

Homelessness Data 2021

New Bedford | MA



Office of Housing & Community Development
Patrick J. Sullivan, Director



Overview

- Introduction
- Baseline Information
- Methodology and COVID-19
- Statistics
- Housing Inventory
- Take Aways

A spiral-bound notebook is open on the left side of the frame, showing a blank page. The notebook has a silver spiral binding. To the right, a person is blurred in the background, sitting at a table. The overall scene is in grayscale, except for the notebook's cover and the text.


Introduction

Introduction

- This presentation focuses on the results of the City of New Bedford's 2021 Point In Time Count and its Housing Inventory.
- All material presented here focuses on data collected according to federal standards according to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Introduction

Though this powerpoint approaches some discussion as to patterns and trending revealed by this year's data, it is not intended to supplant a more detailed discussion about performance and response to homelessness.

A black and white photograph of a man in a kitchen, seen from the side, wearing a dark t-shirt and a light-colored apron. He is looking down at a counter. In the foreground, a large, spiral-bound notebook is open, showing a blank page. The notebook has a decorative border with blue and gold lines. The background shows a kitchen with windows and a door.

Baseline Information

Baseline Information

- Where is this data from?

This presentation relies on two data sources, each providing different kinds of information...

Point In Time
PIT

Focuses on people

Housing
Inventory Count
HIC

Focuses on beds

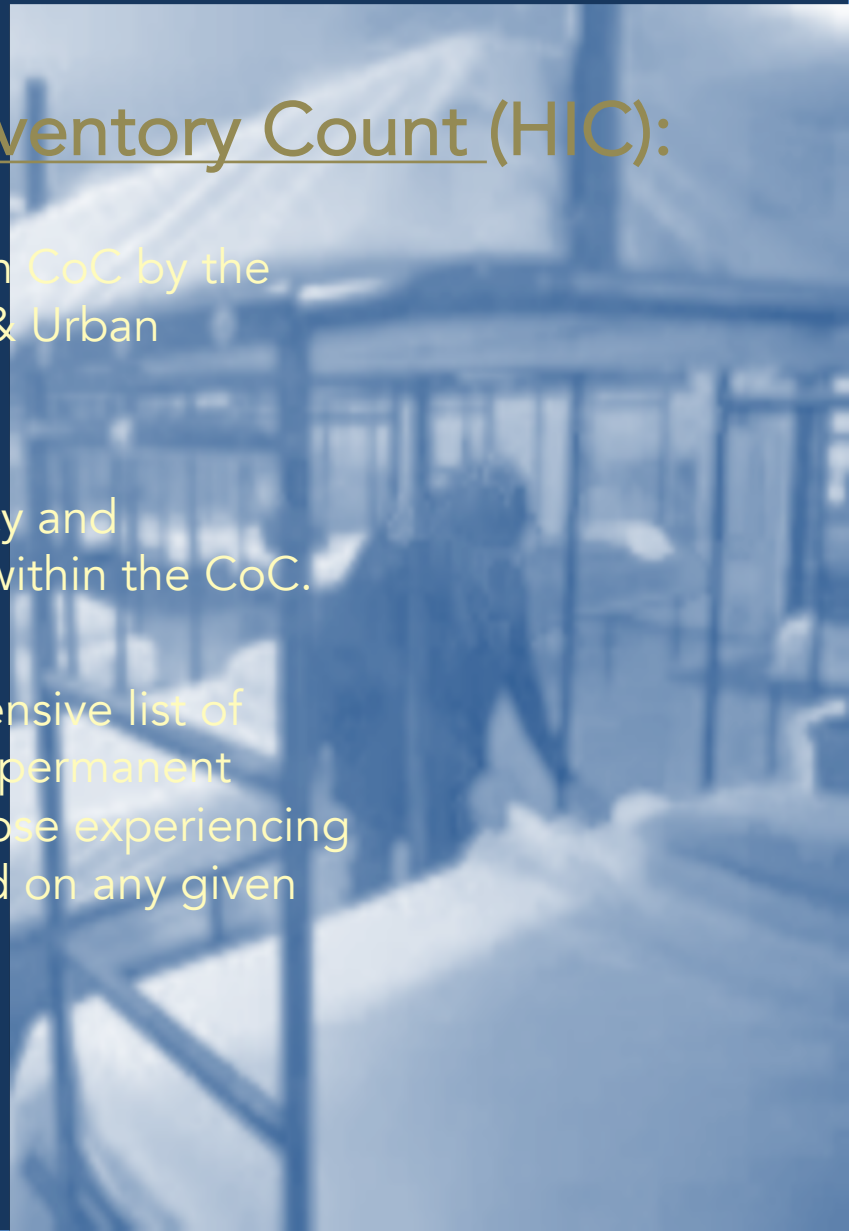
Baseline Information

- Defining a Point In Time (PIT):
 - A PIT is required of each Continuum of Care (CoC - of which the City of New Bedford is one) by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.
 - It is a census of those who are sheltered in emergency shelters and transitional housing; it also includes those who are *unsheltered* and living on the streets.
 - The PIT is a sampling of what homelessness might look like in New Bedford on any given night.



Baseline Information

- Defining a Housing Inventory Count (HIC):
 - A HIC is also required of each CoC by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.
 - It is a census of the emergency and transitional housing facilities within the CoC.
 - The HIC provides a comprehensive list of shelter beds, transitional and permanent housing units that exist for those experiencing homelessness in New Bedford on any given night.



Baseline Information

- Value of the PIT and HIC...
 - The PIT and HIC capture important demographic and inventory data needed to help the CoC strategically address homelessness.
 - They provide data that reveals the extent to which resources are needed, who is served/un-served, who is the hardest to house, etc.

Baseline Information

- PIT and HIC Facts:



- The annual PIT count typically lasts 24 hours and is conducted in hundreds of locations across the country typically on the last Wednesday of January in any given year.



- Agencies with shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing provided information to the City in January in order to develop the 2021 HIC.

Baseline Information

- PIT and HIC Facts:
 - Agencies provide annual information to the city identifying details about their facilities.
 - All collected information informs federal funding decisions and helps identify challenges, strengths and successes within the CoC.



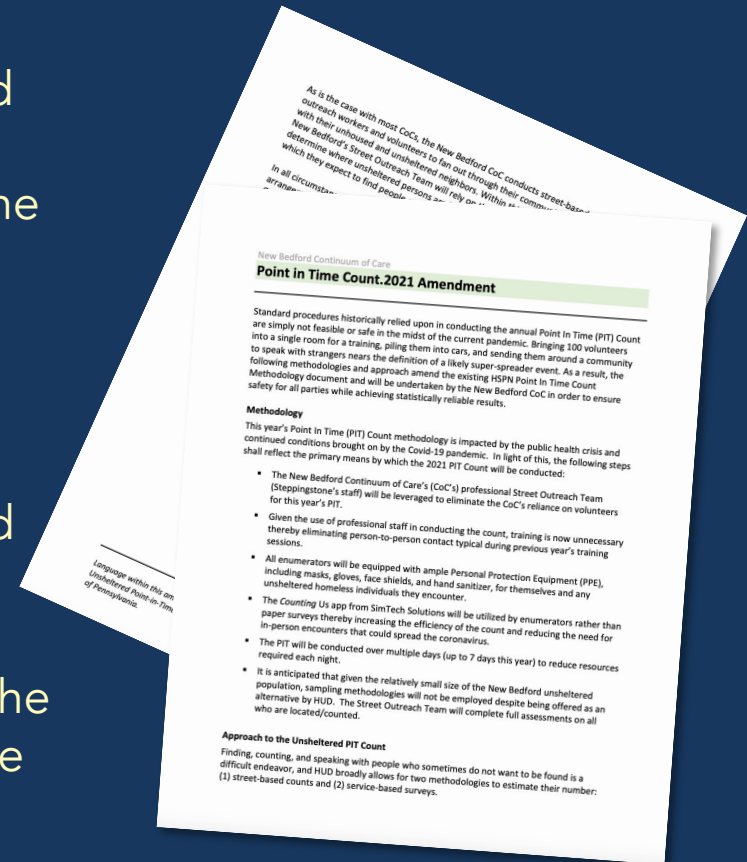
Methodology

Methodology

- PIT Logistics | Execution
 - Typically, the HSPN PIT Count Committee begins meeting several months prior to the actual PIT Count date and focuses on volunteers, donations, outreach and kick-off, the convening of a resource event and overall logistical planning including training and city-wide sectors being counted.
 - However, the HSPN Exec Committee adopted (and the HSPN membership ratified) an amendment to its PIT Count Methodology in 2021 in order to safely execute such an effort in the midst of an active pandemic.

Methodology

- Adapting the PIT during COVID-19
 - Given the public health crisis and challenges it would create for communities trying to conduct the count in a safe manner, HUD provided significant leeway to CoCs to ensure local decisions could drive methodology.
 - In New Bedford, the HSPN voted at its January 2021 to adopt an amendment to its existing PIT Count Methodology modifying the way in which it would execute the 2021 count.

