2021

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

BEXAR COUNTY/SAN ANTONIO REPORT

May 2021

“Sheltered and Street Outreach Counts”

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless
Citation
About SARAH

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) is the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead Continuum of Care (CoC) Agency in Bexar County/San Antonio. SARAH is tasked by HUD to oversee the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and submit this annual count to the HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) for national reporting. As the CoC Lead, our vision is to ensure everyone has a place to call home by strengthening our coordinated system of care, listening to people with lived experience, promoting sustainable strategies, and focusing on measurable impacts.

SARAH’s Values

• **Inclusion** – We embrace differences, recognize the inherent value of diverse perspectives, and create spaces for authentic collaboration.
• **Empowerment** – We see the potential in people, lead with trust, and elevate strengths.
• **Diligence** – We are rigorous in our analysis, strategic with our solutions, and disciplined with our implementation and continuous refinement.

• **Learning** – We are students of impact, strive to be subject matter experts, and recognize setbacks as opportunities for growth.
• **System Leadership** – We nurture the health of the whole by catalyzing and supporting the process of systems-level change to collaboratively build the vision for our Continuum of Care.
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Report Contributors (SARAH)

Authors
Katie Vela, Executive Director
Dr. Azza Kamal, Director of Research & Evaluation
Lazaro Alvarez, Data Scientist

Graduate Research Interns (Summer, 2020)
- Olivia Johnson, St. Mary’s University (Public Administration)
- Jeetali Raje, UTSA (Architecture)
- Jacob Sestak, UTSA (Urban & Regional Planning)

Data Review & Editing
- Alyssa Gooch, Policy Analyst II
- Chelsey Viger, Director of Policy & Planning
- Billy Mahone, Director of Community Engagement
- Madeline Carrola, Policy Analyst II

Stories by: Gavin Rogers, CEO of Corazon Ministries

PIT Committee Members
- Leslie Komet, Chair
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- Amanda Flores
- Lamar Elliott
- Rosalinda McBurney
- Dr. Tichelle Bruntmyer
- Sergio Talavera
- Jacqueline Lucio
- Shanna Wurm
- Victoria Echeverri
- Laura Montanez
- Captain Carlos Garcia
- Sergeant Hayley Robertson
- Keith Wideman
- Marisela Garcia
- Hannah Cramer
- Latonya Richard
- Christopher Vidaurre

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At SARAH, we would like to extend our appreciation to the leadership and staff of all our partner organizations that made it possible for this report to be put together. This includes the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Haven for Hope, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) team, and all our Continuum of Care (CoC) partner agencies.
Executive Summary

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) serves as San Antonio/Bexar County’s Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency for the TX-500 CoC, which includes San Antonio city limits, Bexar County, and a few miles off of North Interstate 35. A CoC Lead Agency is a regional planning entity designated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to coordinate federal funding, housing, and services for people experiencing homelessness. SARAH’s vision is “to ensure everyone has a place to call home.” Thus, SARAH is responsible for collaborating with, listening to, and collecting data from the housing and homeless community.

This report provides a summary and factsheets of the analysis of the San Antonio/Bexar County PIT Count data collected on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from our CoC organizations and shelters. This year, due to the pandemic, SARAH conducted only the count of individuals experiencing homelessness who stayed in shelters on the PIT Count night. We also provides a summary of collective data on individuals engaged through Street Outreach (SO) activities as an alternative - unofficial - estimate of individuals experiencing “unsheltered” homelessness. However, SO data is not comparable to the annual “unsheltered Count” that takes place on PIT Count night.

This report is divided into four chapters: 1) 2021 Point-in-Time Count, 2) Demographics, 3) Population Breakdown, and 4) Street Outreach, and three appendices (Methodology, Glossary of Terms, and Organizations and Projects). The main findings of this report are summarized below:

- 1,499 is the total count of people experiencing homelessness who stayed in shelters on the night of the PIT Count.
- 2,013 clients are engaged through street outreach activities since the PIT Count of 2020.
- 10% decrease in the overall count of the shelters’ populations and an 80% decrease in the Haven for Hope Courtyard count since last year.
- Approximately, three-quarters (74%) of individuals in shelters are adults (over the age of 24) and 83% are in emergency shelters.
- 60% of individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters are male, while 39% are female, and 1% (15 individuals) are transgender/gender nonconforming.
- The ratio of Hispanic/Latino to Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino is approximately equal among shelters’ population.
- 15% of the total count of individuals in shelters are experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Since the 2020 PIT Count, the number of families with children experiencing homelessness and the number of individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) decreased by 41% and 9%, respectively.
- The number of individuals fleeing Domestic Violence (DV) decreased by only 6%.
- The number of clients engaged through Street Outreach (SO) activities for one year following the 2020 PIT Count, is 158% of the count of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2020 PIT Count.
- 5% increase in the count of Young Adults (18-24 years old), and a 65% decrease in the Parenting Youth experiencing homelessness since last year.

