

Fayetteville / Cumberland County 2017 Point-in-Time Count

Annual Homelessness Summary Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND

- 3 Acknowledgements
- 4-5 Introduction
- 6 About
- 7-8 Definitions

CONTEXT

- 9-10 Key Findings
- 11-15 Trends

FINDINGS

- 16-19 Data Collection Methodology
- 20 Statewide Context

CONCLUSION

- 21 Closing Points
- 22 End Notes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Center for Economic Empowerment (CEED)
- City of Fayetteville Community Development
- City of Fayetteville Police Department
- Connections of Cumberland County
- Cumberland County Community Development (CCCD)
- CCCD – PATH Team
- Cumberland County Schools
- Cumberland Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Family Endeavors
- Fayetteville Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Fayetteville VA Medical Center
- Myrover-Reese Fellowship Home
- Salvation Army of Fayetteville
- True Vines Ministries

In Recognition of Unsheltered PIT Count Support:

Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department
Hope Mills Police Department
Operation Inasmuch
Spring Lake Police Department

Special Thanks: The Fayetteville/Cumberland County CoC would like to extend a very special thank you to Officer Stacy Sanders for her tireless efforts as our community’s Homeless Project Officer, particularly for her continual support of the unsheltered PIT, and to everyone who volunteered in the 2017 NC-511 Point-in-Time Count. Your dedication, time, and effort provided an invaluable service towards ensuring our homeless community has a voice.

This project was funded by Cumberland County Community Development, in direct partnership with the City of Fayetteville Community Development.

INTRODUCTION

The Fayetteville/Cumberland County Continuum of Care (CoC) presents the 2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Count (PIT Count) Annual Homelessness Summary Report.

PIT

The PIT Count is a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated yearly count of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night during the month of January. It is an unduplicated census of people who are experiencing homelessness, and is intended to provide a *snapshot* of vital information to our community regarding who our homeless citizens are. The count is comprised of two components: sheltered and unsheltered. The sheltered portion consists of census data collected on all households/individuals residing in an emergency shelter or in transitional housing. The unsheltered portion is comprised of many volunteers (individuals, service providers, and law enforcement – as denoted in the acknowledgments section) identifying homeless persons inhabiting places unfit for human habitation and conducting surveys as a method of counting. This report draws attention to the 2017 Fayetteville-Cumberland County PIT Count results, with the ultimate goal of contributing towards the understanding of homelessness in the city of Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

Limitations

Counting those who are experiencing homelessness is a difficult task; utilization of surveys on a single night historically undercount's the homeless population. It is all too easy to *miss* person's experiencing homelessness – for a multitude of reasons. They may not be receiving services at the agency designed to serve them. Many frequently enter and leave homelessness throughout the year. Changes to HUD's definitions of homelessness, inaccuracy of "self-reported" data, variables of housing classification, and limiting the count to those who fall strictly under HUD standards of homelessness are all characteristics of the limitations to the PIT count.

Unsheltered homeless individuals are particularly difficult to count, as they are often in places not easily located. They are often transient and move from location to location. Those who are living in a vehicle, a campground, or other unsuitable and uninhabitable living situations are often not easy to identify. Other subpopulations who are difficult to include in the PIT comprise of individuals experiencing domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and undocumented persons; as well, many who are chronically homeless choose not to use shelters. The sheltered homeless count portion of the PIT is wholly reliant on the contribution of agencies and organizations who serve homeless individuals and families – whether through volunteering in the count or participating in the utilization of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

“The PIT count does not identify who is eligible for HUD’s homeless assistance programs. The PIT only attempts to count persons that are living in unsheltered and certain sheltered situations; it would not be

possible for CoCs to count persons that meet all categories of homelessness as defined by HUD even though they may be eligible for certain homeless assistance programs. The PIT report is also not a statement that everything is going according to plan or that we have won the fight against homelessness”¹

- The PIT does not include individuals or families who only meet the definition of homelessness under other federal statutes. Therefore, persons precariously housed, “doubled-up”, or “couch-surfing” (meaning persons who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason) are not considered literally homeless according to HUD’s definition.
- 640 students from Cumberland County Schools are not included in the PIT Count, but they are indicated in this report as meeting The **McKinney-Vento** Education Assistance Act’s definition of homelessness.
- Not all of the persons affected by Hurricane Matthew, and living in hotels, are included in the PIT – specifically because the information was not available or accessible during that period. Therefore, only 30 persons are counted, even though approximately 204 households were staying in the hotels during this time.”



Given these limitations, and the differences in PIT counts across the years, it is important to interpret these findings as estimates and not precise counts; nor should they be inferred as exact increases or decreases in the homeless population. Rather, consider it a tool for looking at aggregate trends, examining the many different characteristics of our homeless population,

and as a mechanism for identifying the needs of Cumberland County-City of Fayetteville’s homeless population.

PIT COUNT

24
Volunteers



6:00am – 6:00am

January 25th-26th, 2017

19
Agencies

¹<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-in-focus-a-discussion-about-the-point-in-time-count/>

ABOUT

Fayetteville/Cumberland County CoC

The Fayetteville/Cumberland County Continuum of Care (CoC) on Homelessness was established in response to a mandate from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to facilitate the coordination of the community's human services agencies, and the community-at-large, in order to adequately set strategies for addressing the needs of Fayetteville and Cumberland County's impoverished populations; to include homeless persons and those persons at-risk of becoming homeless through the Continuum of Care System. The CoC is structured in accordance to the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, which codifies in law the Continuum of Care planning process (Section 1504) and the Continuum of Care Interim Rule, 24 CFR Part 578.



DEFINITIONS (2,3)



Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

A one-day statistically reliable unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in a specific area.

Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)

A point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

A computerized data collection system that tracks services received by homeless people, helps identify gaps in services within the CoC, and allows for greater collaboration among service providers by providing a "history" of a homeless person's involvement in the system of care.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

Any facility that the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific subpopulations of the homeless.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Provides long-term (not time-limited), safe, and decent housing for homeless persons with disabilities, enabling independent living.

Rapid Rehousing (RR)

Places a priority on moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible, ideally within 30 days of the client becoming homeless or entering a program.

