

2023 HOMELESSNESS IN NEW BEDFORD

Point In Time Census and Analytics

City of New Bedford

Office of Housing & Community Development

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Overview

- Baseline Information
- Statistical Highlights from the Point In Time Count
- Housing Inventory
- 2023 Take Aways

Although this presentation approaches some discussion as to patterns and trending revealed by the 2023 annual data collection, it is not intended to supplant a more detailed discussion about performance and response to homelessness.



Baseline Information

Baseline Information

- Point In Time (PIT) focuses on people
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) focuses on beds
- The PIT is required of each Continuum of Care (CoC) by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). It is a census of those unsheltered and living on the streets, and those in emergency shelters and transitional housing. It's a sampling of what homelessness might look like in New Bedford on any given day.

Baseline Information

- The PIT is undertaken annually in New Bedford on the last Wednesday of January, consistent with federal guidelines.
- As was the case the previous year, the CoC's professional Street Outreach Team (Steppingstone, Inc.) performed the PIT in 2023.
- Volunteers were coordinated, donations collected and backpacks filled and provided to unsheltered folks encountered by the Street Outreach Team.
- Highlighted results of the PIT and HIC follows.

Statistical Highlights

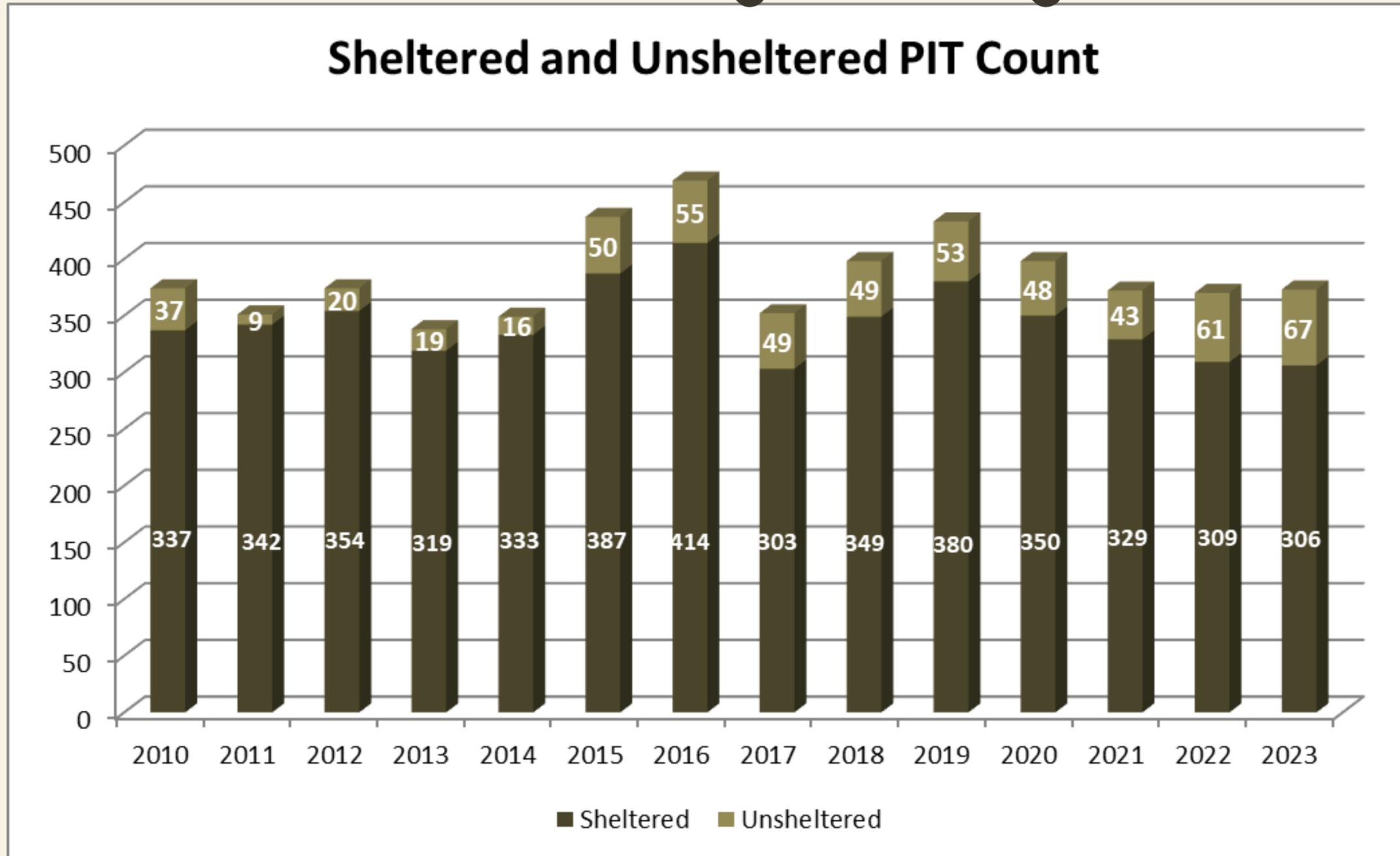
Statistical Highlights

- The 2023 PIT Count identified 373 people, both sheltered and unsheltered. This number is consistent with the previous two years and is below the 14 year PIT Count average.
- Although the count of those in **shelter** is the second lowest number on record, the number of **unsheltered** persons continued to increase in 2023.

*Of
note...*

Poor weather on the night of the 2023 Count meant the cold weather overflow shelter was open resulting in those typically unsheltered being able stay indoors that particular night. When combining numbers from those unsheltered (67) with the overflow shelter (30), the number of total unsheltered rises to 97, doubling counts recorded in previous years.

