

MAKING HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF AND NONRECURRING IN VIRGINIA BEACH

COMMUNITY OF ONE PUBLIC INPUT MEETING | NOV. 29, 2023



HOMELESSNESS IS COMPLEX

- Multiple factors impact homelessness.
- People experience homelessness due to many different reasons.
- The number of people who are experiencing homelessness is always changing.
- A coordinated multi-prong approach is necessary.
- People are free to be in public spaces regardless of housing status.
- People have personal choice.



OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE HOMELESSNESS...

Rare,

Prevent people from becoming homeless

Brief,

Shorten the length of time that people experience homelessness

and Nonrecurring

Connect people to permanent housing & provide wraparound support to help ensure success



WHAT IS OUR PHILOSOPHY?

Housing First

Having a stable place to live is the critical platform from which people can take all the additional steps they need to thrive.

But, without housing, those steps become far more difficult.

Housing First is the philosophy that guides our approach – it does not result in an increase in capacity.



HOW DO WE ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN VIRGINIA BEACH?



BEACH
Bringing an End to All City Homelessness

OUR COMMUNITY SYSTEM:

City-Faith-Nonprofit Partnership: 30+ years of working together, beginning with the Winter Shelter program

BEACH Community Partnership:

- Formed in 2009
- Coalition of 30+ member organizations



OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE...

- 5 Star Residential
- Begin Again Foundation
- BrightView Health
- CAMG
- Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia
- Charity Tracker
- Christ Investment Corp.
- Church of the Ascension
- Connect With A Wish
- DHS Behavioral Health
- Endependence Center
- Hampton VAMC Homeless Programs
- Interfaith Alliance at the Beach
- JCOC
- Johnson Homes
- LGBT Life Center
- Lift Fitness
- Open Alter Ministries
- Optima Health
- PiN Ministry
- Potter's House
- Samaritan House
- Senior Services of SE Virginia
- Seniors Unlimited Lifestyles Inc.
- Seton Youth Shelters
- StandUp for Kids Hampton Roads
- The Planning Council
- VB Home Now
- VB City Public Schools
- VBCDC
- VBDPH Community Development
- Veterans Valhalla of Virginia
- Virginia Beach Dept. of Health
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Supportive Housing
- Virginia Veteran and Family Support
- Vision Life Ministries



TOGETHER WE PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SERVICES

- **Homeless Services:** Financial assistance, permanent housing and shelter
- **Day Support/Basic Assistance:** Showers, laundry, housing support, clothing, ID/birth certificate assistance, financial assistance, hygiene items, bike shop, LGBTQ+ youth meetings
- **Food/Meals:** Community dinner, bag lunch, pre-packed grocery, food pantries
- **Health Services:** Preventative medical