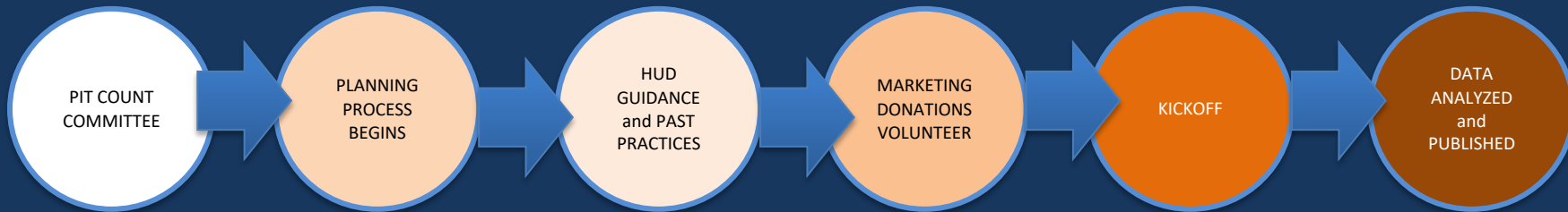


Methodology

- Changes in 2021...
 - Among the ways in which New Bedford modified how it conducted its PIT during COVID...
 - The CoC's professional Street Outreach Team (Steppingstone's staff) was leveraged to eliminate the CoC's reliance on volunteers.
 - Training was eliminated since professional staff was utilized.
 - PPE was provided to all Street Outreach Team members.
 - The PIT extended for several days to reduce resources required each night.

Methodology

Traditional Methodology



2021's COVID Driven Methodology





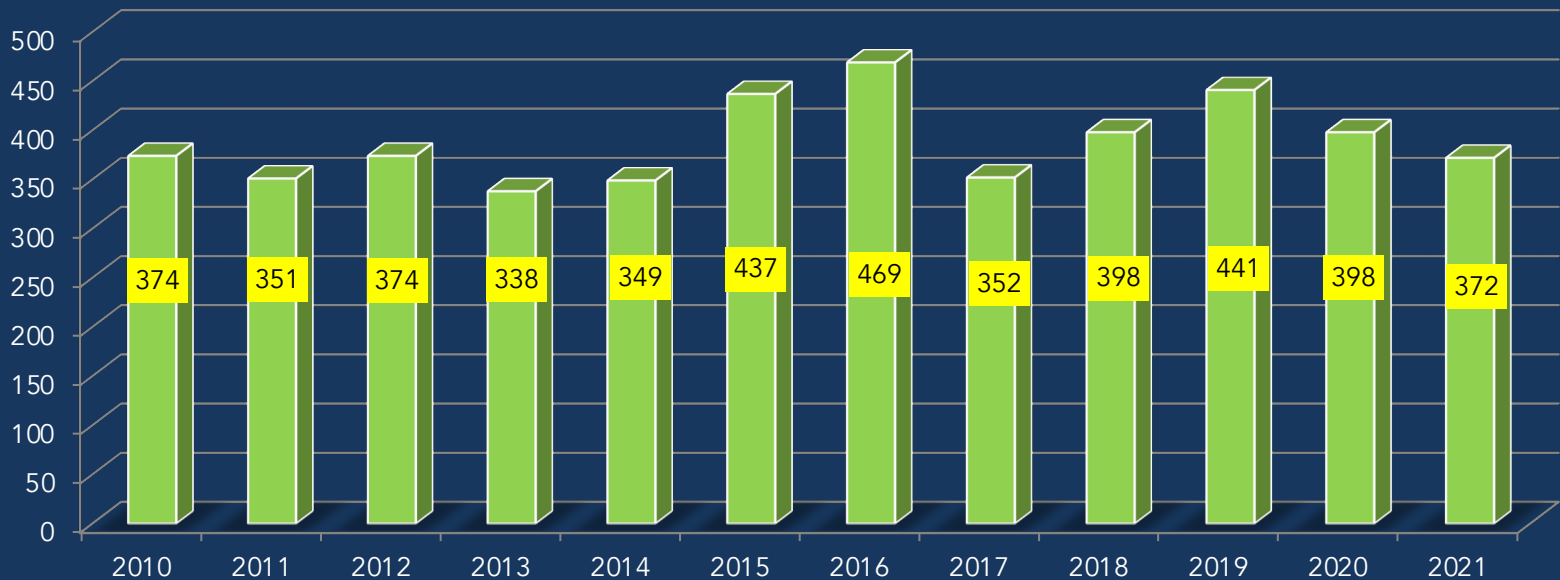
Statistics

PIT Count Total

The 2021 PIT Count identified 372 total adults and children in New Bedford experiencing homelessness.

The 2021 PIT total count is roughly 7% lower than the 2020 PIT total.

Total PIT Count Over Time



Understanding the PIT Count Total

What were the numbers for this year and last year?

2021 PIT Total	2020 PIT Total
372	398

Why did the overall 2021 PIT Count Total decrease by 7%?

- The count of those in shelter (ES and TH) in 2021 reflected a decrease of 26 people from the previous year's count. This decrease results from a combination of circumstances including:
 - The closure of the Missionary Sisters of Charity facility and its 9 beds due to COVID.
 - The continued reduction in transitional housing beds within the CoC.
 - The number and size of families in emergency shelter at the time of the count.
- The 2021 unsheltered count reflected a modest decrease of five people compared with the 2020 figure.

Sheltered vs. Unsheltered

Breaking down the numbers...

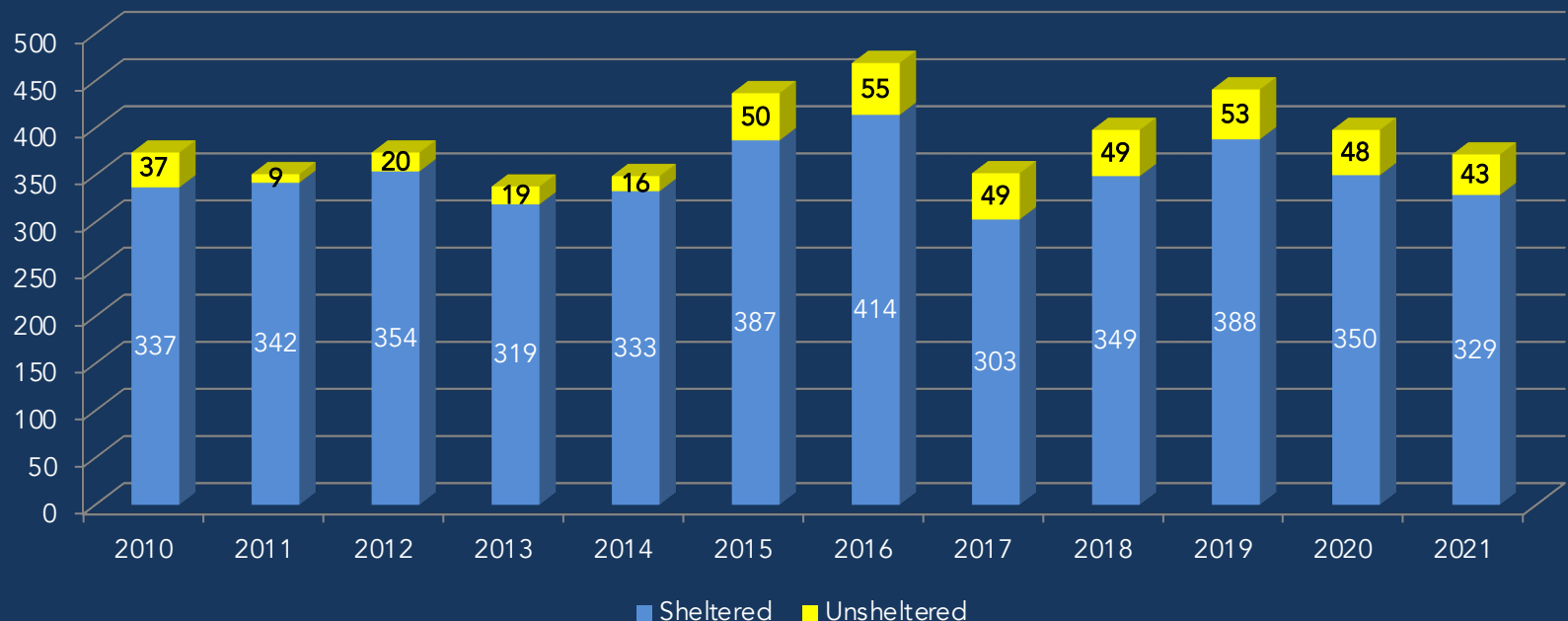
Of the total 372 people counted...

