

**WASHTENAW COUNTY
2018 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
COMMUNITY DEBRIEFING**

Washtenaw Community College

February 28, 2018

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mercedes Brown, Office of Community & Economic Development

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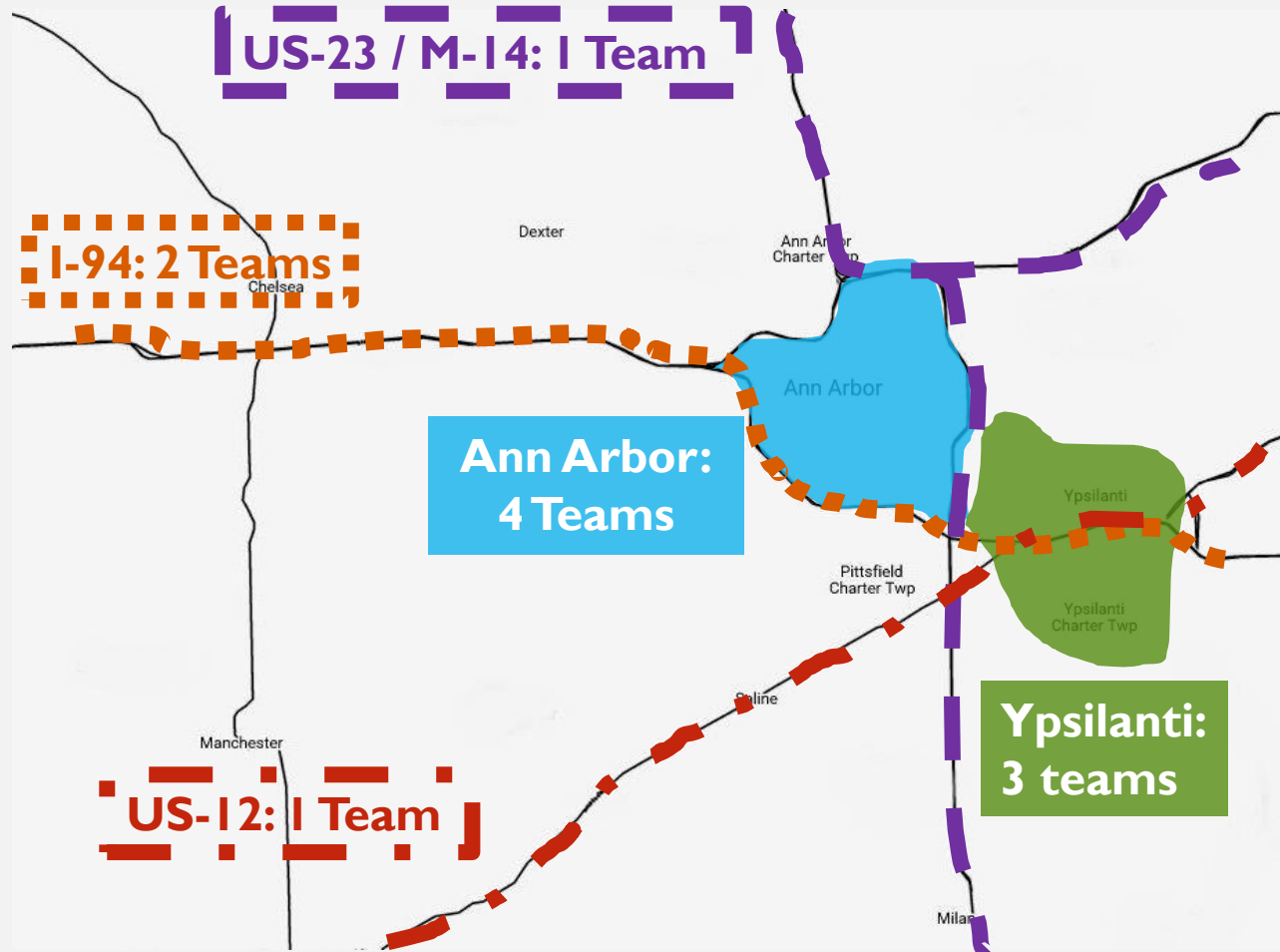
PIT COUNT 101

Mercedes Brown, Office of Community & Economic Development

WHAT IS THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT?