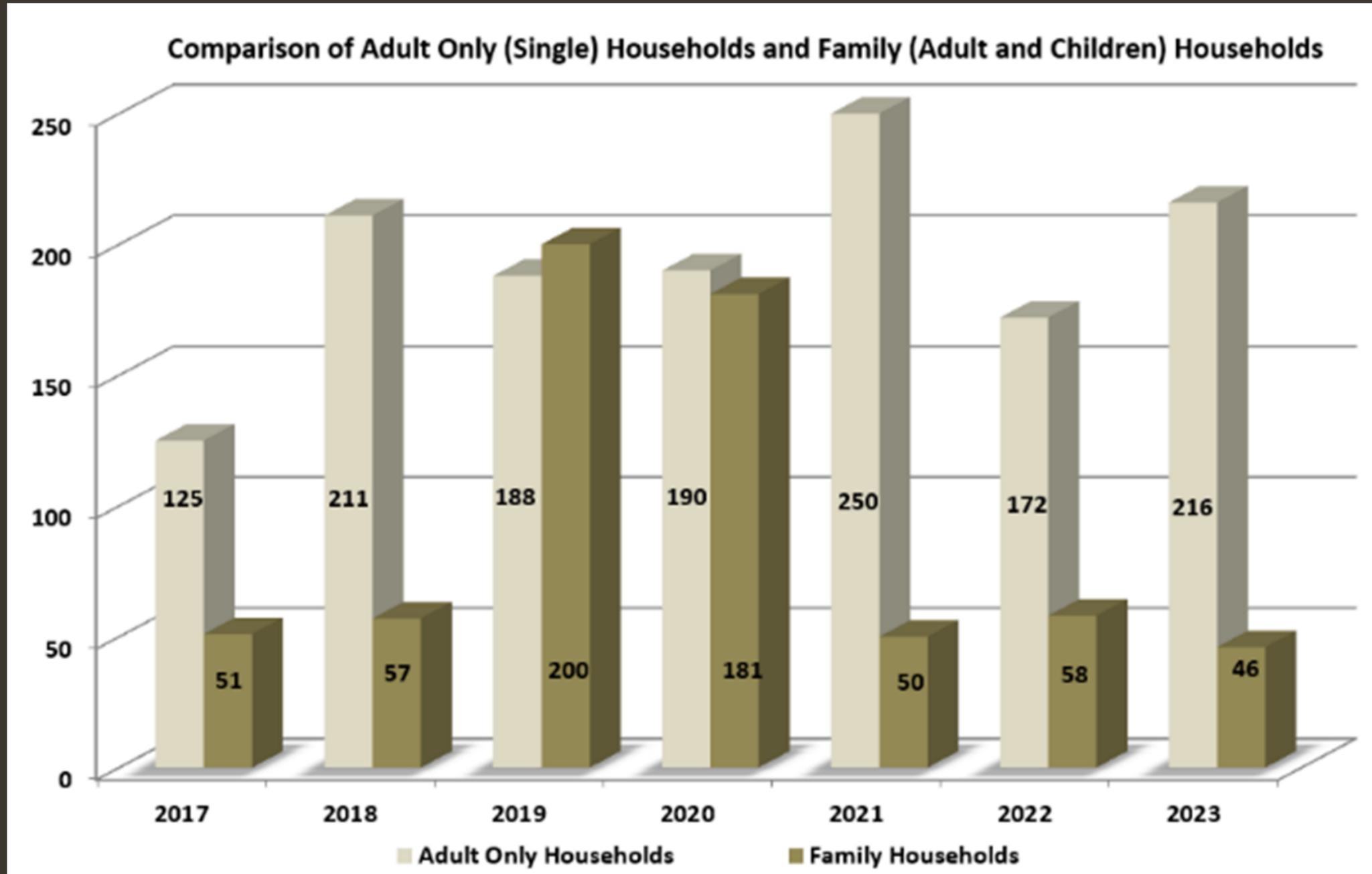
Statistical Highlights



Statistical Highlights

- Sheltered and unsheltered Individual (single adult only households) outpaced family households in 2023 at a rate of nearly 5:1.
- The number of sheltered and unsheltered individual households increased by 52% between 2022 (172) and 2023 (216).
- The number of sheltered family households in 2023 (46) was 21% less than the number of sheltered families recorded the previous year (58).