² <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/H2-Glossary-of-Housing-and-Health-Care-Terms.pdf>

³ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>

DEFINITIONS

Sheltered Homes Persons

An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregated shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).

Unsheltered Homes Persons

An individual or family 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.

Chronically Homeless

Unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.



Victims of Domestic Violence (DV)

Adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Homeless Parenting Youth

A youth who identifies 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, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

Veteran

A Veteran is a person who has served in the active military, naval or air service, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

Fayetteville – Cumberland County 2017 Point-in-Time Count

ANNUAL HOMELESS COUNT SUMMARY REPORT

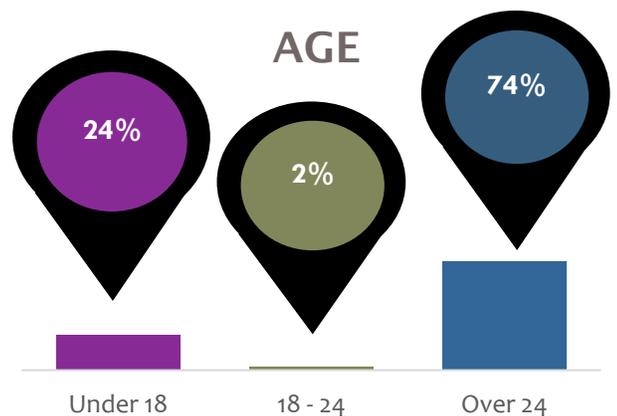
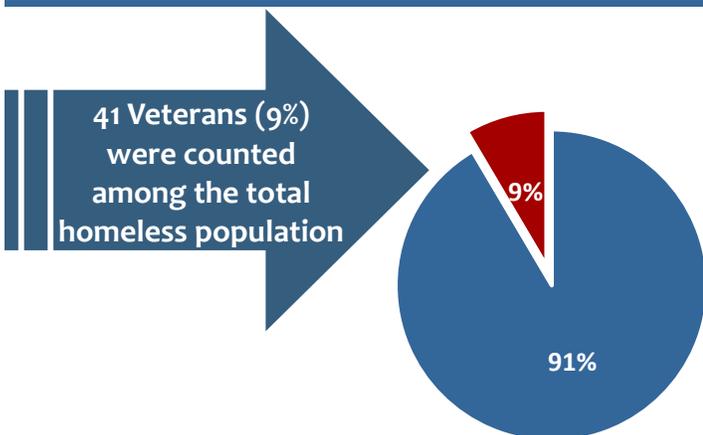
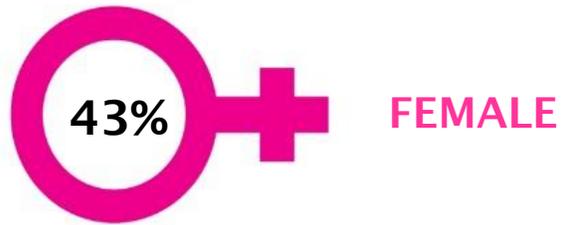
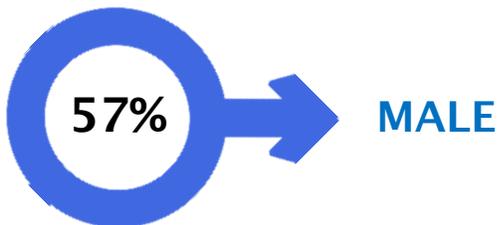
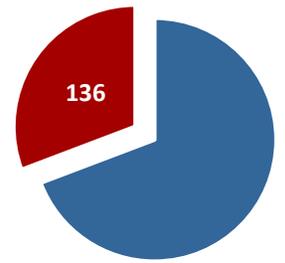
January 25th, 2017

