2016 Spokane Regional Point-in-Time Count Executive Summary

What is the Point-in-Time Count?

As a recipient of federal and state fund supporting homeless services, our community is required to conduct an annual point-in-time count of persons experiencing homelessness during the last 10 days in January. The 2016 Point-in-Time Count took place in Spokane (and across Washington State) on Thursday, January 28th 2016.

The Point-in-Time Count is a *snapshot* census of individuals and persons in families, including youth, who on the night of the count are:

- *Sheltered* (living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary housing, including congregate shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, and hotels/motels paid for with emergency shelter vouchers) or
- *Unsheltered (*with a primary nighttime residence that is out of doors or a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground).

How many were counted?

- 981 persons (a person may be part of a family household, or an unaccompanied individual).
- 759 households (a household may include one or more persons).

Who were the people experiencing homelessness?

- 68 percent were in households without children.
- 31 percent were in households with adults and children.
- 1 percent were in households with only children.
- 57 percent were male.
- 43 percent were female.
- 72 percent were over age 24.
- 7 percent were age 18-24.
- 21 percent were under age 18.

Sources of Shelter

- 82 percent (809 people) were sheltered in temporary lodging projects, including Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing
- 18 percent (172 people) were unsheltered and sleeping in places not designed for habitation including streets, parks, vehicles and abandoned buildings.

For additional information Sheila Morley City of Spokane –CHHS – 509.625.6325

Reasons for Homelessness

"Reasons for Homelessness" is not standard HMIS data. Therefore, "Reasons for Homelessness" questions were only asked of people who completed paper 2016 PIT data collection forms. This data should be considered a sample only. "Reasons for Homelessness" data is reported based on answers a head of household gave on behalf of the entire household. Persons who provided "Reasons for Homelessness" data were asked select all applicable reasons. The ten most common reasons reported were:

- Lack of Income (83 households)
- Lost Job (60 households)
- Drug Abuse (58 households)
- Mental Health Problem (56 households)
- Lack of Affordable Housing (51 households)
- Family Conflict (46 households)
- Alcohol Abuse (42 households)
- Evicted (40 households)
- Domestic Violence (35 households)
- Physical Disability (28 households)

Veteran Homelessness

- 103 veterans were counted during the 2016 Point-in-Time Count.
- 96 percent were in households without children.
- 94 were male and 9 were female.
- 87 percent were sheltered in temporary lodging projects.
- 13 percent were unsheltered and sleeping in places not designed for habitation.

Chronic Homelessness

For purposes of the 2016 Point-in-Time Count, chronic homelessness is defined by the presence of a disabling condition *and* either a history of repeated episodes of homelessness or long duration of continuous homelessness (at least one year). Our community counted:

- 158 chronically homeless individuals who were either unsheltered or staying in Emergency Shelters.
- 9 chronically homeless families with adults and children (consisting of 30 people) who were staying in Emergency Shelters.

Other Homeless Subpopulations

- 240 adults counted are experiencing serious mental illness.
- 169 adults counted have a substance abuse condition.
- 124 people counted are survivors of domestic violence.