To improve the effectiveness and timing of connecting clients to housing and services through the Coordinated Entry (CE) system, SARAH embarked on several initiatives in 2020 and 2021. These initiatives include:

1. Revamping the existing lengthy and unreliable VI-SPDAT prioritization tool with an equity-based simplified tool based on the historical data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
2. Assessing collective community-wide prevention data, which combines new data collected from all Homeless Prevention Programs (HPP) and the City of San Antonio Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP).
3. Enhancing access to housing and services among clients in the criminal justice system through partnerships with Bexar County and other agencies.
What is Point-in-Time Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a national event conducted by all Continuum of Cares (CoCs) agencies to provide critical data on the numbers and demographic characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in the United States. Each January, thousands of volunteers participate in the PIT Count to collect information that directly impacts national priorities on homelessness and the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department’s funding decisions. Locally, the PIT Count informs program and system planning, ensuring services meet the needs and create a more efficient use of limited resources. HUD defines the PIT Count as a process that includes the sheltered and unsheltered counts of people experiencing homelessness. As outlined in 24 CFR 578.3, the Homeless Definition Final Rule describes a homeless as:

“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.”

The PIT Count is required to take place on one night during the last 10 days of January to ensure a more precise count of those unwilling or unable to access emergency shelters and those whose public assistance funds have run out. This time frame is also an important way to raise awareness of those living without shelter during the coldest month of the year and ensure consistency in HUD reporting. The PIT Count is not intended to represent the extent of homelessness at other times during the year or any other measures outside of a one-night period (PIT Count Methodology Guide, 2014).

This report analyzes the PIT Count data captured on Thursday, January 26, 2021, in Bexar County/San Antonio. As the CoC Lead, SARAH led the planning and implementation of the PIT Count in coordination with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead agency, Haven for Hope, along with the local homeless providers to verify and update the reported counts of people enrolled during the night of PIT Count. SARAH is grateful for and inspired by the efforts and diligence of all its partners throughout Bexar County/San Antonio.

COVID-19 Impact on 2021 PIT Count

Earlier this year, HUD issued a memorandum for the Continuum of Care Lead Agencies to obtain a waiver for conducting the PIT Count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This waiver was due to the countless hours of planning and volunteers recruitment and training. Additionally, on the night of the count, staff and trained volunteers are required to approach people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to collect data. According to the memorandum:

“Because of COVID-19, CoCs have been short staffed and busy preparing for and implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Additionally, CoCs are reporting challenges in finding volunteers to survey individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count due to fears of COVID-19. Further, CoCs are reporting challenges obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to equip volunteers and people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to have the conversations necessary to collect the required data. These challenges are present in every part of the country. As of December, every single state had at least 9 new COVID-19 cases per day per 100,000 population.”

As a result, the flexibility by this waiver for the FY2021 PIT Count of unsheltered homelessness is a means to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping the staff, volunteers, and individuals experiencing homelessness safe.

Alternatively, SARAH utilized a one year worth of Street Outreach (SO) data to estimate the count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout the past year. The analysis of SO data will be used to address the demographic, disability, domestic violence, and substance use related issues among unsheltered people.
Key Findings

Homeless Count

- 1,499 is the total count of individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters on the night of PIT Count. This number represents a 10% decrease from the 2020 PIT count of individuals in shelters and a 49% decrease from the combined sheltered and unsheltered counts.
- 83% of individuals in the total sheltered count were in emergency shelters and 16% in transitional housing.
- 2,013 is the total count of individuals engaged through Street Outreach (SO) since the 2020 PIT Count.

Demographics

- 60% of individuals in shelters are male, while 39% are female and 1% are transgender/gender nonconforming.
- Approximately 50% of the total count of sheltered individuals are Hispanic/Latino and 50% are Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino.
- Three-quarters (75%) of people in shelters are white, while almost one-quarter (23%) are Black/African American. A similar ratio exists among individuals engaged through SO (74% are white and 22% are Black/African American).

Chronic Homelessness

- 229 (15% of individuals in shelters) are chronically homeless.
- 66% increase in number of individuals with chronic homelessness in shelters from the equivalent number of individuals in the 2020 PIT Count.
- 22% decrease in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness from last year’s count of combined sheltered and unsheltered counts of chronic homelessness.
Key Findings (cont.)