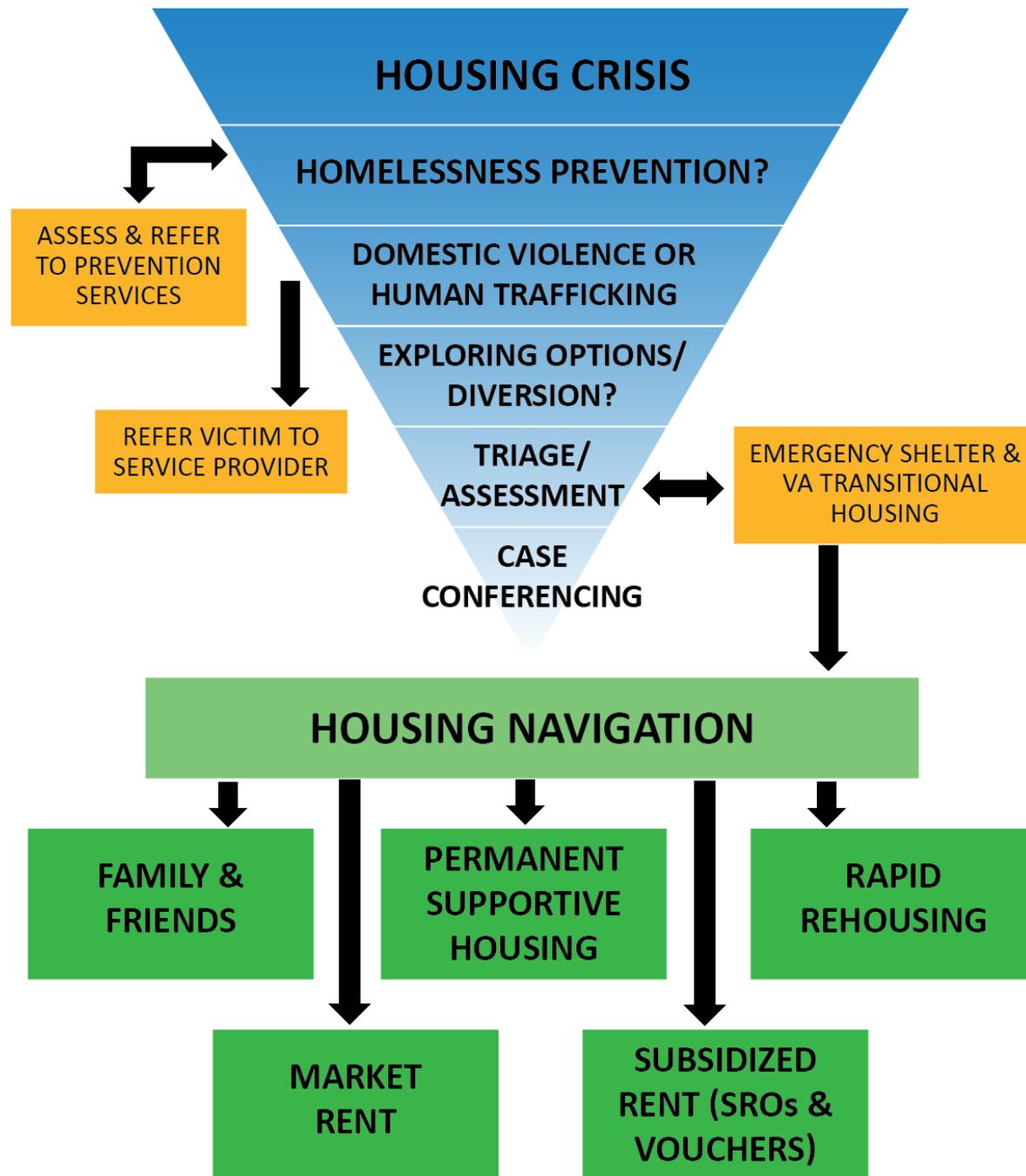


HOW DO PEOPLE ACCESS SERVICES?



- 1. Housing Resource Center (HRC):** M, T, Th, F, 8 a.m. – noon
 - Homelessness prevention; help with locating housing; referrals to shelter; housing, other resources
- 2. Regional Housing Crisis Hotline:** (757) 227-5932; M–F, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 - Operated by ForKids, Inc.; screening and referrals to community resources
- 3. Homeless Outreach:** M–F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 - Real-time access in the field
 - Build trusting relationships and offer connection to services





HOW DO PEOPLE FLOW THROUGH THE SERVICE SYSTEM?



HOW ARE PEOPLE SELECTED FOR SHELTER & HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES?

Not first-come, first-served basis

The most vulnerable people who are literally homeless are prioritized

Standard Assessment Tool is Used

Best practice and equitable approach

Prioritization Criteria for Shelter

- 65+ years of age
- Medical vulnerabilities
- Families with children (0-5 years)
- Encampment residents with notice to vacate



**HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN
VIRGINIA BEACH?**

WHAT DOES “EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS” MEAN?

Federal and state funding define “homeless” in the following ways:

Category 1 -- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- Public/private place not meant for a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings – e.g. car, park, abandoned building, camping ground
- Shelter participants
- Individuals living in hotels/motels paid by a charitable organization or government-funded program



WHAT DOES “EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS” MEAN?

Category 2 -- An individual/family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence provided that:

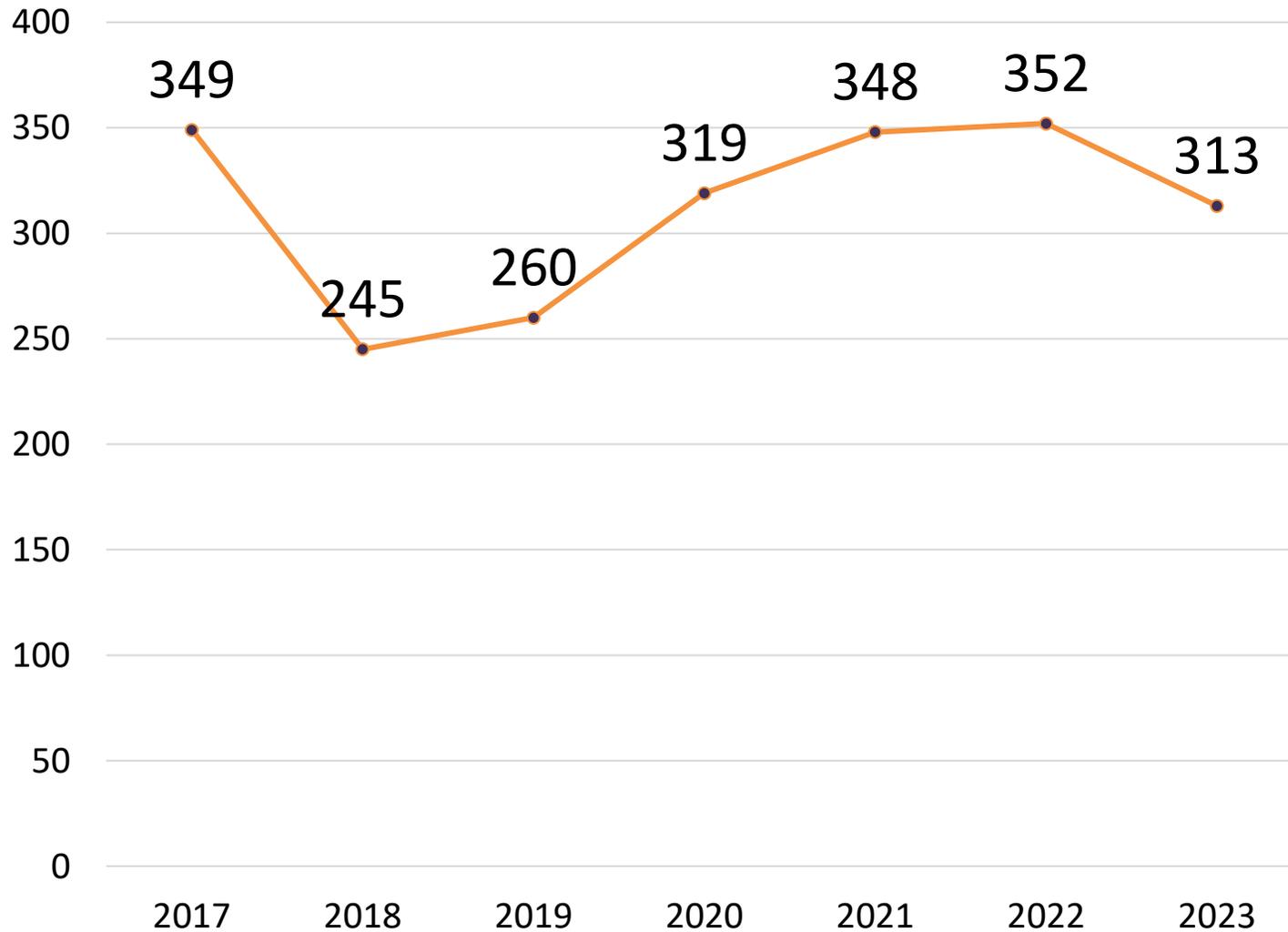
- Primary nighttime residents will be lost within 14 days of date of homeless assistance application
- No subsequent residence has been identified
- They lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Category 4 -- Any individual or family who:

- Is fleeing domestic violence
- Has no other residence
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing



Number of Persons Identified as Homeless (2017-2023)

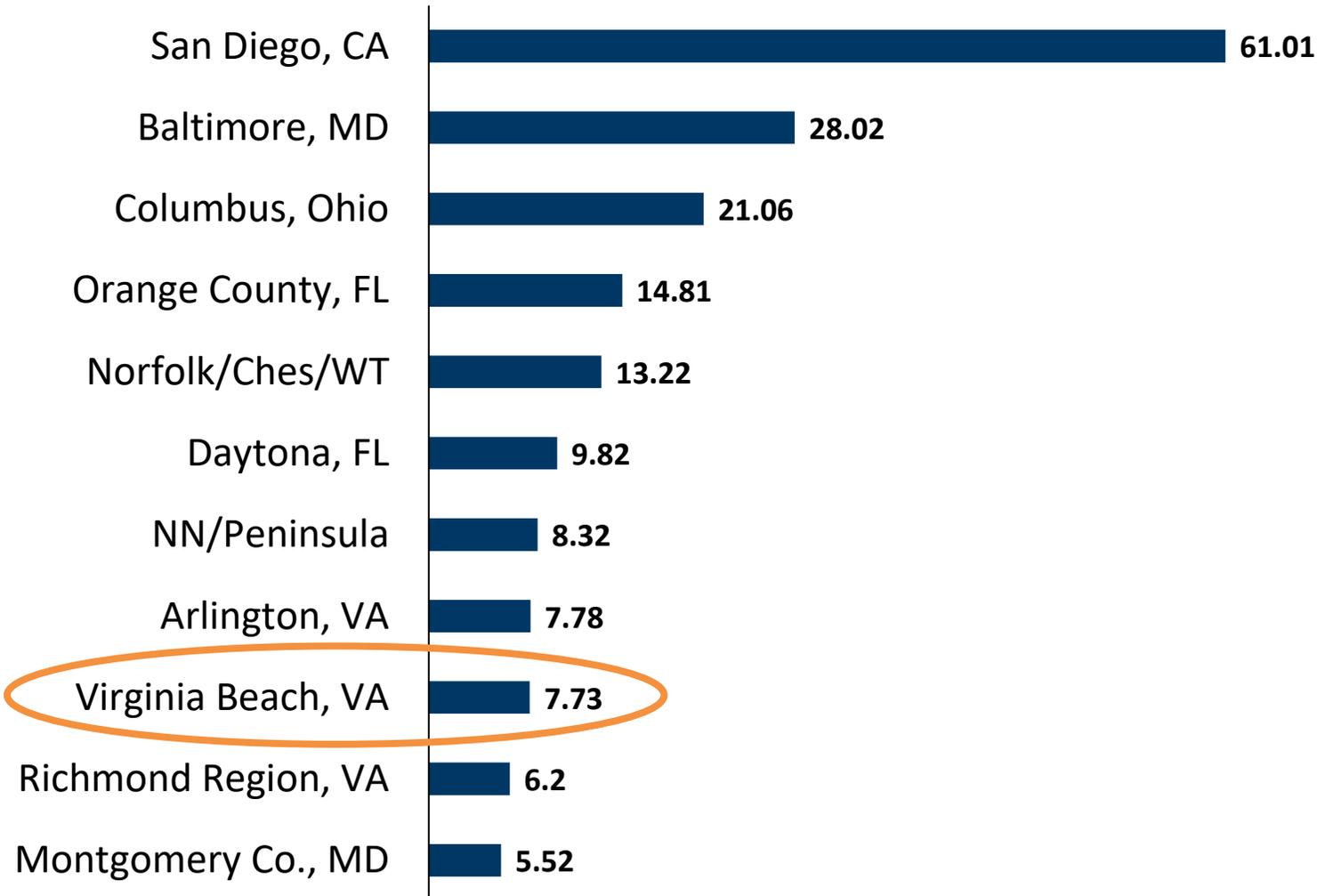


ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) COUNT

- One-day snapshot of Category 1 population
- Most recent PIT Count: Jan. 25, 2023



Homeless Persons Per 10,000 of General Population



HOW DO WE COMPARE TO OTHER CITIES?