- A federally mandated count of all sheltered AND unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single day in January
- Volunteers and staff canvass the streets and congregate settings, such as meal programs, to survey and count every person experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County
- During the count, we collect demographic information from survey respondents, including, but not limited to:
 - Date of Birth
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Housing Status
 - Disability Status
 - Veteran Status
 - Chronicity

TEAMS & MAP



- We had over **45** volunteers and staff canvass between 4 a.m. & 8 a.m. for the unsheltered count
- The county was divided among 11 teams. Teams travelling along highways also canvassed communities they passed through
- We are very grateful to all of our volunteers! We could not do this without you!

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PIT COUNT?

SHELTERED

Persons who are living in a supervised, publicly- or privately-owned shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements:

- Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Hotel or Motel paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government funders

UNSHELTERED

Persons with a primary nighttime residence that is a place not designated for human habitation:

- Car
- Park
- Abandoned Building
- Bus or Train Station
- Airport
- Camp ground or site

WHO IS ***NOT*** INCLUDED IN THE PIT COUNT?

- Persons residing in a **hotel or motel they paid for themselves**
- Persons **staying with friends or families**
- Persons **admitted to the hospital** (staying in a hospital, not including the emergency room)
- Persons who did not explicitly meet the definitions on the previous slide



2018 DATA & STATISTICS

Crystal Balogh & Andrew Kraemer,
Office of Community & Economic Development

PIT COUNT DATA



- PIT Count data comes from two sources:
 1. Data for persons in shelter comes from HMIS, our local Homeless Management Information System
 2. Data for persons who are unsheltered comes from surveys conducted by volunteers
- In both cases, all data is self-reported
- The count is conducted once per year, so it is better understood as a snapshot than as a full census.
- Our data is still preliminary

TOTAL PERSONS

SHELTERED

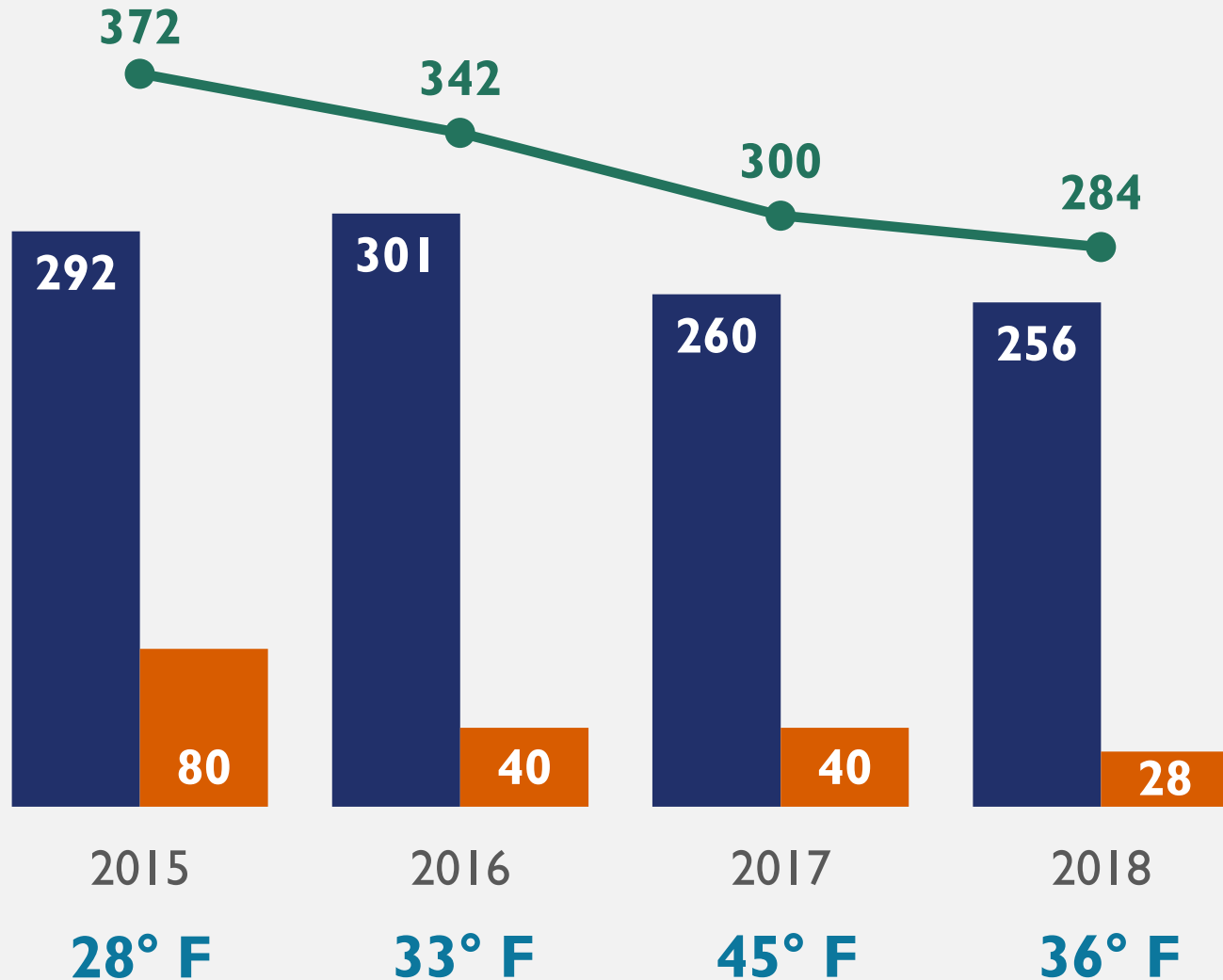
256 People were in shelter
or transitional housing