43 people were unsheltered and living on the streets

267 were in emergency shelters and

62 were in transitional housing programs

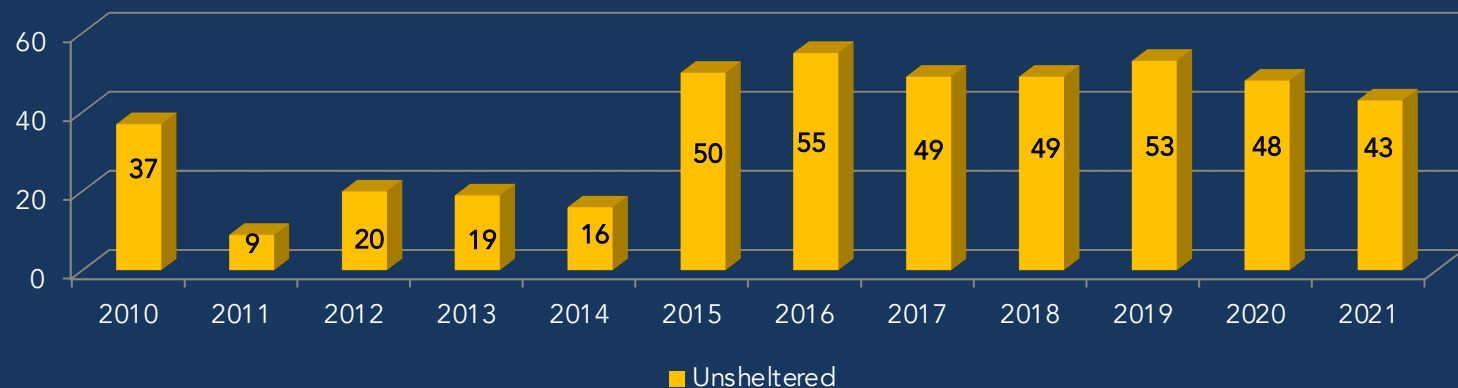
Sheltered and Unsheltered PIT Count



Unsheltered Count

The 2021 total unsheltered count of **43** people living on the streets is slightly under the 2020 PIT count of 48 and is the lowest number of those living on the streets in the past seven years.

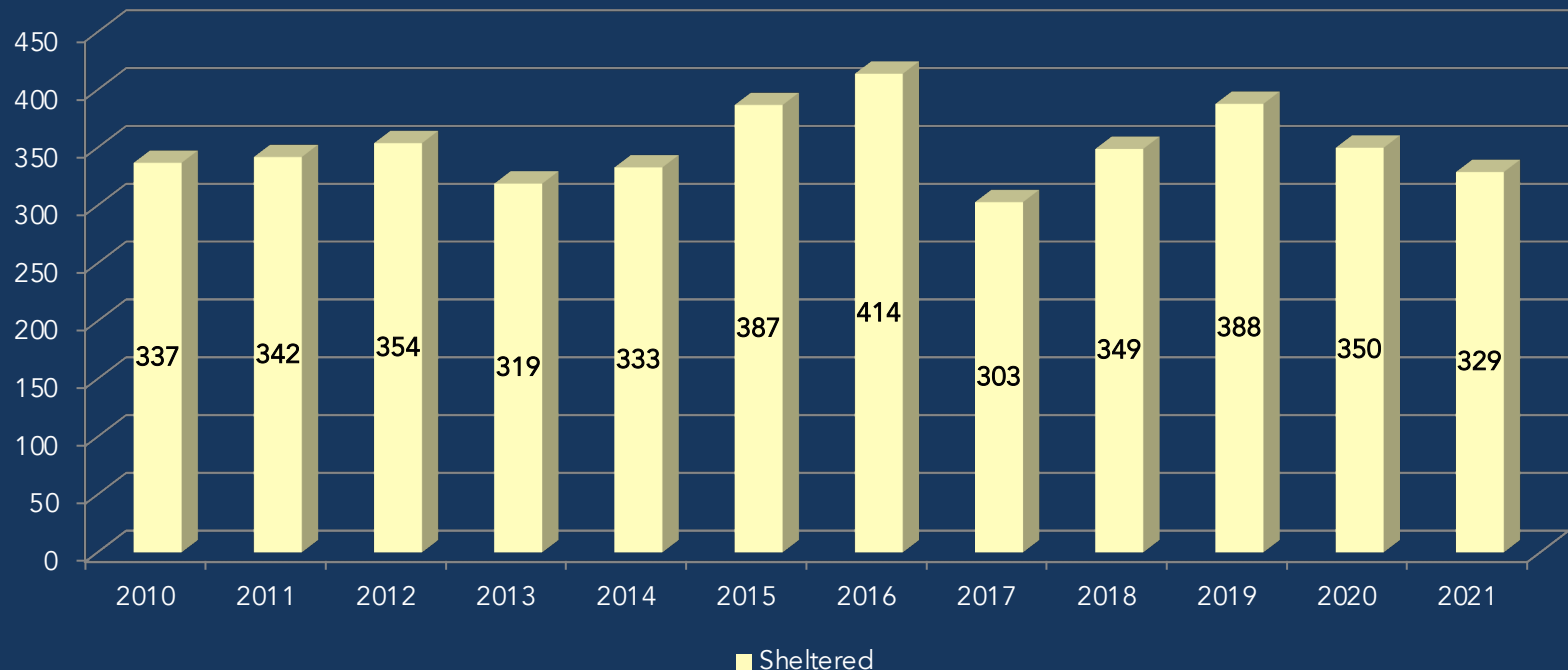
Unsheltered PIT Count



Sheltered Count

The 2021 total sheltered count of **329** people living in shelter (emergency and transitional) represents a modest decrease from the 2020 shelter count and, with the exception of 2017, represents the lowest number of people in shelter since 2013.

Sheltered PIT Count



Households

“Adult only households” (single households) and “Households with Children” (family households) are among the types of households that HUD defines as part of the PIT’s sheltered and unsheltered counts.

Adult-Only Households

Single Households

Households with adults, only.
Includes households of unaccompanied youth (ages 18-24) and unaccompanied minors under age 18 (living on their own without an adult).

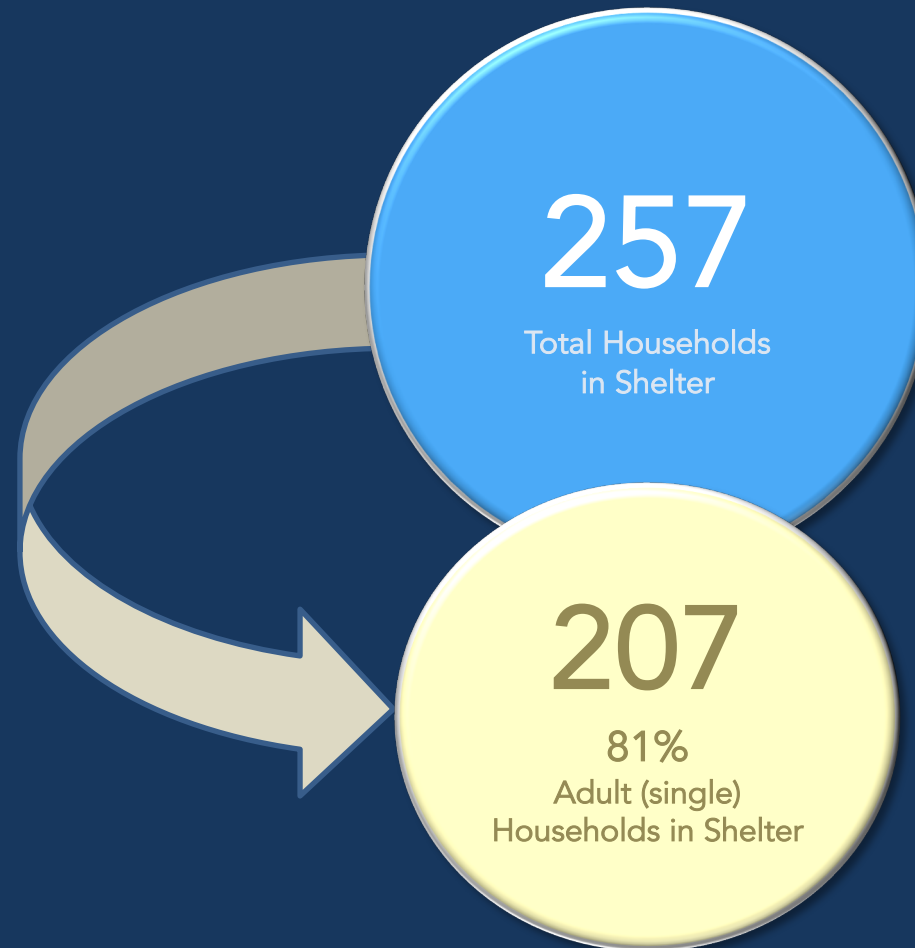
Households with Children

Family Households

Households with at least one minor child.