Youth & Young Adults

- 65 individuals (4% of the total count) are young adults between the ages of 18 to 24, a 5% increase from last year.
- 9 Parenting youth and 3 unaccompanied youth (under the age of 18) are among the total count of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT Count.

Mental Health & Substance Use

- 465 (31% of the total count) are adults with serious mental illness (SMI), a 9% decrease from last year.
- 364 (24% of the total count) individuals reported a substance use issue, a 7% decrease from 2020.
- 71% of individuals engaged through Street Outreach (SO) reported a mental health condition.

Veterans

- 123 individuals (8% of the total count) are veterans, a 23% decrease from last year’s count of sheltered individuals, and a 40% decrease in the combined counts of sheltered and unsheltered veterans in the 2020 PIT Count.
- 82 (4% of the total individuals engaged through SO) are veterans.
Unlike the 2020 PIT Count report, which included sheltered and unsheltered counts of people experiencing homelessness, this year’s report focuses only on the sheltered count. This change was made as a result of COVID-19 precautions and the need to ensure safety measures for the entire community.

For the third consecutive year, Bexar County/San Antonio has a decrease in the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness. This year, the 2021 PIT Count revealed an approximately 10% decrease (from 1,658 to 1,499) in the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness.

Over the past 11 years, the official estimates of PIT Count have reported an average 3% decrease in individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness. This year’s count also represents a 27% decrease from 2011.
Sheltered Count

Per the HUD’s Annual Point-in-Time Count, 567,715 (or 17 out of every 10,000 people) in the United States were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January of 2019. Of that number, 356,422 (63%) were experiencing sheltered homelessness. It is observed that families experiencing homelessness represented a higher rate of the sheltered count. On the other hand, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have a higher rate (60%) of unsheltered homeless (*Continuums of Care All States, Territories, Puerto Rico and District of Columbia, 2019*).

Texas overall homelessness rate is nearly half the national average. 9 per 10,000 people in Texas are homeless. There has been a slight increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Texas in the past three years (*Menchaca, 2019*). According to HUD’s 2019 PIT Count, there is an estimated 25,848 homeless people in the state, compared with 23,122 in 2016. Advocates identify the main cause of homelessness as the lack of affordable housing in Texas (*Menchaca, 2019*), particularly in Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. These metro areas make up the Urban Triangle that drives Texas population growth.

The 2021 PIT Count revealed a total of 1,499 individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness, a 10% decrease from 2020. Of that number, 116 (8%) were in the Haven for Hope Courtyard (H4H), which also account for an 80% decrease from last year’s count. It is worth mentioning that, this year, the number of individuals in H4H Courtyard were among the count of sheltered individuals, while in previous years’ they were counted as unsheltered. Knowing how COVID-19 social distancing measures impacted the capacity of almost all homeless shelters, this drop is justified.

There is a 10% decrease in the overall count of sheltered individuals and an 80% decrease in H4H Courtyard* Count since 2020.

*While reported in 2020 PIT Count as “unsheltered”, individuals staying in H4H Courtyard are reported as “sheltered” in this year’s Count.

Number of individuals in Shelters in Bexar County/San Antonio

Number of individuals in H4H Courtyard
Sheltered Count (by Shelter Type)

Homelessness is often described as a vicious cycle. Poverty and homelessness can present a chicken and egg scenario, with one seemingly leading to the other and vice versa. While the unfortunate cycle is all too real, more people are able to escape it than not. In fact, the 2019 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Annual Homeless Assessment Report states that, only about one-quarter of homeless individuals suffer from chronic homelessness. The definition of chronic homelessness, which was updated by HUD in 2015, states that a chronically homeless individual is someone who has lived in a place not meant for human habitation for 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the past 3 years (NLIHC, 2015). The remainder of the homeless population can generally be classified as transitional or episodic in nature with much shorter times spent battling homelessness.

Additionally, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2015) shows that the median length of stay in an emergency shelter is 27 nights, with just 11% of stays lasting longer than 180 days.

In this year’s count, there were 1,251 individuals in emergency shelters, representing an 83% of the total count. There were also a total of 242 individuals in transitional housing, and 6 individuals in safe haven, representing 16% and 0.4% of the total count respectively.

In 2021, 83% of individuals stayed in emergency shelters, while 16% stayed in transitional housing and less than 1% stayed in safe haven.
Demographics
Age

Research shows that the most vulnerable sub-population among people experiencing homelessness are youth (18-24 years old) and aging adults fifty years and older. Homelessness among young people, referred to as “unaccompanied” youth, often occurs after years of physical and sexual abuse, strained relationships, addiction of a family member, parental neglect, residential instability, of economic problems (NCH, Youth Homelessness 2020). These disruptive family conditions are the principal reason young people leave home, making them more vulnerable to suffer from mental illness caused by the trauma, abuse, and emotional instability as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. (Office of The Assistant Secretary For Planning And Evaluation, 2009).

