



ANALYSIS OF PINELLAS COUNTY
POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) DATA FROM
2016 THROUGH 2020



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Method.....	4
Data.....	4
Point-in-Time Homeless Survey Data	4
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data	4
Non-HMIS Sheltered Data	4
Jail Data.....	5
Pinellas County Schools Data	5
Analysis.....	5
Results.....	6
Overall Homeless Data	6
Homeless Data by Household Type	7
Homeless Data by Shelter Type	11
Demographic Data.....	14
Non-HUD Responses to the Point-in-Time Homeless Survey	18
Jail Homeless Population	19
Pinellas County Schools Student Homeless Data	19
Unaccompanied and Parenting Youth	21
Veteran Households.....	23
Timing of Homelessness.....	24
Unsheltered Homeless Location Data.....	25
HUD Subpopulation Data	26
Reported Reason for Homelessness.....	27
New Survey Questions in 2020	28
Discussion	30
Literal Homelessness Has Declined Across Years.....	30
Declines in Veteran Homelessness	30
Increased Levels of Couch Surfing.....	31
Increasing Jail Count Across Years.....	31
Trends in Factors Associated with Homelessness.....	32
Conclusions	33

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the number of individuals in Emergency, Transitional, and Safe Haven Shelters in Pinellas County as well as a count of Unsheltered homeless individuals is provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These data, along with supplemental data collected through the Unsheltered Point-in-Time Homeless Survey, Pinellas County Schools, and the Pinellas County Jail are reported to provide a broader understanding of the Pinellas County homeless population. This year, we present data collected from 2016 through 2020 to examine trends across time to gain insights concerning the nature of the homeless population.

The total number of homeless individuals in the Point-in-Time (PIT) Survey Count has continued to decline to 2,226 persons in 2020 (Table 1). This continues a downtrend from 2017 onward. The decline has been driven by lower Emergency Shelter (Table 6) and Unsheltered (Table 9) homeless individuals. The decline in Pinellas Safe Harbor (Table 6) from 407 individuals in 2017 to 260 individuals in 2020 is associated most strongly with the decline in individuals in Emergency Shelters. The Unsheltered homeless count has declined from 1,152 in 2017 to 808 in 2020.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Jail Count (Table 16) has increased each year from 2016 to 2020. This trend has been evident in both St. Petersburg and Clearwater despite a decline that was seen in Clearwater from 2018 to 2019.

The School Count population (Tables 17 and 18) has grown from 2,211 children and 180 adults living with others in 2016 to 2,822 children and 220 adults living with others in 2020. These data indicate that there is a substantial population of individuals living with others or "couch surfing" that are not included in the PIT count yet are nevertheless facing challenges associated with housing. Data indicate that a higher percentage of the School homeless population are African American (39.8% in 2020) relative to the non-homeless population (18.4% in 2020).

The number of Unaccompanied Youth in the HUD data (Table 20) have declined from 127 in 2016 to 91 in 2020. The School data (Table 22) suggest that the number of Unaccompanied Youth may be larger if the couch surfing population is considered. The School data identify 452 Unaccompanied Youth in 2020.

While Pinellas County has the highest rate of homeless veterans in the PIT count in the state of Florida¹, the count of homeless veterans (Table 23) has declined from 380 in 2016 to 265 in 2020.

Data from 2019 and 2020 (Table 25) have consistently indicated that a large percentage of Unsheltered homeless individuals are either in Pinellas one year or longer prior to becoming homeless (51.7% in 2020) or a lifetime resident (17.8% in 2020). A smaller percentage (12.3% in 2020) are present in Pinellas County one week or less before becoming homeless.

Data indicate that a majority of the Unsheltered homeless population reside in St. Petersburg and Clearwater (Table 27). The population in St. Petersburg had increased from 2016 (680 individuals) to 2017 (740 individuals) then decreased annually thereafter. The population in Clearwater had declined from 236 in 2016 to 163 in 2019 yet increased to 206 in 2020. The number of individuals identified in Largo (80 individuals), Lealman (54 individuals), and Pinellas Park (58 individuals) increased from 2019 to 2020 due in part to expanded canvassing efforts.

¹Florida's Council on Homelessness: 2019 Annual Report, p.51. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

Subpopulation data (Table 28) consistently indicate that a significant percentage of the overall homeless population is affected by challenges associated with a serious mental illness (21.3% in 2020) and/or a substance use disorder (15.7% in 2020).

Unsheltered homeless individuals consistently report financial problems as the most proximal cause of homelessness across years (Table 31). Family problems, medical/disability problems and alcohol/drug problems are the next three most likely responses. While Eviction is reported as the cause of homeless by 5.7% of the population in 2020 separate new questions suggest that lifetime eviction rates may be between 20 and 30% with 10% of individuals evicted 2 or more times.

New survey questions for 2020 suggest that homeless individuals in Pinellas County have lower levels of access to health services or a medical clinic than does the general U.S. population². Between 74 to 76% of homeless individuals in Pinellas County report having access to services while 87.6% of the U.S. general population report having a usual place to go for medical care.

Homeless individuals in Pinellas County report (Table 35) sexual orientation consistent with estimates in the general U.S. population with 88% couch surfing individuals to 92% unsheltered individuals as heterosexual, 2% couch surfing individuals to 3% unsheltered individuals as gay or lesbian and 3% unsheltered individuals to 6% couch surfing individuals as bisexual³. Approximately (Table 36) 33% of couch surfing individuals and 29% of unsheltered individuals surveyed indicate having attained less than a GED which is a much higher rate than in the general U.S. population (10.2% in 2018)⁴.

The 2019 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report indicates that Pinellas County (2415 individuals in 2019) has the third largest Point-in-Time count in Florida following Miami-Dade (3472 individuals in 2019) and Broward (2803 individuals in 2019) counties⁵. Homelessness is a central public policy issue in Pinellas County that intersects with multiple systems including education, law enforcement, and healthcare. Consistent with Council on Homelessness recommendations, solutions should focus on Housing First programs and policies followed by the provision of appropriate support services to help keep individuals stably housed and to prevent future episodes of homelessness.

² CDC.gov, FastStats: Access to Health Care. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/access-to-health-care.htm>

³ Sexual Behavior, Sexual Attraction, and Sexual Orientation Among Adults Aged 18–44 in the United States: Data From the 2011–2013 National Survey of Family Growth. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr088.pdf>

⁴ Digest of Education Statistics, Rates of high school completion and bachelor's degree attainment among persons age 25 and over, by race/ethnicity and sex: Selected years, 1910 through 2018. Available at https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_104.10.asp

⁵ Florida Council on Homelessness: 2019 Annual Report, p. 46. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

INTRODUCTION

Each year, each Continuum of Care (COC) is required to report the number of homeless persons within its community to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The count takes place on a single night within the last ten days of January and includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons. Sheltered persons are those residing in Emergency Shelters (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), or Safe Havens (SH). Unsheltered persons (UN) are those residing in places not meant for human habitation. The two primary sources for the data are the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for sheltered persons and the Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Survey for unsheltered persons.

In addition to data provided to HUD, this report contains data obtained from the Pinellas County Jail and the Pinellas County School District. These data do not meet inclusion criteria for HUD yet are valuable toward efforts to estimate the size of the homeless population not classified as literally homeless.

This report examines data across each of these sources for 2016 through 2020. 2020 data do provide further confirmation of several trends that have existed across time. Key long-term trends (e.g. school data) are emphasized through data that differ from prior year trends as is new information obtained from new survey questions administered in 2020 (e.g. eviction, health access, educational attainment, sexual orientation).

METHOD

DATA

POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS SURVEY DATA

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Survey count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Demographic and survey questions are asked in accord with HUD reporting requirements. Supplemental questions are included to provide useful information beyond the HUD requirements.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) DATA

HMIS is used to report data for individuals residing in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens on the night of the PIT count. HMIS contains data necessary to report to HUD.