Comparing Households

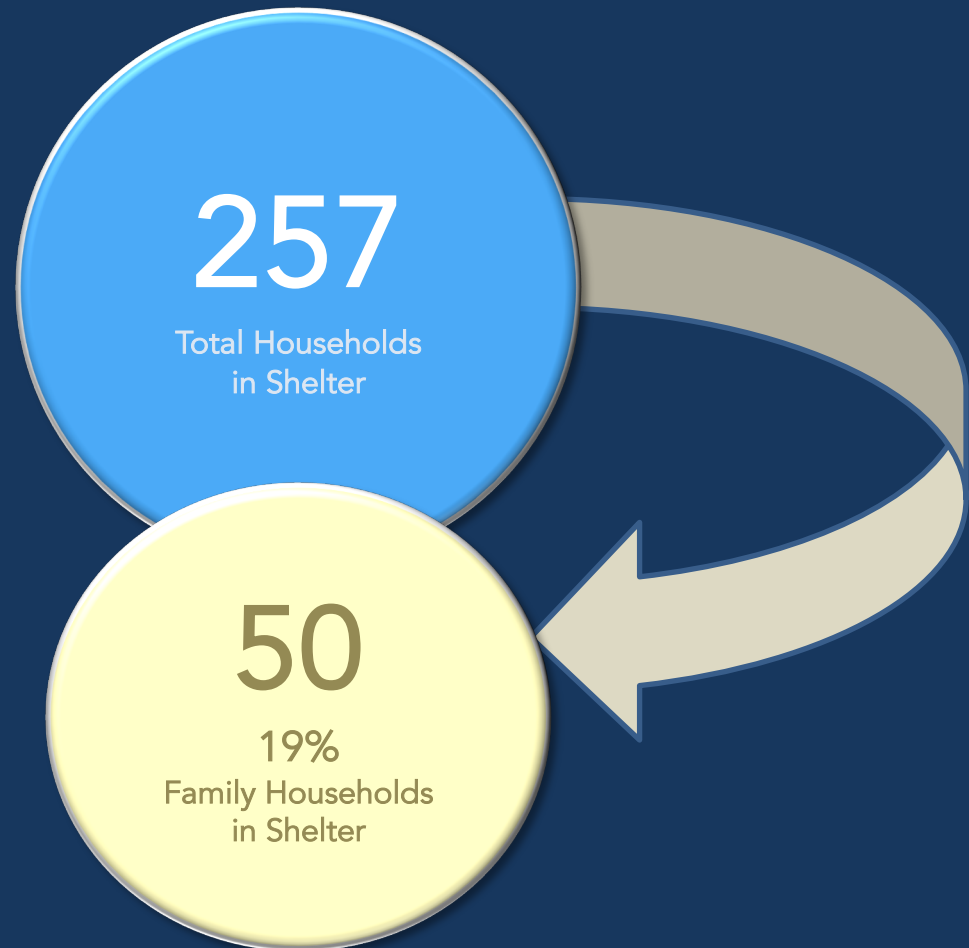
Comparing the total number of Households vs. Adult-Only Households in Shelter in 2021:



Adult households (single households) constituted the majority of those experiencing homelessness living in shelter in New Bedford at a ratio of over 4:1 in the 2021 count.

Comparing Households

Comparing the total number of Households vs. Family Households in Shelter in 2021:



While the number of adult-only households and family households living in shelter both decreased in 2021 compared with 2020 levels, of note was that the number of family households in 2021 (50) reduced 36% from the number of family households in 2020 (78).

Sheltered Individuals by Households Type

The 2021 PIT Count found a total of 329 people living in shelters, some of whom were in adult-only households and others who were in family (at least one adult/one child) households.

The number of people living in shelters differed by household type over the past few years.

Adults-Only Households

The 2021 number of individuals in adult-only (single) households (164) increased by roughly 13% from the 2020 count but represented an approximate 13% decrease from the 2019 count.

(2021 figures as compared with 142 in 2020 and 188 in 2019)

Family Households

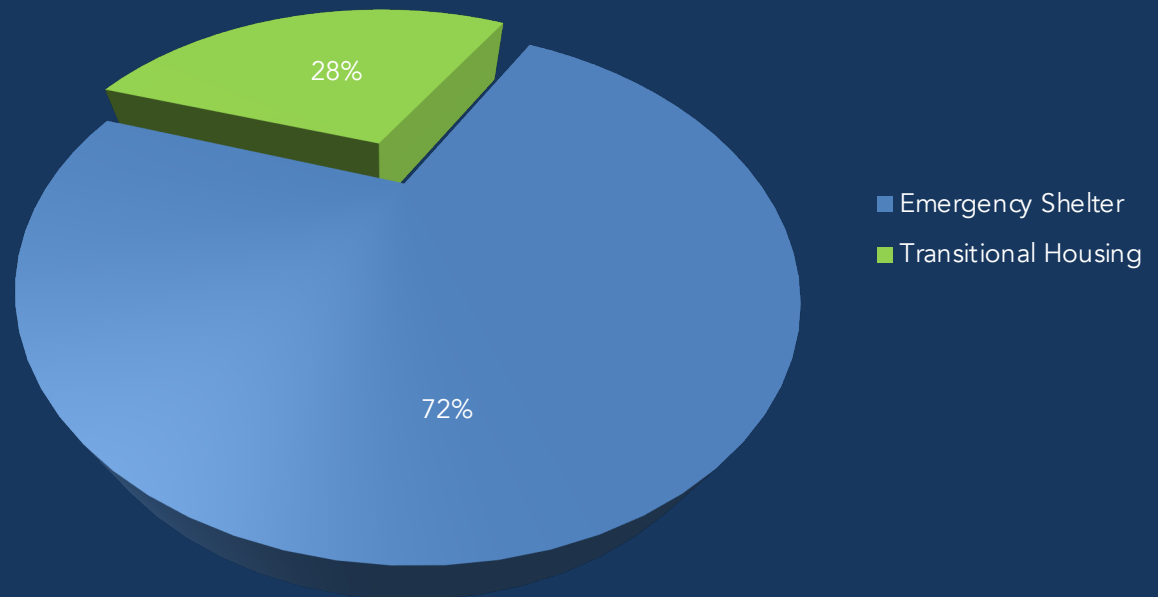
The 2021 number of individuals in family households (165) decreased by roughly 26% from 2020's count and 21% from the 2019 count.

(2021 figures as compared with 208 in 2020 and 200 in 2019)

Individuals in Adult-Only Sheltered Households

Of the 164 individuals who constituted "adult-only" households that were living in shelters, 118 of those individuals (72%) were in Emergency Shelter programs and 46 individuals (28%) were in Transitional Housing.

Percentage of Sheltered Individuals
in Adult-Only Households

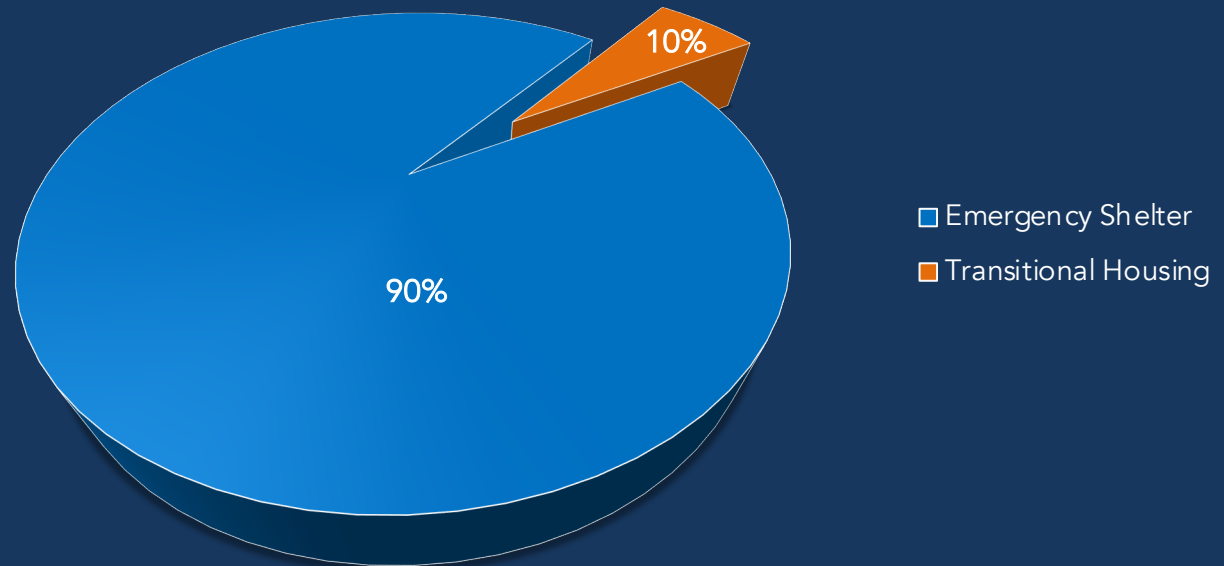


Statistics

Individuals in Family Sheltered Households

Of the 165 individuals who constituted households with children living in shelters, 149 of those individuals (90%) were in Emergency Shelter programs and 16 individuals (10%) were in Transitional Housing.