This vulnerable population is a small group of adolescents who are hard to locate, serve, and who, without the proper intervention, may experience negative outcomes during adolescence and the transition to adulthood (Office of The Assistant Secretary For Planning And Evaluation, 2009).

Compounding this issue is that as the pandemic wears on, nearly 45% of adults in the United States reported that the worry and stress over the virus has negatively impacted their mental health. The mental health trauma likely increases as communities took measures to slow the spread of the virus, such as the closure of schools, businesses, and shelter-in-place orders which causes greater isolation and potential financial distress. All of which can lead to child abuse/neglect and ultimately, homelessness of youth and families (Kamal and Panchal, 2020).

In an unprecedented time such as this, some youth may become homeless with their families as a result of suffering a financial crisis from the lack of affordable housing, limited employment opportunities, insufficient wages, lack of medical insurance, or inadequate public benefits. Although youth may become homeless while still with their families, they could be separated from their families by the shelter, transitional housing, or child welfare based on the policy for each of these entities (NCH, Youth Homelessness 2020).

In the 2021 PIT Count, the number of adult individuals (over 24 years old) in shelters was 1,108. This number accounts for 74% of total individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters. Additionally, the number of Young Adults, both accompanied and unaccompanied (18 - 24), was 86, and the number of children (under 18) was 305, representing 6% and 20% of the total individuals in shelters respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults (over age 24)</th>
<th>1,108</th>
<th>74%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (U18)</td>
<td></td>
<td>305</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adults (18-24)</td>
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<td>86</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6%</td>
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Number and Percent of Individuals in Shelters by Age
Gender

The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) shows that 60% of people experiencing homelessness are male. These ratios indicate gender imbalance, with men and unaccompanied boys being more susceptible. This increased risk could be in part due to the separation of young boys and men from their families as they enter transitional housing or shelters that do not allow males. The possible separation of males from their families makes them vulnerable and more likely to experience homelessness.

Although men in Bexar County/San Antonio historically have a higher representation than females experiencing homelessness, over the past two years, the number of males experiencing homelessness has decreased by almost 12%. Within the last five years, males experiencing homelessness dropped by 4%, with the highest representation in 2018. In contrast, the number of women experiencing homelessness has increased by 9% over the last five years and 8% since 2018.

Data from the 2021 PIT Count shows that the total count of males in shelters was 898, or 60% of the total count of sheltered individuals, while females and transgender/gender nonconforming counts were 589 and 12, representing 39% and 1% of the total count of shelters’ populations respectively.

This year’s count also showed that the majority (62%) of individuals in emergency shelters were males, while only 37% were females, and less than 1% were transgender/gender nonconforming. In Transitional Housing, the ratio of female to male individuals was almost 1:1.

Sexual Orientation

Although HUD’s current guidelines don’t include surveying the sexual orientation of people experiencing homelessness, SARAH is working with its partners to address this issue in the 2022 survey tools. In their 2020 report (State of our Community), Stone, et al. (2020) highlighted the challenges of LGBTQ+ community in San Antonio including the startlingly high rates of LGBTQ+ homelessness, economic instability, employment discrimination, and barriers to access health care system. The researchers’ proposed solutions to remedy these challenges require a comprehensive and full community effort to ensure complete equity for LGBTQ+ people.

Almost three-quarters (74%) of individuals in shelters are adults (over the age of 24) and 62% of individuals in ES are males.
Ethnicity

In this year’s PIT Count, the number of individuals with a Hispanic/Latino background was 743, while individuals with a Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino background were 756. Accordingly, there was an evident change from last year in the ratio of Hispanic/Latino to Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino with almost an equal representation of both groups. This year’s count showed a decrease in the percent of Hispanic/Latino—from 53% of the total count last year to 50% this year—and an increase in the percent of Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino from 47% of the total count last year to 50% this year.

Among the total count of individuals in emergency shelters, there was almost an equal representation of both ethnicities, while in transitional housing, there was 57% of individuals identified as Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, and 43% identified as Hispanic/Latino.

In 2021, Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino individuals were equally represented among shelters populations.
Race

Based on a single night in January 2018, HUD’s 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress shows Black Americans, who make up only 13% of the general population, accounted for 39.8% of the nation’s homeless population. This number represents a triple percentage of the Black/African American (AA) population. Native Americans account for only 1.5% of the population, yet 2.8% of the nation’s homeless population (HUD, 2018). In contrast, 48.9% of the 552,830 people counted as homeless were White even though they make up 72% percent of the entire population. These numbers are evident that while White Americans are underrepresented among the homeless, Black/AA and Native Americans are overrepresented. This trend continues into 2019, as reported by HUD.