NON-HMIS SHELTERED DATA

For the shelters not participating in HMIS, including shelters who serve victims of domestic violence, a separate survey is administered to obtain the aggregate data necessary for the HUD count and supplemental questions.

JAIL DATA

The Jail count is comprised of individuals residing in the Pinellas County Jail on the night of the PIT count who either reported an address of “transient” at booking or were arrested while living on the street or in a place which falls under the definition of not being meant for human habitation prior to entering the facility. These individuals are not considered literally homeless according to HUD. As such, these data are provided separately.

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS DATA

The School Count identifies students who are Living in Hotels or Motels, Living in Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing, or Unsheltered or Sharing Housing with others. Students are identified through an initial survey at the start of the school year and are then added throughout the year as they come to the attention of district staff. The School Count is a cumulative count of all students who were identified as homeless throughout the school year. It is not a valid point in time count as a student who subsequently attained housing is not removed from the count. The School Count can also undercount the homeless population as only students are included in the count. Individuals with whom homeless students are residing are not included in the count.

Each year the school count concludes during the final week in July. All school data presented in this report is final as of the final count on July 24, 2020 and includes the final counts for years 2016 through 2020.

ANALYSIS

To fulfill the requirement that the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) counts must match exactly, Point-in-Time Homeless Survey respondents who reported living in shelters are cross-checked with the sheltered dataset. If they are not found in that dataset they are designated as living in a place not meant for habitation. Additionally, Point-in-Time Homeless Survey respondents indicating that they are unsheltered are designated as being sheltered if they are found in the sheltered dataset.

Reporting data consistent with HUD requirements involves combining data concerning demographics, chronicity, disability status, veteran status, foster care status, and domestic violence across homeless survey data, HMIS data, and non-HMIS shelter data. Homeless survey data are included in HUD counts if the individual reported residing in a place not meant for habitation. Non-HUD data for those reporting Couch Surfing are reported separately.

RESULTS

OVERALL HOMELESS DATA

Table 1

Results presented in Table 1 include the total number of homeless households and persons for 2016-2020. Overall data for HUD, non-HUD survey (i.e., Couch Surfing), Jail, and School are presented first. These totals are then combined in a stepwise fashion to display combined results.

Overall Homeless Data					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HUD					
Households	2518	2568	2346	2152	1979
Persons	2777	2831	2612	2415	2226
Non-HUD Survey (i.e., Couch Surfing)					
Households	238	231	198	204	160
Persons	239	231	217	238	178
Jail					
Households	478	538	621	635	714
Persons	478	538	621	635	714
School					
Households	3508	4019	4238	4372	4244
Persons	3508	4019	4238	4372	4244
TOTAL HUD					
Households	2518	2568	2346	2152	1979
Persons	2777	2831	2612	2415	2226
TOTAL HUD and non-HUD					
Households	2756	2799	2544	2356	2139
Persons	3016	3062	2829	2653	2404
TOTAL HUD, non-HUD, and Jail					
Households	3234	3337	3165	2991	2853
Persons	3494	3600	3450	3288	3118
TOTAL HUD, non-HUD, Jail, and School Data					
Households	6742	7356	7403	7363	7097
Persons	7002	7619	7688	7660	7362

The Overall HUD total has been trending downward since 2017. This trend continued in 2020 with 1,979 households and 2,226 persons reported.

Jail data have trended upward each year since 2016 with 714 persons reported in 2020.

School data had been trending upward each year since 2016 yet were lower in 2020 with 4,244 students relative to 2019 when 4,372 students were reported.

HOMELESS DATA BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Results presented in Tables 2 through 5 separate the total number of households and persons across household types.

Table 2

The School data only includes students and not others with whom students may be living. Adult and Child student totals are included below as having households of unknown composition.

Overall Homeless Data for Households of Unknown Composition					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Adult					
Households	230	253	315	300	283
Persons	230	253	315	300	283
Child					
Households	3278	3766	3923	4072	3961
Persons	3278	3766	3923	4072	3961
Total					
Households	3508	4019	4238	4372	4244
Persons	3508	4019	4238	4372	4244

Each year the school data underrepresents the total number of individuals at risk for homelessness because the student is the one reported in the total. The student’s family is not included in these totals, which would increase the overall number of individuals at risk for homelessness in Pinellas County.

Table 3

Overall Homeless Data for Households with No Children					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HUD					
Households	2338	2425	2198	1994	1844
Persons	2343	2435	2214	2003	1854
Non-HUD Survey (i.e., Couch Surfing)					
Households	238	224	189	194	154
Persons	239	224	191	195	157
Jail					
Households	478	538	621	635	714
Persons	478	538	621	635	714
TOTAL HUD					
Households	2338	2425	2198	1994	1844
Persons	2343	2435	2214	2003	1854
TOTAL HUD and non-HUD					
Households	2576	2649	2387	2188	1998
Persons	2582	2659	2405	2198	2011
TOTAL HUD, non-HUD, and Jail					
Households	3054	3187	3008	2823	2712
Persons	3060	3197	3026	2833	2725

Households with No Children are the highest prevalence household type. The downtrend in HUD totals for Households with No Children mirror the downtrend seen overall in HUD data from 2016 to 2020. Non-HUD data totals for Households with No Children have also declined from 2016 through 2020. All jail data include Households with No Children and have increased from 2016 to 2020.

Table 4

Overall Homeless Data for Adult/Child Households					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HUD					
Households	143	115	110	127	118
Persons	394	365	359	381	350
Non-HUD Survey (i.e., Couch Surfing)					
Households	0	0	7	10	6
Persons	0	0	24	43	21
Jail					
Households	0	0	0	0	0
Persons	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HUD					
Households	143	115	110	127	118
Persons	394	365	359	381	350
TOTAL HUD and non-HUD					
Households	143	115	117	137	124
Persons	394	365	383	426	371
TOTAL HUD, non-HUD, and Jail					
Households	143	115	117	137	124
Persons	394	365	383	426	371

The number of persons in Adult/Child households in Table 4 have declined from 2016 to 2020. 2019 represented a change from this trend in which the total had increased, yet the downward trend continued in 2020 with 350 persons reported. Despite the decline in the total number of persons, the total number of households has remained similar from 2017 to 2020 with the 2020 total of 118 households being higher than the totals for 2017 (115 households) and 2018 (110 households).

The Non-HUD survey (i.e. Couch Surfing) began to capture a handful of families beginning in 2018 yet these are a small fraction of the number of individuals captured in the School data.

Table 5

Overall Homeless Data for Households with Children Only					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HUD					
Households	37	28	38	31	17
Persons	40	31	39	31	22
Non-HUD Survey (i.e., Couch Surfing)					
Households	0	7	2	0	0
Persons	0	7	2	0	0
Jail					
Households	0	0	0	0	0
Persons	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HUD					
Households	37	28	38	31	17
Persons	40	31	39	31	22
TOTAL HUD and non-HUD					
Households	37	35	40	31	17
Persons	40	38	41	31	22
TOTAL HUD, non-HUD, and Jail					
Households	37	35	40	31	17
Persons	40	38	41	31	22

HUD households with Children Only had contained between 31 and 40 children for each year from 2016 to 2019. The HUD survey for 2020 consists of 17 households with 22 children. These are teens with or without children being reported at shelters without an adult present. One teen presented without an adult present in the Unsheltered data.

HOMELESS DATA BY SHELTER TYPE

Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing tables below are divided into two sections for clarity- shelters included across years and shelters that vary across years. Shelters included across years contributed to the PIT count for each year from 2016 through 2020. Shelters that vary across years were not included for each of the years from 2016 to 2020.

