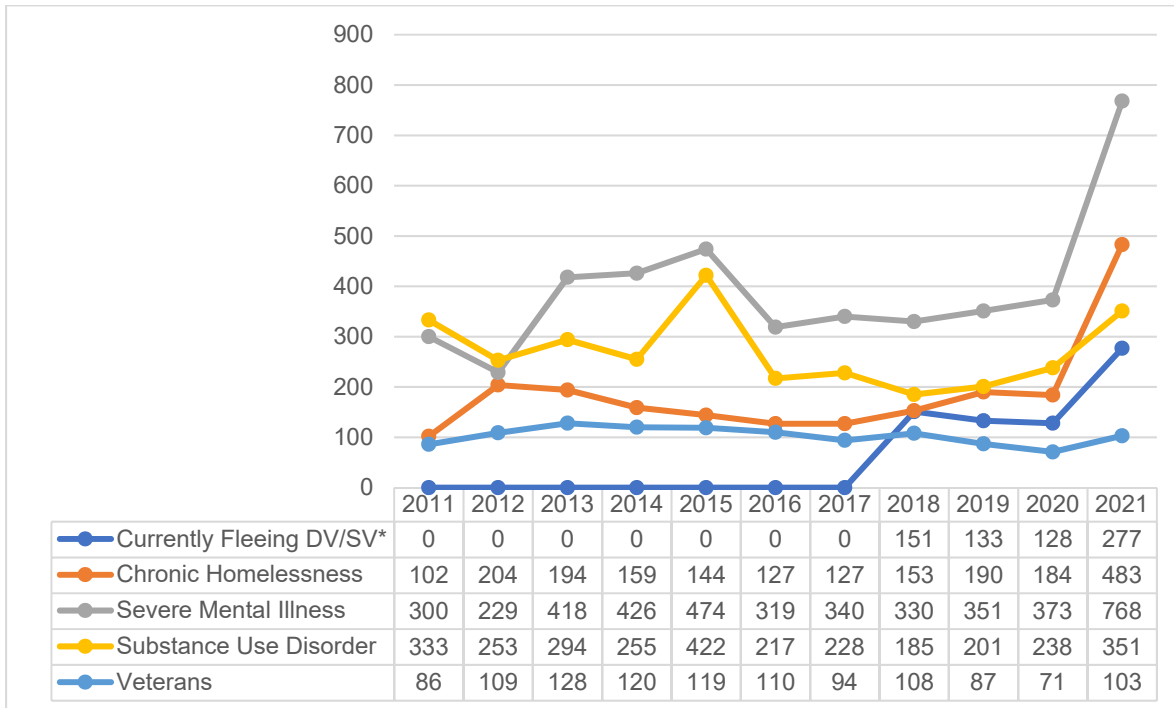


KEY FINDINGS

- **Families with Children** (at least one adult and one child): 209
- **Adults** (households with adults only): 1833
- **Unaccompanied Minors** (households with children only): 1

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, 483 persons (18.6% of total persons counted) self-identify as chronically homeless^[1].
- 768 persons (29.6% of total persons counted), reported having a severe mental illness, a 4% decrease from 2020.
- 351 persons (13.5% of total persons counted), reported having a substance use disorder, compared to 21.8% (238) in 2020 showing a decline in reported substance use issues.

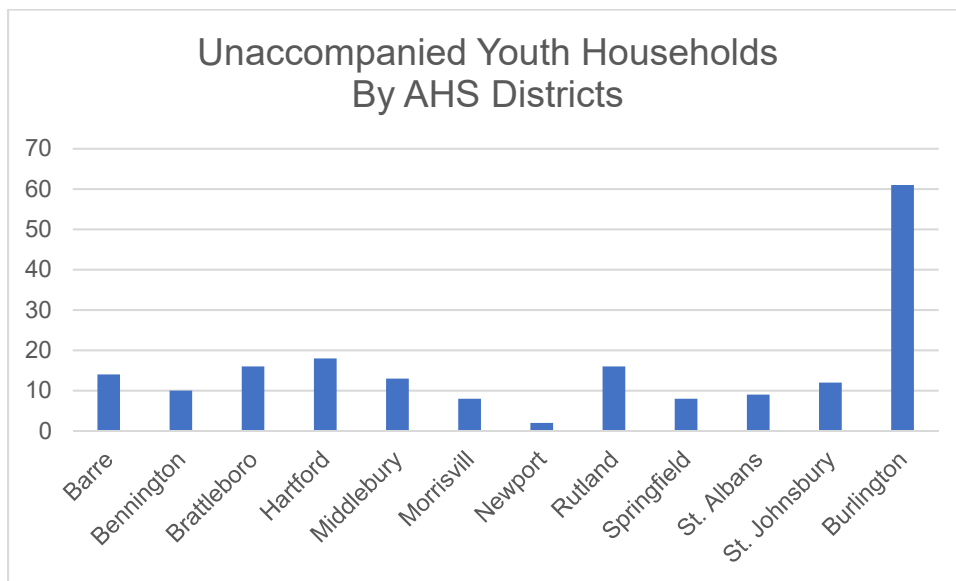
VETERANS

- The efforts of the VT Veterans Committee on Homelessness leading into 2020, resulted in an all-time low # of Veterans in VT with a steady multi-year decline ending in 2020, which then shifted to a 45% year-over-year increase in 2021. Veteran's homelessness continues to decline in the overall population. Veterans experiencing homelessness were 3.9% of the overall populations of households experiencing homeless in 2021 which is down from 6.5% in 2020.

^[1] 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).

- The changes from 2020 to 2021 can largely, if not solely, be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic response.
 - The increase in Veterans in emergency shelters is largely related to two primary factors, 1) Veterans leaving precarious housing situations (i.e. couch surfing/doubled up) who were vulnerable per CDC, and were granted emergency housing in hotels/motels either paid for by Vermont Economic Services Division or VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs with significant increases in national funding allocations for SSVF to pay for extended, emergency housing with relaxed enrollment criteria and 2) Veterans arrived to Vermont from other areas of the country in response to the harm reduction/prevention approaches taken by the state of VT (which included the positive perspectives of how Vermont was portrayed in national media outlets in response to COVID, such as comparatively lower infection rates, comparatively rural setting, etc.).
 - The decrease in Veterans in transitional housing was directly related to the approach of moving people out of congregate housing settings, which included the 2 VA Grant & Per Diem programs, thereby reducing the census of each to a safe and manageable number in response to COVID-19.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