UNSHelterED

28 People were on the
streets or in places not
meant for human habitation

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: WASHTENAW COUNTY

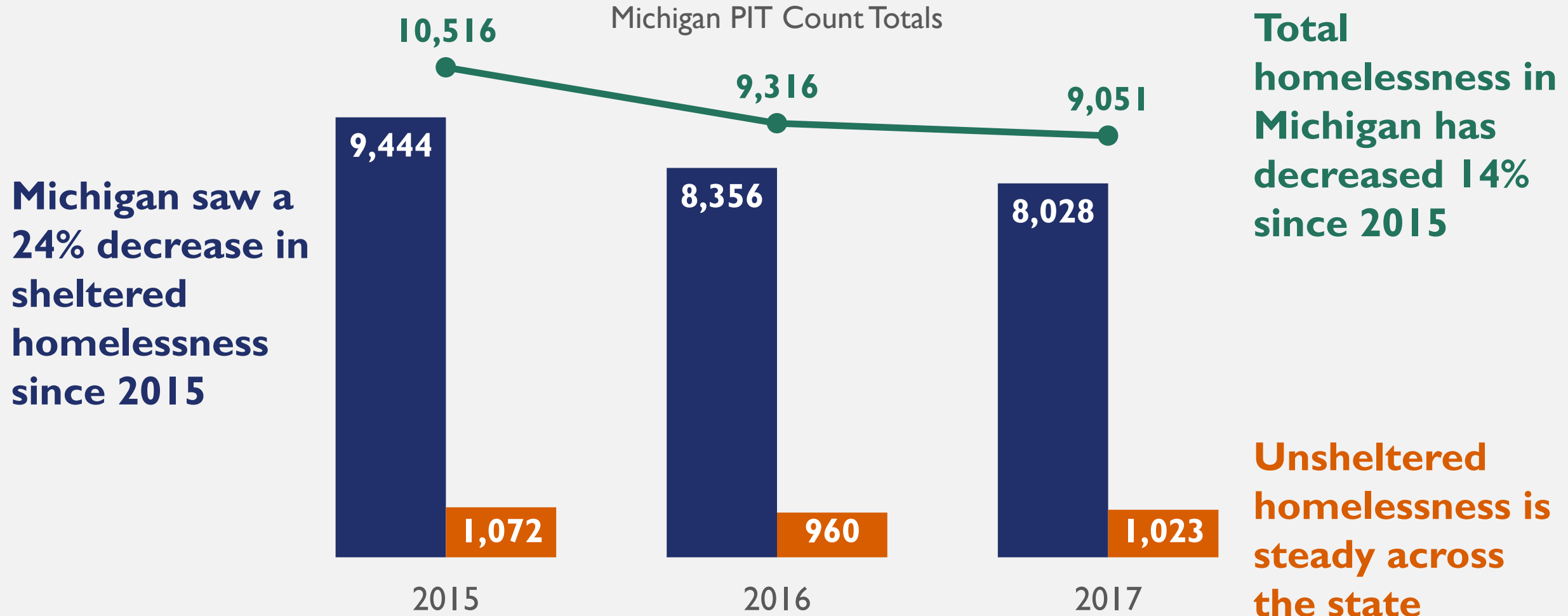
**90% of people we counted are in shelter—
an all time high!**