VB Rate of Homelessness: 7.73

Source: 2022 Point-in-Time Data



REAL-TIME SYSTEM DATA (CATEGORY 1)

1,380 literally homeless households accessed coordinated entry in 2022

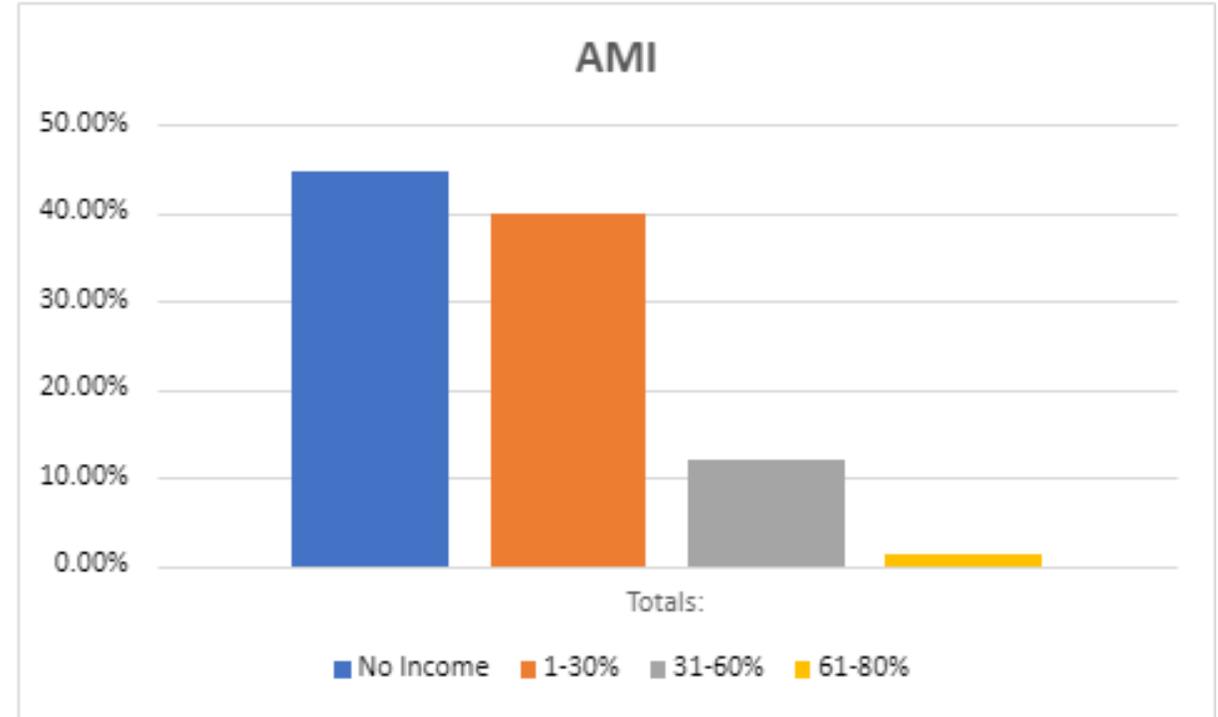
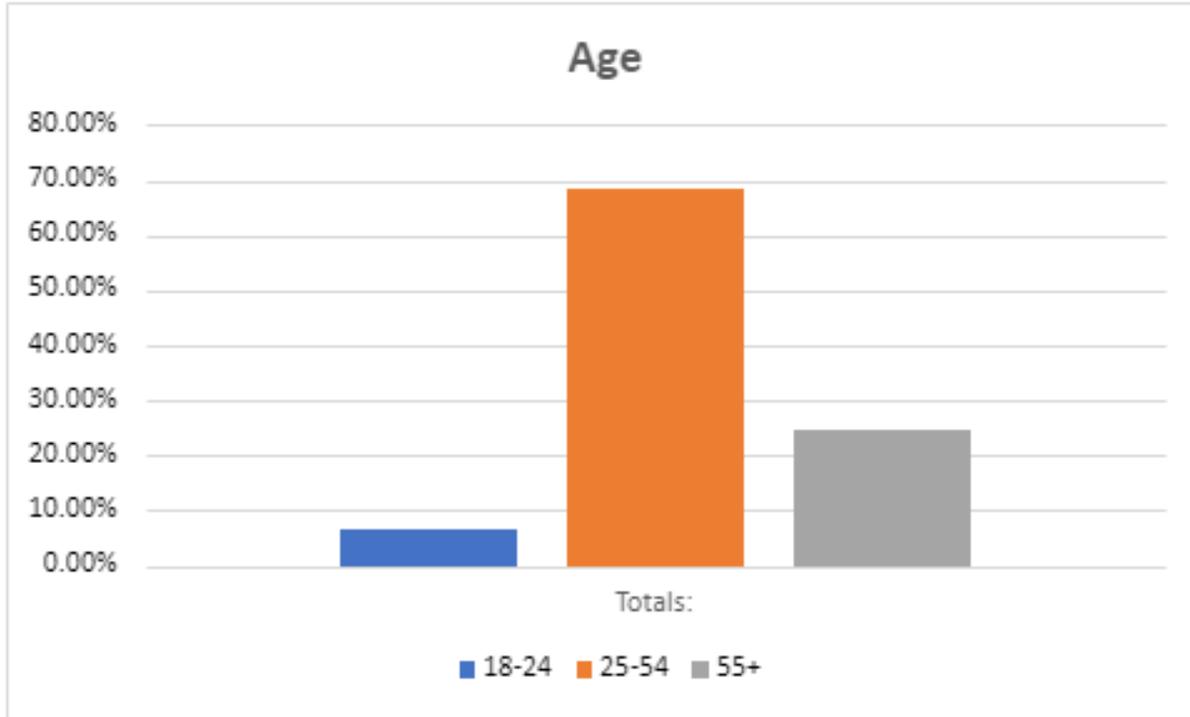
- Approx. 60% became inactive
- 17% exited to housing (**based on system capacity**)
- 23% remained on prioritization list at end of year