Percentage of Sheltered Individuals in Family Households

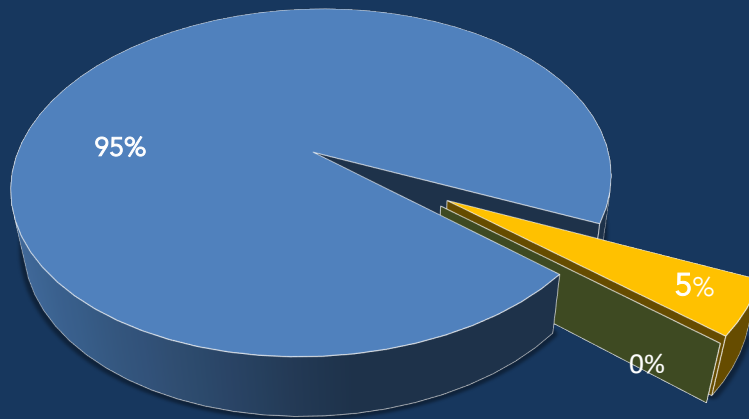


Statistics

Age

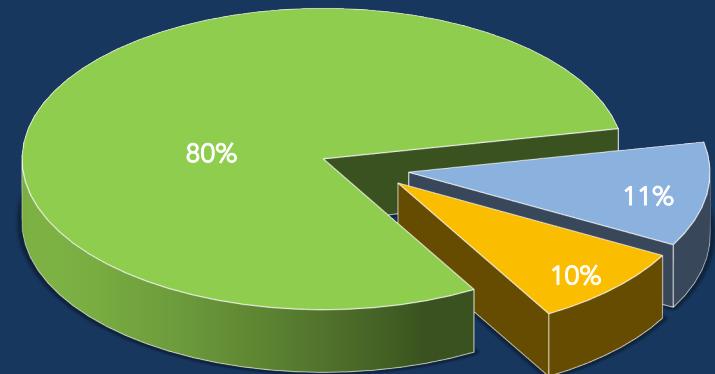
As part of the PIT, demographic information about subpopulations was included in the interviews and recorded. This information included a look at age by household group in both sheltered and unsheltered settings.

2021 Percentage Unsheltered Adult-only Households by Age.



- Total Adults 25+
- Total Adults 18-24
- Total Children Under 18

2021 Percentage Sheltered Adult-only Households by Age



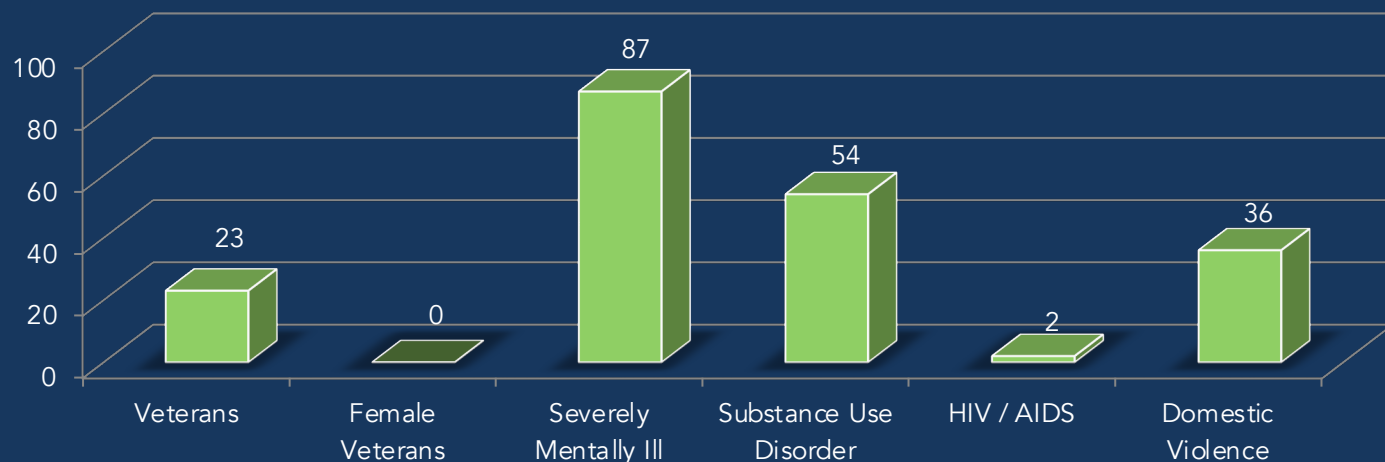
- Total Adults 25+
- Total Adults 18-24
- Total Children Under 18

Subpopulations *(Sheltered and Unsheltered)*

As part of the PIT, demographic information about self-reported subpopulations was included in the interviews and recorded. In the case of the data points below, having at least one member of an adult household self identifying with a particular characteristic resulted in the household being counted.

Households may self-report as being within more than one of the following populations.

2021 Sub-Populations in All Households
(Sheltered and Unsheltered)

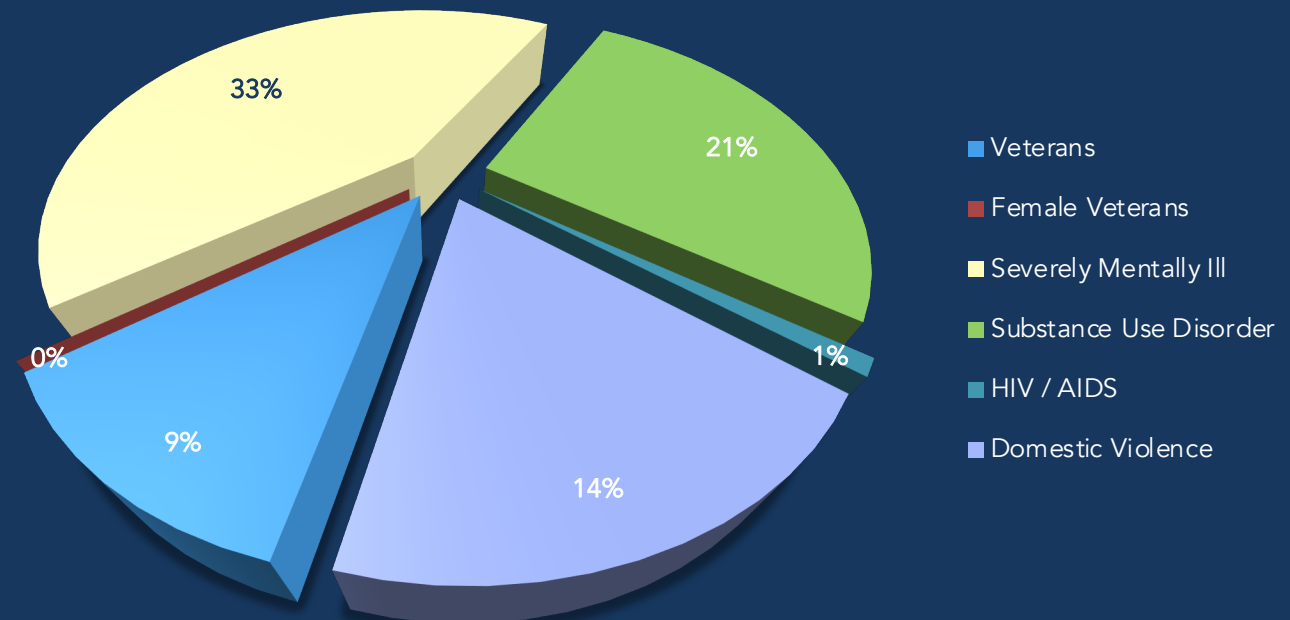


Subpopulations *(Sheltered and Unsheltered)*

Based on the information collected, adults most frequently self-identified as being severely mentally ill (33%) and/or as suffering from substance use disorder (21%).

Notably, domestic violence accounts for 14% of what surveyed adults reported.