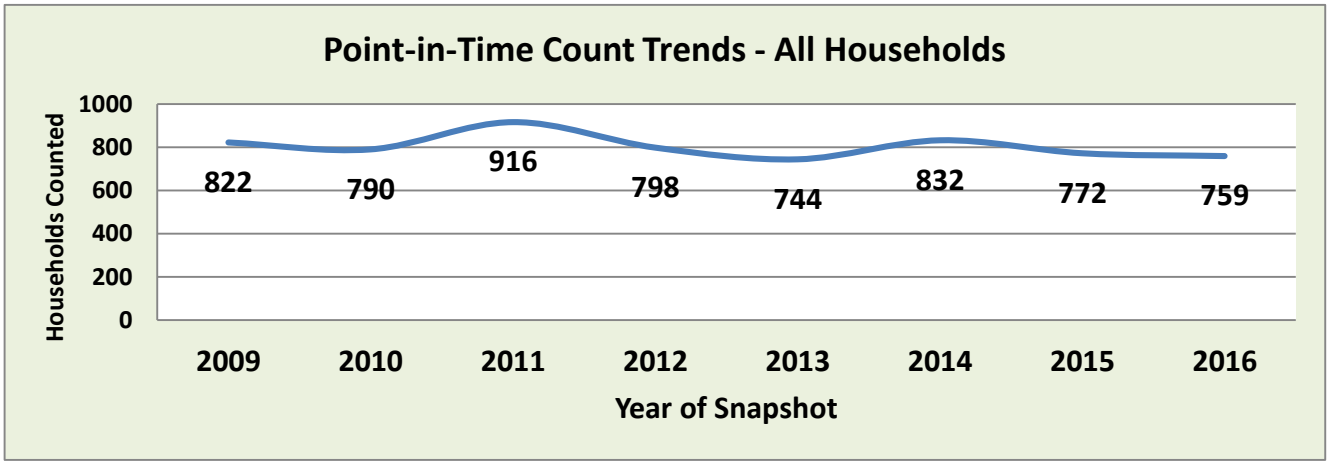
Important Point-in-Time Count Trends

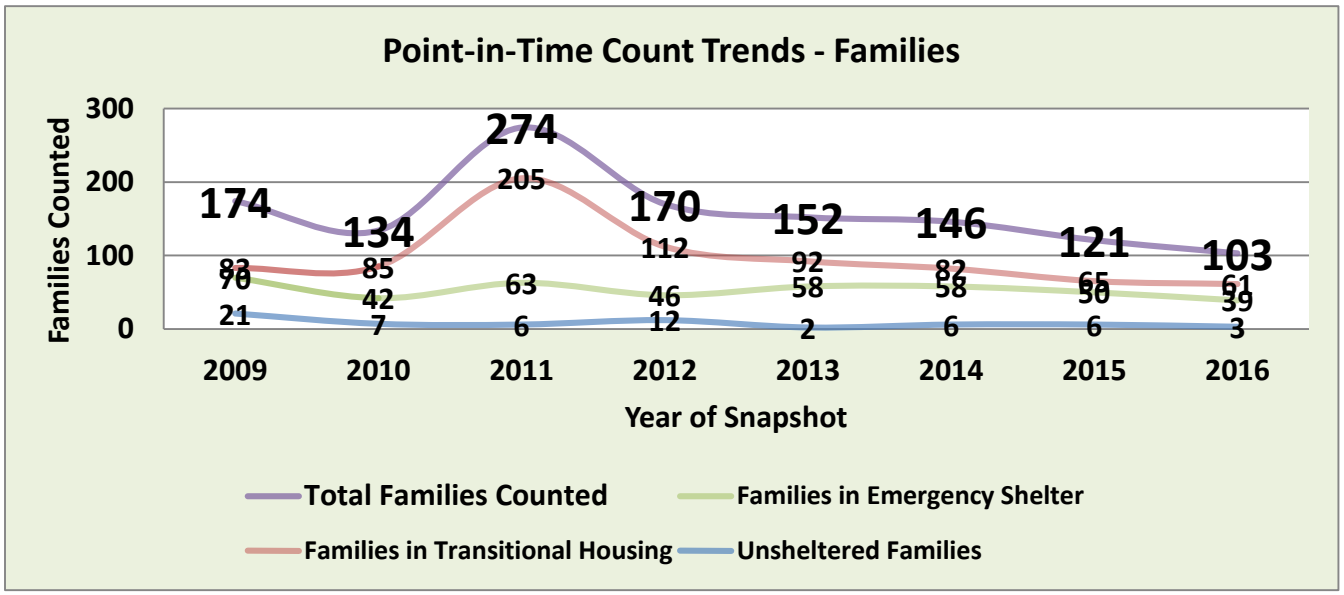
- Total persons counted by the community in 2016 were 981 a decrease of 5 percent from the 1034 counted in 2015 count
- Our community has counted fewer homeless families every year for the last five years. In 2016, we counted 103 homeless families, a 15 percent decrease from the, 121 counted in 2015, and a 62 percent decrease from the 274 counted in 2011.
- Our community counted 103 veterans in 2016, a 2 percent increase from the 101 counted in 2015.
- Our community counted 172 unsheltered persons in 2016, a 30 percent increase from the 132 unsheltered persons counted in 2015. The Warming Center program, that served an average of 99 persons per night, was closed on the date of the Point-in-Time Count.
- Our community has counted more persons experiencing severe mental illness every year since 2012 however, in 2016 we say a slight decrease. In 2016, we counted 240 persons with severe mental illness, an 8 percent decrease over the 262 counted in 2015.
- Our community has counted more persons with a chronic substance abuse condition from 2012 – 2015. In 2016 we counted 169, an 11 percentage decrease from the 189 counted in 2015.
- Our community has counted more chronically homeless individuals every year since 2011. In 2016 we saw a decrease in this population. In 2016, our community counted 158 chronically homeless individuals, a 14 decrease over the 219 chronically homeless individuals counted in 2015.