313 total households are currently on prioritization list for housing (as of 11/29/2023):

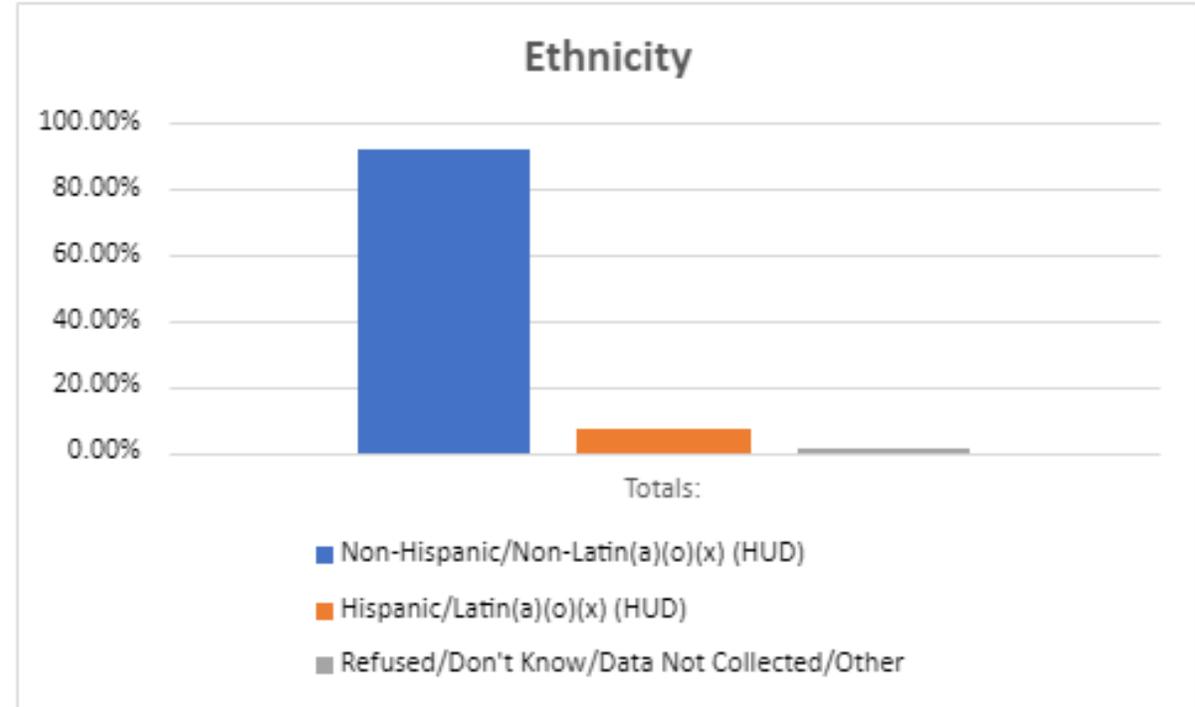
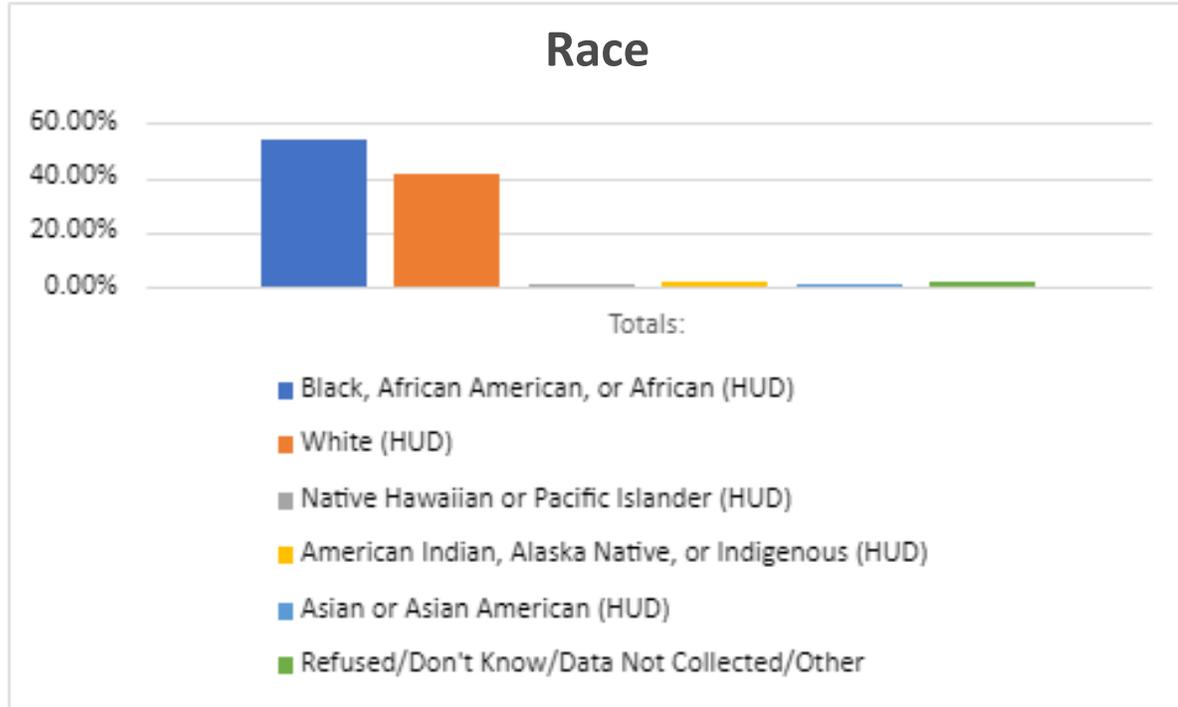
- 219 verified as homeless (sheltered + unsheltered)
 - 64 verified as unsheltered
 - 155 are sheltered (includes Winter Shelter)