Statistical Highlights



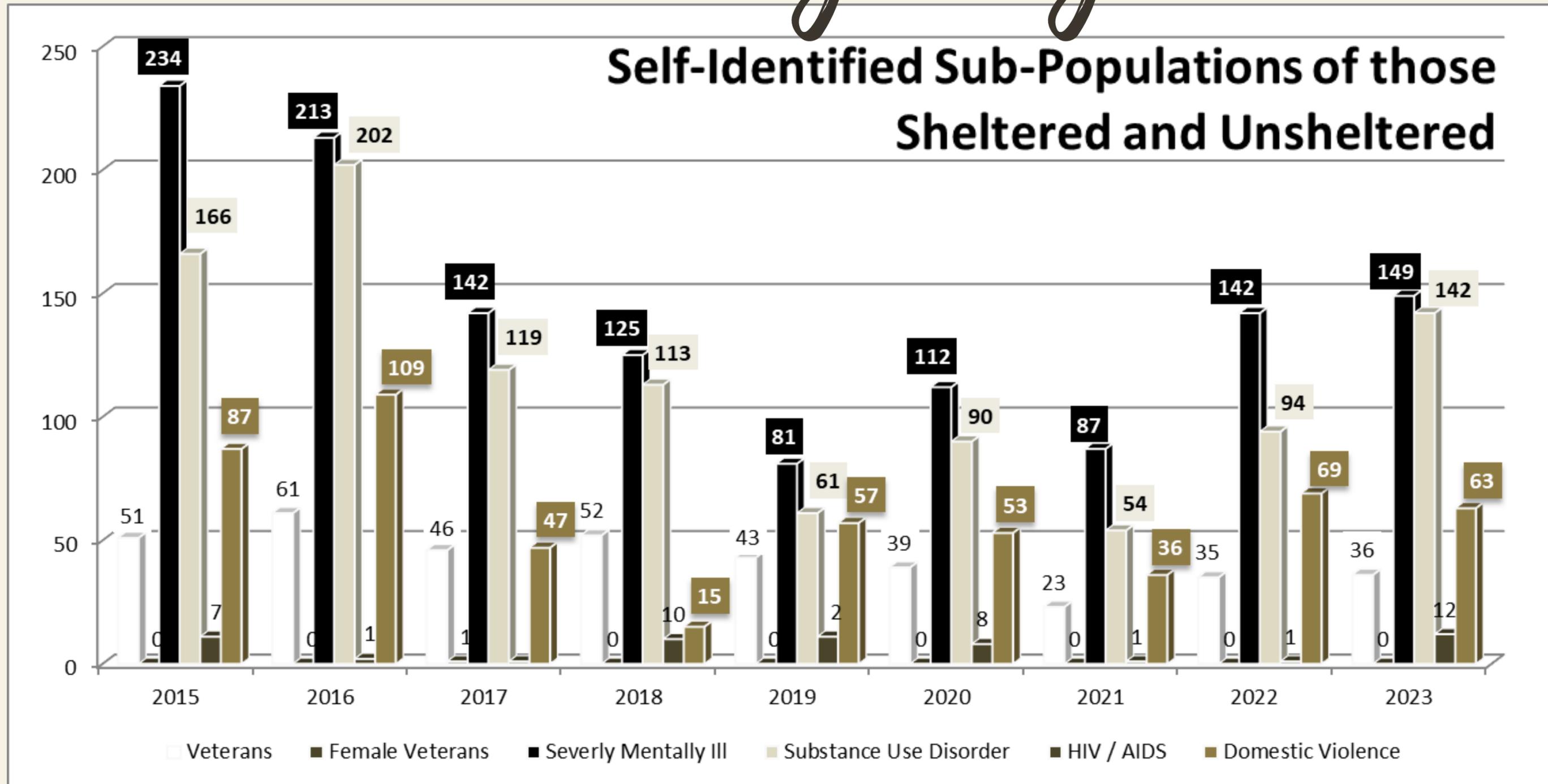
Statistical Highlights

- As has historically been the case, of the sheltered and unsheltered adults, severe mental illness and substance use disorder has been the most prevalent self-identified subpopulation followed by domestic violence.
- Individuals in shelter self-identifying as severely mentally ill declined in 2023 from the previous year but increased among those unsheltered.
- Although there were some veterans in shelter, for the third year there were zero unsheltered veterans in New Bedford.