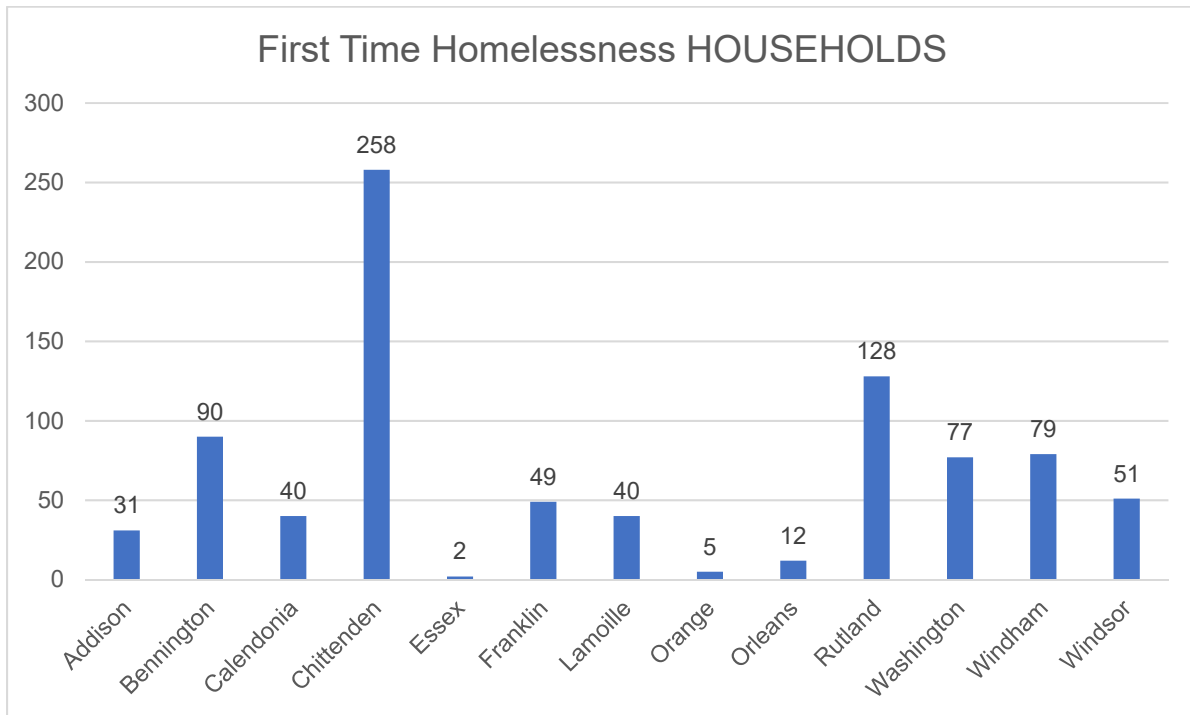
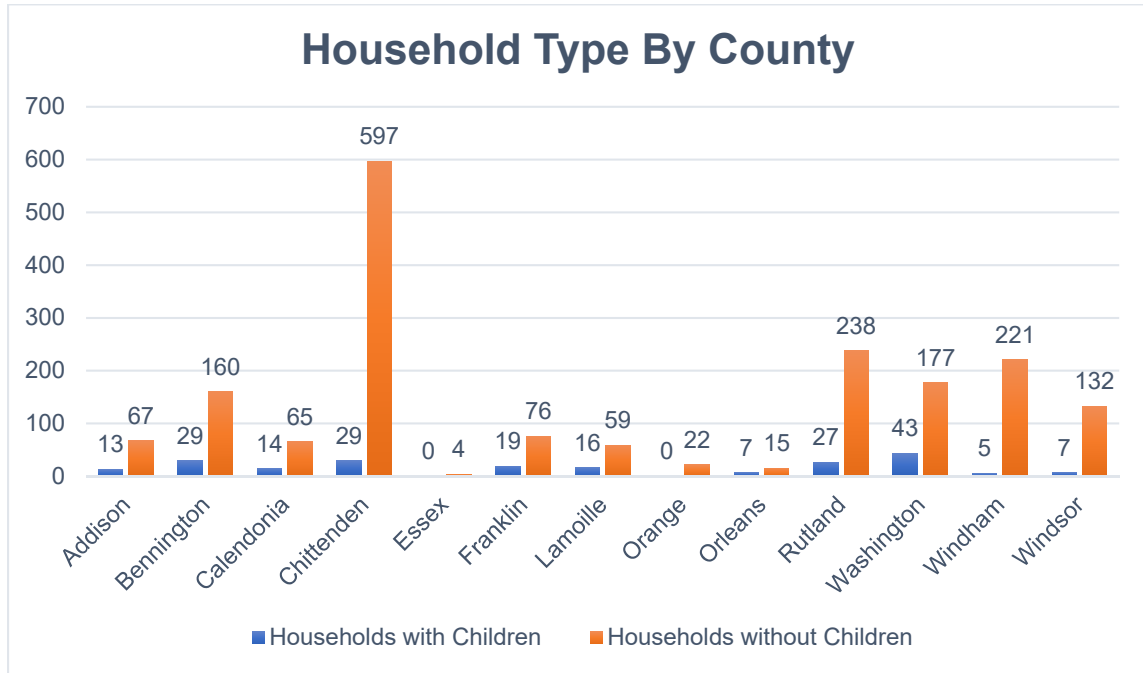


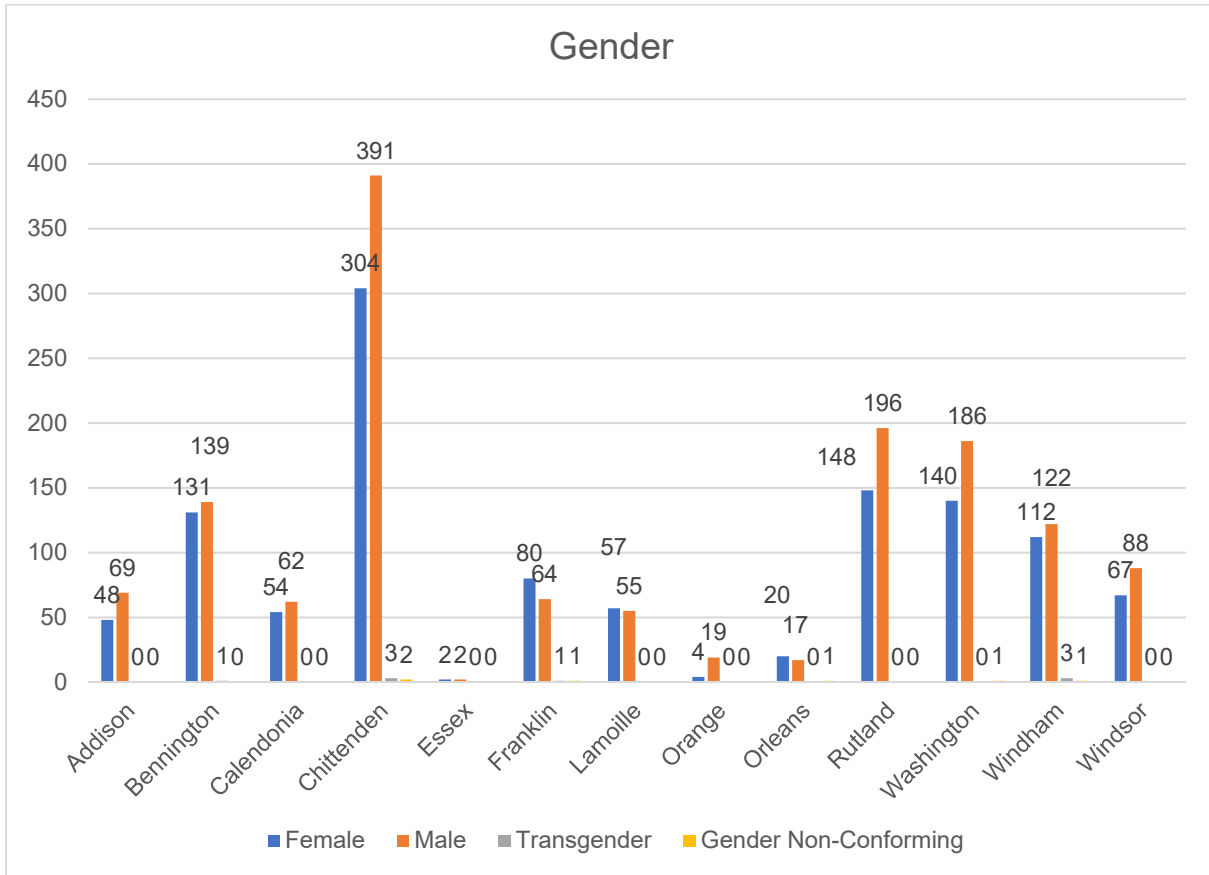
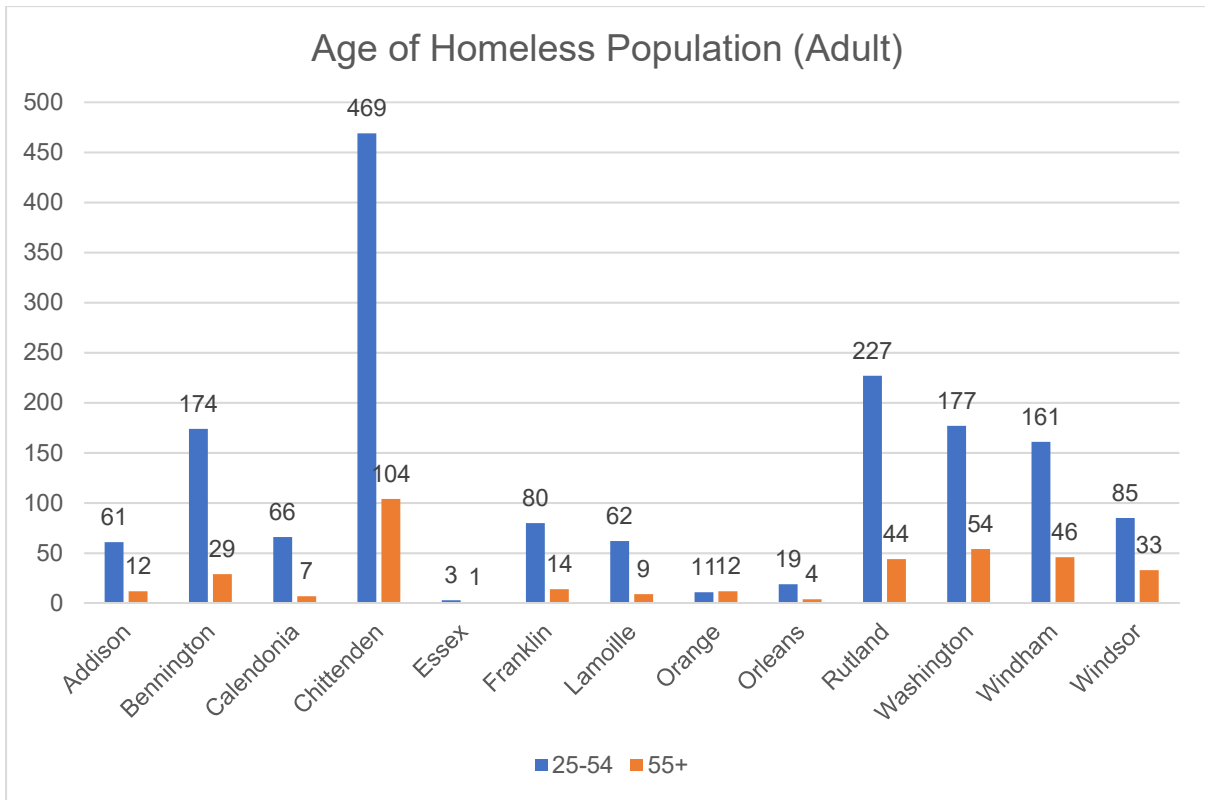
KEY FINDINGS