CATEGORY 1 DEMOGRAPHICS (2020-2023)



CATEGORY 1 DEMOGRAPHICS (2020-2023)



WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WAITING FOR SHELTER AND HOUSING?

LIMITED NUMBER OF SHELTER BEDS IN OUR SYSTEM

176 total year-round* shelter beds in Virginia Beach:

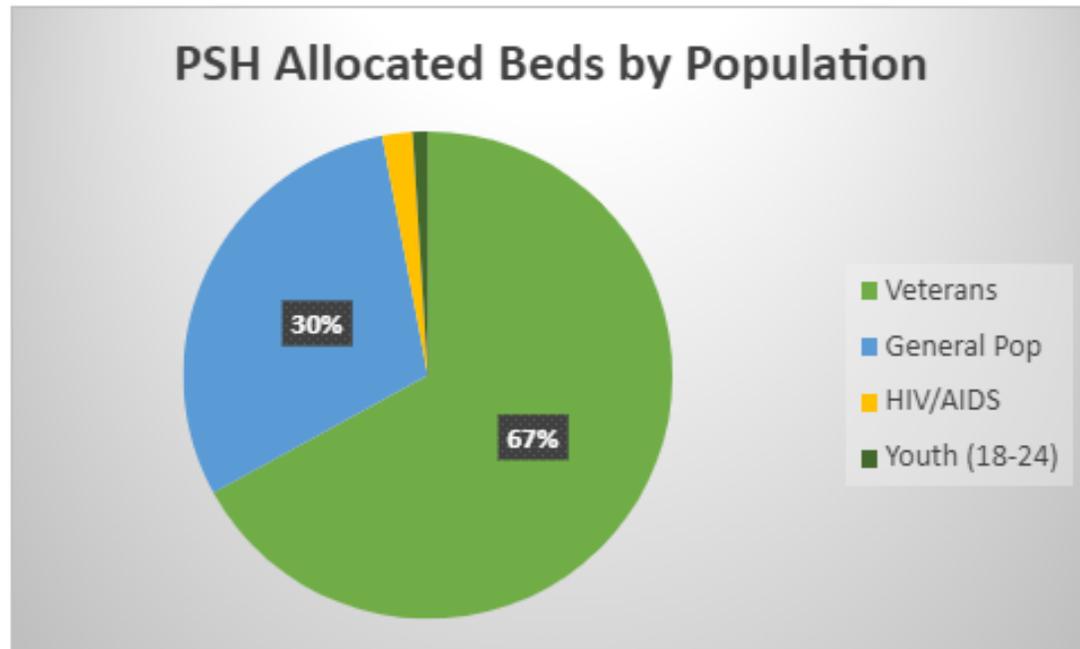
- **Single adults:** 55 beds (HRC)
- **Families:** 40 beds (HRC)
- **Youth (18-24):** 10 beds
- **Victims of domestic violence:** 53 beds
- **Veteran Transitional Housing:** 16 beds
- **Veteran Emergency Housing Assistance:** 2 beds

- Capacity is almost always full
- **Average length of stay in shelter for families and shelter:** approx. 120 days
- **Shelter participants are still homeless.**

**Winter Shelter (Nov. – March): Additional 60 beds for adults at faith organizations*



LIMITED NUMBER OF HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION



- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): 367 beds**
- Permanent subsidy
- Intensive case management
- Highest acuity, disabling condition, longest length of homelessness

Housing is the solution to homelessness.