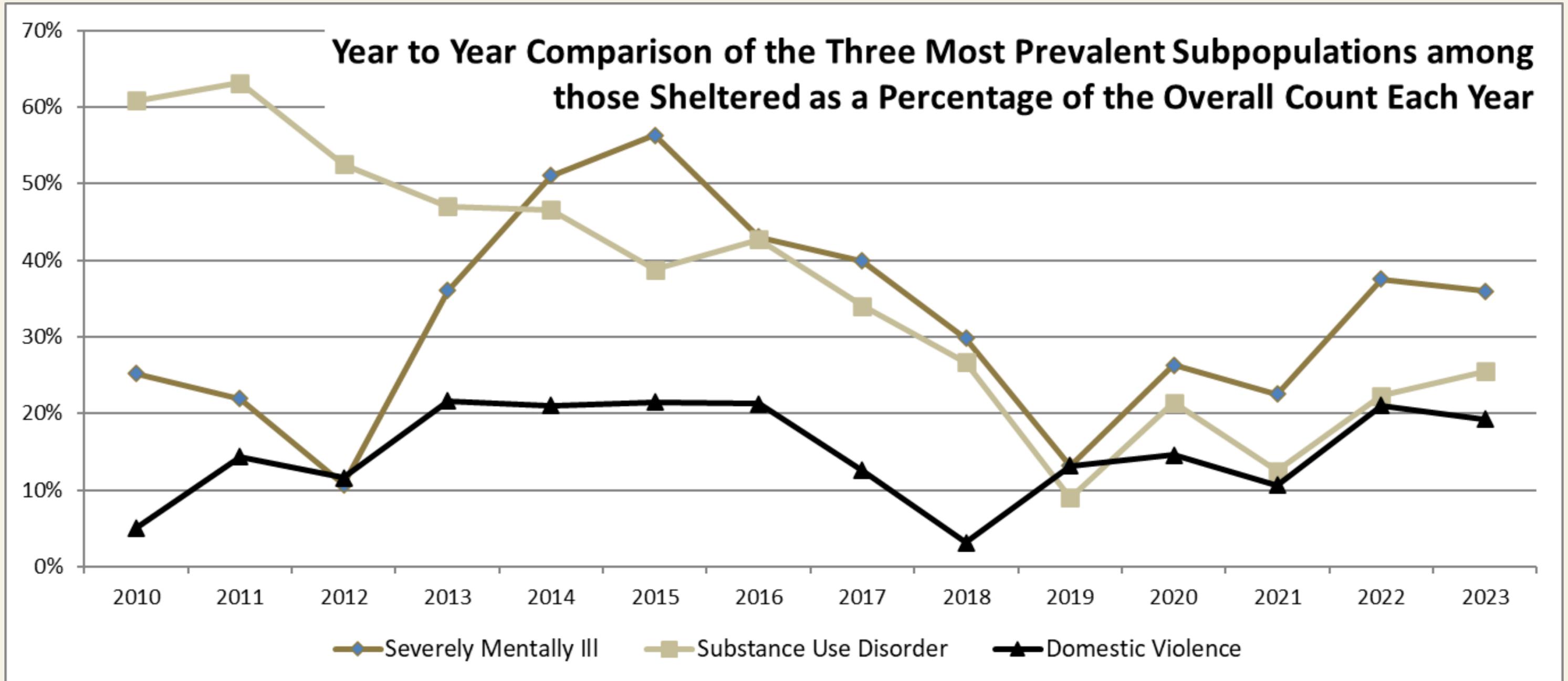
*Of
note...*

The number of those who were unsheltered and self-identifying as having severe mental illness and/or substance use disorder was at the highest level in 2023 since the count has been undertaken; the 2023 figures were triple that of 2021's count.

Statistical Highlights



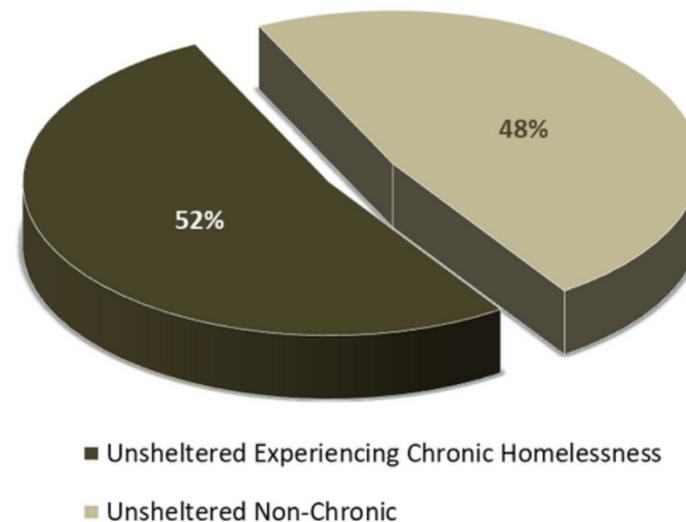