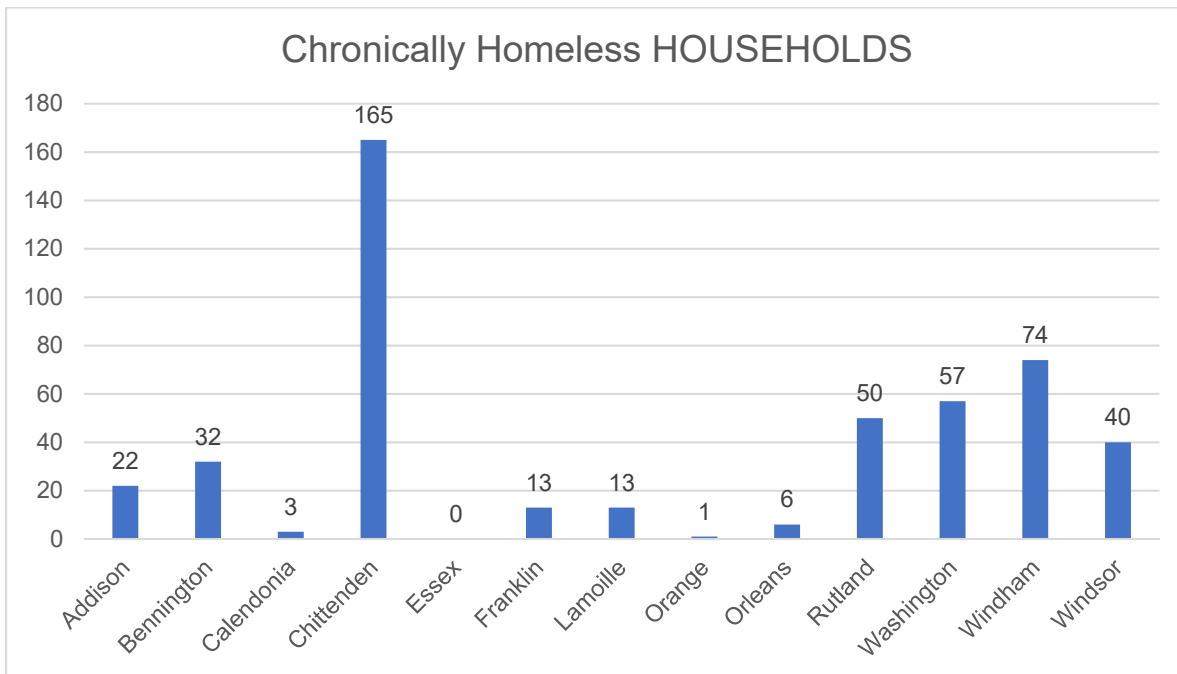
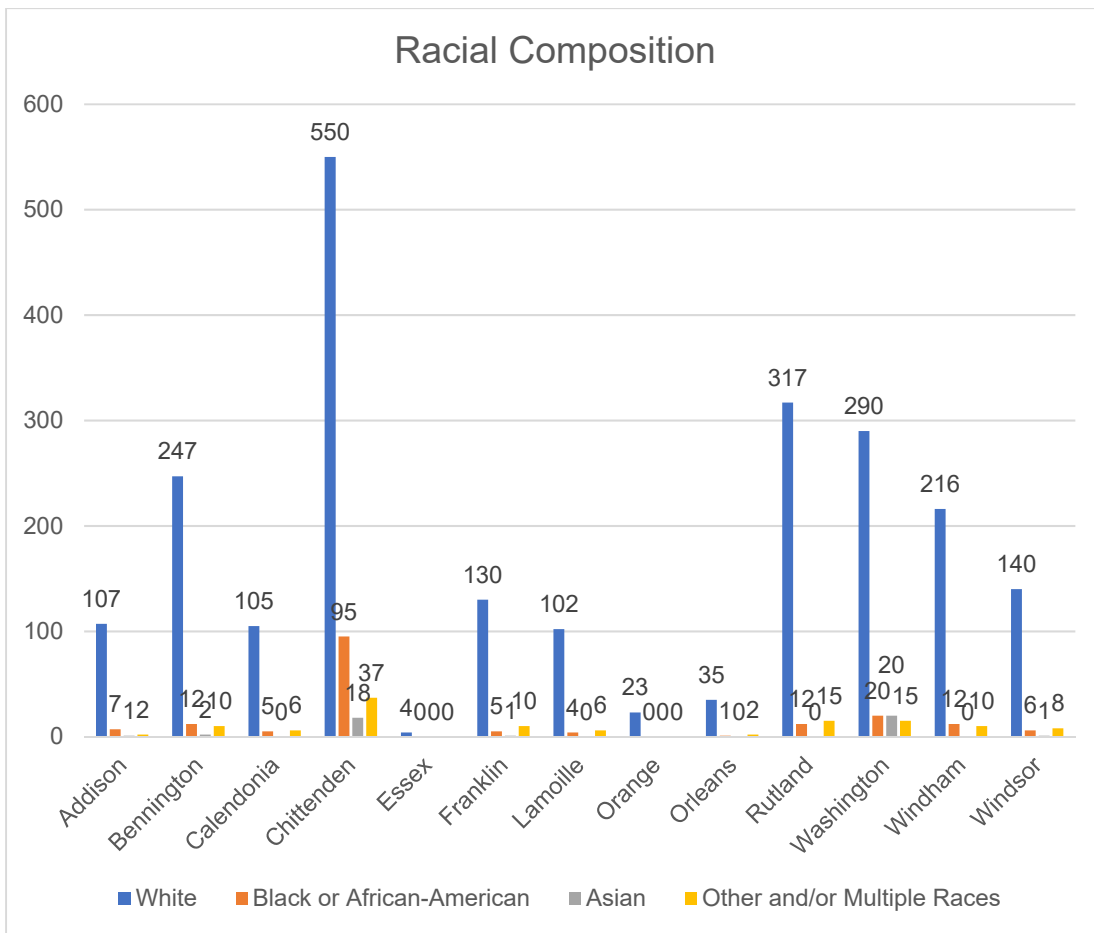
- A total of 187 unaccompanied youth households
- Equal distribution by gender
- 24 are parenting youth households