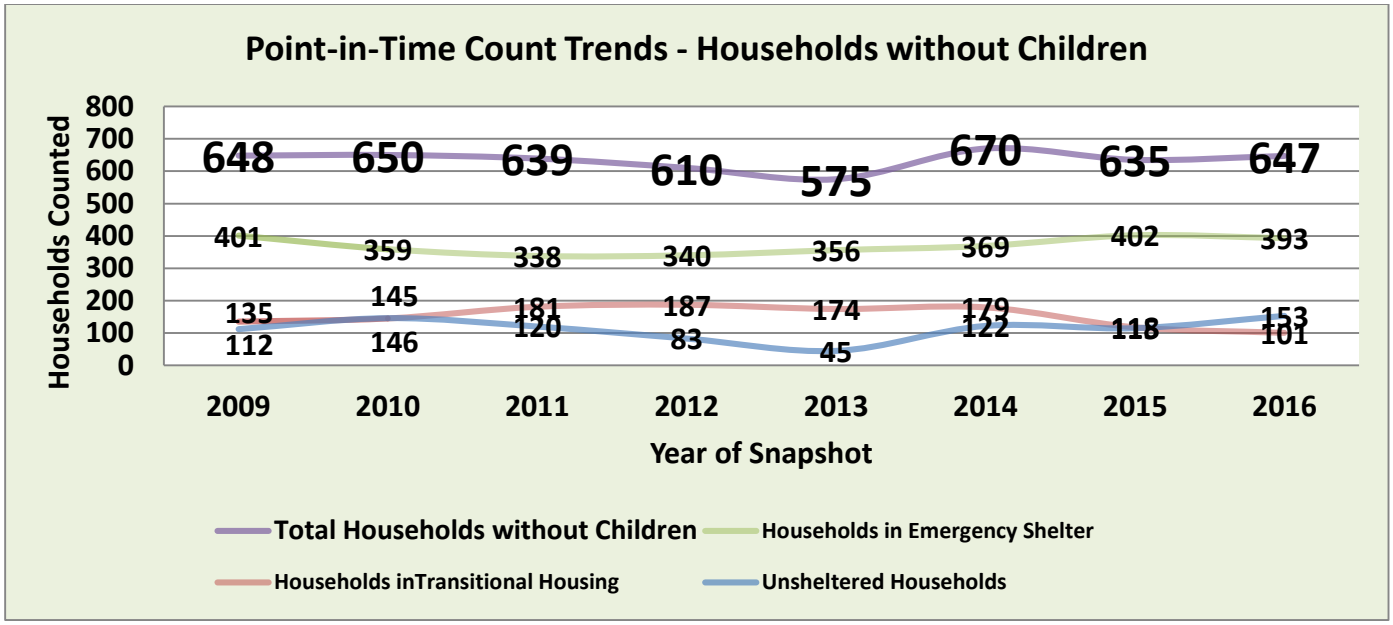
2016 Point-in-Time Methodology

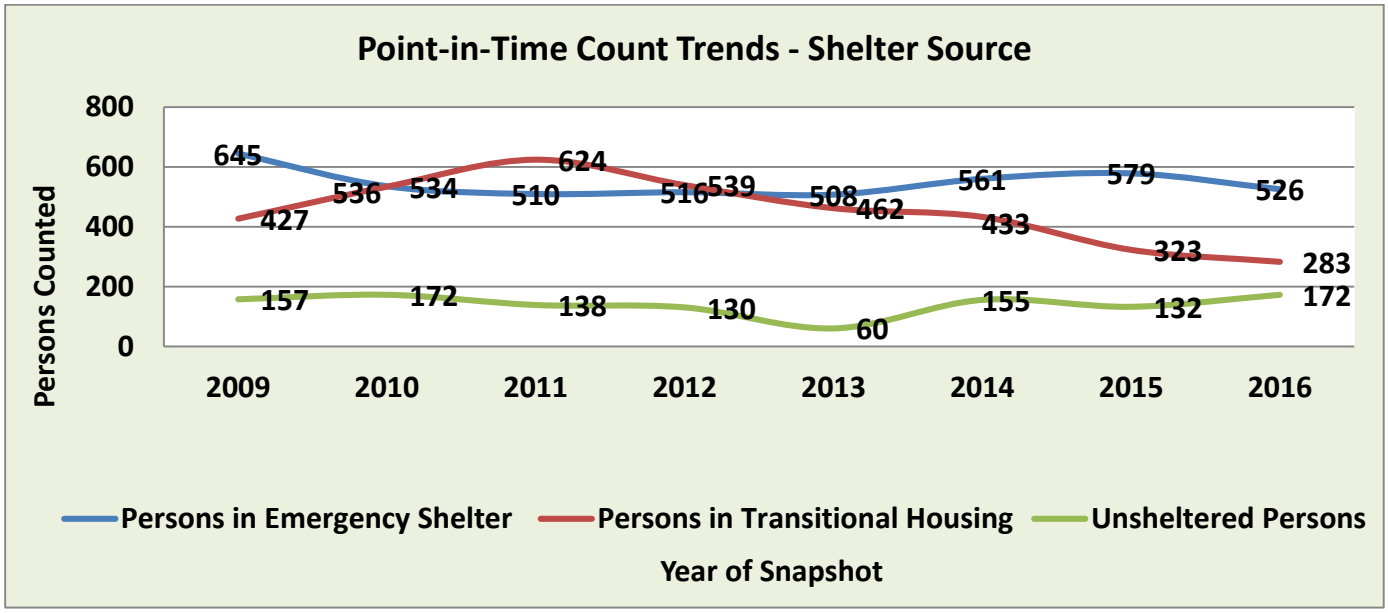
- 30 different agencies participated in the 2016 Point-in-Time Count including social service and housing providers, healthcare providers, faith-based organizations, outreach professionals and local governments.
- Point-in-Time Count Data was sourced from Spokane's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). 47 percent of the data used was entered into HMIS directly by HMIS-participating agencies. 43 percent of the data used was first collected on paper forms at meal and services sites and then entered into HMIS by City of Spokane CHHS staff. 10% of the data was extrapolated- the process of using known data about clients counted in the PIT to estimate the number of persons homeless and their demographic characteristics who did not complete a survey but were known to be homeless the night of the count.
- The 2016 Point-in-Time Count Data Collection Form was updated and revised for ease of use and consistency with data collection practices suggested by the Washington State Department of Commerce.
- For improved data control, sheltered persons were only counted at the Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing facilities they were staying at on the night of the Point-in-Time Count.
- For improved data control, separate color-coded forms were used to capture data on sheltered and unsheltered persons.
- The list of total persons included in the 2016 Point-in-Time Count was deduplicated across five identifying data points including HMIS client ID number, social security number, birth date, last name and first name.

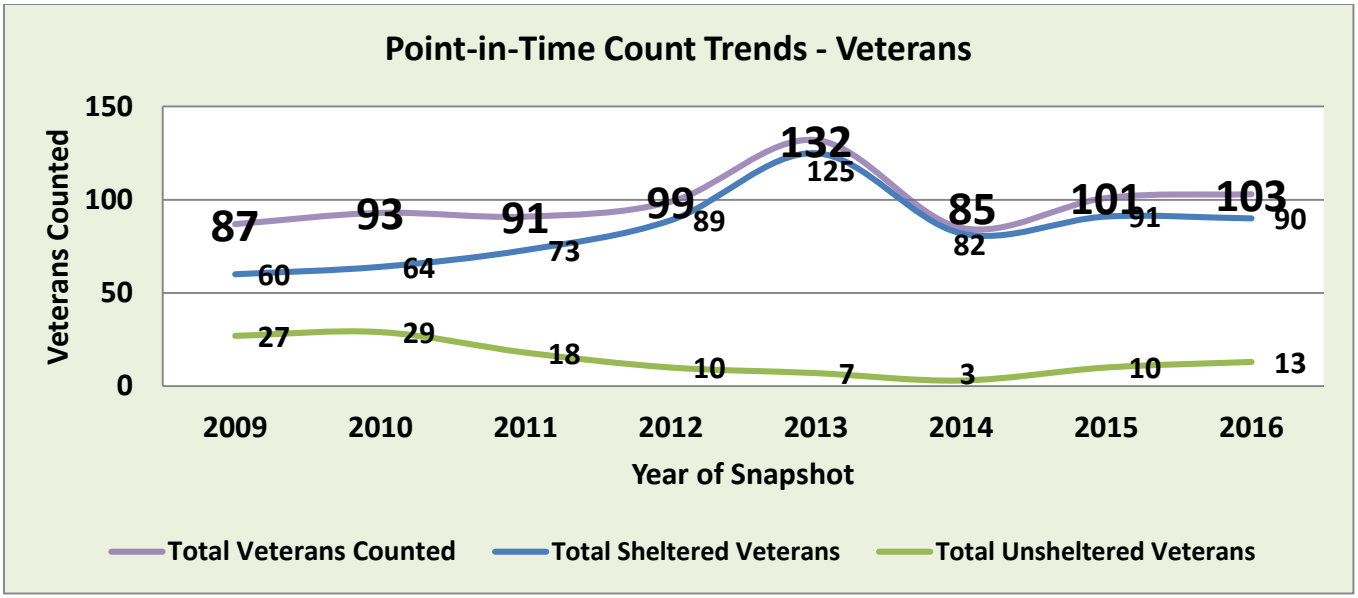
Point-in-Time Count Trends – Selected Charts