Statistical Highlights



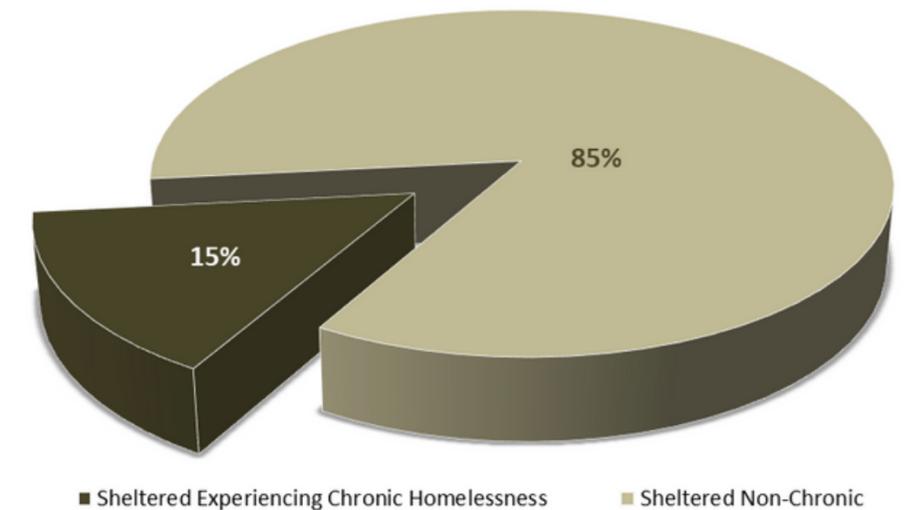
Statistical Highlights

- Roughly half of those who were living unsheltered during 2023's count met the federal definition of chronic homelessness (52%).
- Of the 306 individuals who were sheltered in 2023, 15% were considered chronically homeless, a figure slightly higher than the previous year's level.