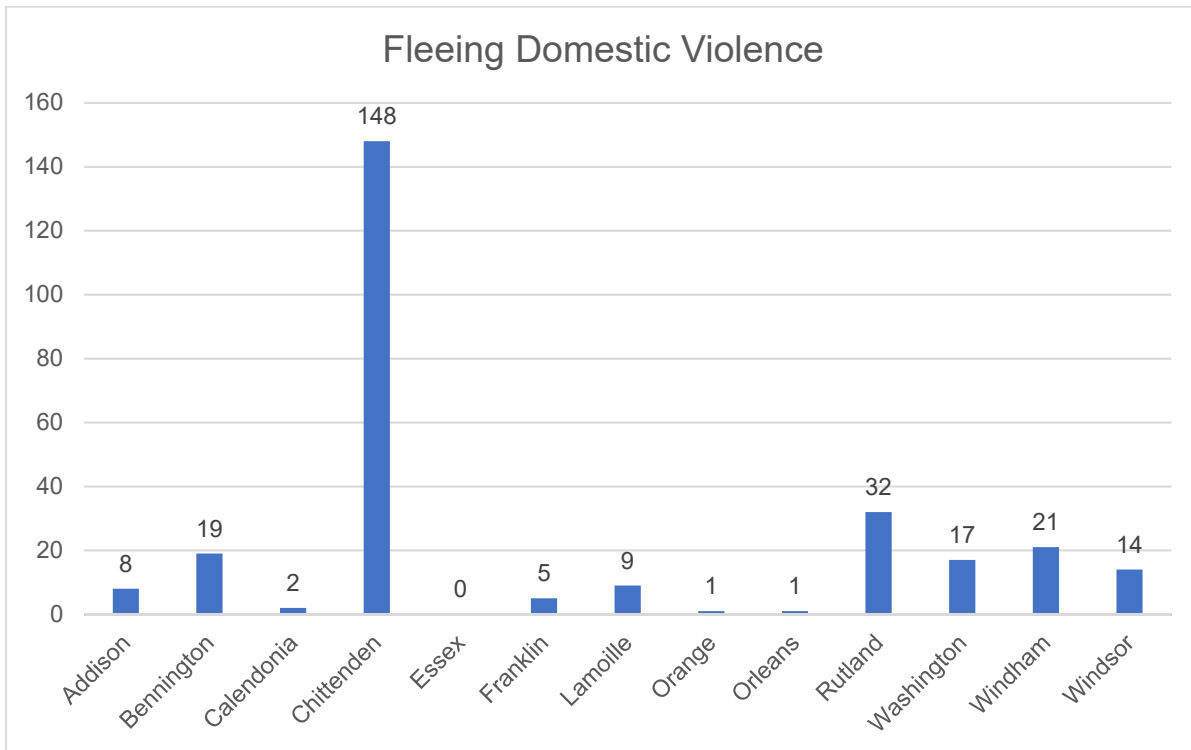
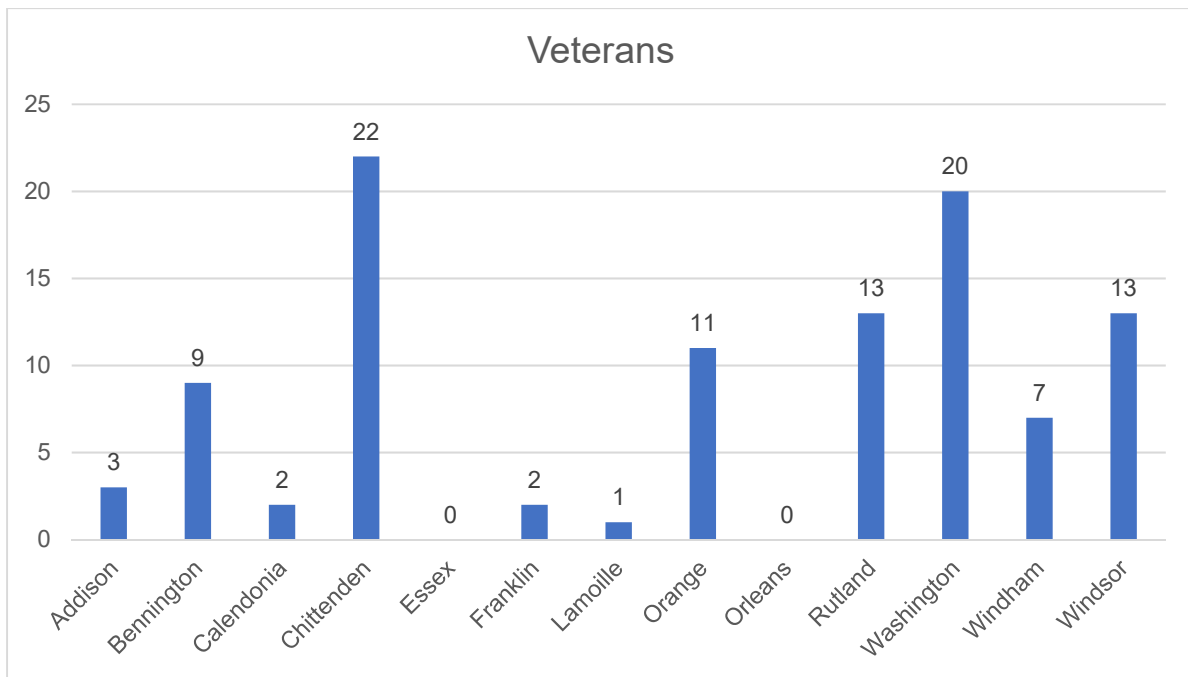
COUNTY BREAKDOWNS

Grand Isle County is not included as it had a homeless count of zero persons.