Total Homelessness has declined by almost 25% since 2015

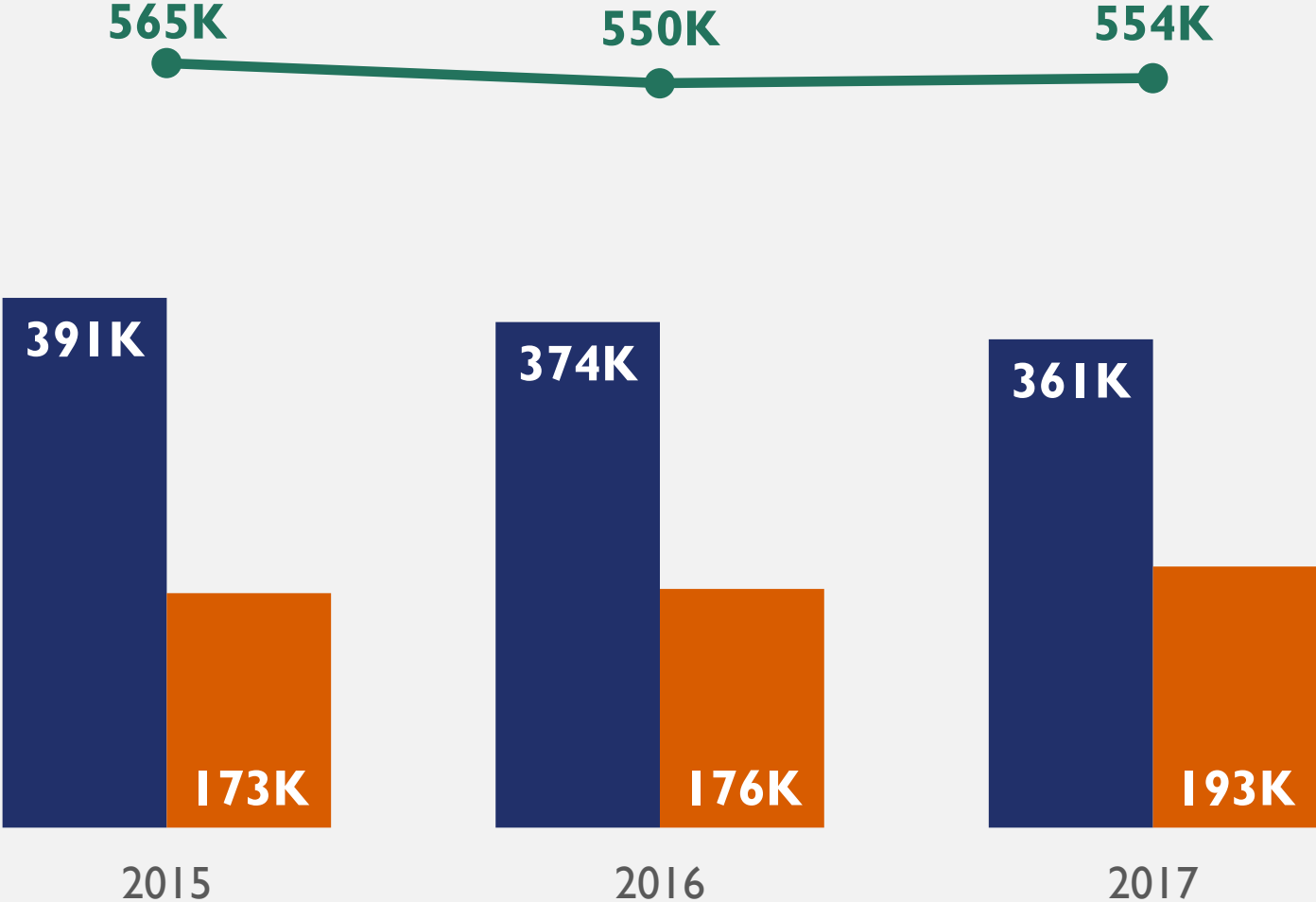
63% of unsheltered persons were already working with our system