Unsheltered Persons who were experiencing Chronic Homelessness in 2023

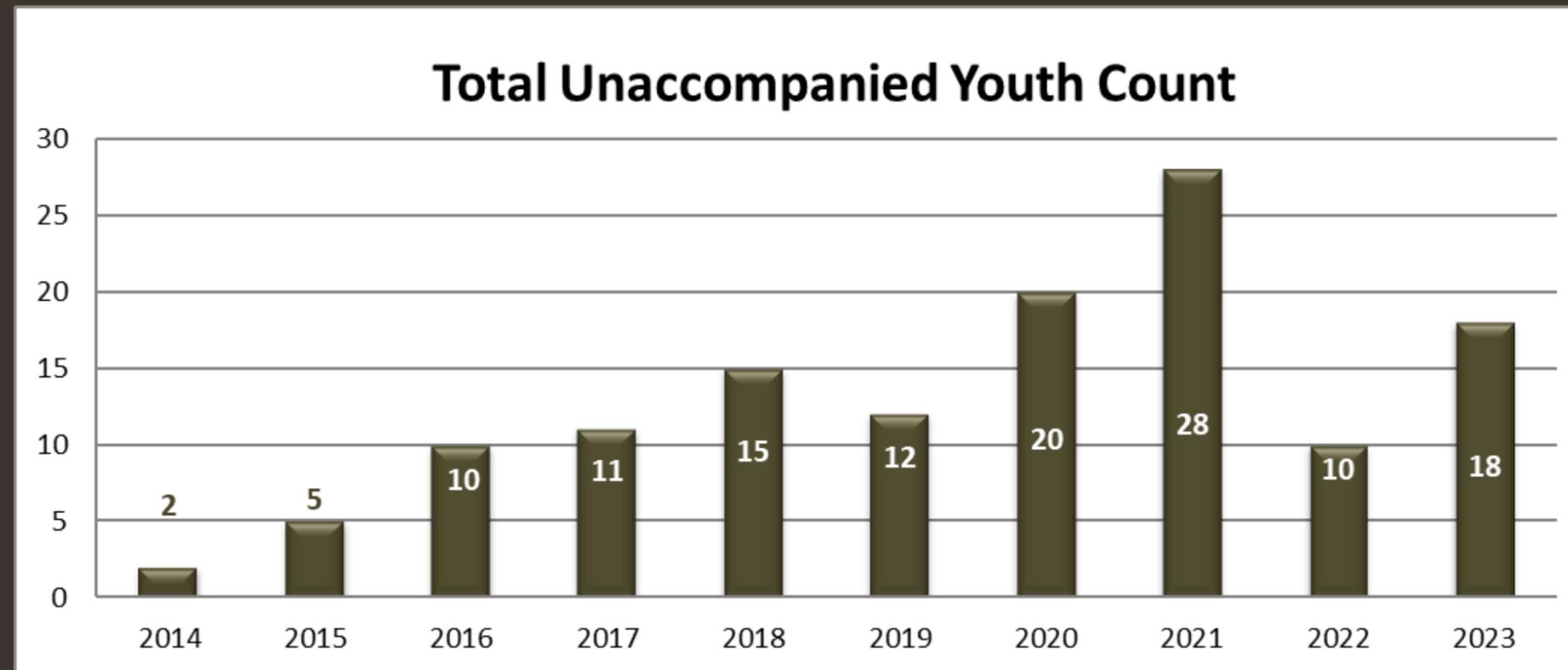


Sheltered Persons who were experiencing Chronic Homelessness in 2023



Statistical Highlights

- Unlike the previous year, in 2023, the number of unaccompanied youth who were living in shelter was consistent with the number (including two 17 year olds), were living on the streets.



The number of sheltered and unsheltered unaccompanied youth (those aged 18-24) increased in 2023 by 80% over the previous year and reflects a total almost 30% over over the 10 year average.

Housing Inventory

- During the 2023 PIT, a Housing Inventory was also conducted to better understand the New Bedford Continuum of Care's shelter and housing options.
- In the course of developing its Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), a utilization study was also undertaken to provide a snapshot as to the extent to which beds were occupied during a point in time.
- Although emergency shelter utilization in 2023 surpassed the previous year's rate, both transitional housing and permanent housing utilization fell below 2022 rates by roughly 12% and 13%, respectively.



Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory

- Emergency Shelter Utilization (that includes the seasonal overflow shelter) surpassed the 2022 rate of 77% indicating a higher use of emergency shelter beds for individuals and families.