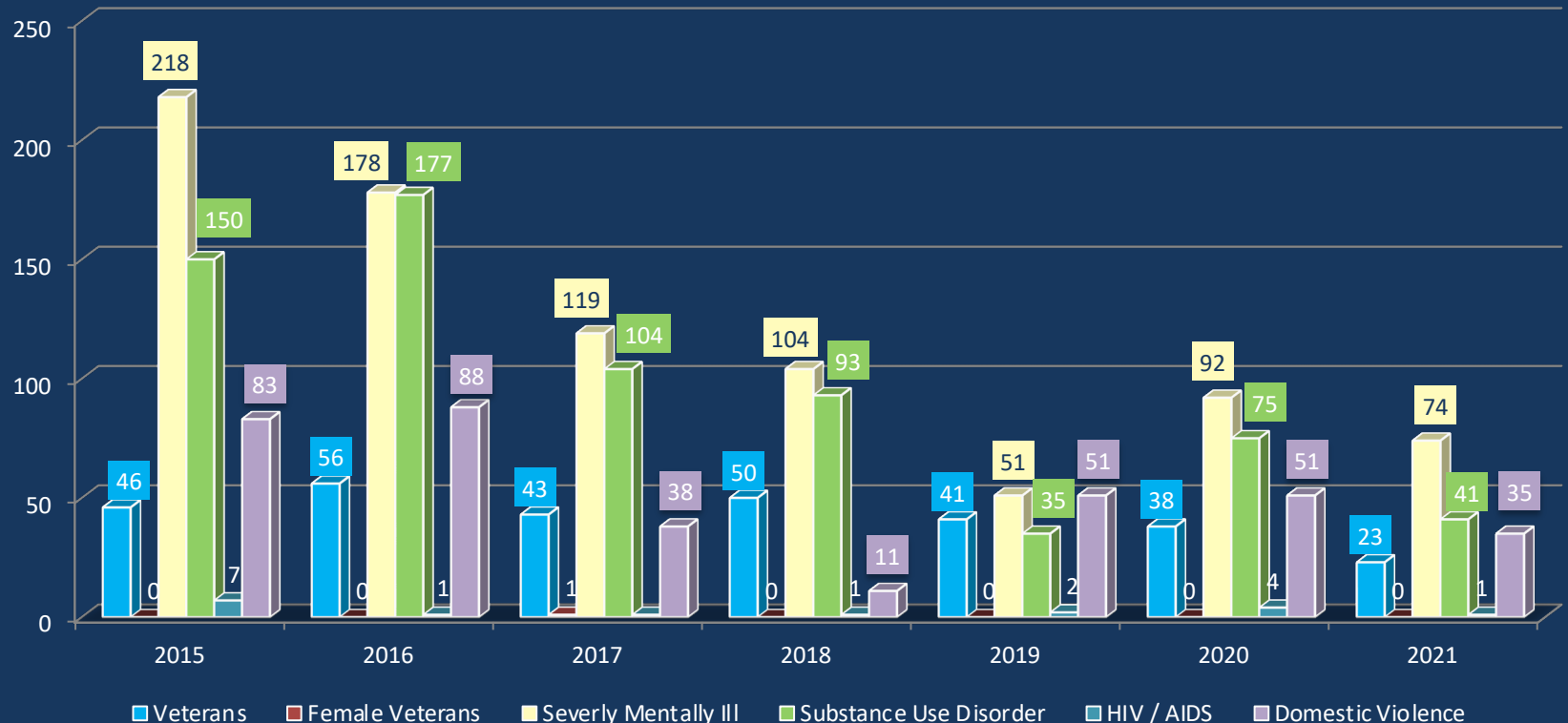
Percentage of total sheltered and unsheltered adults self-identifying as being part of the described subpopulation



Subpopulation Trends *(Sheltered)*

The year-to-year comparison by subpopulation for those in shelter shows a significant decrease in those self-reporting substance abuse and severe mental illness since 2020; domestic violence has similarly decreased from 2020 levels.

Sheltered Homeless Sub-Population

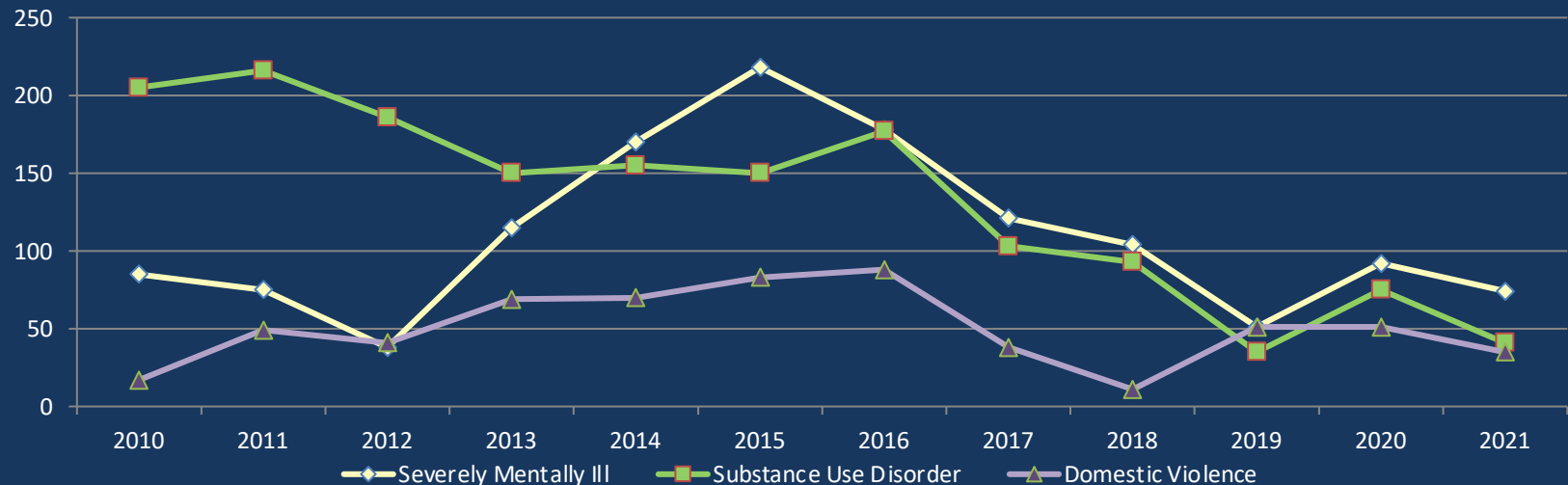


Subpopulation Trends *(Sheltered)*

Despite some increases in the number of those self-reporting substance use disorders and severe mental illness in 2021 compared with those from the previous year, 2021 figures continue to reflect an overall decreasing trend since 2016 and 2015, respectively.

The numbers of sheltered adults self-identifying as having been a victim of domestic violence has continued to slightly decrease between 2020 and 2021. The number of those self-identifying as such in 2021 is the second lowest rate recorded over the past 11 years.

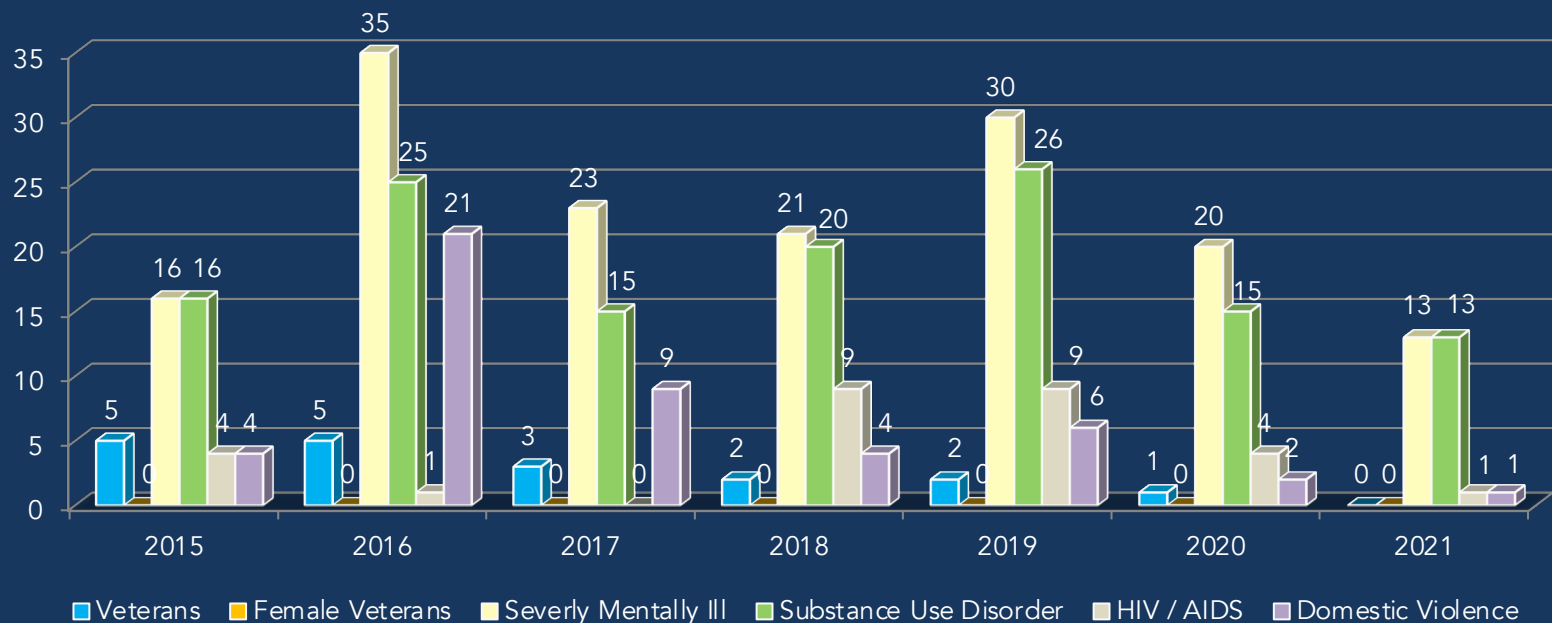
Year to Year Comparison of Three Sheltered Subpopulations



Subpopulation Trends *(Unsheltered)*

The total unsheltered census number—along with the additional information collected during interviews with those living on the streets—helps to better understand this segment of the population, the breadth of needs within the unsheltered community and why many may not be accessing available residential housing and services.