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: STATE OF MICHIGAN



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: UNITED STATES

**Sheltered
homelessness
fell by 8%
nationwide
since 2015**

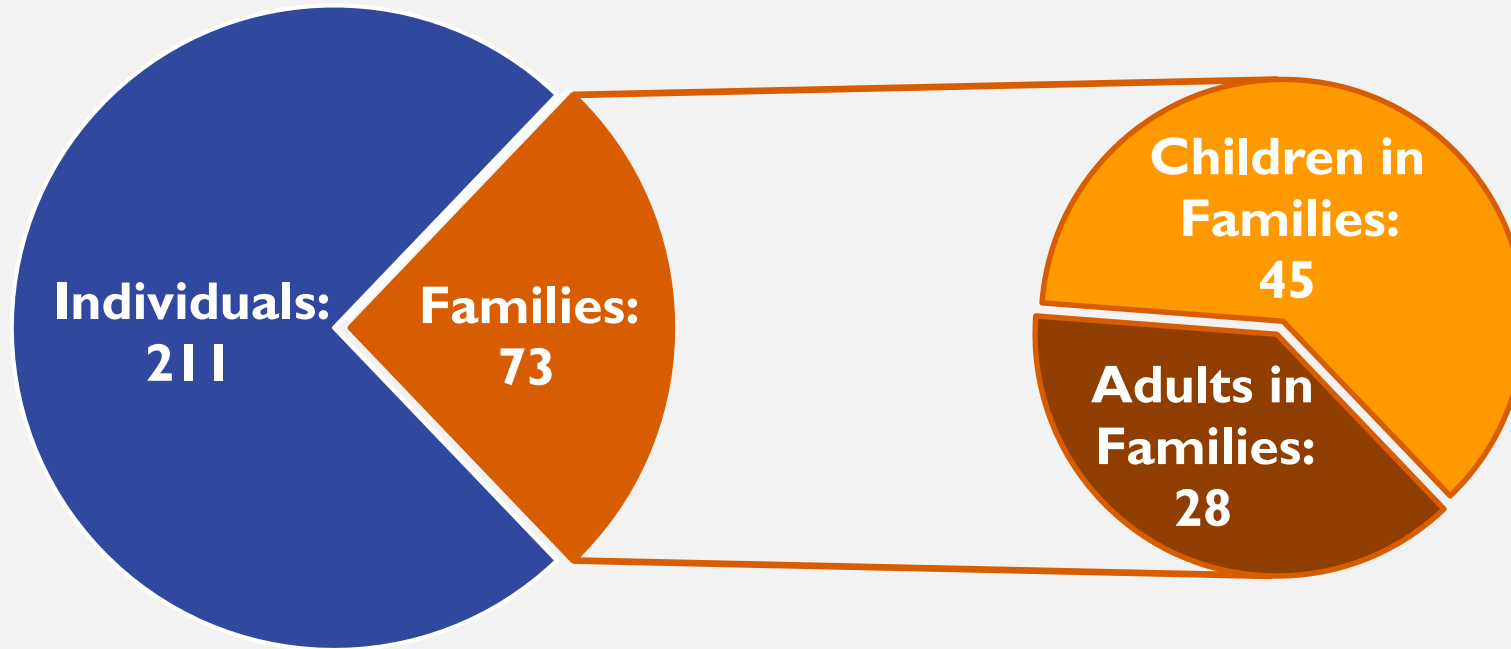


**Total
homelessness in
the U.S. has
decreased 2%
since 2015**

**Unsheltered
homelessness is
much higher and
rising elsewhere
in the country**

HOUSEHOLD TYPES

3 out of 4
persons
experiencing
homelessness
are individuals
not in a family



21 family
households were
counted with an
average family
size of 3.5

No unsheltered families or unaccompanied minors were found in 2018!