Racial disparities continue to persist in the workforce. Not only do Black/African Americans have higher than average unemployment rate, they are also excluded from high-paying jobs, which results in underemployment and missed opportunities to get above the poverty line (Quarshie, Yancey-Bragg, Godlasky, Sergent, & Bravo, 2020). Between 2018 and 2019, the percentage of people experiencing homelessness who were White remained flat overall. However, there was a 4% drop in sheltered homelessness among White people, offset by a 5% increase in unsheltered homelessness (AHAR, 2019).

These statistics indicate that White Americans tend to move out of shelters to transitional housing at a faster rate than people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. Black/AA see the highest representation, a 40% of individuals experiencing homelessness, and Hispanics or Latinos are 20% or the nation’s total homeless population.

Nevertheless, evidence shows that, across all races, Black/AA see the most increase in the rate of homelessness. Black/AA endure the most socioeconomic barriers that cause disparity among non-homeless population, and even more so, the homeless population. In addition, Black/AA has the most vulnerability to become and stay homeless due to systemic racism embedded in many institutions and agencies that create barriers including redlining and higher mortgage rates that kept housing from being affordable, obtaining an equitable education, and adequate employment.

In this year’s count, 1,128 (75%) were White, and 340 (23%) were Black/AA. Additionally, 1% were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 1% were Asian.
Population Breakdown

Chronic Homeless

A chronically Homeless Individual is an individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for one year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020). For more than a decade, the US Congress and the federal government have focused on ending homelessness among the chronically homeless population (Perl, 2015).

While short-term assistance such as income supports may be sufficient for someone who short-term episode of homelessness, a person experiencing chronic homelessness may need long-term housing subsidies and ongoing supportive services. Adults who experience homelessness later in their life and those who have more co-occurring health conditions are more likely to become chronically homeless than those who are younger when they become homeless and have fewer or no co-occurring conditions (Kushel, 2012).

Chronically homeless older adults have a higher risk of institutionalization, which means they often end up in nursing homes or psychiatric hospitals paid for by Medicaid due to scarcity of other adequate housing options (Goldberg et al., 2016). Chronically homeless individuals may have fewer shelter stays than those who are episodically homeless but tend to stay for more extended periods, to the point where shelters are more like long-term housing than an emergency arrangement (Perl, 2015). Homeless individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders may struggle to keep up with the medications, earn income, and otherwise stabilize their lives in order to achieve and maintain housing without assistance.

In the 2019 PIT Count, 105,583 individuals met the definition of chronically homeless across the US. This number accounts for an increase from 96,913 in 2018. The number also represents an increase for the third consecutive year (2017, 2018, and 2019) in chronic homelessness. The most recent increase was more prominent for individuals in sheltered locations (15%) than for those in unsheltered locations (5%) (The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020).

The 2021 PIT Count revealed that the total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in shelters, was 229, or 15% of the total count. This number increased by 66% from last year and a 22% decrease from last year’s total count of individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) with chronic homelessness.
Veterans

Among the federal programs focused on ending chronic homelessness are the HUD Homelessness Assistance Grants, the HUD and Veterans Affairs Supported Housing Program (HUD-VASH), and several HUD demonstrations programs. Starting in the early 2000s, the federal government announced its plan to end chronic homelessness. Locally, the Bexar County/San Antonio community has been committed to ending veterans homelessness since 2016, and the annual count of veterans experiencing homelessness continues to drop.

The 2021 PIT Count revealed that the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in shelters was 123 (8% of the total sheltered count). This number represents a 23% decrease from last year’s sheltered count, a 40% decrease from 2020 combined counts of sheltered and unsheltered veterans, and a 53% decrease from 2016 the combined counts as well.

Number of individuals by Veteran Status (2016 to 2021)
Families with Children

While homelessness may not be permanent, it can be a repetitive and taxing experience to escape as a family. The 2019 HUD’s PIT Count denoted that almost 54,000 families were experiencing homelessness in America. With economic uncertainty compounded by COVID-19 and the loss of low-paying jobs, new challenges emerge, particularly for low and extremely low-income families in our community. Among these families, a few subpopulation groups tend to have compromised access to economic and social resources. Immigrants, LGBTQ+ community, and military families all see higher rates of homelessness than the other subgroups (DeCandia et al., 2013).