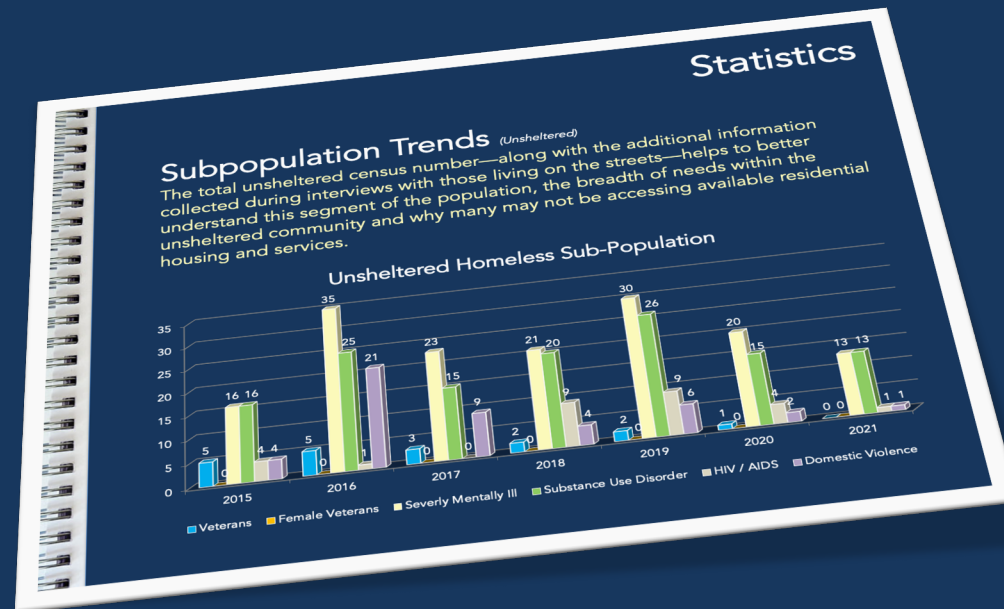
Unsheltered Homeless Sub-Population



Subpopulation Trends *(Unsheltered)*

The number of those living on the streets identifying as struggling with severe mental illness has continued to decrease again in 2021 reflecting a 43% decline since 2019 as has the number of those identifying as having substance use disorders

No one living on the streets identified as a veteran, the first time this has happened since over the last seven years. The number of those reporting victimization as a result of domestic violence is at its lowest level since 2014 and the number of those with HIV/AIDS has all decreased since the previous three years.



Chronic Homelessness

Federal guidelines define not only “homelessness” but also “chronic homelessness.”

Chronic homelessness is defined as an individual with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member with a disabling condition who has been either continuously homeless (living on the streets/in a place not meant for human habitation) for a year or more OR one who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness that total one year within a consecutive three-year period.

Continuums of care across the country are tasked with reducing the number of people meeting the chronic homeless definition with an end goal of ending chronic homelessness.

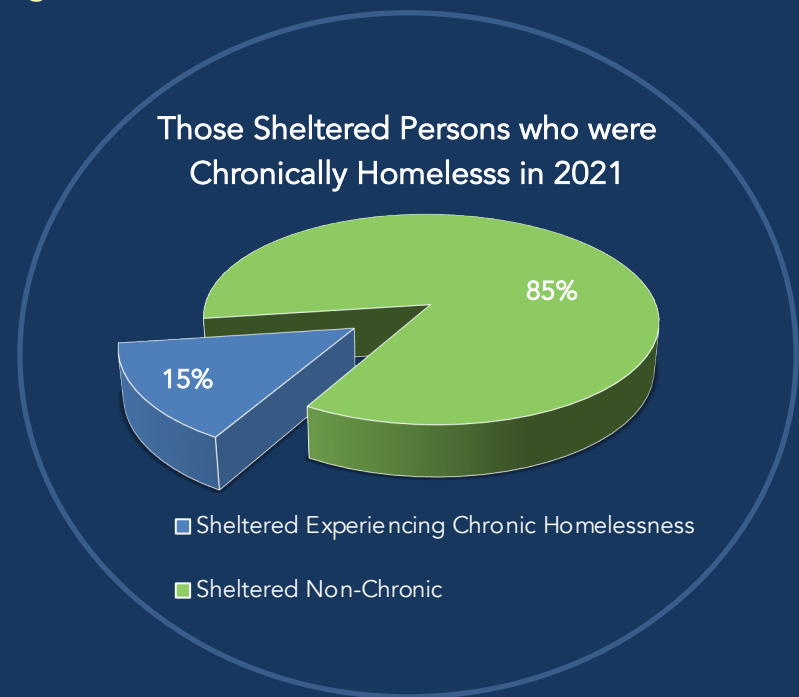
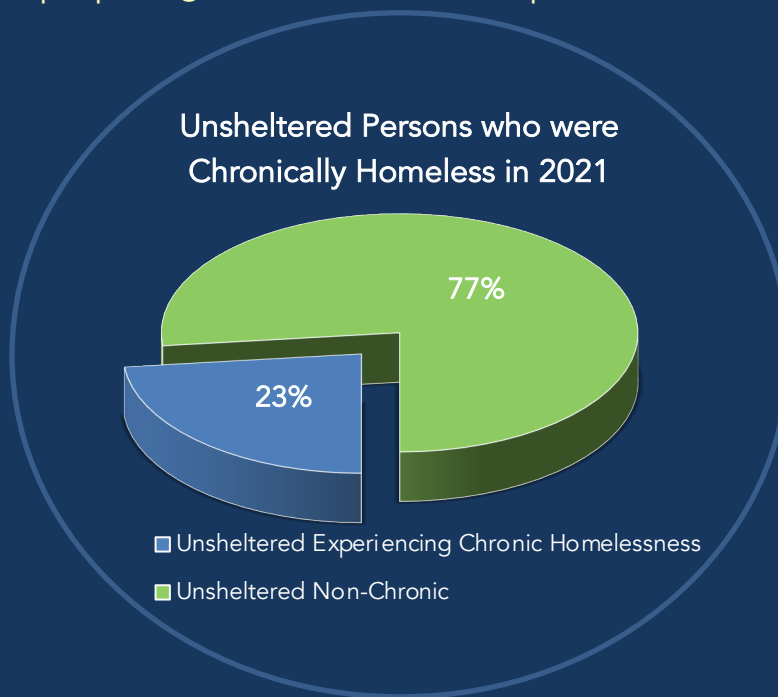


Chronic Homelessness

Those meeting the definition of chronic homelessness may be unsheltered at the time of the PIT count or may have already entered emergency shelter or transitional housing.

- Of the 43 individuals who were unsheltered, 10 people (or 23% of the overall total) were identified as being chronically homeless. *The percentage of those meeting the chronic definition is 4% lower than the 2020 level.*
- Of the 329 individuals who were sheltered, 48 individuals (or 15% of the overall total) were identified as being chronically homeless. *The percentage of those meeting the chronic definition is 4% higher than the 2020 level.*

Consistent with federal expectations, these trends show less chronically homeless on the streets and increasing numbers of those who are chronically homeless in shelter, likely preparing for movement into permanent housing.



Statistics

Unaccompanied Youth

In addition to counting individuals and households with children, the PIT also looks at the number of “unaccompanied youth” which HUD defines as those under age 18 who are experiencing homelessness and not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent/legal guardian and those between 18-24 years old who are unaccompanied.

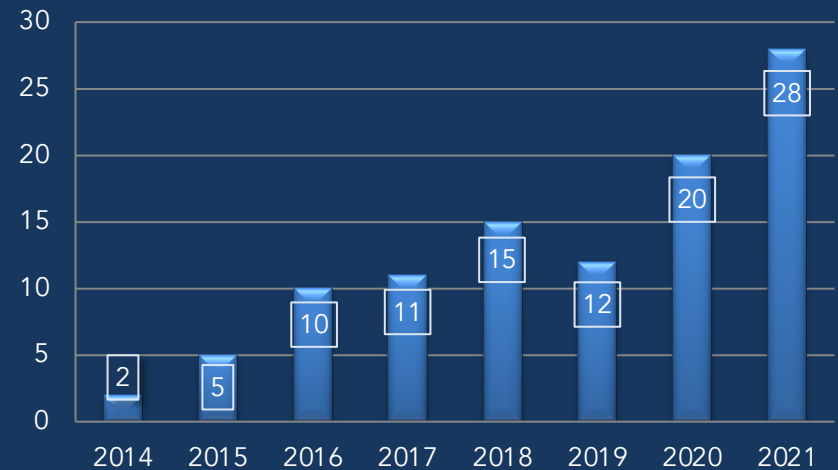
The total number of unaccompanied youth increased between 2020 and 2021.*

In 2021, 26 of the 28 unaccompanied youth (93%) were living in shelters. The remaining (2) unsheltered youth living on the streets accounted for (7%) of the total.