KEY FINDINGS

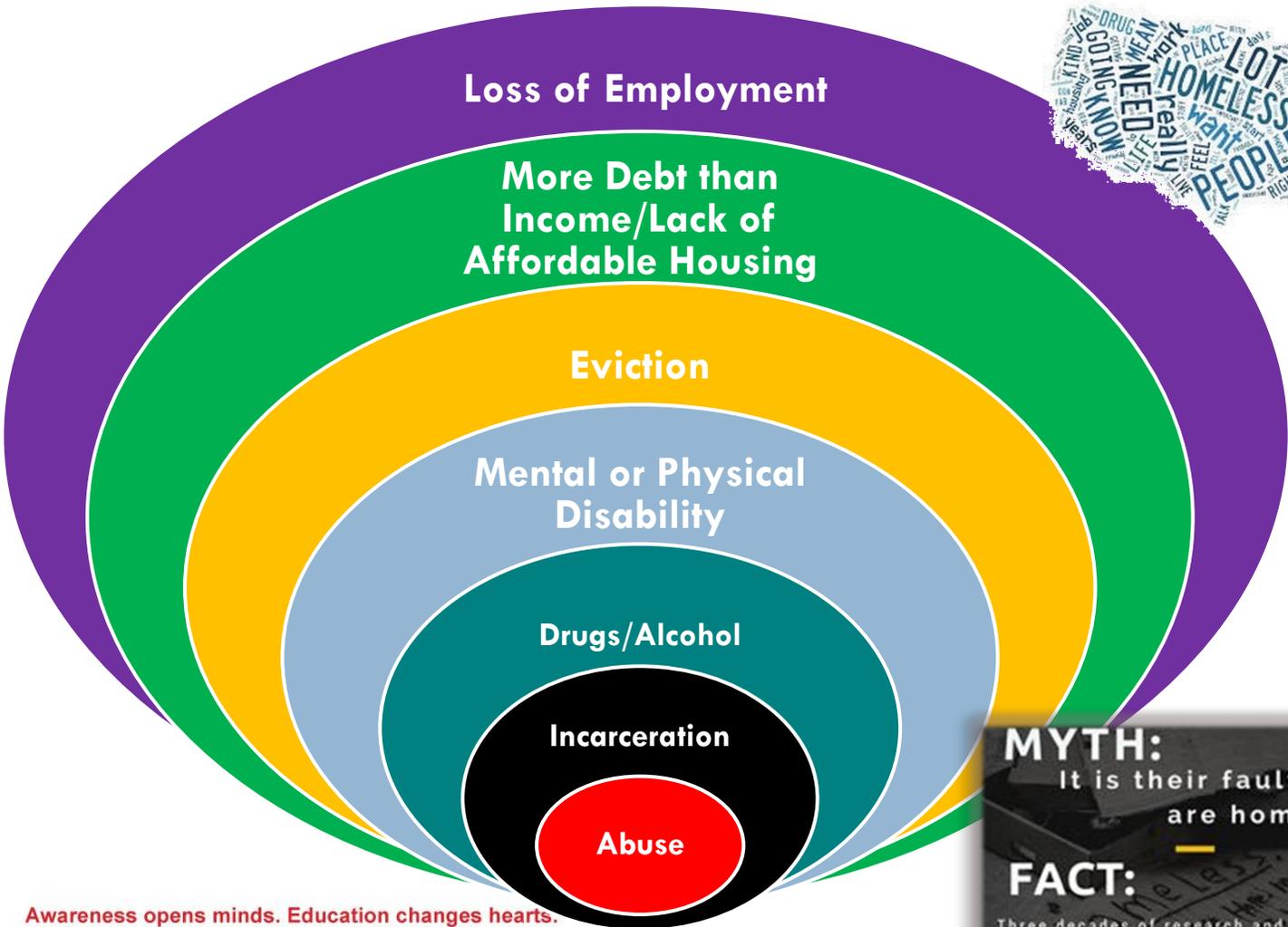


AT LEAST
442
PEOPLE WERE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN CUMBERLAND
COUNTY, NC

Approximately **1 in 3**
homeless individuals are
considered chronically
homeless



Common Causes of Homelessness



MYTH:
It is their fault they are homeless

FACT:
Three decades of research and experience show that people become homeless for a myriad of reasons: loss of a job, lowered wages, health care crisis, increased rent, a family emergency, fleeing domestic violence, or even landlord bullying.

MYTH:
Homelessness is not a housing problem- homeless people simply don't want to work.

FACT:
The major cause of homelessness is worsening housing affordability, both in North Carolina and across the United States. By every measure, the housing affordability gap – that is, the gap between incomes and housing costs – has grown dramatically wider over the past three decades.

Awareness opens minds. Education changes hearts.

Myths of Homelessness

- All homeless people choose to be homeless.
- All homeless people sleep all the time.
- All homeless people are service resistant.
- All homeless people abuse drugs and alcohol.
- All homeless people make a ton of money begging.
- All homeless people are bums.
- Homelessness will never end.
- All homeless people flock to our city for services.
- Helping homeless people only enables them.

This is the Reality.

People become homeless due to:

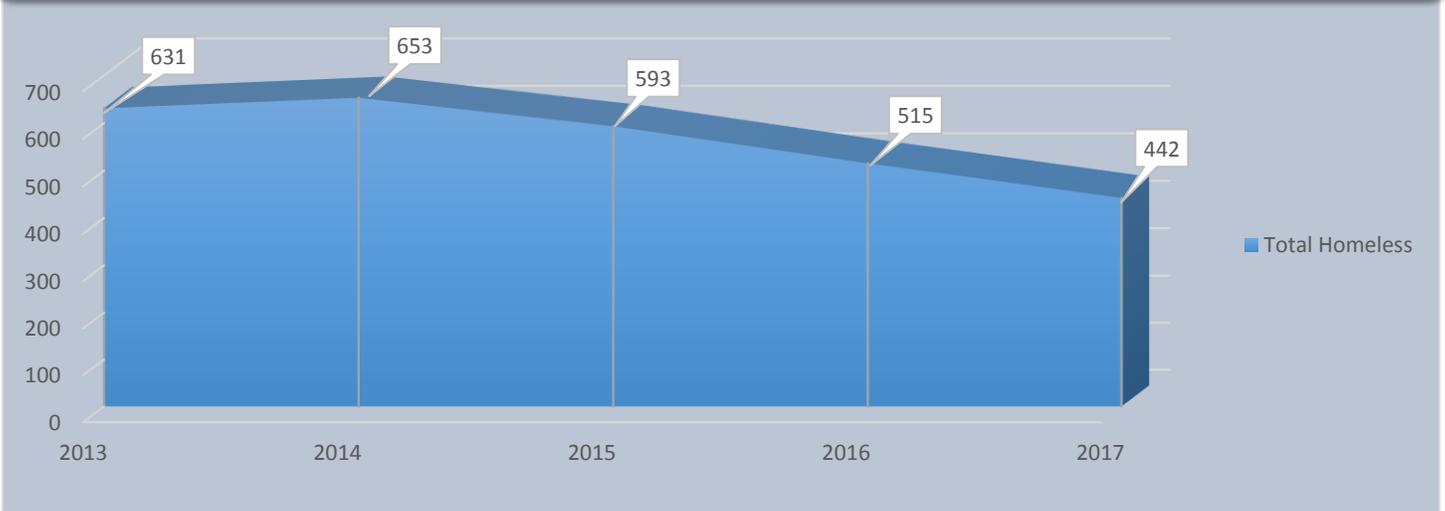
- + Lack of Affordable Housing
- + Unemployment
- + Foreclosure
- + Domestic Violence
- + Traumatic Experiences
- + Natural Disasters
- + Poverty
- + Disabilities

Personal misperceptions and negative stories in the media create myths about homelessness.