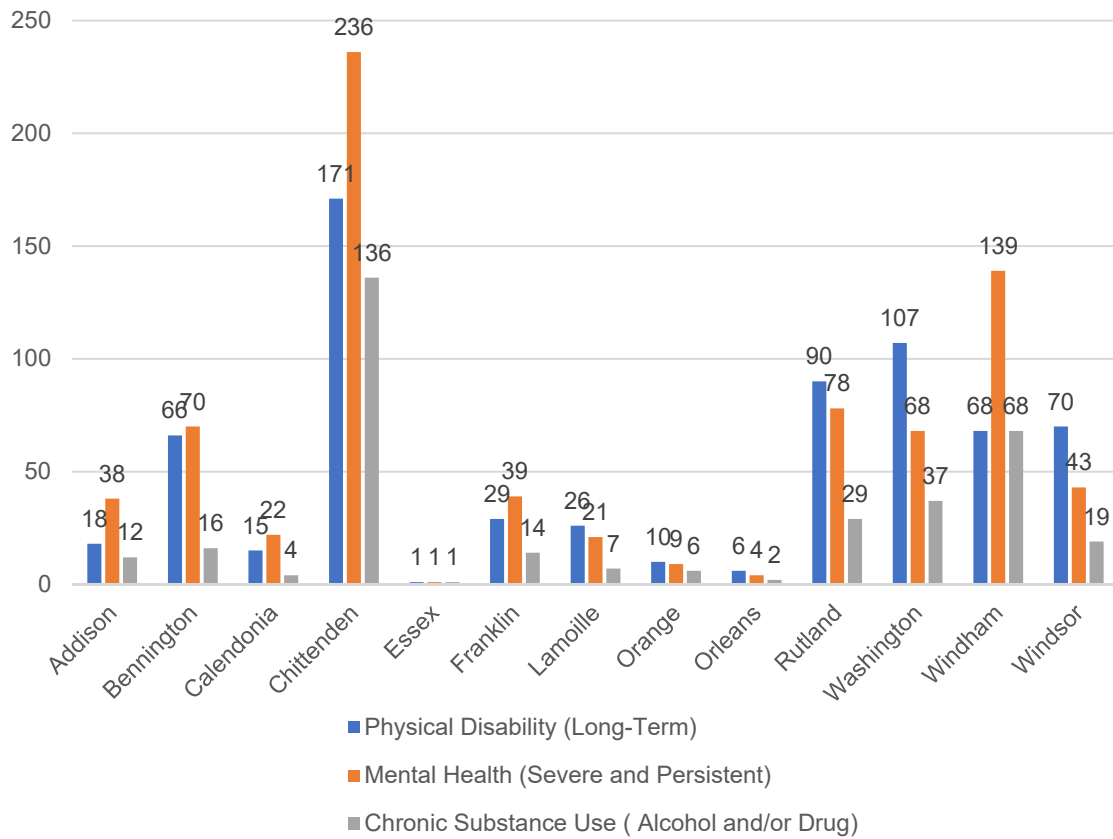




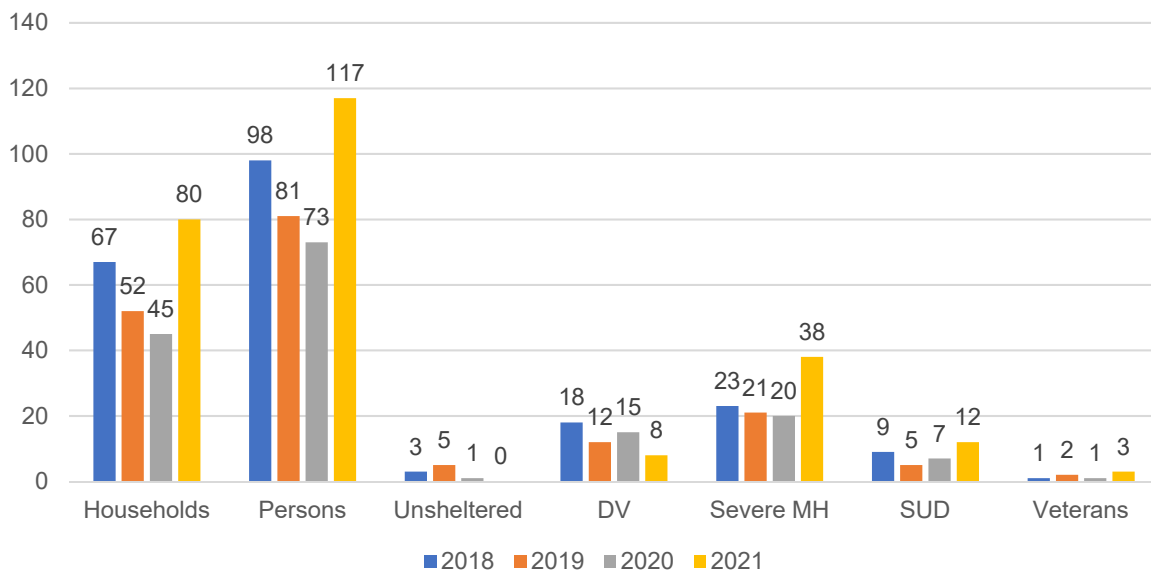


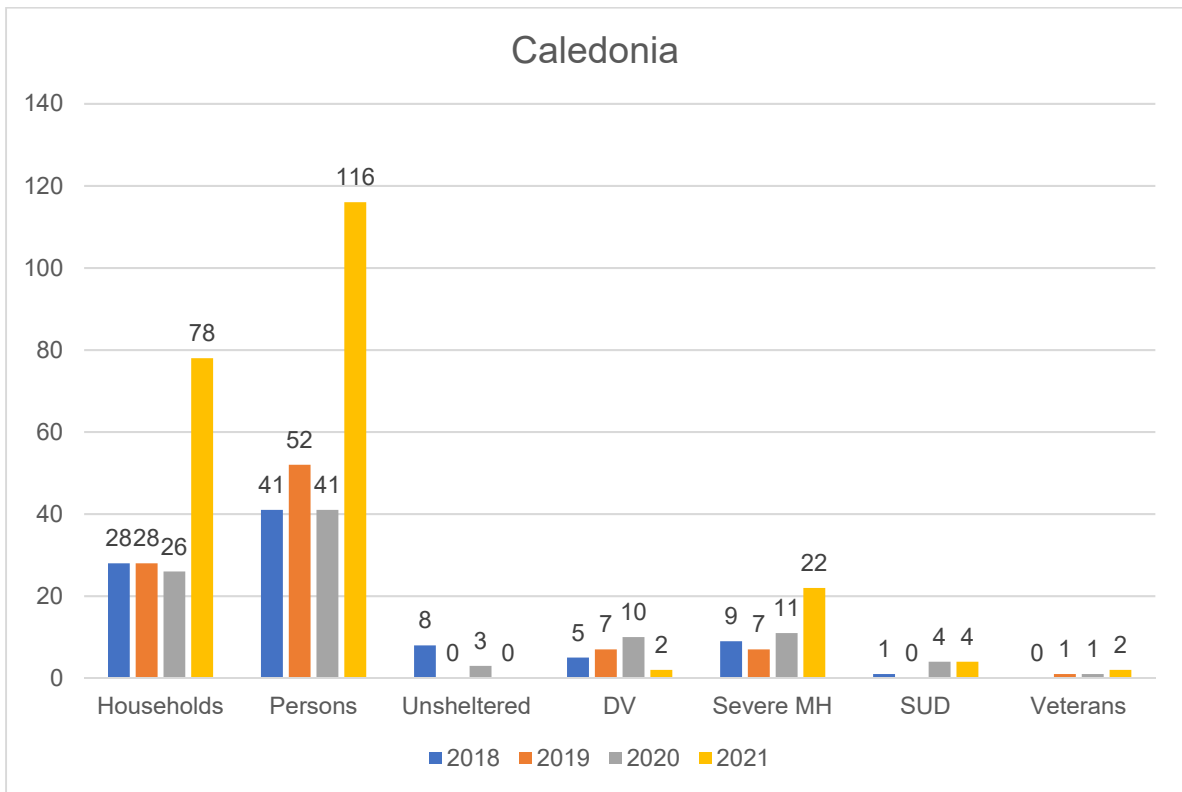
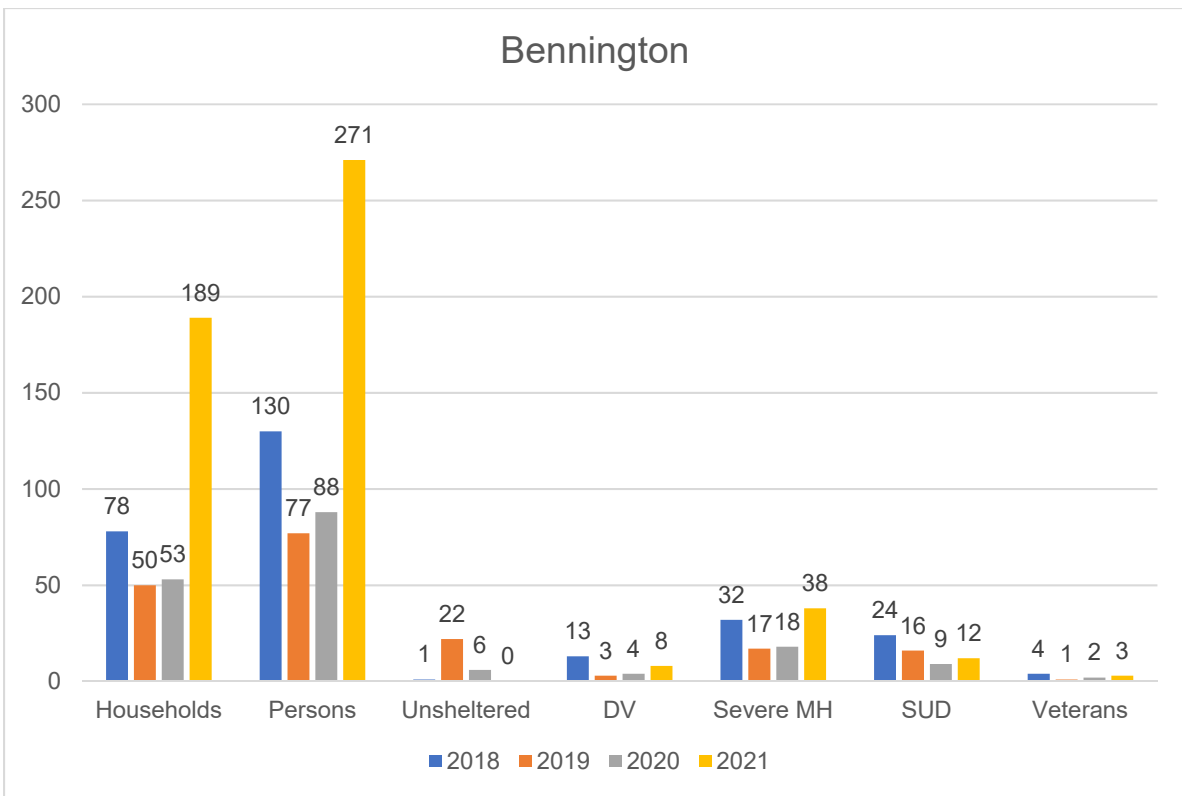