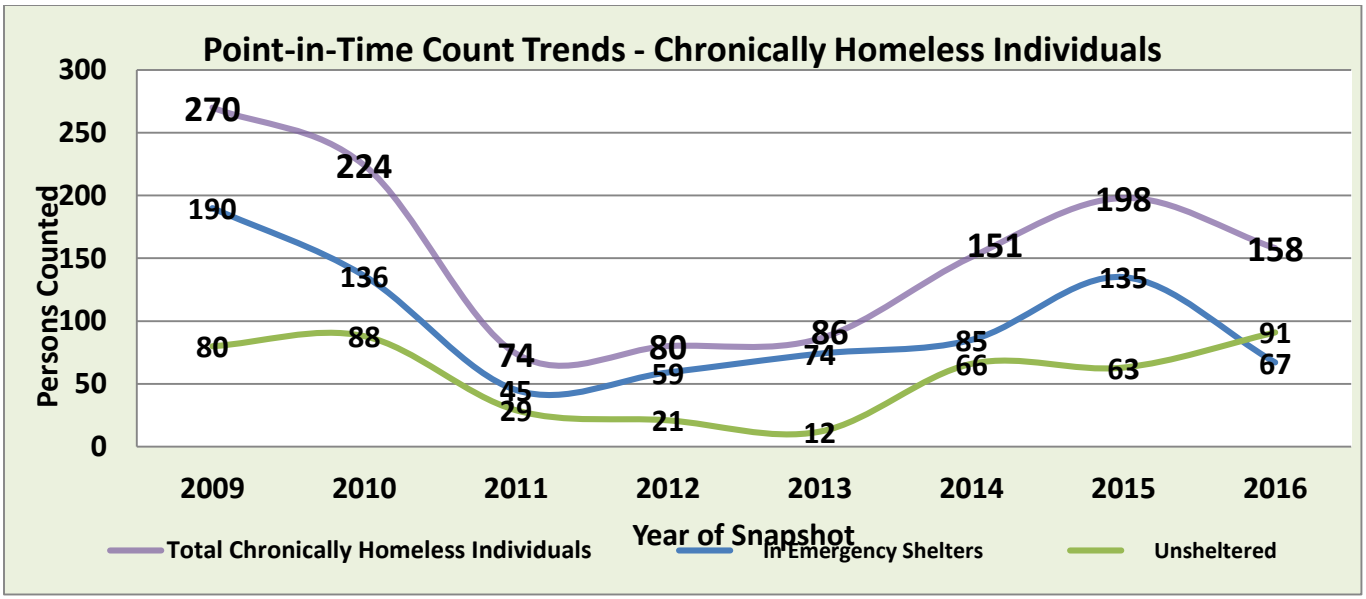


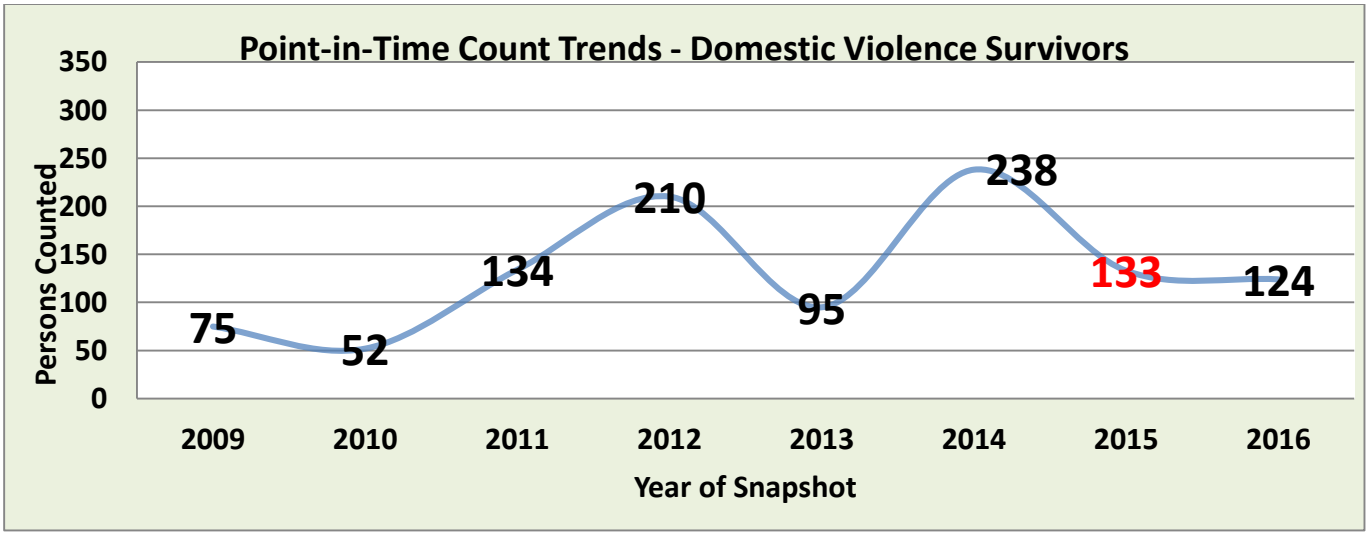


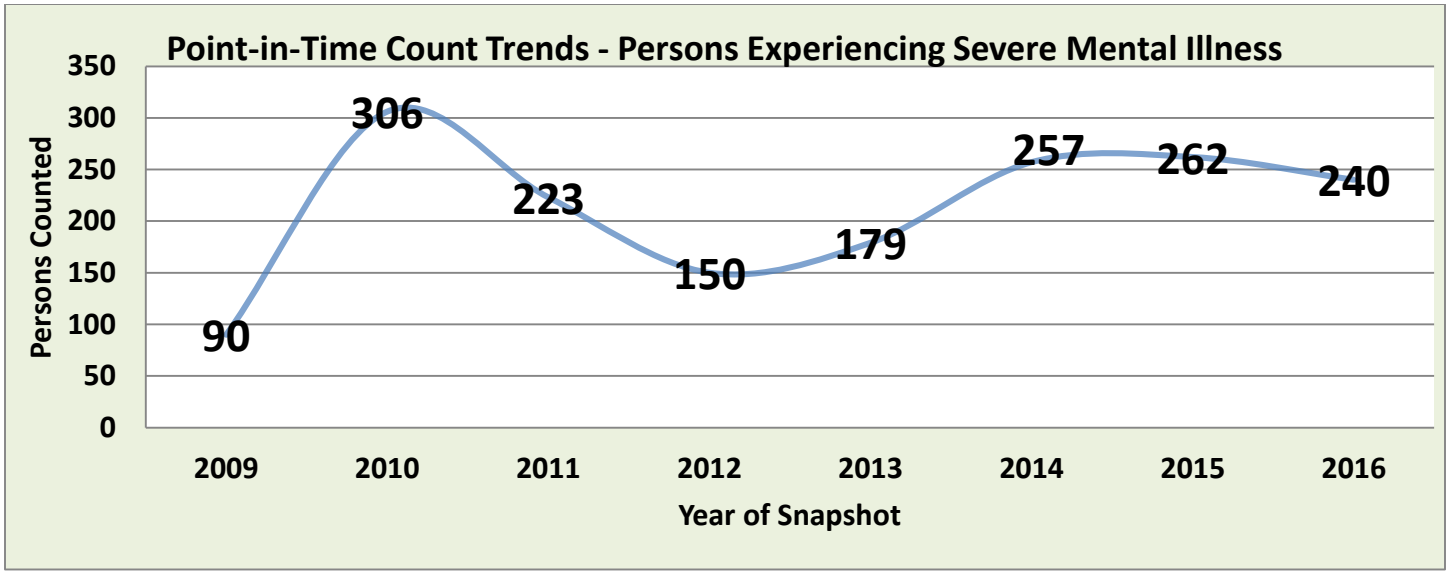

Point-in-Time Count Trends - Households without Children
Households Counted
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
648
650
639
610
575
670
635
647
401
359
338
340
356
369
402
393
135
145
181
187
174
179
118
153
112
146
120
83
45
122
101
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot
Total Households without Children