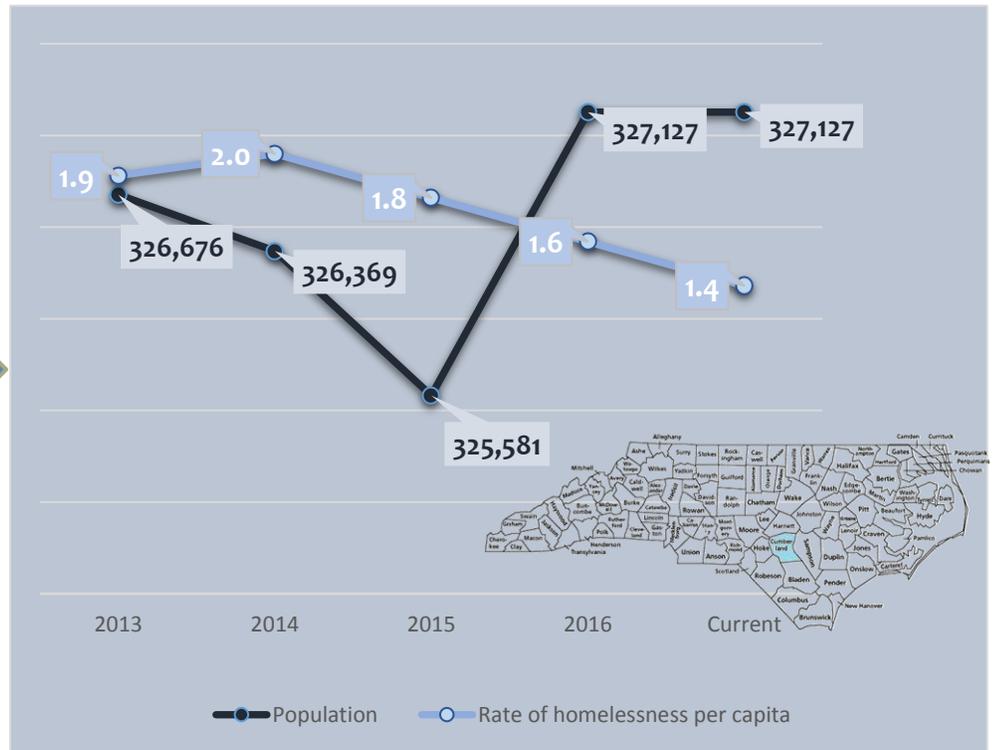
⁴ <http://www.homelesshub.ca/gallery/awareness-opens-minds-education-changes-hearts>

TRENDS

Overall Homeless Population



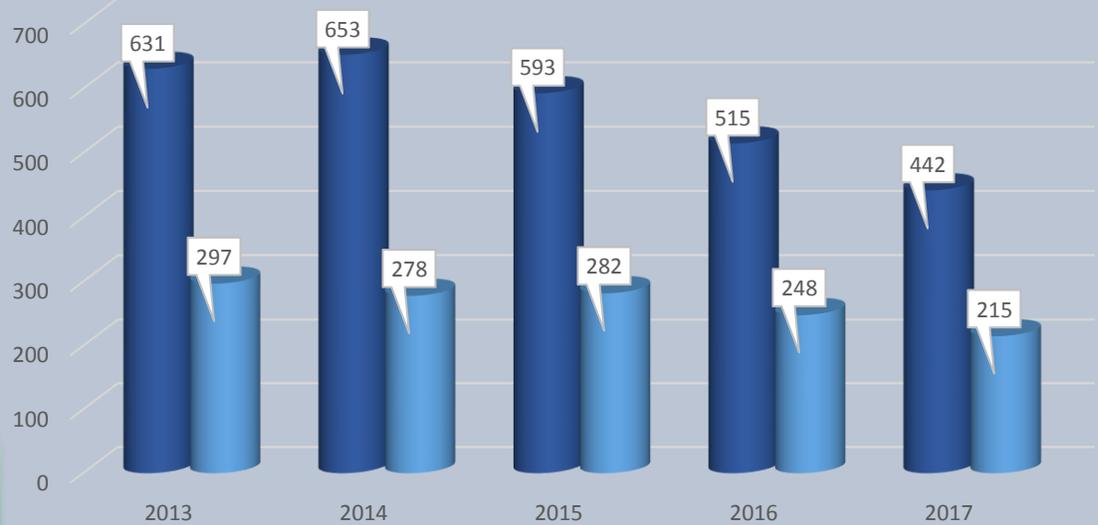
Per capita (the rate of homeless persons to every 1,000 Cumberland County resident), homelessness has steadily decreased in Cumberland County since 2014.



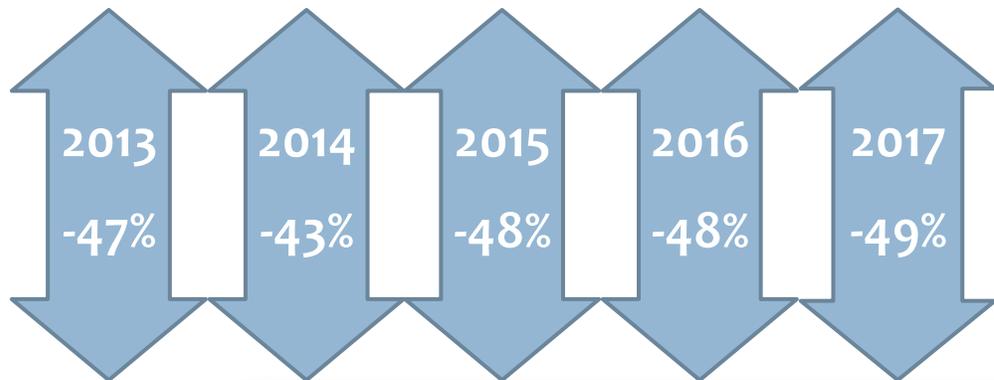
Total Available Shelter Beds



■ Total Homeless
■ Total Beds (ES & TH)



The gap in total available shelter beds – as compared to the number of homeless persons – sits at a median of **47%** despite a consistent decrease in the identified total homeless population.