Table 6

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- EMERGENCY SHELTERS					
EMERGENCY SHELTERS INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Catholic Charities, Pinellas Hope	158	168	189	176	187
Pinellas Hope, Medical Respite Services	5	1	3	5	4
Family Resources, SafePlace2B, Clearwater	7	8	5	2	4
Family Resources, SafePlace2B, St. Petersburg	6	7	7	6	0
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Emergency Shelter	83	96	82	90	76
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Homeless Outreach	23	25	25	23	26
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas Safe Harbor	393	407	379	315	260
Religious Community Services, Grace House	64	71	76	55	50
St. Vincent de Paul South Family Shelter Program	45	47	68	63	61
St. Vincent de Paul South Nighttime Shelter	86	72	68	69	69
WestCare, Turning Point Inebriate Intervention Center	60	65	59	66	52
Community Action Stops Abuse	105	116	112	100	97
The Haven of RCS, Emergency Safe House	35	35	27	35	33
TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	1070	1118	1100	1005	919
EMERGENCY SHELTERS THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Salvation Army St. Petersburg Emergency Shelter	28				
St. Vincent de Paul South VA 10 Emergency Shelter	7	9			
St. Vincent de Paul South VA 10 Emergency Shelter 2	9	9			
People That Love Church and Mission, Men's Shelter	4	0	2		
HLB Disaster Related Services			27		
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Residential Center, Families		21	16	19	18
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Residential Center, Individuals		78	81	75	76
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg VA Medical Respite		1	1	3	3
Family Promise of Pinellas County		17	13	8	1
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Family Housing Program		41	41	50	25
St. Vincent de Paul South VA 20 Emergency Shelter			18	19	7
TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	48	176	199	174	130
TOTAL ACROSS ALL EMERGENCY SHELTERS	1118	1294	1299	1179	1049

The Emergency Shelter HUD total had declined from 1,299 in 2018 to 1,049 in 2020. This decline is consistent with the decline in Pinellas Safe Harbor. Pinellas Safe Harbor is the largest contributor to the Emergency Shelter HUD total and has driven declines in the overall HUD total across years along with declines in the Unsheltered total.

Table 7

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- SAFE HAVENS					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Boley Centers, Mid-County Safe Haven, Morningside	16	18	17	17	18
Boley Centers, Safe Haven Apartments	23	18	23	22	22
St. Vincent de Paul South, VA Low Demand 5				4	4
St. Vincent de Paul South, VA Low Demand				19	15
Westcare, Mustard Seed GPD				14	8
TOTAL ACROSS SAFE HAVENS	39	36	40	76	67

Safe Haven data had been consistent from 2016 to 2018. Classification of three additional shelters as Safe Havens increased the total to 76 persons in 2019 and 67 persons in 2020. WestCare, Mustard Seed GPD; St. Vincent de Paul South, VA Low Demand; and St. Vincent de Paul South, VA Low Demand 5 were reclassified from Transitional Housing to Safe Haven Shelters to match funding sources associated with these shelters.

Table 8

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING					
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ALPHA House of Pinellas County, Transitional Living Program	10	11	27	21	21
Boley Centers, Jerry Howe Transitional Apartments	10	10	8	9	9
Brookwood Florida, Central Transitional Housing	22	10	6	14	12
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Men's Residence	19	31	19	24	23
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Transitional Housing	70	35	31	30	29
Salvation Army, Clearwater Hope Crest Transitional Living Center	27	27	9	31	42
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Women's Residence	13	45	46	50	41
WestCare, The Mustard Seed Inn	54	38	36	33	40
Kimberly Home, Transitional Housing, Single Females	11	18	18	22	18
TOTAL FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	236	225	200	234	235
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS					
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Florida Resurrection House	26			27	15
Salvation Army St. Petersburg Transitional Housing	73				
Faith House Florida	23				
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Family Housing Program	48				
Catholic Charities, Per-Diem Housing Program	18	16			
Family Resources, Maternal Transitional Living Program	3	7			
Family Resources, Prism Transitional Living Program, St. Pete	4	3			
St. Vincent de Paul South VA GPD 10 Transitional Housing	10	8			
St. Vincent de Paul South VA GPD 40 Transitional Housing	37	37			
St. Vincent de Paul South, SRO Transitional Housing	3	3	3		
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Re-Entry Program		7	3		
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) GPD Transitional Housing		32	32	32	39
Westcare, Mustard Seed Inn GPD Transitional Housing		11	15		
Boley Centers, Jerry Howe GPD Bridge Housing			2	4	1
Family Resources, SafePlace2BToo			2		
Family Resources, SafePlace2BToo, Demo			3		
St Vincent de Paul South, VA Bridge Housing			20	22	6
St Vincent de Paul South, VA Hospital to Home			6	7	6
St Vincent de Paul South, VA Low Demand			22		
TOTAL FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	245	124	108	92	67
TOTAL ACROSS ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	481	349	308	326	302

The Transitional Housing total had declined from 481 in 2016 to 308 in 2018 as HUD funding was redirected from transitional housing to rapid re-housing. The Transitional Housing total then increased to 326 persons in 2019 due to inclusion of Florida Resurrection House and an increase in persons reported by Clearwater Hope Crest. The overall downward trend continued in 2020 due to Florida Resurrection House reporting 15 persons in 2020 compared to 27 in 2019 and St Vincent de Paul South, VA Bridge Housing reporting 6 persons in 2020 compared to 22 in 2019.

Table 9

TOTALS BY SHELTER TYPE					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EMERGENCY SHELTERS	1118	1294	1299	1179	1049
SAFE HAVENS	39	36	40	76	67
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	481	349	308	326	302
UNSHELTERED	1139	1152	965	834	808
FINAL HUD TOTALS	2777	2831	2612	2415	2226

The final HUD total has been in a downtrend from 2017 to 2020. The downtrend is associated with the lower number of persons reported by Pinellas Safe Harbor, the reclassification of Transitional Housing to non-HUD housing, and a downward trend in the number of Unsheltered persons included in the Homeless Survey count.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Table 10

Demographic Data for Total HUD Sample										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	2518		2568		2346		2152		1979	
Total number of persons	2777		2831		2612		2415		2226	
Number of children (under age 18)	266	9.6	261	9.2	264	10.1	271	11.2	230	10.3
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	130	4.7	116	4.1	129	4.9	89	3.7	119	5.3
Number of adults (over age 24)	2381	85.7	2454	86.7	2219	85.0	2055	85.1	1877	84.3
Gender (adults and children)										
Female	746	26.9	814	28.8	826	31.6	760	31.5	695	31.2
Male	2027	73.0	2011	71.0	1781	68.2	1650	68.3	1528	68.6
Transgender	4	0.1	6	2.3	5	0.2	4	0.2	3	0.1
Gender Non-Conforming							1	0.0	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2595	93.4	2647	93.5	2382	91.2	2253	93.3	2055	92.3
Hispanic/Latino	182	6.6	184	6.5	230	8.8	162	6.7	171	7.7
Race										
White	1756	63.2	1716	60.6	1623	62.2	1527	63.2	1379	61.9
Black or African-American	880	31.7	972	34.3	858	32.8	764	31.6	718	32.3
Asian	8	0.3	4	0.1	7	0.3	8	0.3	8	0.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	31	1.1	25	0.9	23	0.9	17	0.7	25	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	9	0.3	8	0.3	9	0.3	3	0.1	10	0.4
Multiple Races	93	3.3	106	3.7	92	3.5	96	4.0	86	3.9

The relative percentage of children in the Total HUD survey has increased from 9.6% in 2016 to 10.3% in 2020. This is mainly due to the larger decline in the number of adults relative to the decline in children in the survey from 2016 to 2020.