Households in Emergency Shelter
Households inTransitional Housing
Unsheltered Households

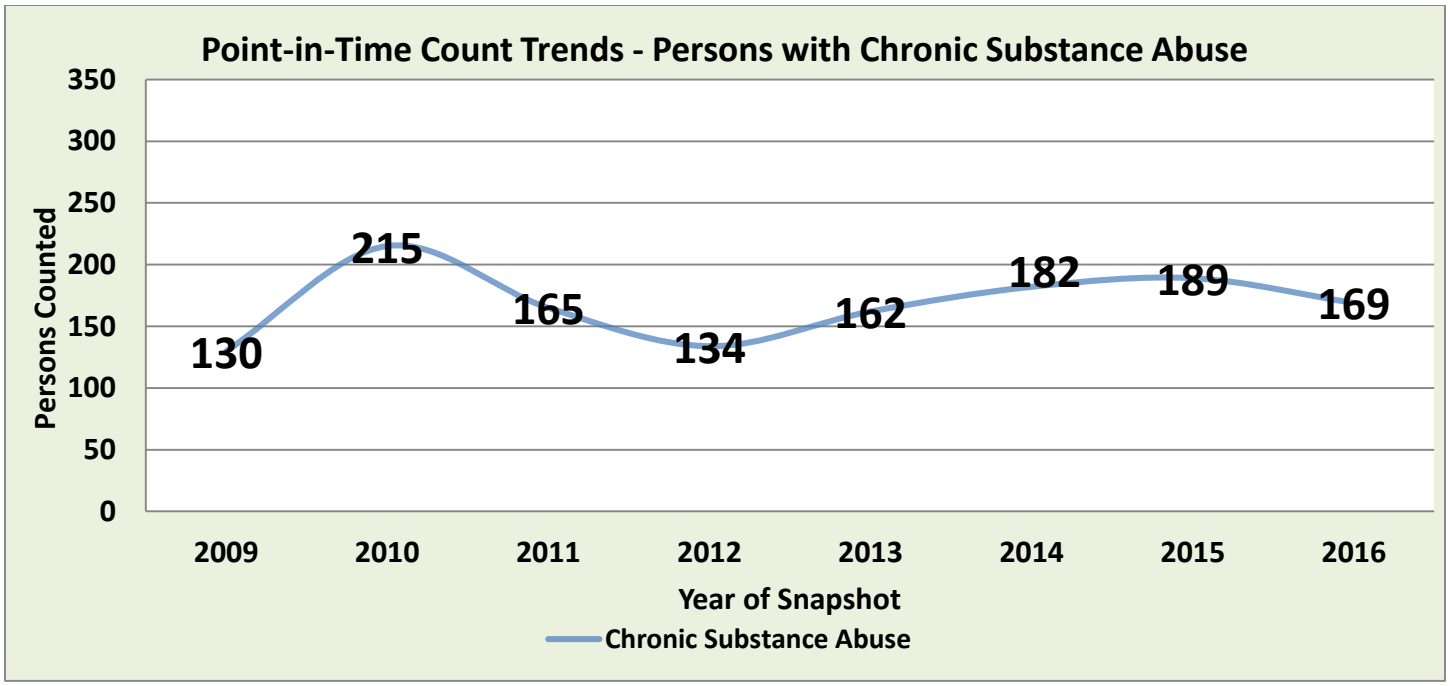

Point-in-Time Count Trends - Shelter Source
Persons Counted
800
600
400
200
0
645
536
534
510
516
539
508
561
579
526
427
624
462
433
323
283
157
172
138
130
60
155
132
172
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Persons in Emergency Shelter
Persons in Transitional Housing
Unsheltered Persons
Year of Snapshot