LIMITED NUMBER OF HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION

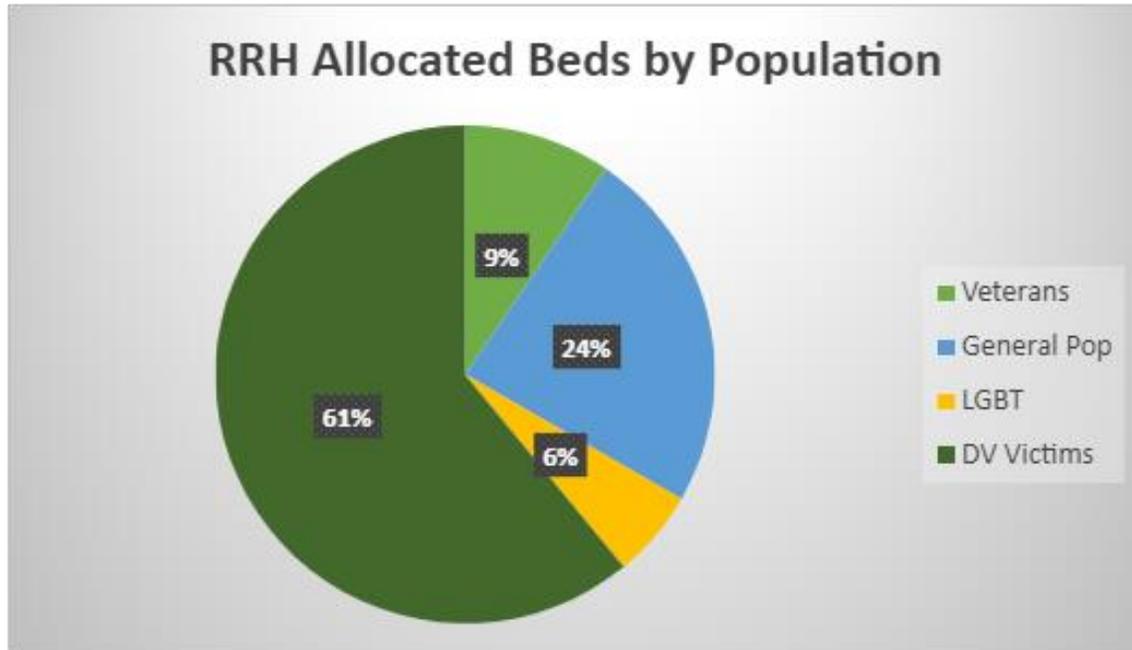


- **Other Permanent Housing: 231 units**
- Medium/long-term subsidy
- Light to moderate case management
- High acuity

Housing is the solution to homelessness.



LIMITED NUMBER OF HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION



- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH): 220 units**
- Short/medium term financial assistance
- Moderate case management
- Moderate acuity

Housing is the solution to homelessness.



OTHER CHALLENGES THAT CAN CREATE BARRIERS

Eligibility Limitations

- 85% of funding for homeless programs is federal and state
- Determines definition of “homelessness”
- Limits who we can serve and how

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Issues

- Challenging to engage and connect to services

Personal Choice

- People who choose not to engage or access services



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Understand community needs by:

- Using and enhancing our data system
- Analyzing our performance and results

Promote understanding of homelessness and the challenges of individuals and families who experience it.

Implement and promote strategies that:

- Address affordable housing supply vs. need
- Improve our service system
- Develop new resources to address needs
- Cultivate new partnerships





WHAT IS OUR IMPACT?

2023 vs. 2022 PIT Count:

- **First-time Homelessness (Prevention):** 9% decrease
- **Total Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless:** 11% decrease
- **Chronic Homelessness:** 8% increase in 2023, but 39% decrease since 2021
- **Family Homelessness:** 39% decrease
- **Youth Homelessness:** 34% decrease
- **Homeless Veterans:** 12% decrease

Overall, a 29% decrease since 2014.



WHAT ARE WE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE?

COMMUNITY OF ONE PLAN

- Previous plan adopted in 2017
- Collective work of faith, City, and nonprofit organizations
- Path toward a future where everyone in Virginia Beach will be able to live in safe, decent and affordable housing



2024-2030 COMMUNITY OF ONE PLAN TARGETS

- 25% reduction in the number of households entering the homeless system
- 40% increase in the number of households exiting the homeless system to permanent
- 40% reduction in the number of unsheltered homelessness
- Functional end to chronic homelessness by 2027



Proposed Goal 1: Create healthy and safe neighborhoods for all Virginia Beach residents by reducing the impact of unsheltered homelessness.

- Increase number of year-round shelter beds
- Increase access to basic need services
- Convene service providers and City departments across the service sector to address needs of unsheltered residents
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse recovery services



Proposed Goal 2: Increase system capacity to adequately address the primary causes of homelessness.

- Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing targeting low-income households at 30% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Ensure all able-bodied adults experiencing homelessness have access to livable wage employment
- Eliminate disparities in access, service provision and outcomes in overrepresented subpopulations in the homeless system of care



Proposed Goal 3: Preserve and increase prevention and permanent housing programs to meet the demands of households who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

- Ensure prevention resources are targeted to households who are most vulnerable to homelessness
- Ensure an adequate supply of housing that is appropriate for special needs populations



PANEL DISCUSSION:
**Understanding Unsheltered Homelessness,
Reducing its Impact and Meeting the Needs in
Our Community**