On the night of the PIT, there were an additional

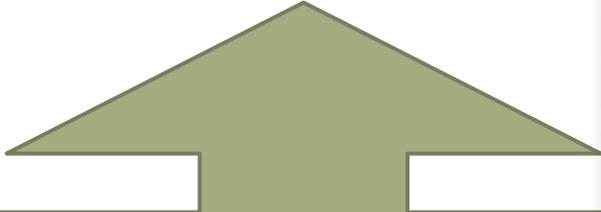
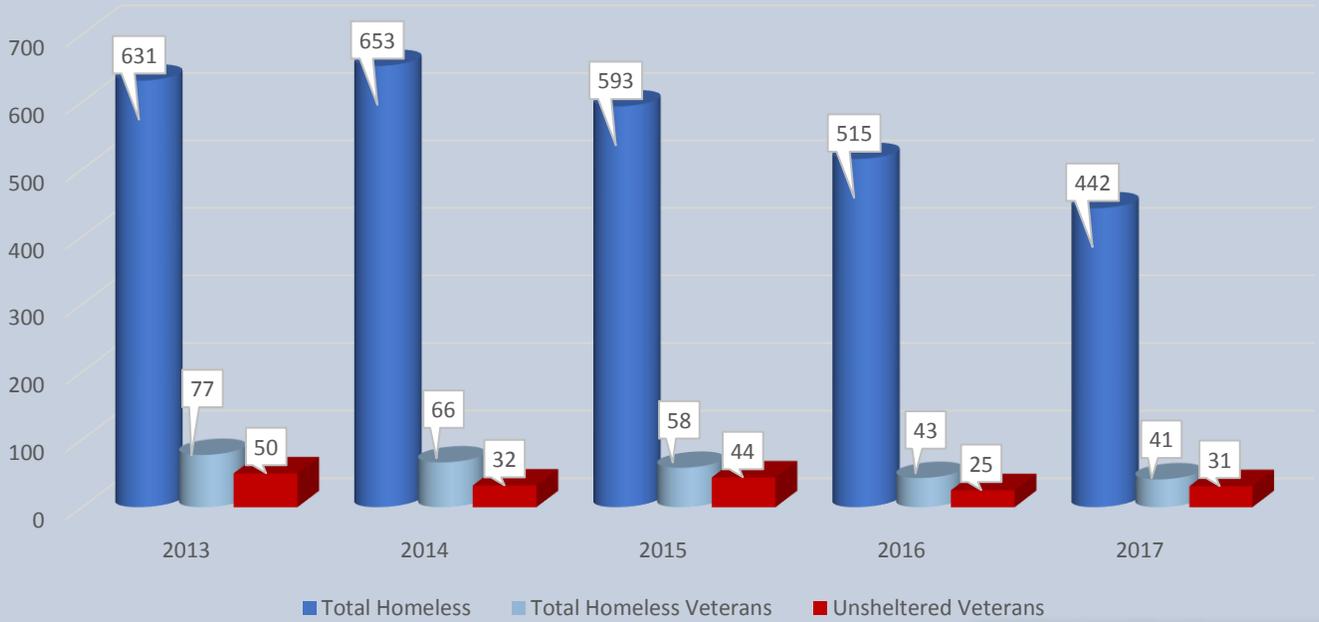
133

formerly homeless individuals permanently housed through PSH and RR projects

It is important to note a significant reduction in emergency shelter capacity occurred due to damage from Hurricane Matthew. Our largest emergency shelter - servicing men, women, and families - has been closed for repair since October 8th, 2016. In regards to disaster recovery efforts, various local and federal vouchers were granted to individuals who became homeless as a result of Hurricane Matthew. As well, many already homeless individuals were also likely recipients of such vouchers. The resulting effect was a lower than expected count of both our sheltered and unsheltered populations; as at the time of the PIT count, these emergency vouchers for motel stay's were still ongoing and our largest emergency shelter was closed for repair.

Total Veteran Population

NC-511 Homeless Veteran Population

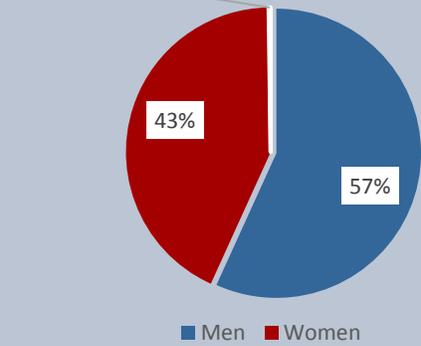


9% of the total homeless population during the 2017 PIT were veterans,
with **7%** unsheltered veterans.

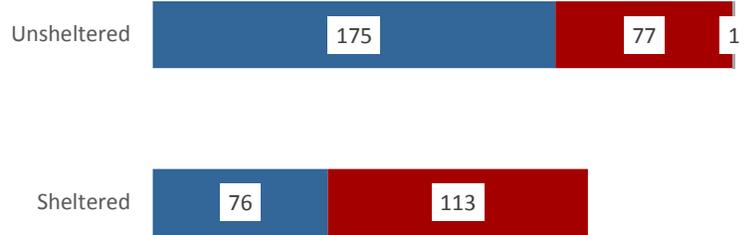
Statewide: 79% of the homeless veteran population were sheltered
21% were unsheltered