While the Total HUD survey has been more than two thirds male each year, the relative percentage of females in the population has trended upward from 26.9% in 2016 to 31.2% in 2020.

The relative percentage of Hispanic/Latino individuals has remained similar in the 6 to 7% range from 2016 to 2020, with the exception of an increase to 8.8% reported in 2018. The increase in 2018 was associated with those served by FEMA Disaster Related Services of which 25 of the 27 individuals served were Hispanic/Latino.

The HUD total survey (Table 10) has been between 60-63% Caucasian and 31-34% African American across years.

Table 11

Demographic Data for Emergency Shelters										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	957		1067		1053		980		877	
Total number of persons	1118		1294		1299		1179		1049	
Number of children (under age 18)	161	14.4	220	17.0	222	17.0	194	16.5	158	15.1
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	54	4.8	56	4.3	65	4.9	48	4.1	68	6.5
Number of adults (over age 24)	903	80.8	1018	78.7	1012	78.0	937	79.5	823	78.5
Gender (adults and children)										
Female	361	32.3	472	36.5	479	36.9	417	35.4	367	35.0
Male	756	67.6	820	63.4	817	62.9	760	64.5	682	65.0
Transgender	1	0.1	2	0.2	3	0.2	2	0.2	0	0.0
Gender Non-Conforming							0	0.0	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1041	93.1	1195	92.3	1163	89.5	1089	92.4	963	91.8
Hispanic/Latino	79	7.1	99	7.7	136	10.5	90	7.6	86	8.2
Race										
White	724	64.8	786	60.7	777	59.9	701	59.5	600	57.2
Black or African-American	341	30.5	441	34.1	461	35.4	421	35.7	400	38.1
Asian	5	0.4	1	0.1	5	0.4	4	0.3	6	0.6
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	0.4	1	0.1	7	0.5	2	0.2	5	0.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.2	3	0.3	2	0.2
Multiple Races	42	3.8	65	5.0	47	3.6	48	4.1	36	3.4

Both the raw total and the relative percentage of children under age 18 has declined in Emergency Shelters from 2018 (222, 17.0%) to 2020 (158, 15.1%).

The raw total and relative percentage of females in Emergency Shelters declined from 2018 (479, 36.9%) to 2020 (367, 35.0%).

The Hispanic/Latino population in Emergency Shelters has mirrored the overall survey with similar representation each year with the exception of the increase that was seen in 2018 related to FEMA Disaster Related Services.

The percentage of African American individuals in Emergency Shelters has increased each year from 2016 to 2020 relative to the Caucasian population.

Table 12

Demographic Data for Transitional Housing										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	400		320		289		277		244	
Total number of persons	481		349		308		326		302	
Number of children (under age 18)	95	19.8	41	11.7	38	12.3	71	21.8	67	22.2
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	34	7.1	30	8.6	22	7.1	19	5.8	23	7.6
Number of adults (over age 24)	352	73.2	278	79.7	248	80.5	236	72.4	212	70.2
Gender (adults and children)										
Female	173	36.0	124	35.5	115	37.3	150	46.0	139	46.0
Male	307	63.8	222	63.6	193	62.7	176	54.0	163	54.0
Transgender	1	0.2	3	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gender Non-Conforming							0	0.0	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	450	93.6	326	93.4	288	93.5	298	91.4	275	91.1
Hispanic/Latino	31	6.4	23	6.6	20	6.5	28	8.6	27	8.9
Race										
White	280	58.2	229	65.6	210	68.2	198	60.7	195	64.6
Black or African-American	181	37.6	107	30.7	88	28.6	99	30.4	91	30.1
Asian	1	0.2	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.6	1	0.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	1	0.3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Multiple Races	16	3.3	12	3.4	9	2.9	25	7.7	14	4.6

The demographics of the Transitional Housing population has been influenced by the inclusion of Florida Resurrection House in 2016, 2019, and 2020 with larger relative representation of children and females in these years.

Table 13

Demographic Data for Safe Havens										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	39		36		40		76		67	
Total number of persons	39		36		40		76		67	
Number of children (under age 18)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	5	7.5
Number of adults (over age 24)	38	97.4	36	100.0	40	100.0	75	98.7	62	92.5
Gender (adults and children)										
Female	8	20.5	5	13.9	4	10.0	7	9.2	4	6.0
Male	31	79.5	31	86.1	36	90.0	69	90.8	63	94.0
Transgender	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gender Non-Conforming							0	0.0	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	35	89.7	35	97.2	36	90.0	72	94.7	60	89.6
Hispanic/Latino	4	10.3	1	2.8	4	10.0	4	5.3	7	10.4
Race										
White	29	74.4	24	66.7	30	75.0	56	73.7	44	65.7
Black or African-American	8	20.5	10	27.8	7	17.5	19	25.0	20	29.9
Asian	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Multiple Races	1	2.6	2	5.6	3	7.5	1	1.3	3	4.5

Safe Haven data have remained consistent from 2016 to 2020 with the population being primarily adult, non-Hispanic males. In 2020, 65.7% of the Safe Haven population were Caucasian and 29.9% were African American.

Table 14

Demographic Data for Unsheltered Persons										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	1122		1145		964		819		791	
Total number of persons	1139		1152		965		834		808	
Number of children (under age 18)	10	0.9	0	0.0	4	0.4	6	0.7	5	0.6
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	41	3.6	30	2.6	42	4.4	21	2.5	23	2.8
Number of adults (over age 24)	1088	95.5	1122	97.4	919	95.2	807	96.8	780	96.5
Gender (adults and children)										
Female	204	17.9	213	18.5	228	23.6	186	22.3	185	22.9
Male	933	81.9	938	81.4	735	76.2	645	77.3	620	76.7
Transgender	2	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2	2	0.2	3	0.0
Gender Non-Conforming							1	0.1	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1069	93.9	1091	94.7	895	92.7	794	95.2	757	93.7
Hispanic/Latino	70	6.1	61	5.3	70	7.3	40	4.8	51	6.3
Race										
White	723	63.5	677	58.8	606	62.8	572	68.6	540	66.8
Black or African-American	350	30.7	414	35.9	302	31.3	225	27.0	207	25.6
Asian	1	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	23	2.0	24	2.1	16	1.7	13	1.6	19	2.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8	0.7	8	0.7	7	0.7	0	0.0	8	1.0
Multiple Races	34	3.0	27	2.3	33	3.4	22	2.6	33	4.1

The decline in the Unsheltered population totals from 2019 to 2020 was seen primarily in the Adult, Non-Hispanic Male population.

NON-HUD RESPONSES TO THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS SURVEY

Table 15

Non-HUD Responses to the Point in Time Homeless Survey					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Couch surfing	217	198	217	238	178
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	4	3	0	0	0
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	17	29	0	0	0
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	1	1	0	0	0
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	239	231	217	238	178

Non-HUD responses to the Point-in-Time Homeless Survey include those persons whose reported status is not classified as being homeless by HUD definitions. These persons are mainly reported as couch surfing. In 2020, the lowest number of these individuals were reported (178 individuals). The Couch Surfing survey count is smaller than reported in the school count likely because not all current couch surfing individuals are captured and also because the school data is an annual total whereas the point in time count is not.