DEMOGRAPHICS: AGE

**Children
under 18**

Adults 25-54

**Seniors
65+**

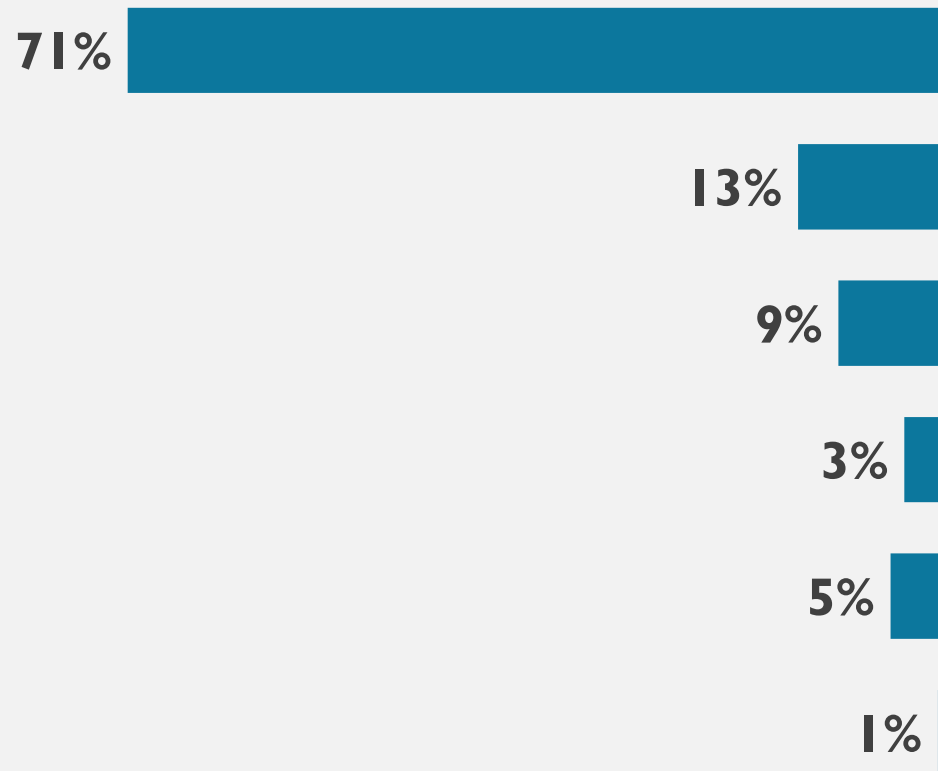


**Young
Adults
18-24**

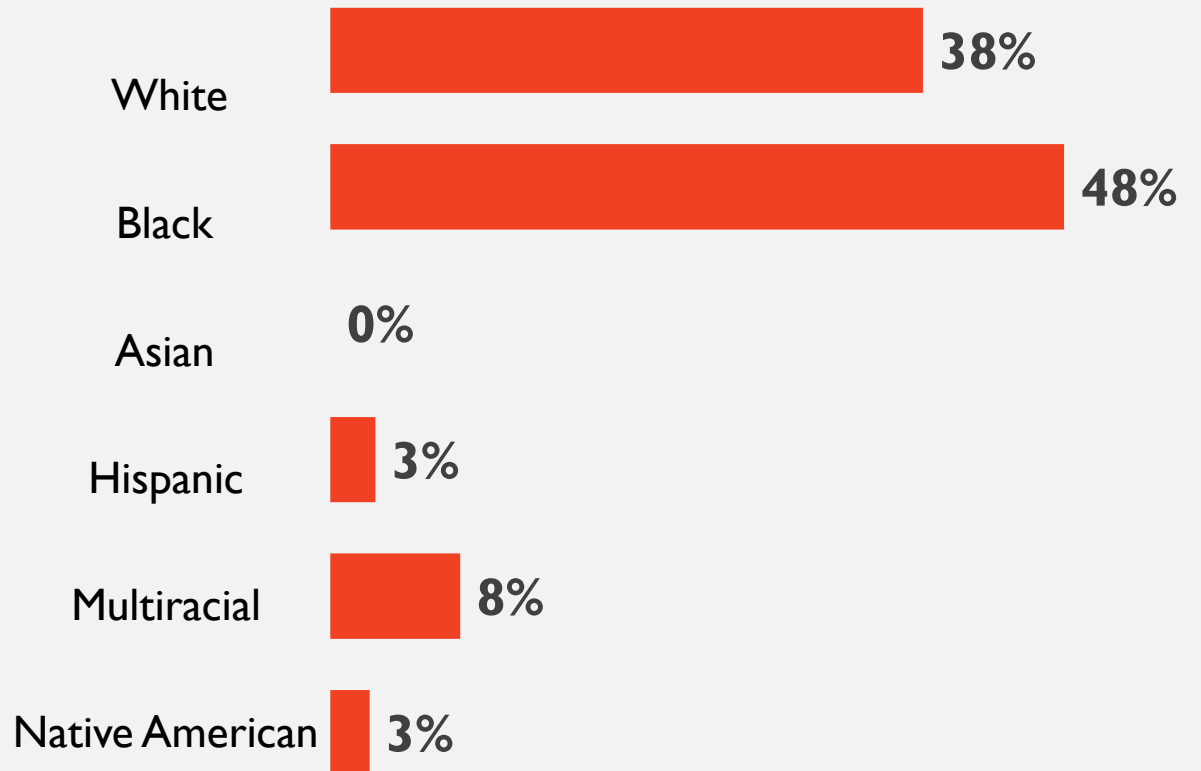
**Older
Adults
55-64**

DEMOGRAPHICS: RACE

COUNTY POPULATION