Data Tables

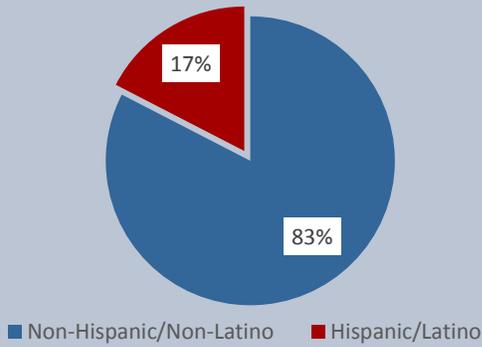
Homeless Persons by Gender



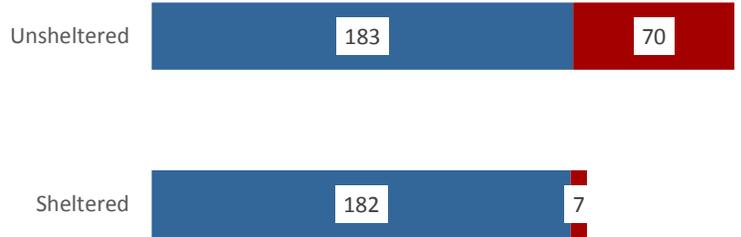
Men Women Transgender



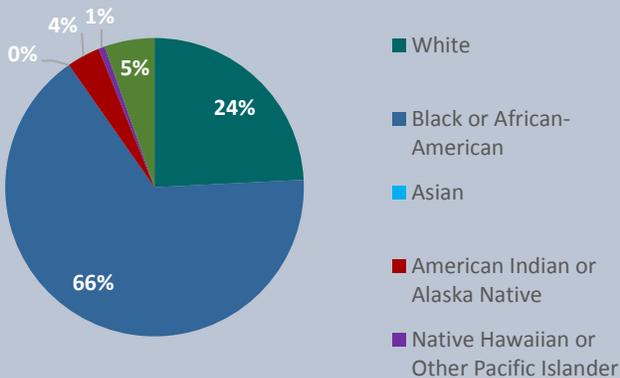
Homeless Persons by Ethnicity



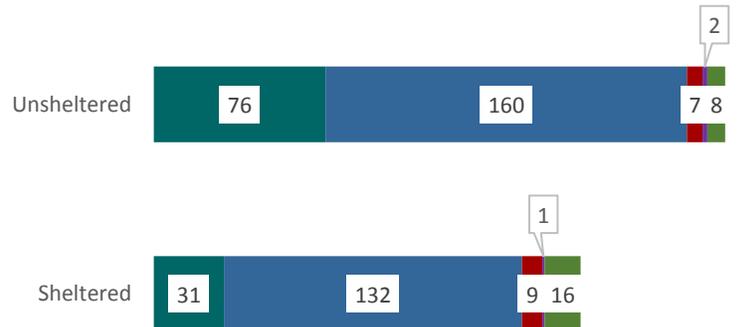
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Hispanic/Latino



Homeless Persons by Race

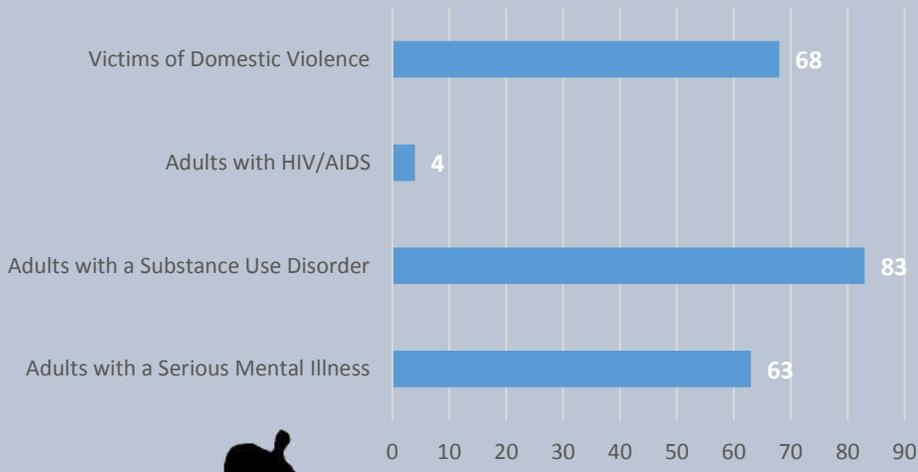


White Black or African-American Asian American Indian or Alaska Native Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Multiple Races

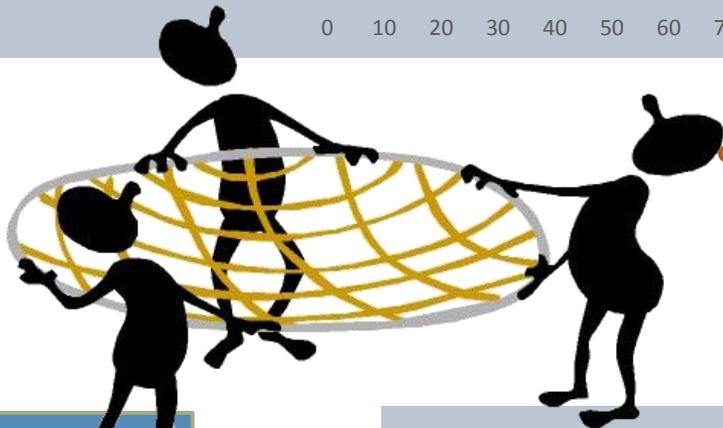


Data Tables

Additional Homeless Populations



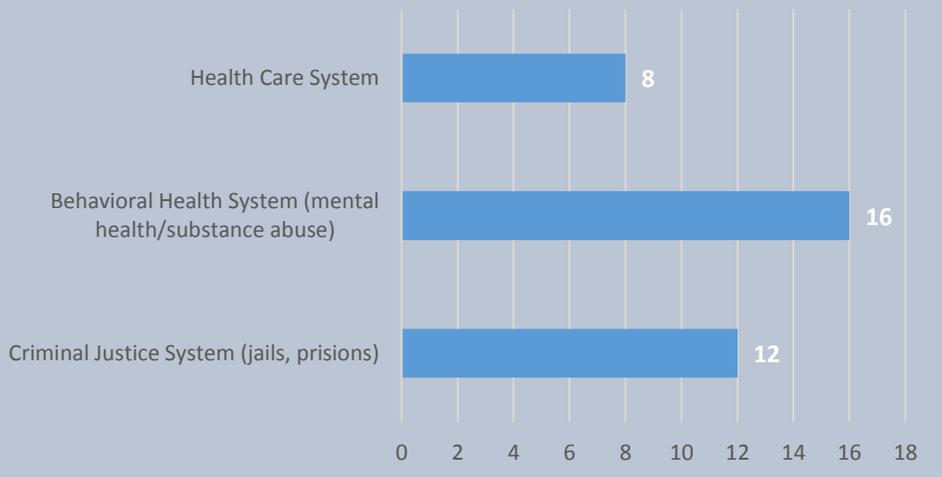
Of the 442 homeless individuals on the night of the PIT, there were 218 reportable conditions



How do we prevent our homeless from falling through the gaps...

There were 36 reported night prior discharges

Discharges - Night Prior (Adults Only)



DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Methodology – Fayetteville/Cumberland County 2017 PIT

Fayetteville/Cumberland County CoC volunteers throughout the county collected PIT data from 06:00am January 25th, 2017 until 06:00am January 26th, 2017, referencing “were did (will) you be sleeping the night of Wednesday, January 25th, 2017.”

Method of Survey/Data Collection

In order to collect reliable data on total number and characteristics⁵ of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Cumberland County the evening of the 2017 PIT, the Fayetteville/Cumberland County CoC utilized a mixed method design which included census count/survey’s, provider-level surveys, and HMIS data.