JAIL HOMELESS POPULATION

Table 16

Jail Data Across Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race										
Asian	2	0.4	1	0.2	2	0.3	1	0.2	5	0.7
Black	117	24.5	131	24.3	164	26.4	158	24.9	192	26.9
Hispanic	61	12.8	53	9.9	73	11.8	71	11.2	91	12.7
White	298	62.3	353	65.6	382	61.5	405	63.8	426	59.7
Gender										
Female	47	9.8	78	14.5	78	12.6	98	15.4	109	15.3
Male	431	90.2	460	85.5	543	87.4	537	84.6	605	84.7
Location										
Clearwater	184	38.5	240	44.6	307	49.4	286	45.0	343	48.0
Largo	34	7.1	50	9.3	52	8.4	45	7.1	57	8.0
Pinellas Park	20	4.2	17	3.2	20	3.2	32	5.0	24	3.4
Saint Petersburg	158	33.1	163	30.2	183	29.5	193	30.4	238	33.3
Other	82	17.2	68	12.6	59	9.5	79	12.4	52	7.3
Total	478		538		621		635		714	

There has been a clear increasing trend in the overall Jail data from 2016 (478 individuals) to 2020 (714 individuals). This trend has been evident in both St. Petersburg and Clearwater despite a decline that was seen in Clearwater from 2018 to 2019.

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT HOMELESS DATA

Table 17

School Homeless Data for Students Age 17 and Younger					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	N	N	N	N	N
Living in Hotels or Motels	460	470	545	446	455
Living in Emergency or Transitional Shelters	500	612	578	524	513
Awaiting Foster Care	37	38	NA	NA	NA
Unsheltered	70	60	92	195	171
Sharing Housing	2211	2586	2708	2907	2822
Homeless Total	3278	3766	3923	4072	3961
Not Homeless	101445	100657	99689	96849	95064
Total	104723	104423	103612	100921	99025
Percentage Reported as Homeless	3.13%	3.61%	3.79%	4.03%	4.00%

School data had indicated an increase both overall and in the population of children Sharing Housing, or Couch Surfing, from 2016 through 2019. This number decreased from 4,072 in 2019 to 3,961 in 2020.

Table 18

School Homeless Data for Students Age 18 and Older					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	N	N	N	N	N
Living in Hotels or Motels	20	23	15	21	21
Living in Emergency or Transitional Shelters	17	39	39	34	32
Awaiting Foster Care	1	0	NA	NA	NA
Unsheltered	12	5	6	16	10
Sharing Housing	180	186	255	229	220
Homeless Total	230	253	315	300	283
Not Homeless	8563	8146	7825	9045	8371
Total	8793	8399	8140	9345	8654
Percentage Reported as Homeless	2.62%	3.01%	3.87%	3.21%	3.27%

The smaller adult School survey had declined in both 2019 and 2020 relative to the high count of 315 in 2018. The larger count of students under the age of 18 is more representative of the School homeless data.

Table 19

Racial Composition of the School Homeless Population										
HOMELESS POPULATION										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Asian	58	1.7%	71	1.8%	65	1.5%	72	1.6%	78	1.8%
Black	1320	37.6%	1520	37.8%	1738	41.0%	1787	40.9%	1689	39.8%
Hispanic	545	15.5%	632	15.7%	726	17.1%	761	17.4%	727	17.1%
Ind/Alaskan	10	0.3%	5	0.1%	10	0.2%	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
Multi-Racial	189	5.4%	240	6.0%	239	5.6%	205	4.7%	256	6.0%
White	1386	39.5%	1545	38.4%	1460	34.5%	1541	35.2%	1489	35.1%
Not Provided	0	0.0%	6	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	3508		4019		4238		4372		4244	
NON-HOMELESS POPULATION										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Asian	4875	4.4%	4923	4.5%	4878	4.5%	4810	4.5%	4635	4.5%
Black	20373	18.5%	20191	18.6%	19880	18.5%	19563	18.5%	19012	18.4%
Hispanic	17626	16.0%	18109	16.6%	18733	17.4%	18888	17.8%	18940	18.3%
Ind/Alaskan	272	0.2%	249	0.2%	210	0.2%	201	0.2%	168	0.2%
Multi-Racial	4600	4.2%	4586	4.2%	4739	4.4%	4830	4.6%	4868	4.7%
White	62247	56.6%	60660	55.8%	59070	54.9%	57602	54.4%	55829	54.0%
Not Provided	15	0.0%	85	0.1%	4	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	110008		108803		107514		105894		103452	

School data indicate consistent differences across years in the racial composition of the homeless population relative to the non-homeless population. The homeless population is more likely to include Black individuals relative to the non-homeless population. In 2020, 39.8% of the homeless population was Black with 35.1% White. Whereas in the non-homeless population 18.4% were Black and 54% were White.

UNACCOMPANIED AND PARENTING YOUTH

Unaccompanied Youth and Parenting Youth in the HUD data are reported in Tables 20 and 21. Unaccompanied Youth in the School data are presented separately in Table 22. These results are not combined with the HUD data as they are collected throughout the school year and students are not removed from the dataset if they obtain housing.

Table 20

Total Unaccompanied Youth Across Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Number of unaccompanied youth households	127		115		140		94		90	
Total number of unaccompanied youth	127		118		143		94		91	
Number of unaccompanied children	34	26.8%	31	26.3%	37	25.9%	31	33.0%	14	15.4%
Unaccompanied young adults (age 18 to 24)	93	73.2%	87	73.7%	106	74.1%	63	67.0%	77	84.6%
Gender (unaccompanied youth only)										
Female	60	47.2%	56	47.5%	58	40.6%	49	52.1%	37	40.7%
Male	67	52.8%	60	50.8%	85	59.4%	45	47.9%	53	58.2%
Transgender: male to female	0	0.0%	2	1.7%	0		0		1	1.10%
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth only)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	116	91.3%	106	89.8%	125	87.4%	82	87.2%	78	85.7%
Hispanic/Latino	11	8.7%	12	10.2%	18	12.6%	12	12.8%	13	14.3%
Race (unaccompanied youth only)										
White	72	56.7%	65	55.1%	80	55.9%	55	58.5%	54	59.3%
Black or African-American	42	33.1%	45	38.1%	49	34.3%	28	29.8%	32	35.2%
Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0		1	1.1%	0	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0%	3	2.5%	0		0		0	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	1.6%	1	0.8%	3	2.1%	0		1	1.1%
Multiple Races	11	8.7%	4	3.4%	11	7.7%	10	10.6%	4	4.4%

The total number of Unaccompanied Youth in the HUD data has trended downward particularly in 2019 (94 individuals) and 2020 (91 individuals). The demographic composition of the Unaccompanied Youth data has remained similar across years.

Table 21

Total Parenting Youth Across Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Number of parenting youth households	14		10		16		21		29	
Persons In parenting youth households	37		29		47		58		73	
Parenting youth (youth parents only)	14		12		17		22		32	
Number of parenting youth (under age 18)	3	21.4%	0	0.0%	1	5.9%	0	0.00%	4	12.5%
Number of parenting youth (age 18 to 24)	11	78.6%	12	100.0%	16	94.1%	22	100.00%	28	87.5%
Number of children with parenting youth	23		17		30		36		41	
Gender (parenting youth only)										
Female	14	100.0%	10	83.3%	15	88.2%	20	90.9%	29	90.6%
Male	0	0.0%	2	16.7%	2	11.8%	2	9.1%	3	9.4%
Transgender	0		0		0		0		0	
Ethnicity (parenting youth only)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	14	100.0%	11	91.7%	14	82.4%	18	81.8%	31	96.9%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	3	17.6%	4	18.2%	1	3.1%
Race (parenting youth only)										
White	7	50.0%	3	25.0%	9	52.9%	5	22.7%	13	40.6%
Black or African-American	7	50.0%	8	66.7%	8	47.1%	17	77.3%	19	59.4%
Asian	0		0		0		0		0	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		0		0		0		0	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		0		0		0		0	
Multiple Races	0		1	8.3%	0		0		0	

The total number of Parenting Youth and persons in parenting youth households have increased from 2017 (10 households with 29 persons) to 2020 (29 households with 73 persons). The Parenting Youth population is generally female and Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino. 59.4% of the population was African American in 2020.

Table 22

The School Dataset also specifies whether each student is Accompanied or Unaccompanied.