Point-in-Time Count Trends - Veterans
Veterans Counted
150
100
50
0
87
93
91
99
132
85
101
103
60
64
73
89
125
82
91
90
27
29
18
10
7
3
10
13
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot
Total Veterans Counted
Total Sheltered Veterans
Total Unsheltered Veterans

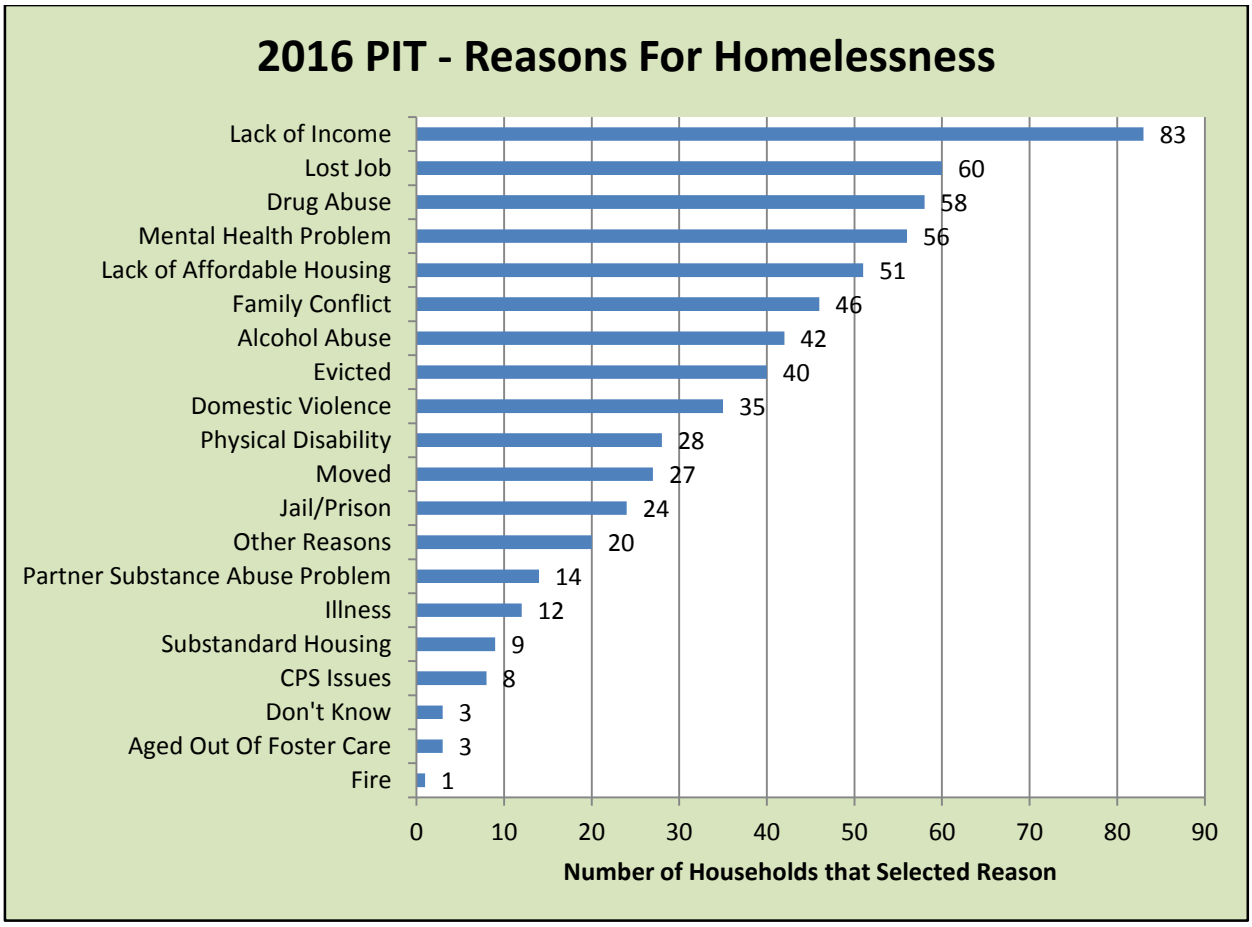

Point-in-Time Count Trends - Chronically Homeless Individuals
Persons Counted
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
270
224
74
80
86
151
198
158
190
136
45
59
74
85
135
67
80
88
29
21
12
66
63
91
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot
Total Chronically Homeless Individuals
In Emergency Shelters
Unsheltered

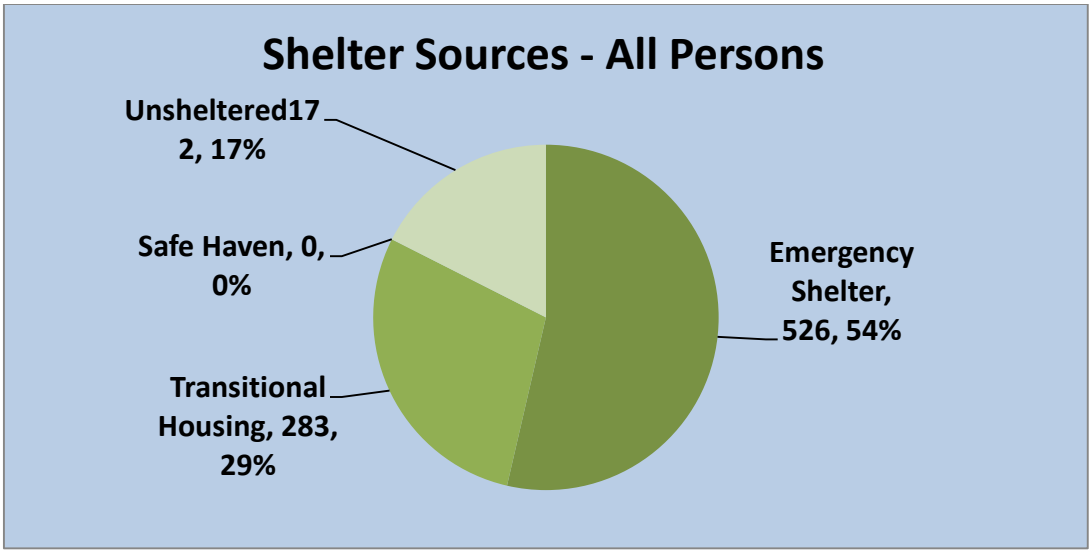

Point-in-Time Count Trends - Domestic Violence Survivors
Persons Counted
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
75
52
134
210
95
238
133
124
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot


Point-in-Time Count Trends - Persons Experiencing Severe Mental Illness
Persons Counted
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
90
306
223
150
179
257
262
240
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot


Point-in-Time Count Trends - Persons with Chronic Substance Abuse
Persons Counted
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
130
215
165
134
162
182
189
169
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Year of Snapshot
Chronic Substance Abuse

Point-in-Time Count – Selected Charts





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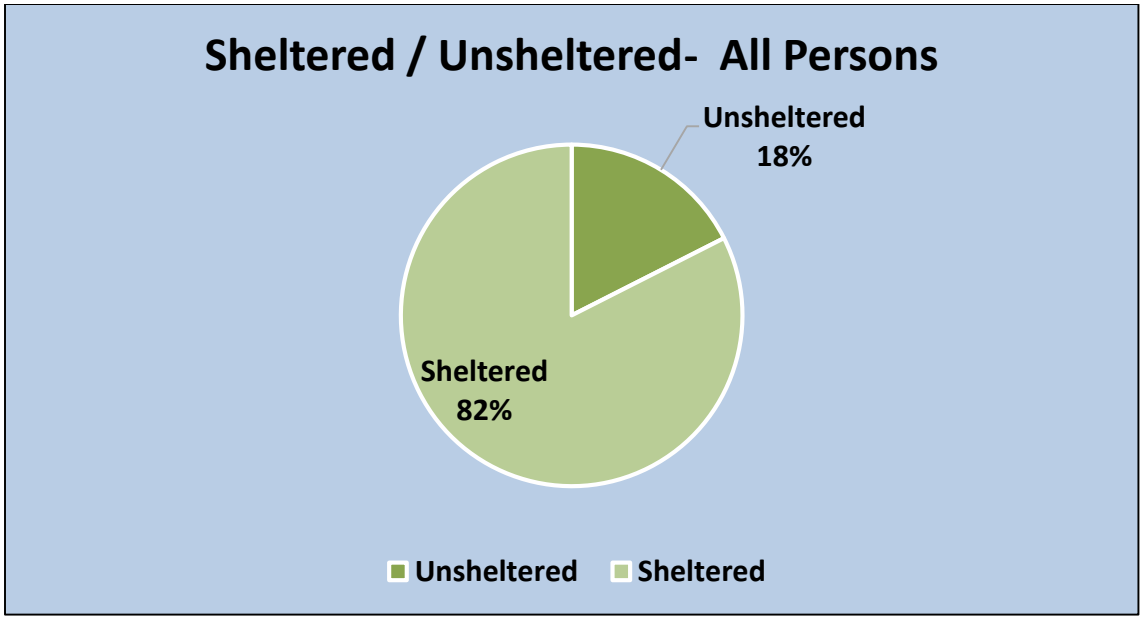
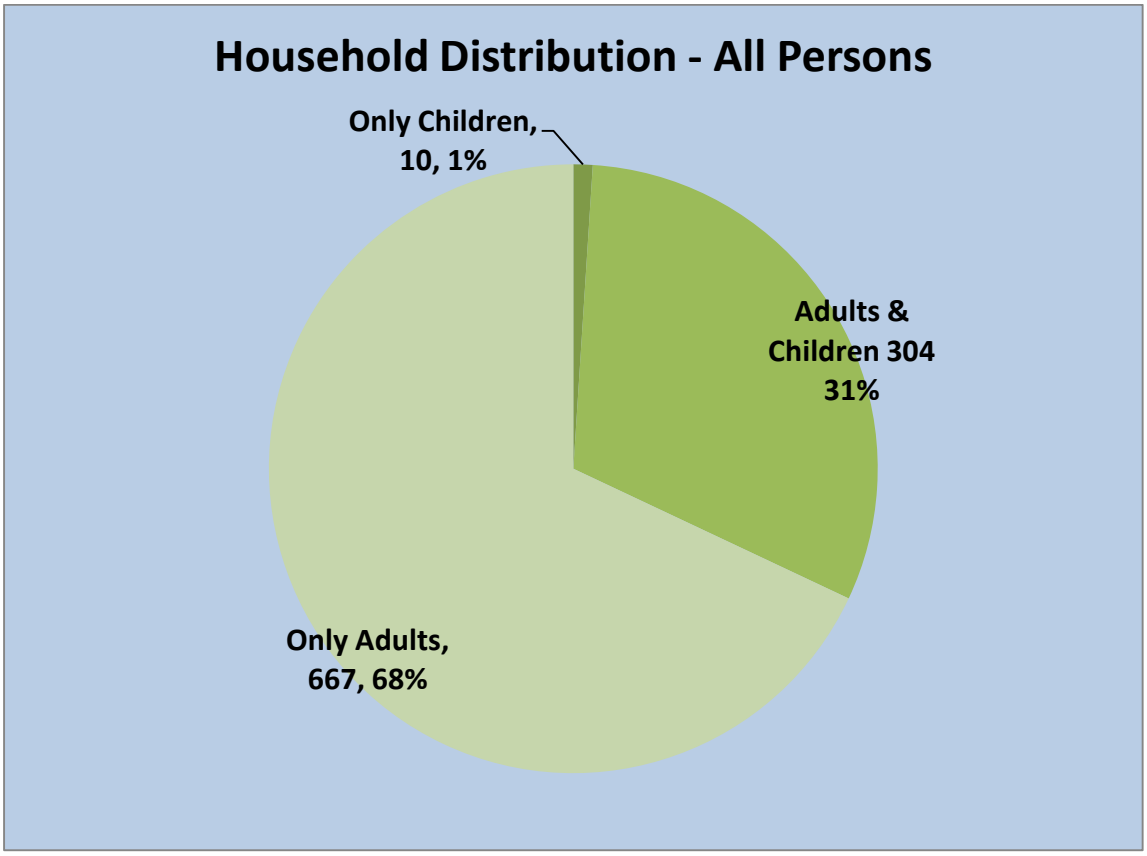