Sheltered Population Count Method

The following data sources were used to produce the total number of people included in the sheltered population (staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing) on the night of the count:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| • HMIS Data | 90% |
| • Provider-level surveys | 10% |
| • Client-level surveys | 0% |
| • Observation | 0% |
| • Other | 0% |
| • Total | 100% |

The CoC was able to collection information about the number of people being sheltered on the night of the count from all emergency shelters and transitional housing projects listed on the HIC utilizing both a complete census count and HMIS Data. The data collected included specific demographic (age, race, gender, ethnicity, etc.), subpopulation characteristics (disabilities, instances of domestic violence, veteran status, etc.), as well as various other statistically significant information. Sheltered individuals were not selected randomly, and every effort was made to include all sheltered people in emergency shelters and transitional housing required to report under the guidelines of HUD.

⁵ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>

Unsheltered Population Count Method

For the unsheltered portion of the PIT, several approaches were used to count the total number of people included in the unsheltered population during the PIT count:

- “Night of the count” - known locations
- “Night of the count” - random sample

All unsheltered persons encountered in the canvassed areas were included in the count. Areas included for canvassing were not selected randomly, but an effort was made to use local knowledge to target known locations (e.g., areas with known concentrations of unsheltered homeless people). Certain areas within Cumberland County were specifically excluded because there was reliable confirmation that there were no unsheltered people in those areas. Surveys/interviews of people identified as unsheltered on the night of the PIT were used to collect demographic and subpopulation data. The data collected included specific demographic (age, race, gender, ethnicity, etc.), subpopulation characteristics (disabilities, instances of domestic violence, veteran status, etc.), as well as various other statistically significant information.

Duplication

Every effort was made to ensure each homeless individual was counted only once. Information and responses collected through interviews/surveys were thoroughly screened and the following methods were applied during the de-duplication process:

- Comparison of unique client identifiers (not PII)
- Blitz count of unsheltered people (i.e., canvassing of different areas occurred at same time to avoid double counting)
- Interview/survey question(s) with screening questions (e.g., have you already completed a count survey)

Expanded Definitions of Homelessness (in relation to survey data collection)

“Sheltered” means:

- Emergency shelter, including:
 - Domestic violence shelter
 - Seasonal shelter
 - Hotel/motel vouchers paid for by an agency because the person is homeless
 - Transitional housing dedicated for homeless persons

“Unsheltered” means:

- A place not meant for human habitation
 - Car, park, abandoned building, streets, encampment, etc.

Services-based: In addition to counting those in the street, persons at service provider locations that homeless people rely on, such as soup kitchens, food banks, drop-in centers, Department of Social Services, and Libraries can be counted as well. A service-based count can continue up to 7 days after the PIT.

Literally Homeless

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; OR
- Is living in a 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 and local government programs); OR
- Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

The following ***DO NOT*** count under the HUD definition of literally homeless:

- People staying with family or friends (doubled-up/couch surfing)
- People living in hotels/motels they pay for themselves
- People in institutions (hospitals, mental health/substance use residential treatment, detox, jail/prison, foster care)
- People in any other type of facility not dedicated for homeless persons
- Children or youth who are under government custody (i.e. emergency foster care, wards of the state)

Imminent Risk of Homelessness

- Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
- Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- No subsequent residence has been identified; AND

- The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

At-Risk of Homelessness

- Someone who is at risk of homelessness has an income below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), AND
- Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition, AND
- Meets at least one of the following conditions: Has moved because of economic reasons 2 or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance; OR Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; OR Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance; OR Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; OR Lives in an SRO or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room; OR Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care; OR Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved Con Plan.

Chronically Homeless

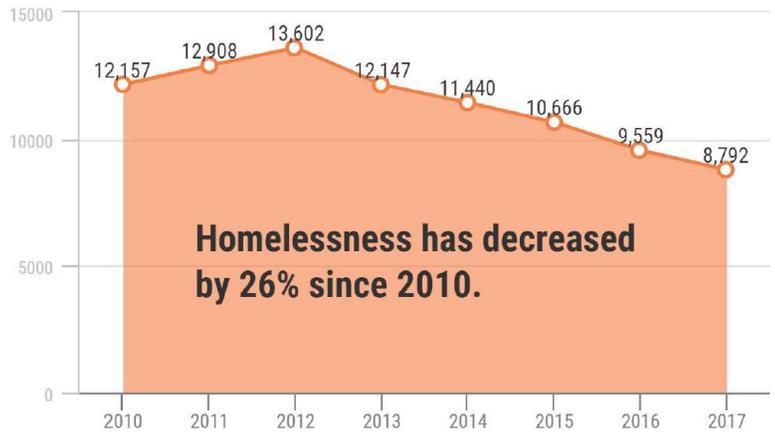
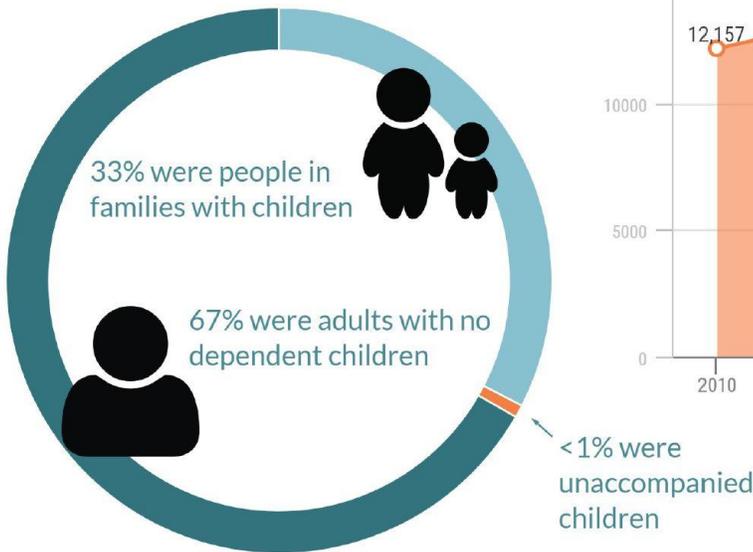
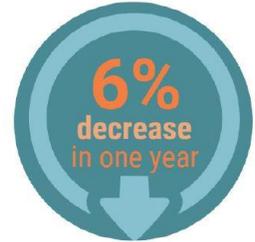
A chronically homeless person is a homeless individual with a disability (serious mental illness, substance use disorder, developmental disability, PTSD, cognitive impairments from brain injury, chronic physical illness, and physical disability) who:

- 1) Lives in a shelter, safe haven, or place not meant for human habitation for 12 continuous months or for 4 separate occasions in the last three years (must total 12 months). Breaks in homelessness, while the individual is residing in an institutional care facility, will not count as a break in homelessness; OR
- 2) Resides in an institutional care facility for less than 90 days and meets the above criteria for chronic homelessness may also be considered chronically homeless; OR
- 3) Lastly, a family with an adult/minor head of household who meets the above mentioned criteria may also be considered chronically homeless, despite changes in family composition (unless the chronically homeless head of household leaves the family).