Unaccompanied Youth in the School Data					
Year	Age 17 and Younger	Age 18 to 24	Total Unaccompanied	Total Homeless	Percentage Unaccompanied
2016	334	140	474	3508	13.5%
2017	321	135	456	4019	11.3%
2018	376	142	518	4238	12.2%
2019	355	114	469	4372	10.7%
2020	327	125	452	4244	10.7%

Results indicate that between 10.7% and 13.5% of the School population are identified as Unaccompanied. Full year totals between 456 and 518 students are reported. An identical 10.7% of the total School homeless population was identified as Unaccompanied in both 2019 and 2020.

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS

Table 23

Veteran Household Totals Across Years					
	Total HUD Sample				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of households	379	329	281	316	265
Total number of persons	394	337	281	327	271
Total number of veterans	380	329	281	316	265
	Emergency Shelter Totals				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of households	117	128	108	118	107
Total number of persons	127	135	108	126	110
Total number of veterans	118	128	108	118	107
	Transitional Shelter Totals				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of households	135	115	108	77	62
Total number of persons	139	115	108	79	62
Total number of veterans	135	115	108	77	62
	Safe Haven Totals				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of households	16	20	17	53	46
Total number of persons	16	20	17	53	46
Total number of veterans	16	20	17	53	46
	Unsheltered Totals				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of households	111	66	48	68	50
Total number of persons	112	67	48	69	53
Total number of veterans	111	66	48	68	50

The total number of homeless veterans in Pinellas County has declined from 2016 (380 veterans) to 2020 (265 veterans). The Unsheltered homeless population among veterans has declined from 111 in 2016 to 50 in 2020.

Table 24

Veteran Household Demographic Data Across Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Total N	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number of households	379		329		281		316		265	
Total number of persons	394		337		281		327		271	
Total number of veterans	380		329		281		316		265	
Gender (veterans only)										
Female	25	7%	20	6%	15	5.3%	21	6.6%	14	5%
Male	354	93%	309	94%	266	94.7%	295	93.4%	251	95%
Transgender / Gender Non-	1	0%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	
Ethnicity (veterans only)										
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	357	94%	314	95%	267	95.0%	302	95.6%	253	95%
Hispanic/Latino	23	6%	15	5%	14	5.0%	14	4.4%	12	5%
Race (veterans only)										
White	264	69%	240	73%	201	71.5%	232	73.4%	182	69%
Black or African-American	102	27%	79	24%	71	25.3%	75	23.7%	75	28%
Asian	1	0%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	1%	1	0%	1	0.4%	2	0.6%	1	0%
Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	1%	1	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0%
Multiple Races	7	2%	8	2%	8	2.8%	7	2.2%	5	2%

The demographic profile of veterans in the HUD data has remained similar across years. In 2020, 95% of veterans were male, 5% were Hispanic/Latino, and 28% were African American.

TIMING OF HOMELESSNESS

Table 25

How long were in you in Pinellas County before you became homeless?										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
One week or less	280	27.7%	65	5.7%	141	15.2%	82	10.1%	96	12.3%
More than 1 week, less than 1 month	25	2.5%	33	2.9%	46	5.0%	27	3.3%	18	2.3%
1 to 3 months	36	3.6%	81	7.2%	68	7.4%	40	4.9%	47	6.0%
More than 3 months, less than 12 months	67	6.6%	92	8.1%	71	7.7%	82	10.1%	77	9.9%
1 Year or longer	602	59.6%	861	76.1%	599	64.8%	430	53.0%	404	51.7%
Lifetime Resident							151	18.6%	139	17.8%
Total	1010		1132		925		812		781	
Don't know	64		7		8		6		7	
Refused	15		3		0		1		3	
Missing	50		10		32		15		17	

Data for 2019 and 2020 had identical answer choices with an option added to state that the individual was a lifetime resident. Approximately 70% of the Unsheltered homeless population reports having been in Pinellas for a year or longer before becoming homeless, with 17.8% in 2020 reporting being a lifetime resident. 12.3% in 2020 report being in Pinellas for a week or less before becoming homeless.

Table 26

Number of Times Homeless in the Last Three Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
1 time	460	41.3%	577	58.8%	394	43.3%	154	21.4%	232	34.3%
2 times	186	16.7%	140	14.3%	158	17.4%	84	11.7%	78	11.5%
3 times	144	12.9%	88	9.0%	103	11.3%	78	10.8%	60	8.9%
4 or more times	325	29.1%	176	17.9%	255	28.0%	403	56.1%	307	45.3%
Total	1115		981		910		719		677	
Missing	24		171		55		115		131	

When asked the number of times an individual has been homeless in the past three years the most likely responses are 1 time or 4 or more times. In 2020, 34.3% of Unsheltered individuals who provided responses indicated that this was the first time while 45.3% indicated having been homeless 4 or more times.

UNSHELTERED HOMELESS LOCATION DATA

Table 27

What Area Do You Mainly Stay In?										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Clearwater	236	21.3%	229	20.2%	199	21.5%	163	20.1%	206	25.5%
Dunedin	2	0.2%	5	0.4%	5	0.5%	8	1.0%	0	0.0%
Gulfport	3	0.3%	4	0.4%	4	0.4%	2	0.2%	1	0.1%
Kenneth City	2	0.2%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%
Largo	41	3.7%	38	3.4%	39	4.2%	42	5.2%	80	9.9%
Lealman	5	0.5%	4	0.4%	40	4.3%	44	5.4%	54	6.7%
Other	10	0.9%	9	0.8%	4	0.4%	16	2.0%	16	2.0%
Out Of State	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pasco County	4	0.4%	5	0.4%	3	0.3%	3	0.4%	0	0.0%
Pinellas Park	43	3.9%	43	3.8%	52	5.6%	37	4.6%	58	7.2%
St. Pete	680	61.4%	740	65.3%	517	55.9%	433	53.5%	335	41.5%
St. Pete Beach	40	3.6%	23	2.0%	15	1.6%	13	1.6%	11	1.4%
Tampa	3	0.3%	3	0.3%	2	0.2%	6	0.7%	0	0.0%
Tarpon Springs	35	3.2%	29	2.6%	44	4.8%	42	5.2%	22	2.7%
TOTAL	1107		1133		925		809		786	
Missing	27		9		39		24		19	
Doesn't know	2		4		1		1		2	
Refused	3		6		0		0		1	

Across years, St. Petersburg and Clearwater have been reported as the most common location for Unsheltered individuals. The number of individuals in St. Petersburg has declined each year since 2017 to 335 individuals in 2020. The number of individuals in Clearwater had been declining since 2016 yet increased from 163 individuals in 2019 to 206 individuals in 2020. The number of individuals reported in Largo, Lealman, and Pinellas Park increased in 2020 due to heightened canvassing of these areas.

HUD SUBPOPULATION DATA

Table 28

HUD Subpopulation Data Across Years										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Total Adults 18+ Years-Old in Sample	2511		2570		2347		2144			
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	583	23.2%	672	26.1%	483	20.6%	676	31.5%	426	21.3%
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	562	22.4%	595	23.2%	465	19.8%	613	28.6%	314	15.7%
Adults with HIV/AIDS	24	1.0%	33	1.3%	37	1.6%	26	1.2%	33	1.7%
Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence	188	7.5%	348	13.5%	184	7.8%	191	8.9%	164	8.2%

Rates of Adults with a Serious Mental Illness and Adults with a Substance Use Disorder vary yearly due to rates of disclosure and efforts to reliably assess the existence of these conditions. In 2020, 426 Adults reported a Serious Mental Illness and 314 reported a Substance Use Disorder.