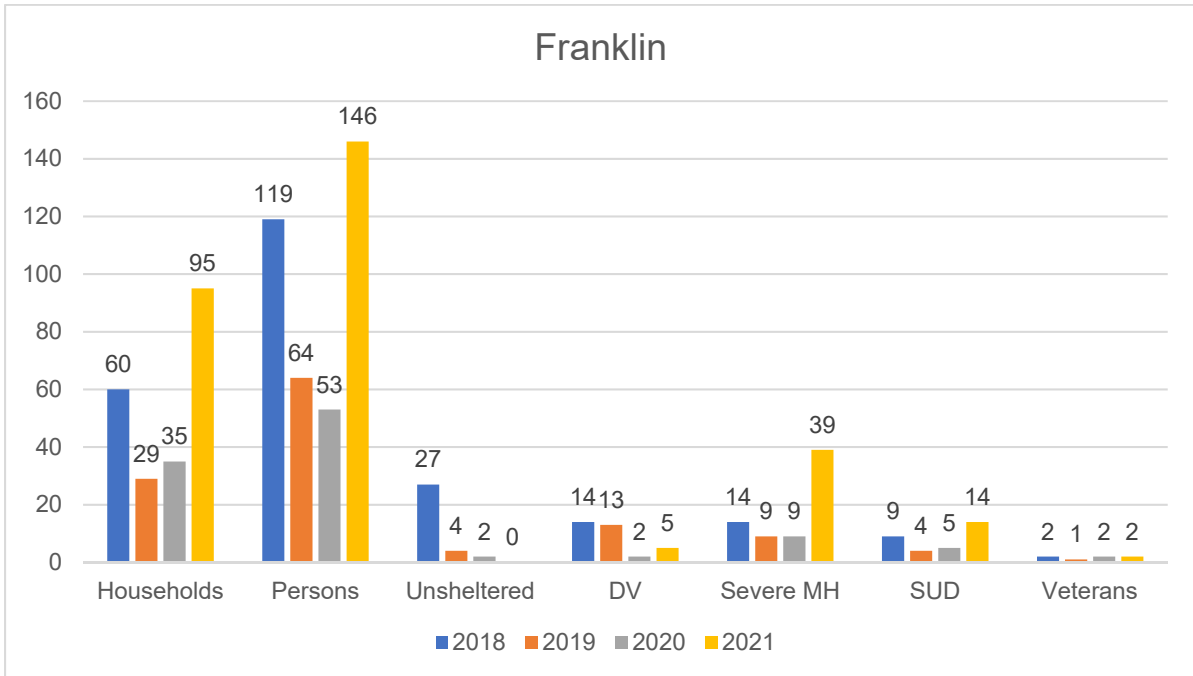
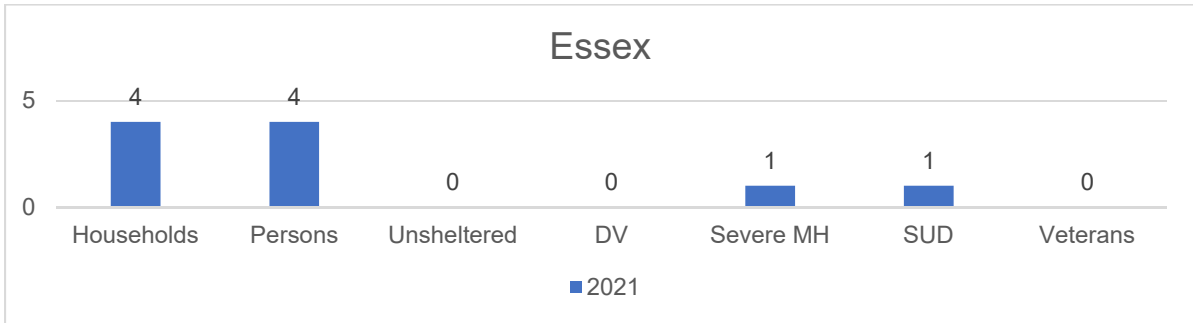
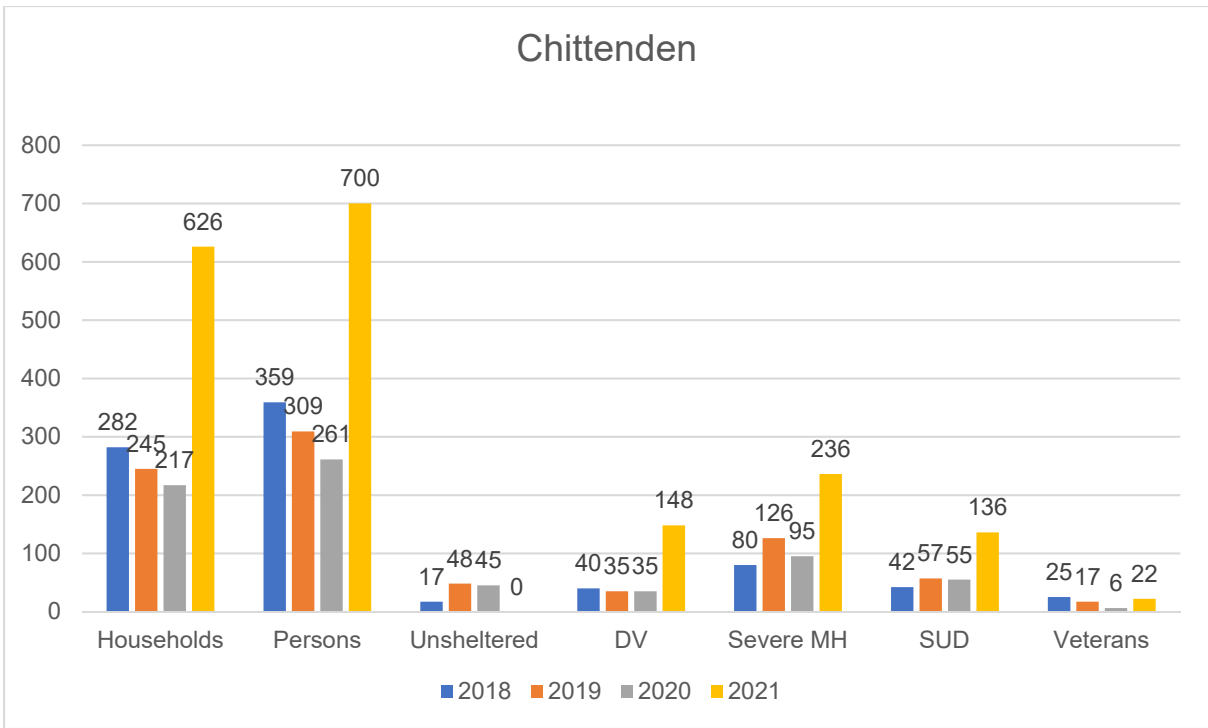
Chronic Health Conditions