The Texas Supreme Court issued a ban on eviction early last year (May 1, 2020). In addition, the federal government has also halted evictions until Aug. 23, 2020, but only for properties covered by federally backed mortgages. These orders were aligned with the extension of the statewide ban to May 18, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) eviction moratorium, enacted in September 4 and later renewed. With all these measures from the Federal and State governments including the locally expanded Emergency Housing Assistance Program [EHAP] from both the City of San Antonio and Bexar County, hundreds of families were protected and saved from housing instability and the pathway to homelessness.

In this year’s PIT Count, the number of families with children in shelters during the PIT night was 158. This number represents a significant (41%) decrease from last year’s count of families in shelters and a 42% decrease from the 2020 combined counts of sheltered and unsheltered families.

Since the 2020 PIT Count, the number of families experiencing homelessness decreased by 41%.  

Number of Families (2016 to 2021)
Mental Health

According to Burns, et al. (2018), there are two possible scenarios for the aging population in the homeless system: one that they have aged while being homeless for a long time, and second is what is known as later-life homelessness caused by individual circumstances (i.e., addiction, mental and physical health, family breakdown), combined with structural factors such as lack of suitable jobs and housing. Aging population staying for long time in multiple episodes of homelessness could have mental health issues.

Unlike last year’s reported 25% increase among individuals in shelters with serious mental illness (SMI), there was a reverse change in this year’s PIT Count. The number of individuals with SMI in this year’s count was 465 (31% of the total sheltered count), a 9% decrease from last year’s count of sheltered individuals.

Since 2020, there is a 9% decrease in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness in shelters and a 48% decrease from the combined counts of sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

Adults with Serious Mental Illness (Sheltered Count Only)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Transitional</th>
<th>Safe Haven</th>
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<th>% Change</th>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>409</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>459</td>
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<tr>
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<td>418</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>465</td>
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</table>
In the 2021 PIT Count, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters with substance use issues was 364, a 7% decrease from last year. This number also represents a significant (37%) decrease from last year’s combined counts of individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) with substance use issues.
In the 2021 PIT Count, the number of domestic violence (DV) survivors was 266 (18% of the total count), a 6% decrease from the 2020 count of DV survivors in shelters. The majority (85%) of DV survivors stayed in emergency shelters, while only 15% stayed in transitional housing, and only one individual in safe haven.

There is a 6% decrease in domestic violence survivors since the 2020 PIT Count.

Number of Survivors of Domestic Violence in shelters (2016 to 2021)
Youth and Young Adults

Research released in a report by Chapin Hall in November 2017 estimated that each year nationwide, 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 experience homelessness, and 1 in 10 youth ages 18 to 24 experience homelessness. Additionally, per HUD guidance, communities have the discretion to use a broader definition of “Youth” for local program planning or reporting to other funders. However, for HUD reporting, CoCs must be able to report separately on Youth (18 to 24 years old) and Unaccompanied Youth (under the age of 18) experiencing homelessness. Defining youth as under the age of 18 allows HUD to use the same definition for all reporting related to homeless programs.

- The number of Young Adults, who are unaccompanied Heads of Households (18-24 years old), in shelters was 65 (4% of the total count), or a 5% increase since 2020.
- There was 9 Parenting Youth among the Young Adults. This is a significant (65%) decrease from last year.
- The number of Unaccompanied Youth (under 18 years old) was 3, the same as the previous year.
2020-2021 Street Outreach
The analysis of SO data revealed that 62% were males, while 37% were females, and 1% were transgender/gender nonconforming. Additionally, 139 (7%) were Young Adults between the ages of 18 and 24, and 4 children under the age of 18. The 2,013 count of SO individuals represents 1,998 households (HH). 99% of these HHs were 1-persom HH, while only 15 were 2-person HH.

In this report, we analyzed approximately one year worth of data gathered from SO activities. This data covers the period between the day following the 2020 PIT Count night and this year’s PIT Count night (January 24, 2020 to January 26, 2021).

In this year’s SO count, there were 2,013 individuals engaged through SO projects.

There number of individuals engaged through SO was a 58% higher than the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2020 PIT Count (see the Methodology/SO section, P. 33).

19% of the total SO count were survivors of domestic violence (DV) and a total of 1,599 individuals reported at least one disability condition with 71% of them reported a mental health condition. A complete breakdown of demographics and disability is shown in page 30 of this report.