Rates of Adults with HIV/AIDS have been in the 24 to 37 person range across 2016 to 2020. 33 individuals reported having HIV/AIDS in 2020. This continues to be a sizable subpopulation in need of services in Pinellas County.

Data across years have indicated that between 7 and 9% of the survey is comprised of Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence. This number included 164 individuals (8.2%) in 2020.

Table 29

Were you ever in Foster Care?										
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
YES	118	10.4%	127	11.0%	117	12.1%	124	14.9%	128	15.8%
NO	910	79.9%	958	83.2%	838	86.8%	710	85.1%	680	84.2%
Total	1139		1152		965		834		808	

The total number of Unsheltered homeless individuals who report having ever been in foster care has remained similar across years. Since the overall Point-in-Time counts have decreased since 2017 the relative percentage of individuals who have been in foster care has increased.

Table 30

Chronic Homeless Data Across Years					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Chronically Homeless Individuals	603	690	417	718	557
Chronically Homeless Families	2	0	7	1	14
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	4	0	17	4	33
Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	98	56	37	100	57
Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0	0	1
Persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran	0	0	0	0	3

Chronic homelessness is difficult to measure reliably due to variation in reporting of disability status. The number of chronically homeless individuals has varied from 417 (2018) to 718 (2019) individuals. 557 individuals were reported to be chronically homeless in 2020.

In 2020, 14 families with 33 persons were reported to be chronically homeless. Next year's data is necessary to determine if this upward trend continues or if it is an anomaly for 2020.

57 chronically homeless Veteran individuals and one chronically homeless Veteran family were reported in 2020.

REPORTED REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS

Table 31

Reported Reason for Current Homeless Episode	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Financial Problems	548	50.5%	651	58.3%	383	41.9%	314	39.5%	310	41.1%
Family break-up / Family Problems / Family Issues	102	9.4%	166	14.9%	172	18.8%	143	18.0%	136	18.0%
Medical/Disability Problems	78	7.2%	196	17.5%	118	12.9%	97	12.2%	105	13.9%
Alcohol or drug problems	117	10.8%	1	0.1%	96	10.5%	88	11.1%	66	8.8%
Eviction	44	4.1%	57	5.1%	45	4.9%	41	5.2%	43	5.7%
Mental health problems	47	4.3%			27	3.0%	25	3.1%	22	2.9%
Foreclosure	29	2.7%	13	1.2%	22	2.4%	4	0.5%	5	0.7%
Natural/other disaster	10	0.9%	10	0.9%	22	2.4%	12	1.5%	5	0.7%
Incarceration/Jail/Criminal History	88	8.1%	1	0.1%	16	1.8%	45	5.7%	44	5.8%
Domestic Violence	19	1.8%	18	1.6%	9	1.0%	24	3.0%	18	2.4%
Recent Immigration	1	0.1%	4	0.4%	3	0.3%	1	0.1%		
Left Foster Care at 21	2	0.2%								
Total	1085		1117		913		794		754	

When asked the reason for the current homeless episode, individuals are most likely to report financial problems as the most proximal reason for homelessness. Family problems as well as medical/disability and drug/alcohol problems are the next three most likely responses. Each year, eviction is reported as the fifth or sixth most likely reason for the current homeless episode, yet new questions asked below in 2020 suggest a higher lifetime prevalence for eviction among the homeless population in Pinellas County.

Table 32

Have you been evicted in Pinellas County?					
	Yes		No/No Answer		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
Couch Surfing	41	23%	137	77%	178
Unsheltered	167	21%	641	79%	808

21% of Unsheltered individuals and 23% of Couch Surfing individuals surveyed indicated that they had been evicted in Pinellas County.

Table 33

How many prior evictions?							
	0		1		2 or more		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	Total
Couch Surfing	123	69%	37	21%	18	10%	178
Unsheltered	570	71%	158	20%	80	10%	808

Approximately 30% of individuals reported being evicted one or more times in a follow-up question. It is likely that these individuals were indicating prior evictions in both Pinellas County and elsewhere. 10% indicate having been evicted 2 or more times previously. Nationwide, yearly eviction rates are in the 2-3% range⁶.

Table 34

Do you have access to health services or a medical clinic?					
	Yes		No		Total
	N	%	N	%	Total
Couch Surfing	118	74%	42	26%	160
Unsheltered	593	76%	184	24%	777

24% of Unsheltered individuals and 26% of Couch Surfing individuals surveyed indicated that they do not have access to health services or a medical clinic. This compares to 87.6% of individuals in the U.S. population who report having a usual place to go for medical care⁷.

⁶ Statista.com, Rate of eviction in the United States from 2000 to 2016. Available at <https://www.statista.com/statistics/942681/eviction-rate-usa/>

⁷ CDC.gov, FastStats: Access to Health Care. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/access-to-health-care.htm>

Table 35

Do you consider yourself to be...				
	Couch Surfing		Unsheltered	
	N	%	N	%
Straight or heterosexual	142	88%	717	92%
Gay or lesbian	4	2%	22	3%
Bisexual	10	6%	24	3%
Unsure or questioning	3	2%	4	1%
Other/not listed	1	1%	6	1%
Client Refused	1	1%	9	1%
Total	161		782	
No Answer	17		26	

92% of Unsheltered individuals and 88% of Couch Surfing individuals indicated that they were straight or heterosexual when asked their sexual orientation. Overall, these rates do not differ widely from rates surveyed in the general population where up to 2% report being gay and up to 6% report being bisexual⁸. A majority of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual population in the survey was located in Saint Petersburg.

Table 36

What was the last grade you completed in school?				
	Couch Surfing		Unsheltered	
	N	%	N	%
Less than 5	1	1%	5	1%
Grade 5-6	1	1%	9	1%
Grade 7-8	2	1%	33	4%
Grade 9-11	48	30%	181	23%
GED	16	10%	77	10%
HS Diploma	60	37%	273	35%
Some College	18	11%	126	16%
Vocational Certification	0	0%	12	2%
Associate's Degree	9	6%	37	5%
Bachelor's degree	6	4%	29	4%
Graduate Degree	1	1%	8	1%
Total	162		790	
Refused	0		1	
Missing	16		17	

Approximately 30% of individuals surveyed indicating having attained less than a GED. This compares to estimates of 10.2% in the general population⁹.

⁸ Sexual Behavior, Sexual Attraction, and Sexual Orientation Among Adults Aged 18–44 in the United States: Data From the 2011–2013 National Survey of Family Growth. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr088.pdf>

⁹ Digest of Education Statistics, Rates of high school completion and bachelor's degree attainment among persons age 25 and over, by race/ethnicity and sex: Selected years, 1910 through 2018. Available at https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_104.10.asp

DISCUSSION

Each year, the Florida Council on Homelessness provides an annual report that includes PIT data and School data across all counties in Florida. This report highlights trends in the data across years and provides recommendations to the state to address homelessness. Pinellas County PIT and School results mirror those reported at the state level. As such, recommendations made by the Council are directly relevant to efforts in Pinellas County and are emphasized in this discussion.

LITERAL HOMELESSNESS HAS DECLINED ACROSS YEARS

The total number of homeless individuals in the PIT count has continued to decline to 2,226 persons in 2020. This continues a downtrend from 2017 onward. The decline has been driven by lower Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered homeless individuals. The decline in Pinellas Safe Harbor from 407 individuals in 2017 to 260 in 2020 is associated most strongly with the decline in individuals in Emergency Shelters.

Unsheltered homeless individuals declined from 1,152 in 2017 to 808 in 2020. The decline in St. Petersburg has been substantial from 740 individuals in 2017 to 335 individuals in 2020. The Unsheltered homeless count had been declining in Clearwater from 229 in 2017 to 163 in 2019 yet increased to 206 in 2020. Increases in Largo (80 individuals), Lealman (54 individuals) and Pinellas Park (58 individuals) counts were also recorded in 2020. These were partly due to increased canvassing efforts in these areas.