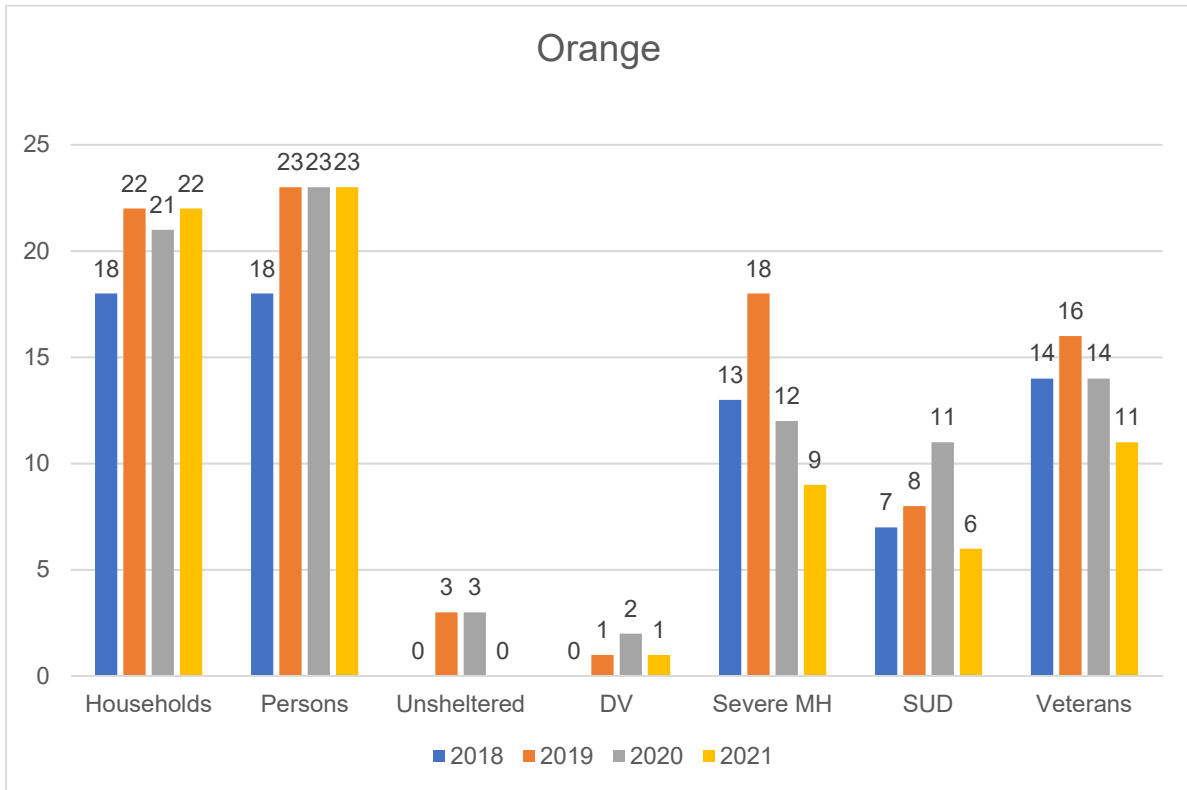
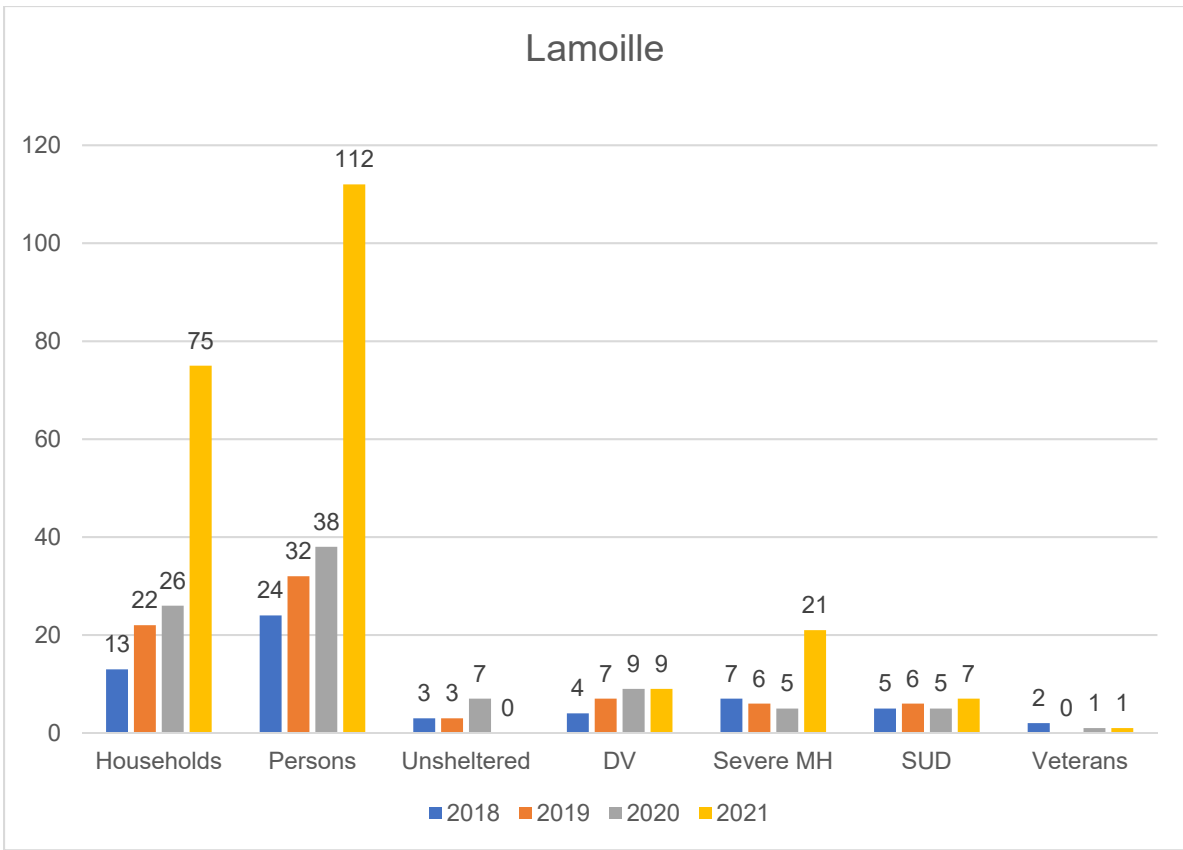


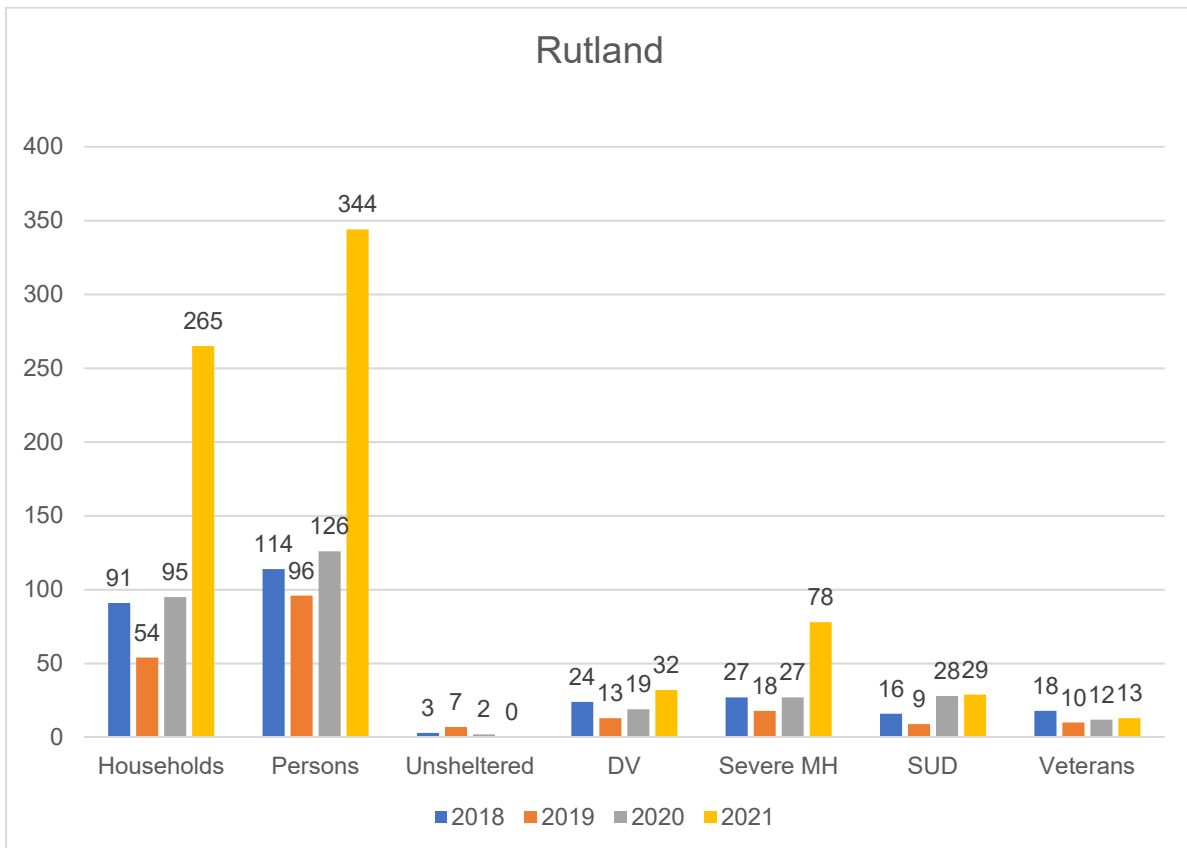
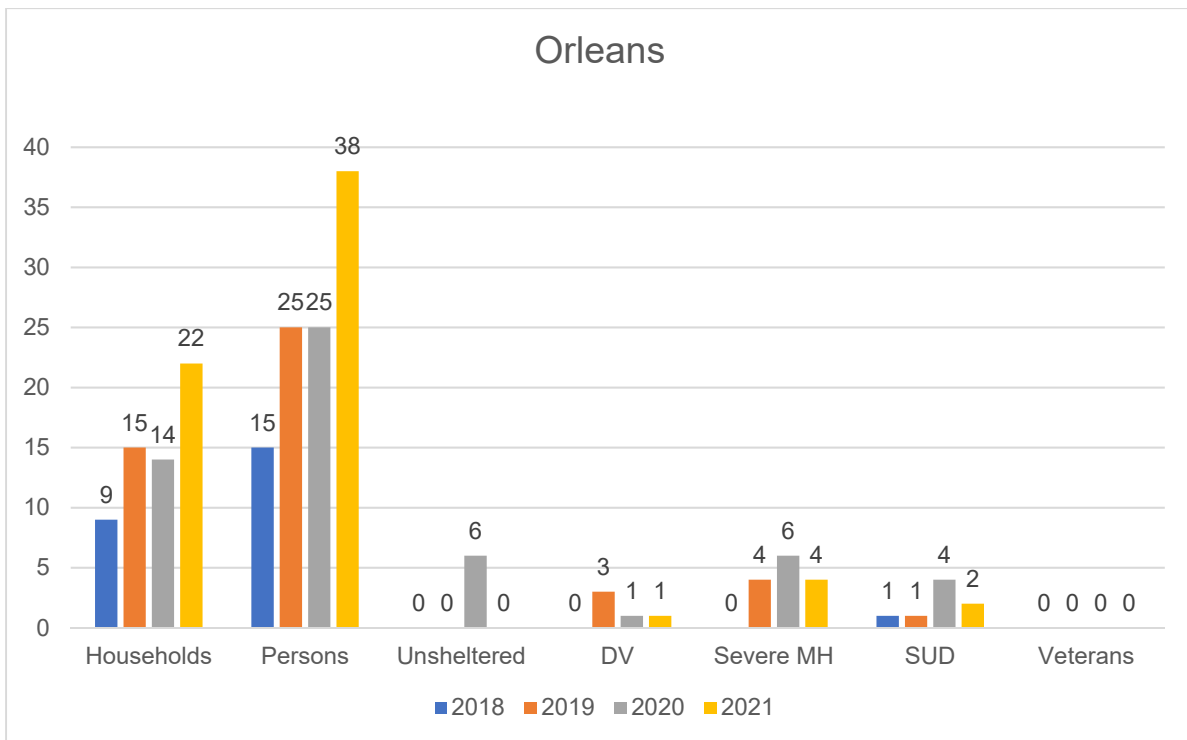
Addison