71% of Street Outreach clients reported one mental health condition and 19% were survivors of domestic violence.
Willie …….one night, on March 19, 2012, San Antonio got a lot of rain, wind, and hail. This thunderstorm was one of the first Spring fronts with substantial rain, hail, and tornadoes of the season. I ran into a friend, William (aka “Chilli Willie”) I met a few days before at TriPoint Community Center. When I met him, I invited him to walk with me back to Haven for Hope so we could talk and learn each other’s story. So this night, I felt comfortable asking if he knew a place to ride out the storm. He said, “Come with me, I’ll show you the ropes.” Willie lived in an abandoned shack near the 281 corridor. He said, “my place is your place…this house has an open door for you my friend. We will get through this storm together.” Willie decided to light a fire to keep warm. I was impressed by his Boy Scout skills. Over the storm had passed, I was able to get some rest and fall asleep. The next morning, it was good to see him dry, happy, and awake for a brand new day. The friendship created that night lasted for 2+ years until Chilly Willie passed away in 2014 from cancer. During that time, we became roommates with other at a home we had and when his health got worse, homeless agencies in San Antonio were able to find him medical care, housing, and hospice care.”……..Republished with Gavin Rogers’ permission.

More than half (51%) of enrollments in SO Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funded projects were associated with two projects, Corazon Ministries (CMI) and the Haven for Hope (H4H). The other 49% were from the following projects: City of San Antonio San Fernando Hub, SAMMinistries ESG and ESG-CV, SAMMinistries, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), and Thrive.

On the other hand, the majority (58%) of SO enrollment in non-ESG funded project were conducted by the Center for Healthcare Services (CHCS) PATH project, and the remainder can be attributed to Block by Block (BBB) and the H4H Downtown Street Outreach.
SO ESG Projects: Client Location

ESG-funded projects reported location data for 726 SO clients (including duplicate clients). Almost one-third (29%) were reported as SAMM Prevention Services, and approximately one-quarter (24%) were attributed to Corazon Ministries, and 21% were at Haven for Hope Outreach.

SO Non-ESG Projects: Client Location

On the other hand, non-ESG projects reported location data for 2,322 SO clients (including duplicate clients). The Center for Healthcare Services (CHCS) PATH accounted for the majority at 57% of the total count, followed by Block by Block at 33%, and H4H Downtown Outreach at 7%.

“Alberto, a 70-year old from Mexico, had been homeless for a few years and came to downtown before the snowstorm hoping to find help. Morgan Handley, an outreach worker with Centro, and I took Alberto to Corazon and found him a warm place to sleep for the next 6 days. I traveled with Alberto to Guanajuato, Mexico by bus to learn about his life, his history, and to meet his family. Little did I know, but a true friendship was formed on that snowy night, despite our spoken language, age, or life experiences. Alberto has been a legal resident in the USA for over 40 years and has social security benefits and health care through his former employer. However, the economy has been hard, and he had trouble to continue to support his family back in Mexico. We decided we could help. Alberto’s story is more common than you might think, and we are glad he was able to find support, medical care, and preventive services at Corazon.”

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A total of 229 clients engaged through SO ESG-funded projects has data on their exit destination. Over one-third (35%) exited to emergency shelters, and approximately one-quarter (24%) of the clients exited to a “place not meant for habitation” or “other places”. The remaining 41% reported more than ten other exit destinations as illustrated in the attached graph.

For the non-ESG SO funded projects, exit destinations were reported for 1,426 clients. Of this number, 44% of clients exited to a place not meant for habitation, while 30% exited to emergency shelters. The remaining 26% of clients exited to an unknown place or one of more than 20 different destinations, including substance abuse or psychiatric facilities.
SO Projects (ESG & Non-ESG)

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of individual households</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of households with two persons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of persons (adults &amp; children)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children (under age 18)</td>
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<td>Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)</td>
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<td>Number of adults (age 25 to 39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of adults (age 70 or over)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Transgender Male (Female to Male FTM)</td>
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<td>Total number of DV Survivors</td>
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<td><strong>Disabling Condition (Denominator = Total Persons)</strong></td>
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<td>Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
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<td><strong>Substance Use (Denominator = Total Persons)</strong></td>
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Appendix A: Methodology
Methodology

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts represent a critical source of data on the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in the United States. These data sets are used to measure homelessness on a local and national level and are published annually on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD’s) Exchange website. The website can be viewed by the Continuum of Care agencies and the general public. The PIT Count data has become increasingly important as a measure of our local and national progress related to preventing and ending homelessness, especially with relation to our progress towards meeting the goals of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Therefore, it has become necessary to ask for more detailed information and ensure that the data submitted to HUD is as complete and accurate as possible. Additionally, collecting valid and reliable data and making progress on reducing homelessness are scoring factors in HUD’s CoC Program Competition and can influence CoC Program funding awards. CoCs are required to submit their PIT Count data through the HUD HDX website.