Pinellas PIT declines are consistent with declines overall at the state level. 32,109 individuals were reported at the state level in 2017 while 28,591 individuals were reported in 2019¹⁰. The Council on Homelessness attributes this decline to “targeted strategic implementation of evidence-based practices and increased coordination spearheaded by the CoC Lead Agencies”¹¹.

DECLINES IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Despite an uptick that occurred from 2018 to 2019, overall veteran homelessness recorded by the PIT count has declined from 380 veterans in 2016 to 265 veterans in 2020. This decline is particularly evident in the Unsheltered homeless population from 111 veterans in 2016 to 50 veterans in 2020.

Pinellas declines in veteran homelessness are consistent with declines overall at the state level. 2,888 veterans were reported at the state level in 2016 while 2,384 veterans were reported in 2019. The Council on Homelessness attributes this decline to improved coordination between the CoCs and the VA across this time period¹². While these declines are encouraging, Pinellas has the highest PIT total among veterans in Florida. As such, concerted efforts to bring down the homelessness count among veterans continues to be a priority in Pinellas County.

¹⁰ Florida Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.28. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

¹¹ Florida Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.28. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

¹² Florida Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.28. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

INCREASED LEVELS OF COUCH SURFING

Each year the School Count provides the best insight into the population of homeless individuals living with others, which is also referred to more colloquially as “couch surfing”. This population has grown from 2,211 children and 180 adults living with others in 2016 to 2,822 children and 220 adults living with others in 2020.

These numbers are inexact in that they are cumulative counts of all individuals who report homelessness throughout the year and are not a point in time count. The count is also inexact in that the children who are reported as homeless may or may not have been living with adults who were also homeless. While exact numbers are broad estimates, data do indicate that this population is significant in size and likely growing each year. Each year the Point-in-Time Homeless Survey captures a fraction of these individuals with 178 individuals surveyed as couch surfing in 2020.

Pinellas County results are consistent with the overall state of Florida homeless student count which has increased from 73,229 in 2016 to 95,860 in 2019¹³. These results indicate that while not literally homeless, a substantial number of individuals are living “doubled up” and at risk for literal homelessness. Additionally, a substantial number of children are faced with housing challenges associated with higher levels of school absenteeism and lower levels of passage rates on state exams¹⁴.

For the first time since 2016, the School homeless total for students Age 17 and younger declined from the prior year. This total was 4,072 in 2019 and 3,961 this year. Pinellas County Schools personnel indicate that the shift to e-learning may have led parents to be less likely to report a change of address as e-learning can take place from any location. This trend will have to be monitored moving forward as School data are a key source of information concerning the size of the population of families at risk for homelessness.

A review of the racial composition of School homeless data indicates that African American students represent a higher percentage of the Homeless population than of the non-Homeless population across years from 2016 to 2020. In 2020, African American students represented 39.8% of the Homeless population and 18.4% of the non-Homeless population. These data indicate that African American students in Pinellas County are more likely to experience the challenges associated with homelessness than are their peers.

INCREASING JAIL COUNT ACROSS YEARS

There has been a clear increasing trend in the overall Jail homeless data from 2016 (478 individuals) to 2020 (714 individuals). This trend has been evident in both St. Petersburg and Clearwater despite a decline that was seen in Clearwater from 2018 to 2019. The Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report suggests that prevention programs for chronically homeless individuals may result in a substantial decrease in jail costs associated with this population¹⁵.

¹³ Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.39. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

¹⁴ Shinn, Gregory A. “The Cost of Long-Term Homelessness in Central Florida.” Central Florida Commission on Homelessness. 2014. Available at <https://shnny.org/uploads/Florida-Homelessness-Report-2014.pdf>

¹⁵ Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.34. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

TRENDS IN FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOMELESSNESS

When asked the reason for the current homeless episode, individuals are most likely to report financial problems as the most proximal reason for homelessness. Family problems as well as medical/disability and drug/alcohol problems are the next three most likely responses. Each year, eviction is reported as the fifth or sixth most likely reason for the current homeless episode, yet new questions asked in 2020 indicate a higher lifetime prevalence near 30% for eviction among the homeless population in Pinellas County.

Subpopulation data consistently indicate that a significant percentage of the overall homeless population is affected by challenges associated with a serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Additionally, 33 homeless individuals report having AIDS in 2020. Despite these difficulties, 24% of Unsheltered individuals and 26% of Couch Surfing individuals surveyed indicated that they do not have access to health services or a medical clinic. This contrasts to the broader U.S. population where 87.6% of individuals report having a usual place to go for medical care¹⁶.

A new survey question also indicates that educational attainment is a challenge for the homeless population. Approximately 30% of homeless individuals surveyed indicating having attained less than a GED. This compares to 10.2% in the general population¹⁷.

¹⁶ CDC.gov, FastStats: Access to Health Care. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/access-to-health-care.htm>

¹⁷Digest of Education Statistics, Rates of high school completion and bachelor's degree attainment among persons age 25 and over, by race/ethnicity and sex: Selected years, 1910 through 2018. Available at https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_104.10.asp

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, there are five key main trends that have emerged across years in the PIT data. Literal homelessness is declining. Individuals “doubled up” or “couch surfing” have increased across years. Jail data have increased across years. Veteran homelessness is a key issue in Pinellas County. Homelessness intersects with many key systems such as education, law enforcement, and healthcare. Efforts that address homelessness will impact these systems as well.

The Florida Council on Homelessness cites a study that estimates the community costs of caring for chronically homeless individuals at \$31,065 per person per year. In contrast, providing these same individuals with permanent supportive housing would cost approximately \$10,000 per person per year. Provision of preventive supportive housing could result in both cost saving to the community and better outcomes for chronically homeless individuals.

Lack of access to affordable housing is a key driver affecting homelessness in Florida. The 2019 Rental Market Study by the University of Florida’s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies reports that there are only 23 affordable rental units available for every 100 extremely low-income renter households statewide. This results in either individuals becoming “doubled up” as seen in the School data or becoming “cost burdened” meaning that they pay more than 40% of their income in rent.

Efforts such as St. Petersburg’s “For All, From All”¹⁸ housing plan are essential to address the disparity between income and rental costs. This plan follows the third recommendation of the Council on Homelessness to “embrace best practices at the local level...toward development and expansion of permanent housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness”¹⁹. Without proactive solutions focused on prevention the number of individuals who are cost burdened or “doubled up” will continue to rise.

Efforts to address the effects of homelessness upon children in school remains a critical priority. Each year, the school data provide critical insight toward the needs of families that are not ‘literally homeless’. Data indicate that homeless students are at risk for poor school outcomes including lower attendance, lower test scores, and higher behavioral difficulties²⁰. Homeless liaisons through the district H.E.A.T. team provide critical support to ensure continuity in education of homeless students.

Finally, our data indicate that homeless individuals face challenges across multiple systems. Access to consistent healthcare is restricted. Education attainment is lower. Mental health and substance use challenges exist. Interactions with law enforcement rise each year. Overall, these data strongly support multi-systemic solutions that address needs of homeless individuals through proactive prevention efforts focused on job retraining, expanding healthcare access and integration of multiple systems into a coordinated response to address the needs of our homeless population.

¹⁸ Overview: St. Petersburg’s Housing Plan: For All From All. Available at <https://www.stpete.org/housing/docs/St.%20Petersburg's%20Housing%20Plan%20Overview.pdf>

¹⁹ Florida Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, p.6. Available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>

²⁰ Shinn, Gregory A. “The Cost of Long-Term Homelessness in Central Florida.” Central Florida Commission on Homelessness. 2014. Available at <https://shnny.org/uploads/Florida-Homelessness-Report-2014.pdf>