Prog. Type	Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round and Seasonal Beds	Utilization Rate
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Grace House	11	11	100%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	HOUSE Program	27	30	90%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Killian's House	6	8	75%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Sister Rose House	24	25	96%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Winter Response Asst Program	30	30	100%
ES	Justice Resource Institute	Family Housing Programs/FOCUS	54	62	87%
ES	Missionary Sisters of Charity	Missionary Sisters of Charity	9	9	100%
ES	SEMCOA	Harbour House Family Center	47	63	75%
ES	GNB Women's Center	Artemis I Shelter	12	20	60%
ES	GNB Women's Center	Artemis II Shelter	7	16	44%
EMERGENCY SHELTER TOTAL			227	274	83%

Housing Inventory

- Transitional Housing Utilization fell below the already low 73% utilization rate recorded in the previous year.

Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
Catholic Social Services	Penniman Transitional Housing	7	7	100%
Steppingstone, Inc.	Graduate Program	6	9	67%
Steppingstone, Inc.	NB Women's Therap.Community	16	21	76%
SE MA Vets Housing Program, Inc.	VTH GPD	17	19	89%
SE MA Vets Housing Program, Inc.	VTH Main House	17	25	68%
The Women's Center	Housing Stabilization	16	42	38%
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING TOTAL		79	123	64%

Housing Inventory

- Permanent Housing Utilization also fell below the previous year's utilization rate of 97% for permanent housing. The low utilization rate falling below the HUD 85% threshold for PH projects must be carefully reviewed, understood and corrected going forward to ensure New Bedford is filling its PH units as quickly as possible and reducing homelessness.

Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
Catholic Social Services, Inc.	Portico	95	123	77%
Catholic Social Services, Inc.	PRISM	7	12	58%
PAACA, Inc.	Step Up	26	35	74%
PACE, Inc.	HomeBASE Stabilization Prog	58	58	100%
PACE, Inc.	PACE Housing Services	6	6	100%
PACE, Inc.	PACE Housing Services (Covid)	24	24	100%
Catholic Social Services Inc.	Emergency Solutions Dept.	0	0	0%
Catholic Social Services Inc.	CSS Emergency Solutions Dept (Covid)	0	0	0%
Providence VA Med Ctr	HUD VASH	47	51	92%
Steppingstone, Inc.	Welcome Home	17	20	85%
SEMCOA Inc.	Unity House	11	15	73%
Southeast Family Services Inc.	Family Preservation Program	46	62	74%
SE MA Veterans Program, Inc.	VTH-PSH	30	32	94%
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TOTAL		367	438	84%

Take Aways

Take Aways



Overall Count: The 2023 Point In Time (PIT) Count identified 373 people, both sheltered and unsheltered, a figure consistent with the previous two years but below the 14 year PIT Count average of 385.



Poor weather on the night of the 2023 Count meant the cold weather overflow shelter was open so those typically unsheltered were able stay indoors that night. When combining numbers of those unsheltered with those in the overflow shelter, the true number of total unsheltered rises to 97, doubling counts recorded in previous years.



The ratio of single adult-only households to family households with children is almost 5:1



As has historically been the case, among both sheltered and unsheltered adults, severe mental illness and substance use disorder was been the most prevalent self-identified subpopulation in 2023 followed by domestic violence.

Take Aways



In 2023 the number of those who were unsheltered and self-identifying as having a severe mental illness and/or substance use disorder was at its highest level since the count has been undertaken; the 2023 figures were triple that of 2021's count.



More sheltered and unsheltered people self-identified as being HIV+ than in any previous year, likely attributable to the prevalence of opiod abuse.



Among both sheltered and unsheltered people, those self-identifying as having a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder, are at their highest levels in the past seven years.



For the third successive year, New Bedford had zero veterans living on the streets.

Take Aways



In 2023, roughly half those who were unsheltered met the federal definition of being "chronically homeless" while only 15% of the 306 individuals who were sheltered met that definition, an indication that the most vulnerable populations remain unhoused.



The number of sheltered and unsheltered unaccompanied youth (those aged 18-24) increased in 2023 by 80% over the previous year and reflects a total almost 30% over the 10 year average.



Although emergency shelter utilization in 2023 surpassed the previous year's rate, both transitional housing and permanent housing utilization fell below 2022 rates by roughly 12% and 13%, respectively.



The low utilization rate for Permanent Housing has fallen below the federal 85% threshold for PH projects requiring careful review and correction to ensure New Bedford is filling its PH units as quickly as possible and reducing homelessness.

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