Issues Related to Unsheltered Homelessness

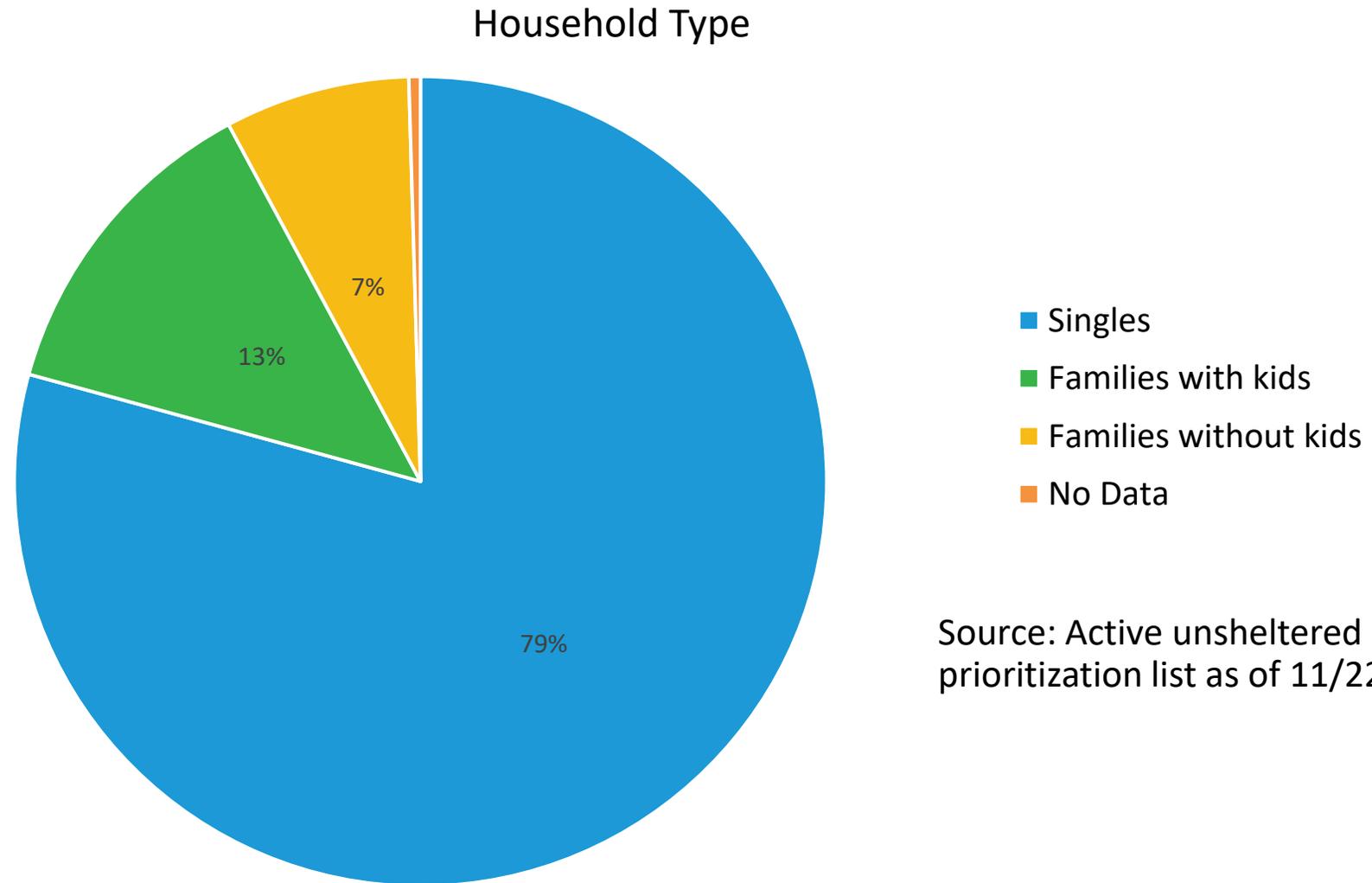
On average, 150 households are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Virginia Beach at any given time.



- **The “face” of homelessness** -- Most visible and cause of public concern, but only a subset
- **Presence of unsheltered individuals** in places others would rather not see them
- **Bad, and/or illegal behavior** by people who are presumed to be homeless (e.g. panhandlers)
- **Encampments** -- Not a new issue, but appears to be increased visibility
- **Average life expectancy** is 47 years old



FAMILIES VS. SINGLES EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

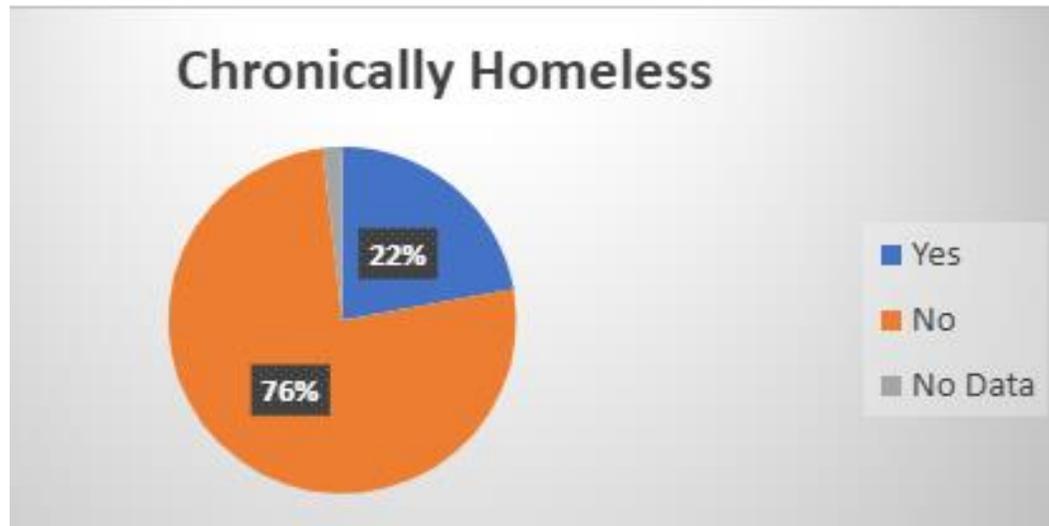


Source: Active unsheltered prioritization list as of 11/22/2023



INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Individuals with a disabling condition who have been continually homeless for at least 12 months or who have had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.



Source: Active unsheltered prioritization list as of 11/22/2023



PANEL DISCUSSION / LISTENING SESSION

Questions? Comments?

THANK YOU!

More Information:

www.VirginiaBeach.gov/Housing

www.BEACHCommunityPartnership.org