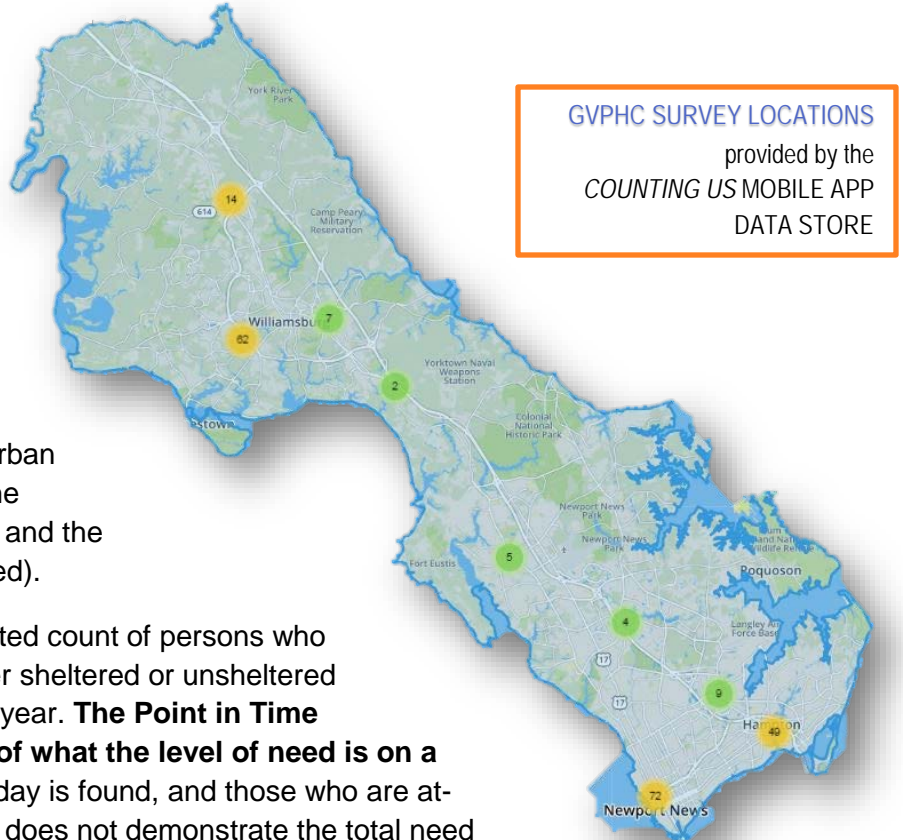


2017 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

Introduction

The 2017 Point in Time Count was conducted across the 6 jurisdictions that comprise the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC), including the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York. The 24-hour Count fulfilled the requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and occurred on the evening of January 24, 2017 (sheltered) and the morning of January 25, 2017 (unsheltered).

The Point in Time Count is an unduplicated count of persons who are experiencing homelessness, whether sheltered or unsheltered during a specific 24 hour period, once a year. **The Point in Time Count provides simply a “snapshot” of what the level of need is on a certain day.** Not everyone in need that day is found, and those who are at-risk of homelessness are not counted. It does not demonstrate the total need for the community, but does tell how the need compares to previous years and the level of representation within each subpopulation in the count. This helps the community assess the services currently provided as compared to the need; the data is also a tool for planning and resource development.



Methodology

The Count was conducted using both the *Counting Us* mobile app developed by Simtech Solutions, Inc., and data reported in the *Hampton Roads Homeless Management Information System* (HMIS). In addition to being utilized by the GVPHC, the *Counting Us* app was also used by the Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC). Both the HMIS software provider, Mediware Information Systems, Inc., and the developers of the *Counting Us* mobile app, Simtech Solutions, Inc., provided report tools to enable completion of the HUD report requirements. Following is a breakdown of the data sources for the 2017 Count report:

- 32% of surveys were collected via the mobile app;
- 59% came from HMIS; and,
- 9% were observations.

The sheltered count was conducted in all identified Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven programs across the GVPHC on the evening of January 24th. Provider staff and volunteers worked to collect the required information from all sheltered persons with either direct input into the HMIS or via interview and the completion of surveys using the *Counting Us* mobile app. For the unsheltered count, teams of service providers and volunteers canvassed known locations on the morning of January 25th and completed surveys to collect the required information on all unsheltered homeless persons identified during the count.