Point-in-Time Count Demographics – Selected Charts



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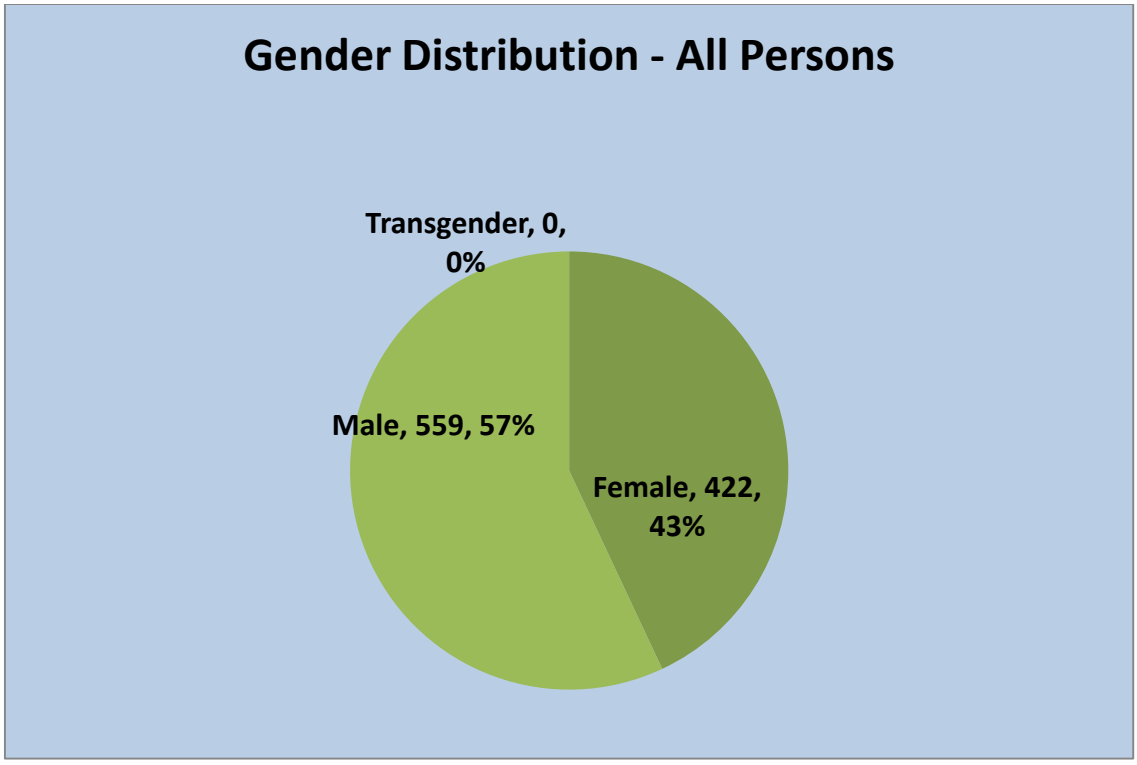
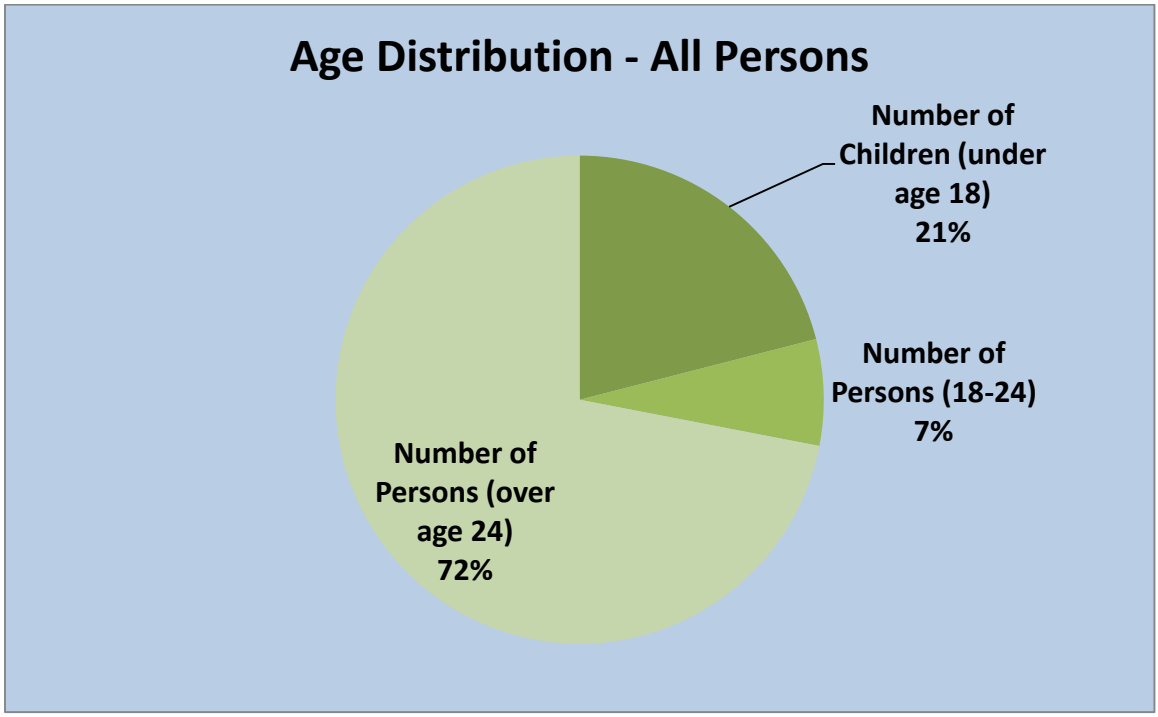

Gender Distribution - All Persons
Transgender, 0, 0%
Male, 559, 57%
Female, 422, 43%


Age Distribution - All Persons
Number of Children (under age 18) 21%
Number of Persons (18-24) 7%
Number of Persons (over age 24) 72%