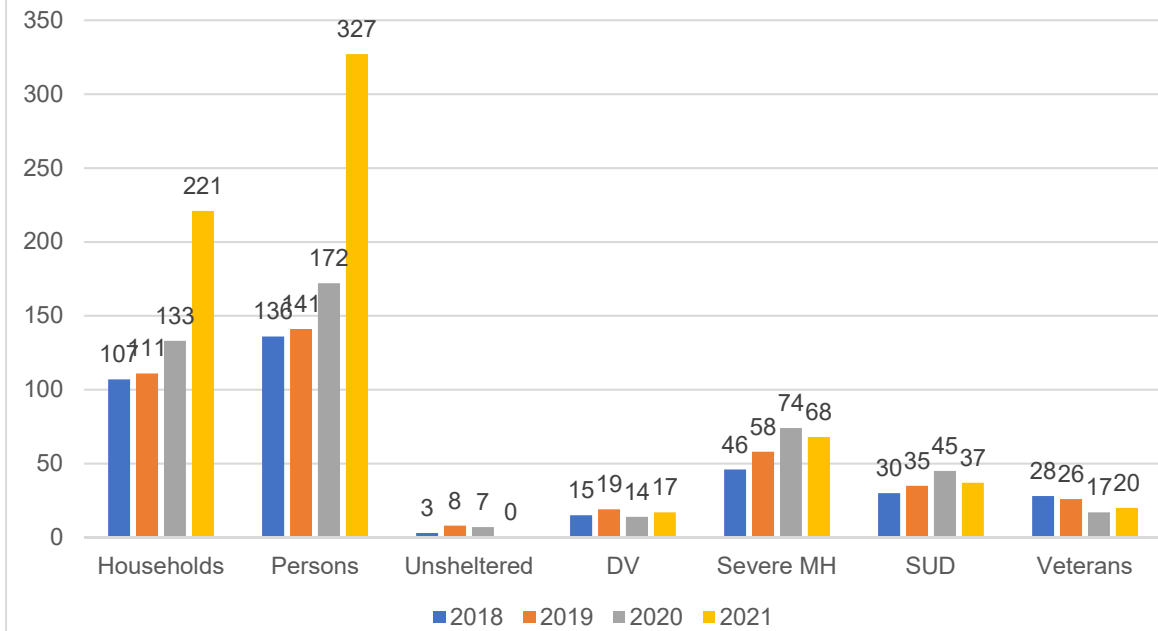




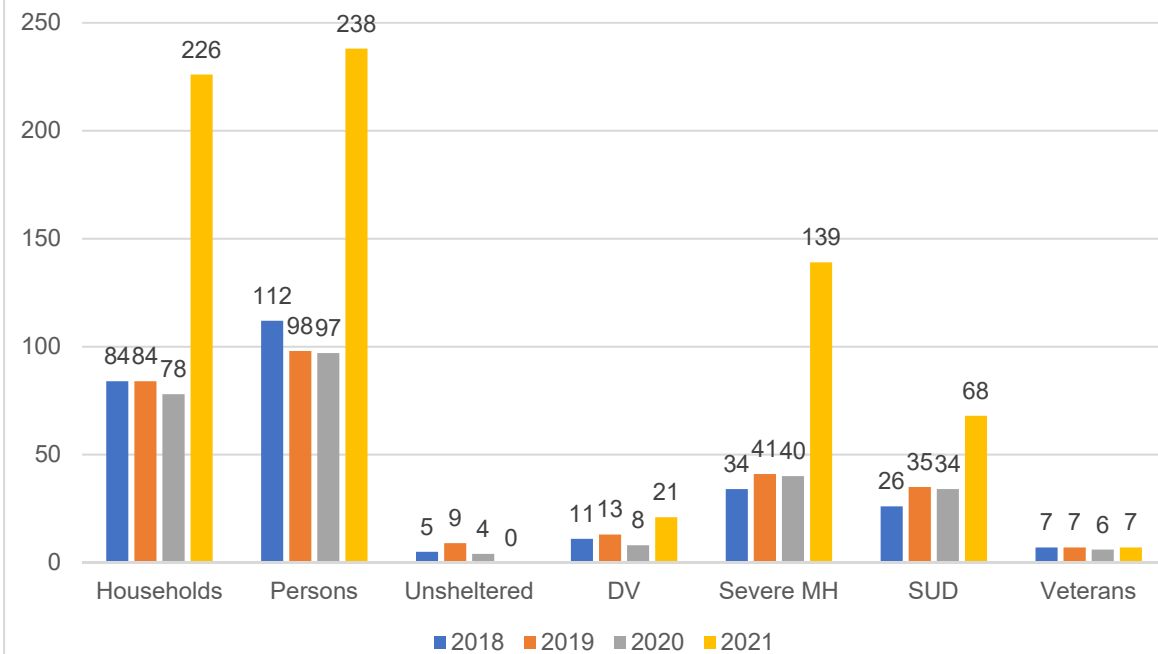




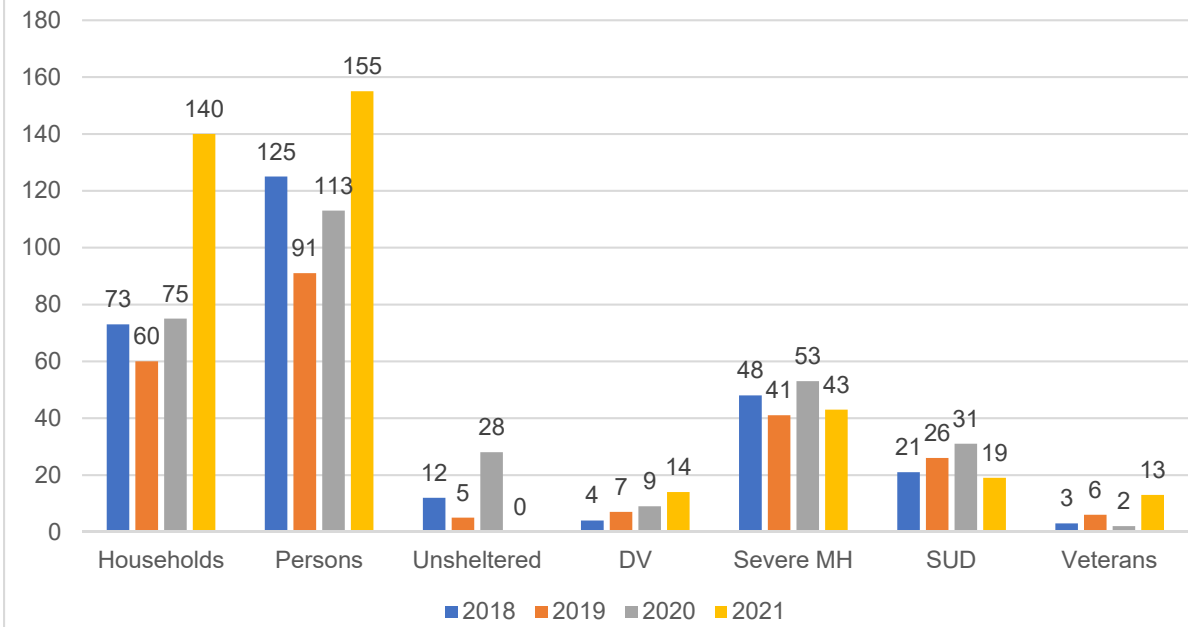
Washington



Windham



Windsor



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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Caledonia & Essex Counties Continuum of Care:

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Holly Olio, Northwestern Counseling & Support Services

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