Both the survey and HMIS identify respondents based on first and last name (or initials) and date of birth to develop a unique client identifier to eliminate duplicates; personally identifying information is not collected from domestic violence providers. The data collectors also consist of questions to identify the following subpopulations: veterans; persons with HIV/AIDS; and, those who have experienced or are experiencing chronic homelessness, domestic violence, mental illness, or substance abuse. Persons are identified as chronically homeless if they have a disability and have been homeless more than one year or at least four times in the last three years, totaling a year. Parenting youth households and unaccompanied youth households are identified, as well. Youth households include those 24 years of age and younger who are parents of children under the age of 18, or are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. It is important to note that these subpopulations are identified based on self-report for the Point in Time Count.

Definitions

In accordance with the 2014 *Point in Time Count Methodology Guide* released by HUD, the GVPHC used the following definition of homelessness during the Count:

Sheltered- should include all individuals or families who meet the criteria described in paragraph (1) (ii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule. This includes individuals and families *“living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).”*

Unsheltered- should include all individuals or families who meet the criteria described in paragraph (1) (i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule. This includes individuals and families *“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.”*

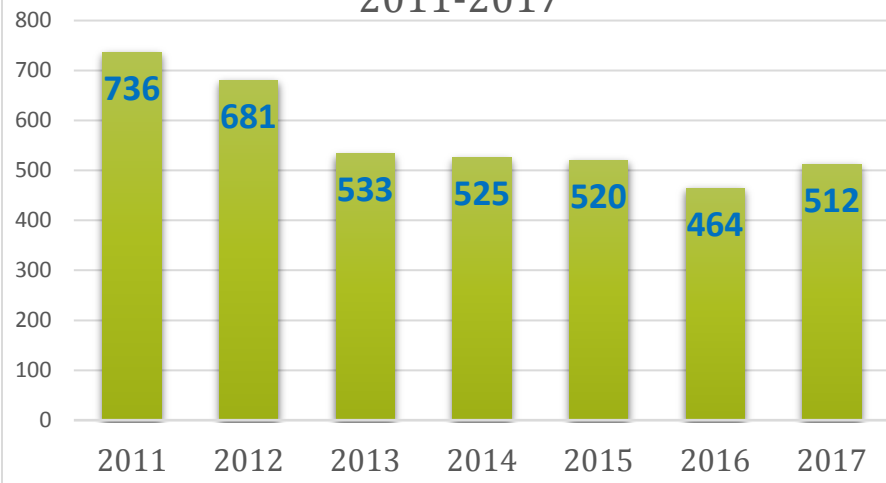
Mobile App

Use of the mobile app improves data quality, report capability, and report validity in the following ways:

- Reduced the possibility of the overlap of count teams due to real time updates in the regional Command Center data store.
- Increased data quality related to legibility issues, challenges with paper forms in inclement weather, and entry of paper forms into databases.
- Improved validity with access to information about interviewers, date and time the interviews were completed, and the exact geographic location of the interview (precautions were taken to protect the location of Domestic Violence shelters).
- Report tools provided by Simtech, Inc. allowed for consistent reporting of both the overall population and subpopulation data across the region.



Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Identified 2011-2017



GVPHC Point in Time Count Results: 30% decrease since 2011.

2017 Results

Overall, **512** persons were identified as being homeless in the GVPHC's 2017 Point in Time Count, compared to 464 counted in January 2016 (10% increase). *Approximately 14% of the persons identified this year were also counted in 2016; of those, 44% were in an Emergency Shelter, 28% were in Transitional Housing, 24% were in a Safe Haven, and 4% were unsheltered the night of the 2017 Count.*

With **432 persons** counted in shelter this year, the **sheltered count increased by 6%** from the previous year. It is important to keep in mind that some people may not have presented for services that day and

were therefore not counted; additionally, any homeless persons who sought shelter in hotels/motels (paid for by self), or with friends and family, could not be counted because they did not meet the HUD definition of homelessness. The **unsheltered count** on the morning of January 25th identified **80 persons—a 40% increase** compared to 2016. This year, count teams again increased the coverage of known encampments and gathering areas in cooperation with outreach workers and local Police Departments. The 2017 Count also included the use of observation surveys administered by team leads and used with discretion; observation surveys allowed for persons to be counted who refused to complete the survey or were unable to be interviewed because they were sleeping.

This year, 11% of those counted reported having a Serious Mental Illness (SMI), 4% had a substance abuse problem, and 15% were considered chronically homeless. 68 persons identified themselves as veterans; this number represents a 5% increase when compared to 2016, when 65 veterans were reported. 14% of the population reported having experienced Domestic Violence, and 2 persons had HIV/AIDS. 69% were single adults, and 31% were persons in households with children. Only 1% were parenting youth, and 4% were unaccompanied youth (between the ages of 18-24).