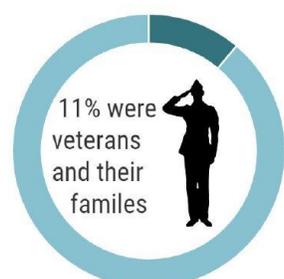
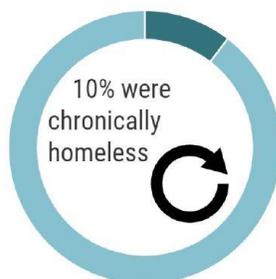
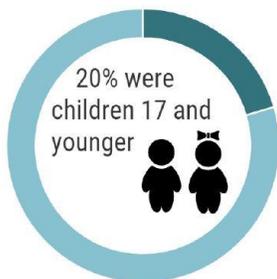
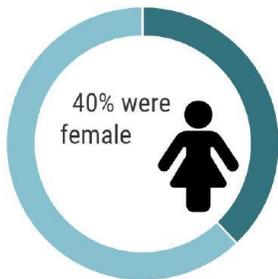
NORTH CAROLINA HOMELESSNESS (6)

Who is experiencing homelessness in North Carolina?

On one night during the last week of January 2017,



The Point-in-Time Count follows the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homeless: People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

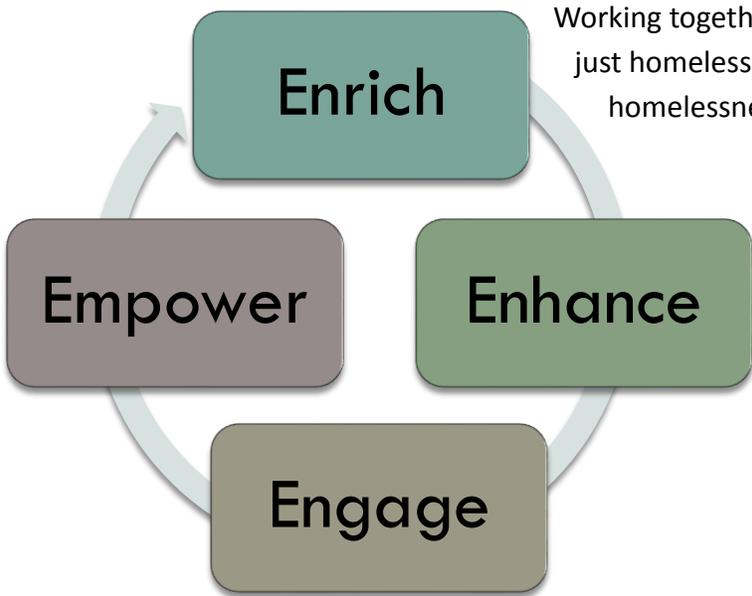


⁶ http://www.nccch.org/media/files/page/086f9989/2017_NC_PIT.pdf

CLOSING POINTS

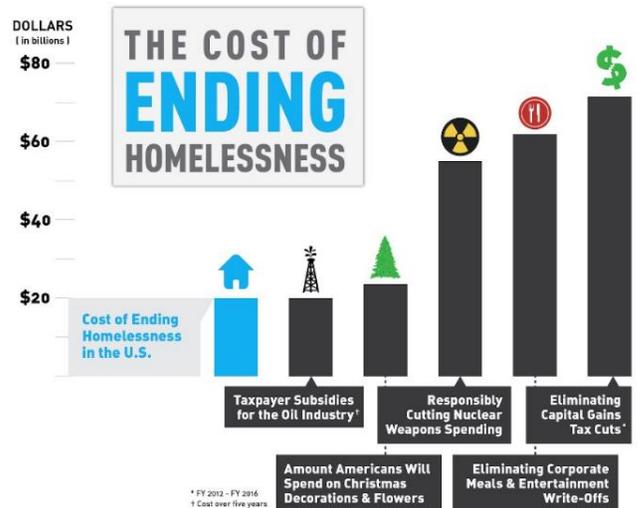
As the data has shown, progress is being made towards the overall reduction in our homeless population. Importantly, our homeless veteran population sits just at “functional zero” – meaning homelessness amongst our veterans is “*Rare, Brief, and Non-Reoccurring*”.⁷ Both fantastic achievements in the end goal of eradicating homelessness in Cumberland County. Yet homelessness is not simply episodic. Homelessness is not a feature of laziness, addiction, or fault. It stems from systemic issues such as poverty, race, lack of affordable housing, etc. Homelessness is the result of “a complex set of circumstances that require people to choose between food, shelter, and other basic needs.”⁸

It is important to note that ending homelessness is not an attainable goal without first addressing causation. Ensuring safe and affordable housing is achievable and making sure there are not only enough employment opportunities, but also jobs that pay a living wage. Providing methods of support for those who are not able to work due to various extenuating circumstances, such as physical and mental disabilities. Producing access to adequate health care, and simply having enough varied resources designed to catch those more vulnerable and susceptible homeless individuals who otherwise fall through the gaps.



Working together and thinking outside of the ‘box’ as a community, not just homeless service providers, is vital in the fight to end homelessness.

9



⁷ https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/Ending_Veterans_Homelessness_Overview.pdf

⁸ <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/why.html>

⁹ <http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Ending-homelessness-.png>

¹ http://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/lqaivf/picture6777444/ALTERNATES/FREE_960/1iplEU.So.156.jpeg
<http://greensborourbanministry.org/reviving-compassion/>
<http://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/fayobserver.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/2/f7/2f75fec4-e7ef-11e6-86bc-87984147870d/5890ec1a644b5.image.jpg>