It is important to note that the PIT Count only identifies a subset of individuals and families that meet HUD’s definition of homeless. As such, the PIT Count does not capture everyone eligible for homeless assistance through other homeless assistance funding sources.

Minimum Standards

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act authorized HUD to require CoCs to conduct PIT counts. Section 427(b)(3) states: “Homelessness Counts. – The Secretary shall not require that communities conduct an actual count of homeless people other than those described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 103(a) of this Act.” This statutory language establishes HUD’s authority to require PIT Counts but limits the count to persons who are defined as living on the streets or in shelters (which is what (section 103(a), paragraphs 1 through 4) define. In the CoC Program interim rule, HUD further clarified the requirements for conducting PIT counts. In the definition section, HUD defines the PIT Count as a “count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons carried out on one night in the last 10 calendar days of January or at such other time as required by HUD” (24 CFR 578.3). HUD outlined CoC planning requirements in 24 CFR 578.7(c)(2): “(2) Planning for and conducting, at least biennially, a PI Count of homeless persons within the geographic area that meets the following requirements

- Persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing projects must be counted as sheltered homeless persons.
- HUD requires CoCs to collect reliable data on the count and characteristics of all sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness within the territory of the CoC geographic area who are homeless on a single night. Data collected must be reported through HUD HDX portal. CoCs must also report information by household type for veteran and youth households. CoCs must provide demographic data for both sheltered and unsheltered persons according to the following three household types:
  - Persons in households with at least one adult and one child. This category includes households with one adult and at least one child under age 18.
  - Persons in households without children. This category includes single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults (including adult parents with their adult children).
  - Persons in households with only children. This category includes persons under age 18, including children in one-child households, adolescent parents (under age 18) and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations composed only of children.
Because of the health concerns due to COVID-19, only two data collection tools were utilized this year to capture the count of all people experiencing homelessness in shelters and their demographic characteristics. In addition to the following description of each methodology, Appendix C illustrates a complete list of Bexar County/San Antonio organizations and their projects, in addition to the data source used by SARAH to count people in each shelter.

1. **Sheltered Count Methodology:** This methodology includes counting all people experiencing homelessness and staying in a shelter including emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven project on the night of the count (January 26). For projects participating in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the census was conducted using a service-based count followed by extracting all the necessary information from the HMIS.

2. **Organizations Serving Victims of Domestic Violence (DV):** Shelter de-identified aggregated report of all DV survivors was attained by SARAH from organizations classified as DV service providers or that receive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.

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**Street Outreach (SO)**

Because of the pandemic and the absence of the unsheltered count in this year’s PIT Count, we decided to estimate the total people experiencing homelessness engaged in SO activities.

Research on the year long count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness estimates that an additional 40% count of individuals should be added to the number of unsheltered people in any PIT Count to make up for the missed count of individuals throughout the year.

Despite their duplicate records, we believe that Bexar County/San Antonio SO estimates offer reasonable statistics and provide an overview of the demographics of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, yet these estimates are not comparable with the PIT Count. Thus, in this report, we utilized a one year worth of SO data from the day following the 2020 PIT Count (January 24, 2020) to this year’s PIT Count night (January 26, 2021).

The analysis provides an insight into the demographic, disability, domestic violence, and substance use status among SO clients.
Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

A
Adults
An individual who is 18 years of age or older or a minor under the age of 18 who has been emancipated to act on his/her own behalf, including the ability to execute a contract or lease.

Aging Adults
An individual who is 65 years of age or older.

Adults with HIV/AIDS
This population category of the PIT includes adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

Adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
This population category of the PIT includes adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person’s ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration”).

Adults with a Substance Use Disorder
This population category of the PIT includes adults with a substance use problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both). Adults with a substance use disorder must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration”).

C
Child
A minor who is under the age of 18 and has not been emancipated to act on his/her own behalf.

Chronically Homeless Person
An individual who:
A. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
B. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
C. Has a disability.

COVID-19
A mild to severe respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus which is transmitted via respiratory droplets or direct interaction with contaminated objects or surfaces. Primary symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath which may progress to pneumonia or respiratory failure.

D
Disability
An individual with one or more of the following conditions:
A. A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury
B. A developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or
C. The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV).

P
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.

S
Survivor of Domestic Violence
This population category of the PIT includes adults who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

U
Unaccompanied Youth
Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 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.

V
Veterans
This population category of the PIT includes adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

Victim Service Provider
A private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, battered women’s shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs.

Y
Youth and Young Adults
Persons under age 25. HUD collects and reports youth data based on persons under 18 and persons between ages 18 and 24.
## Appendix C: Organizations & Projects

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<th>Organization &amp; Project</th>
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