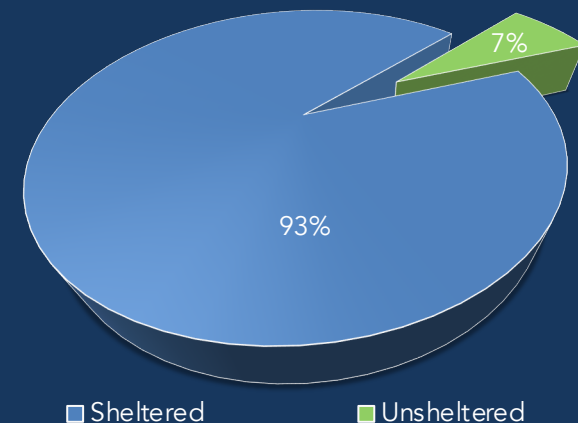
**NOTE:*

Part of the increase is attributed to the inclusion of 9 sheltered individuals under the age of 18 to the count.

Total Unaccompanied Youth Count



Sheltered vs. Unsheltered Unaccompanied Youth in 2021

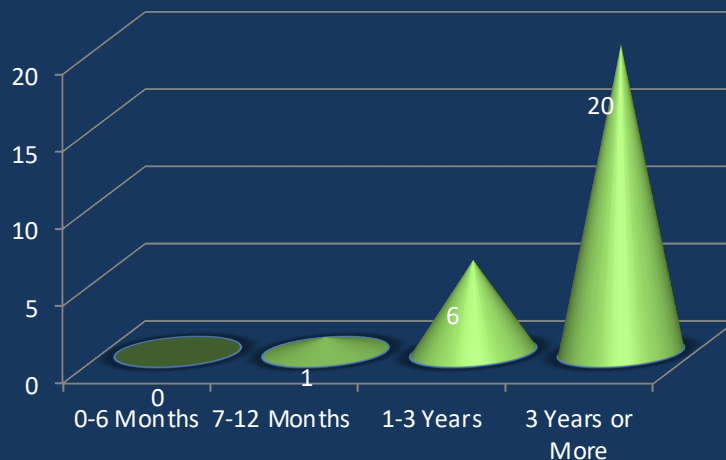


New Bedford Residency

In addition to the more traditional metrics, the City of New Bedford also asked how many years every unsheltered individual had been in the city.

Of those responding, 74% reported that they have lived in New Bedford for over 3 years.

**Unsheltered Individuals
Living in New Bedford
(Of those responding)**





Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory

HIC

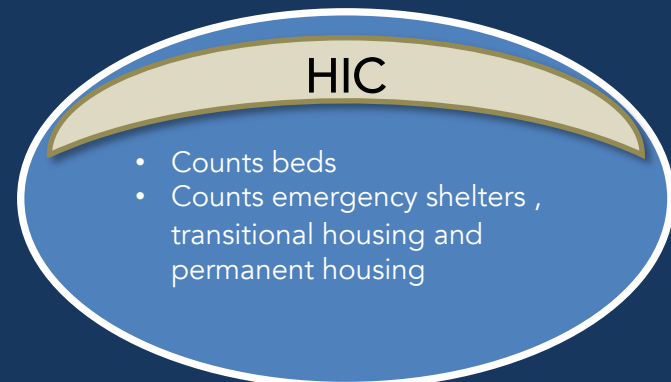
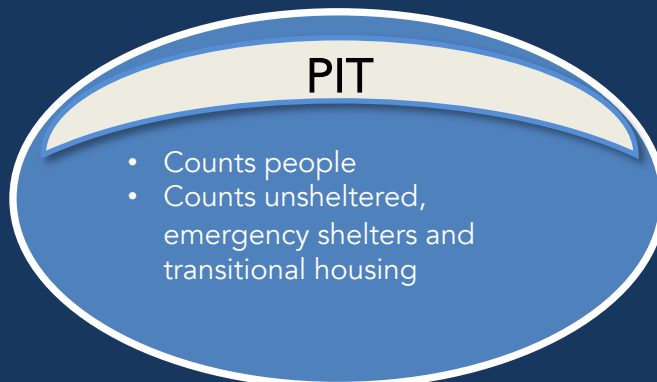
The Housing Inventory Count or "HIC" is a collection of information about all beds and units in the Continuum of Care homeless system by housing category.

Categories of Housing in the HIC

Emergency Shelter: Total number of emergency shelter beds and units that are designated to serve people who are homeless and are recognized as part of the formal homeless system.

Transitional Housing: Total number of transitional housing beds and units designated to serve people who are homeless and are recognized as part of the formal homeless system.

Perm. Support. Housing: Total number of permanent supportive housing beds and units.



Housing Inventory

YEAR-ROUND BEDS

Agencies providing beds for those experiencing homelessness in the City of New Bedford are responsible for providing the number of year-round beds available to those experiencing homelessness at their facility. From year to year, the number of year-round beds typically stays the same unless a program increases or decreases their bed capacity. Cribs do *not* count as part of the inventory.

UTILIZATION RATE

In order to calculate the “utilization rate” the PIT Count number is divided by the year-round beds. The utilization rate presented in the 2021 HIC is based on the January 2021 PIT Count and does not reflect a year-round count.

Housing Inventory

Emergency Shelter

Prog. Type	Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Sister Rose House	33	25	132%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Grace House	11	11	100%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	HOUSE Program	44	67	66%
ES	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Killian's House	9	8	113%
ES	Justice Resource Institute	Focus on the Family	65	81	80%
ES	Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Artemis I Shelter	8	20	40%
ES	Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Artemis II Shelter	4	18	22%
ES	SEMCOA	Harbour House	44	54	81%
ES	Missionary Sisters of Charity	Missionary Sisters of Charity	0	0	N/A
ES	Steppingstone	Seasonal Overflow Shelter	49	30	163%
EMERGENCY SHELTER TOTAL			267	284	

Housing Inventory

Transitional Housing

Prog. Type	Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
TH	Catholic Social Services	Sister Rose Transitional Program	6	7	114%
TH	Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Home Port	17	8	86%
TH	Steppingstone	Graduate Program	6	9	78%
TH	Steppingstone	NB Women's Therapeutic Community	13	23	39%
TH	Southeastern MA Veterans Housing Program	VA Per Diem Low Demand Transitional Housing	9	19	83%
TH	Southeastern MA Veterans Housing Program	Veterans Transition House	11	25	84%
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING TOTAL			62	91	

Housing Inventory

Permanent Housing

Prog. Type	Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
PSH	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Portico	137	123	111%
PSH	Catholic Social Services Inc.	PRISM	9	12	75%
RRH	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Transition to Stability	9	17	53%
PSH	PAACA Inc.	Step Up	33	35	94%
PSH	PACE, Inc.	HomeBASE Stabilization Program	74	99	75%
RRH	PACE Inc.	PACE Housing Services	11	0	NA
RRH	Catholic Social Services Inc.	Emergency Solutions Dept.	21	0	NA
PSH	Providence VA	HUD VASH	44	51	86%
PSH	Steppingstone Inc.	Welcome Home	12	15	80%
PSH	SEMCOA Inc.	Unity House	9	11	82%
PSH	Southeast Family Services Inc.	Family Preservation Program	50	46	109%
PSH	VTH	VTH-PSH	11	11	100%
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TOTAL			420	420	



Housing Inventory

Take-Aways

■ Overall Count

The total 2021 PIT Count of 372 was about 7% less than the previous year's count and less than the average count of 391 over the prior decade.

○ Unsheltered

The number of people unsheltered on the night of the 2021 PIT Count (43) was the lowest unsheltered count recorded since 2014.

○ Sheltered Count

With the exception of 2017, the 329 people living in shelter in 2021 is the lowest number of people in shelter in New Bedford since 2013.

■ Families versus Individual Households

Although in previous years more people experiencing homelessness were living in family households with children compared to those living in adult-only households, this year marks the first time those numbers were relatively even (164 in single households; 165 in families).



Take-Aways

- **Unaccompanied Youth**

Although there were no families or children under 18 living on the streets in 2021, five percent of those living unsheltered in the city were unaccompanied youth between the ages of 18-24 years old.

- **Domestic Violence**

The total of those identifying as either fleeing/surviving domestic violence in the 2021 PIT Count was 30% less than the previous year's count and significantly lower than the average over the previous decade.

- **Utilization**

During the 2021 PIT, emergency shelter utilization was 94%, (267 of 284 beds), transitional housing was 68% (62 of 91 beds) and permanent housing utilization was at full occupancy at 100% (420 of 420 beds).

- **Chronic Homelessness**

Consistent with 2020 statistics, less people meeting definition of chronic homelessness in 2021 were living on the streets and more were living in shelter. This means the most vulnerable are getting into housing rather than staying on the streets.

- **New Bedford Residency**

As has been the case since such data was collected, almost three-quarters of those counted in the 2021 PIT have lived in New Bedford for three or more years.

Take-Aways

- **Subpopulations**

Consistent with past years, those self-identifying as having a serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder represents the most prevalent subpopulation attributes among those both sheltered and unsheltered.

- **Families**

The number of families living in homeless shelters and on the streets in New Bedford (165) has diminished over the past year and was recorded at its lowest level since the 2015 PIT.

- **Veterans**

For the first time since PIT counts have been recorded in New Bedford, in 2021, no one unsheltered identified as being a veteran.

Homelessness Data 2021

New Bedford | MA



Office of Housing & Community Development
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