In 2017, the number of chronic persons counted increased from the previous year, with 72 chronic individuals and 1 chronic household counted in 2017, compared to 53 individuals and 0 households experiencing chronic homelessness in 2016. *67% of the persons identified as chronic in 2017 were sheltered the night of the Count.* 22% of the chronic population has been added to the housing registry and is working on a plan for obtaining housing. The increase in this population is due in part to increased data quality; chronic numbers were also affected by the new definition of chronic homelessness released in HUD's final rule which went into effect January 4, 2016; this reporting requirement aims to improve the identification of the truly chronic population, as defined by HUD. As stated above, persons identified as experiencing chronic homelessness are done so based on self-report, with no additional documentation available for the Point in Time Count.

In Calendar Year 2016,
the Service Coordination &
Assessment Network (SCAAN)
housed 229 Households.



The following table shows a breakdown of the 2017 Point in Time Count Results, both regionally and by jurisdiction.

POINT IN TIME COUNT	2016 RESULTS GVPHC	2017 RESULTS GVPHC	2017 RESULTS HAMPTON	2017 RESULTS NEWPORT NEWS	2017 RESULTS Williamsburg	2017 RESULTS POQUOSON	2017 RESULTS JAMES CITY COUNTY	2017 RESULTS YORK COUNTY
Total Number of Homeless Persons Counted	464	512	174	223	24	0	83	8
2016 Total Number of Homeless Persons	464	--	127	199	59	0	71	8
Total Number Sheltered	407	432	152	185	19	0	72	4
Total Number Unsheltered	57	80	22	38	5	0	11	4
Total Number of Families*	48	45	16	13	5	0	11	0
Total Number of Persons in Families*	145	160	57	51	16	0	36	0
Total Number of Unsheltered Families	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Adult Only Households	319	345	115	170	8	0	44	8
Total Number of Persons in Adult Only Households	319	352	117	172	8	0	47	8
Total Number of Unsheltered Persons in Adult Only Households	57	80	22	38	5	0	11	4

**Total number of families and total number of persons in families include both sheltered and unsheltered households with at least one adult and one child.*

<i>Continued...</i>	2016 RESULTS GVPHC	2017 RESULTS GVPHC	2017 RESULTS HAMPTON	2017 RESULTS NEWPORT NEWS	2017 RESULTS Williamsburg	2017 RESULTS POQUOSON	2017 RESULTS JAMES CITY COUNTY	2017 RESULTS YORK COUNTY
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals	53	72	30	29	5	0	6	2
Total Number of Chronically Homeless Families	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Veterans	65	68	29	36	1	0	2	0
Total Number of Female Veterans	7	15	5	10	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Domestic Violence Victims	60	72	24	19	1	0	28	0
Total Number of Individuals with a Substance Abuse Problem	59	23	6	11	3	0	3	0
Total Number of Individuals with a Mental Illness	85	56	20	29	1	0	6	0
Total Number of Persons with HIV/AIDS	6	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Parenting Youth	5	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	14	18	6	10	0	0	2	0

An analysis of annual trends follows in the next section.

Trend Analysis

The following charts show the annual trends across the GVPHC. Point in Time Count totals are decreasing overall, both in the total number of persons counted, as well as the special populations reported to HUD.

Since 2011, the number of persons identified during the Point in Time Count in the jurisdictions comprising the GVPHC has **decreased** by **30%**, from 736 persons identified in 2011, to 512 persons in 2017.

Best Practices

In that same time frame, the CoC has implemented a number of best practices that have contributed to decreasing the number of people who become homeless and the length of time they experience homelessness, such as:

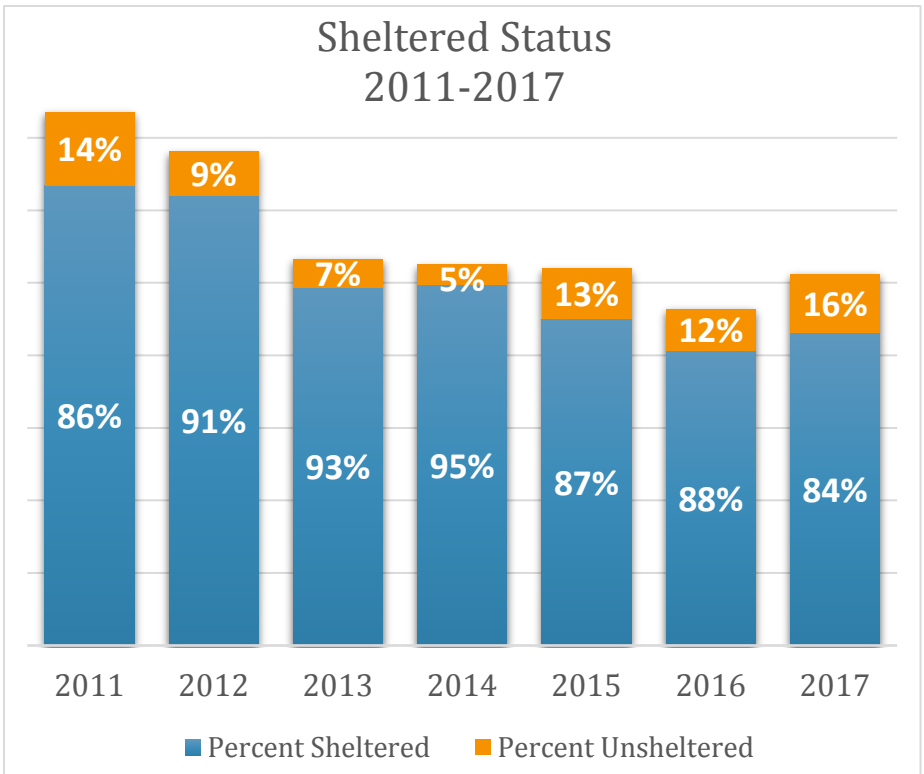
- the Service Coordination and Assessment Network (SCAAN);
- the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline for central intake;
- a standardized Diversion Assessment;
- the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) for assisting the most vulnerable first; and,
- the Housing First model, lowering barriers to housing across the Continuum.

Additionally, the Consortium has increased coverage of known areas for the unsheltered count with the help of local Police Departments, as well as increased participation from both HMIS participating and non-HMIS participating shelter programs.

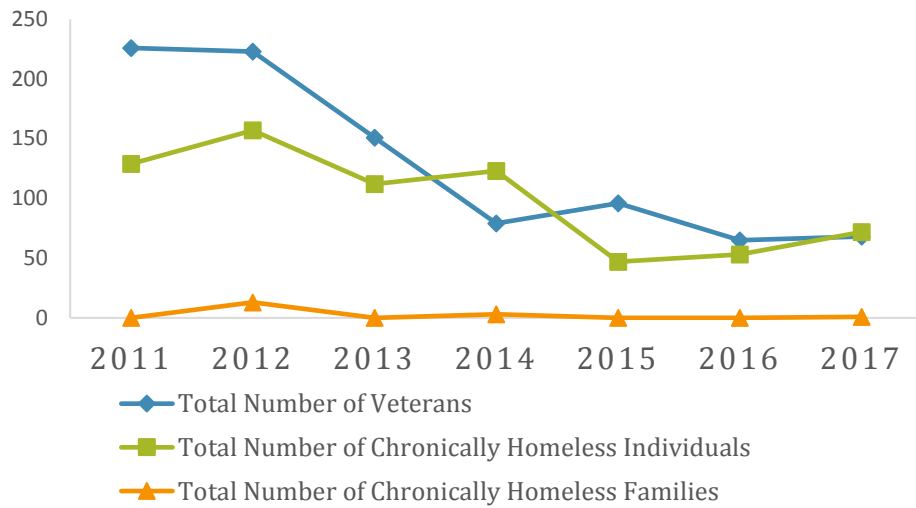
Additionally, the percentage of sheltered persons counted consistently exceeds those unsheltered. It is important to note that many of those persons were sheltered in seasonal shelters which operate for only a few months during the coldest part of the year. With **262** year round emergency shelter beds available in the CoC, and **205** seasonal beds between the months of October through March of each year, during the non-winter months, the GVPHC recognizes a 44% decrease in emergency shelter *capacity*. Since 2011, the sheltered count has decreased 32%, while the unsheltered count has decreased by 22%.

Subpopulation Trends

Subpopulation data is provided by information gathered through HMIS and the results of the surveys completed by participants; no additional follow-up documentation is available for the Point in Time Count. Better tracking of these populations is achieved through the provider agencies and SCAAN.



**HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS 2011-2017:
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS & ALL VETERANS**

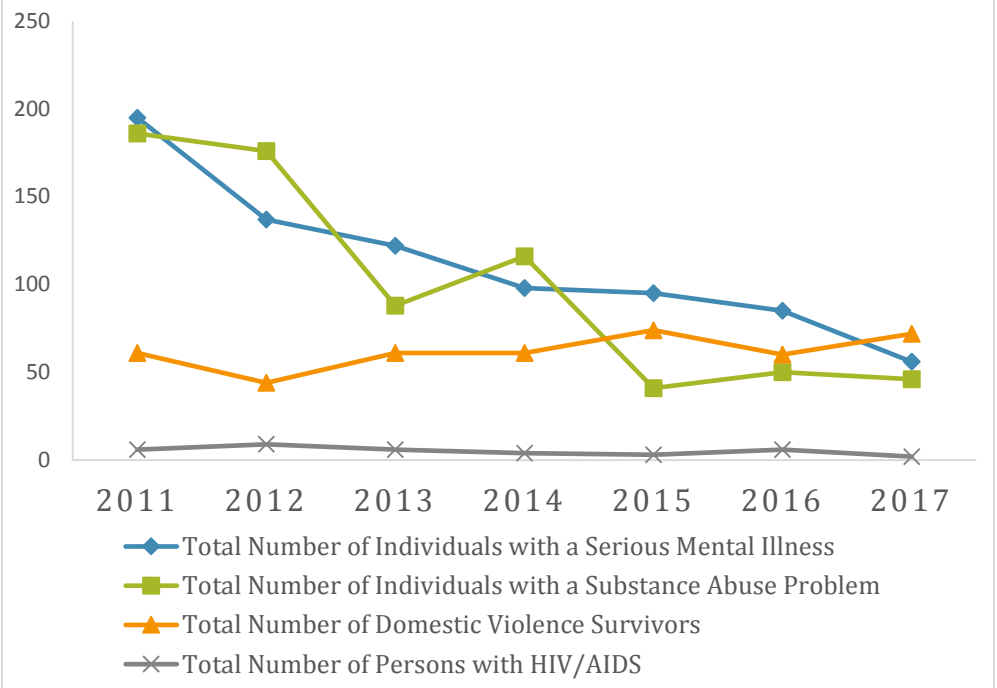


The GVPHC has realized a **44% decrease** in the number of Chronically Homeless Individuals counted since 2011; the number of Chronic Families has remained fairly constant. The CoC has focused available resources on the most vulnerable, and often chronic, individuals through the SCAAN process. The CoC's commitment to Housing First and its increased investment in Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing options also contribute to the decrease in chronic homelessness.

Also since 2011, the GVPHC has realized a **70% decrease** in the number of Veterans counted during the Point in Time Count; the CoC will continue to work to connect Veterans experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless with resources to promote housing stability.

Similarly, the numbers of persons with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and with Substance Abuse (SA) Problems have also steadily decreased since 2011. The SMI population has decreased by 71%, and the SA population has decreased by 75%. The CoC is serving these populations through the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grant managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by the Hampton Newport News Community Services Board (HNNCSB), and a variety of programs and services provided by ACCESS AIDS Care on behalf of the GVPHC.

**HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS 2011-2017:
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS, HIV/AIDS**



In Calendar Year 2016, the Road to Home Program funded through CABHI provided outreach to 71 individuals and served 39 persons in Permanent Supportive Housing.

The numbers of Domestic Violence Survivors and Persons with HIV/AIDS has stayed fairly consistent over the years. The CoC maintains their commitment to these special populations with programs and services provided by the CoC and other community partners.

Summary

The Point in Time Count provides a snapshot of the size and characteristics of the homeless population in the GVPHC on a single night in January; the data collected is only one tool the Consortium uses to make data-driven decisions. Special thanks to the Housing and Services Resources Committee of the GVPHC for coordinating and planning the Point in Time Count. Additional thanks to all of the community partners, outreach workers, the Hampton Police Division, the Newport News Police Department, the James City County Police Department, and the many volunteers who worked diligently to collect the information provided in this report. Finally, thanks to the Mayors and Chairs Commission on Homelessness for providing ongoing oversight, advice, and support to the GVPHC.



The GVPHC has implemented best practices and processes to work together towards the goal that *homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring*; while the data is trending in the right direction, there is more work to be done to protect vulnerable families and individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. For more data and additional information about the CoC, or if you'd like to get involved and find out how you can be part of this effort, please visit www.gvphc.org.