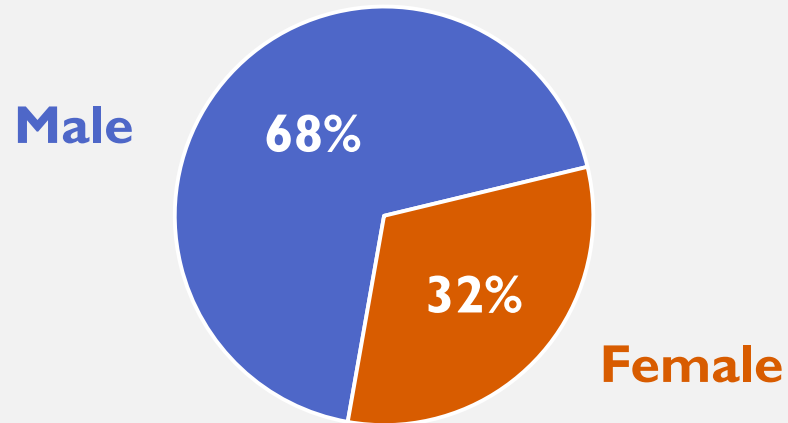


PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

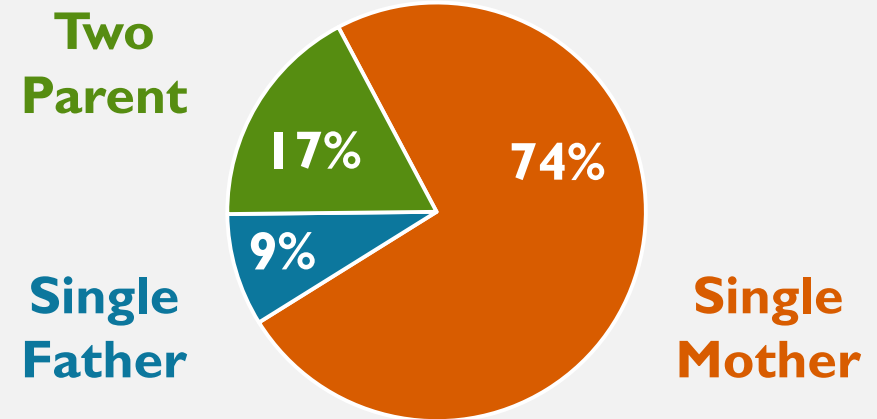


DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER

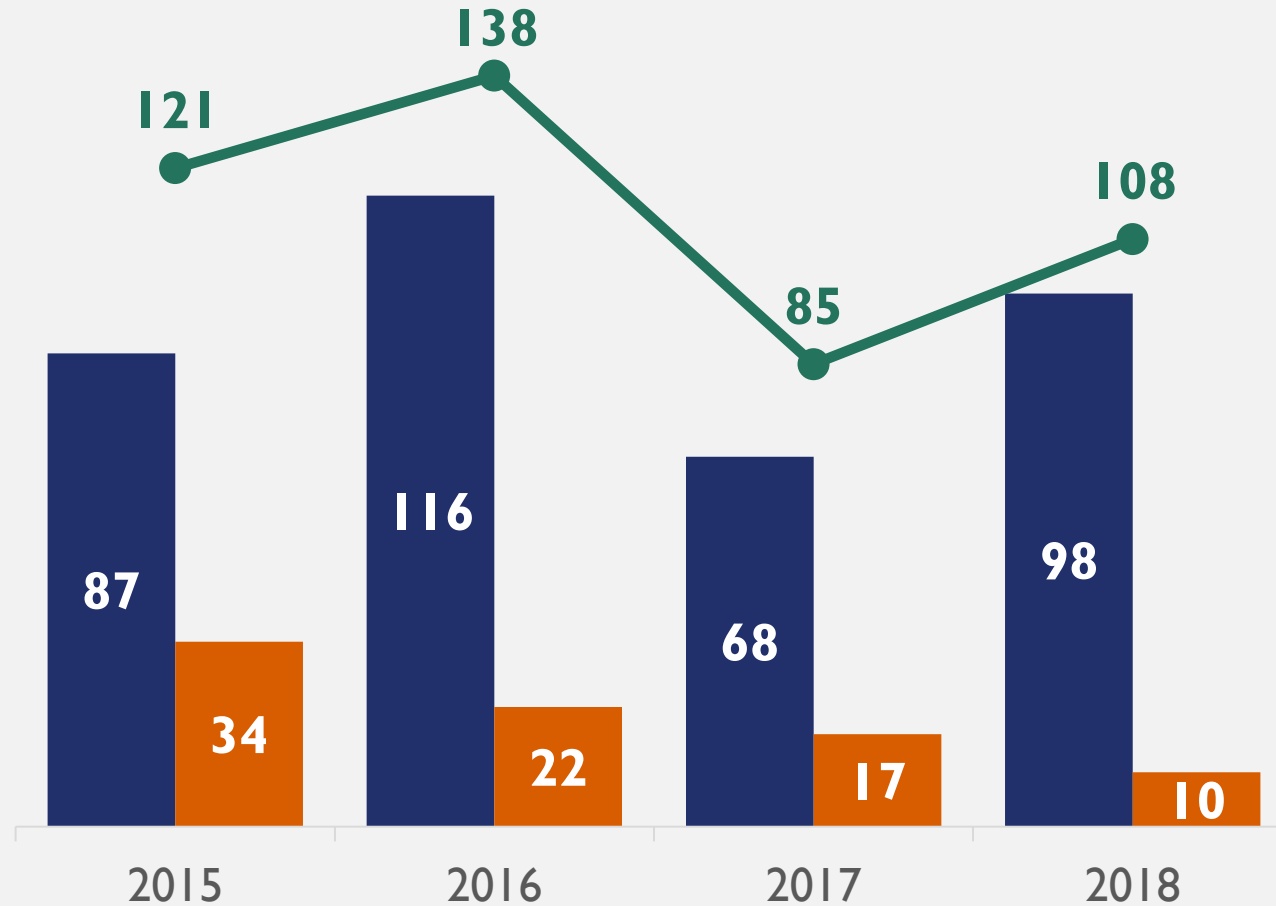
ALL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



FAMILY HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



MENTAL HEALTH



In 2018, 91% of those reporting mental illness were sheltered, up from 72% in 2015

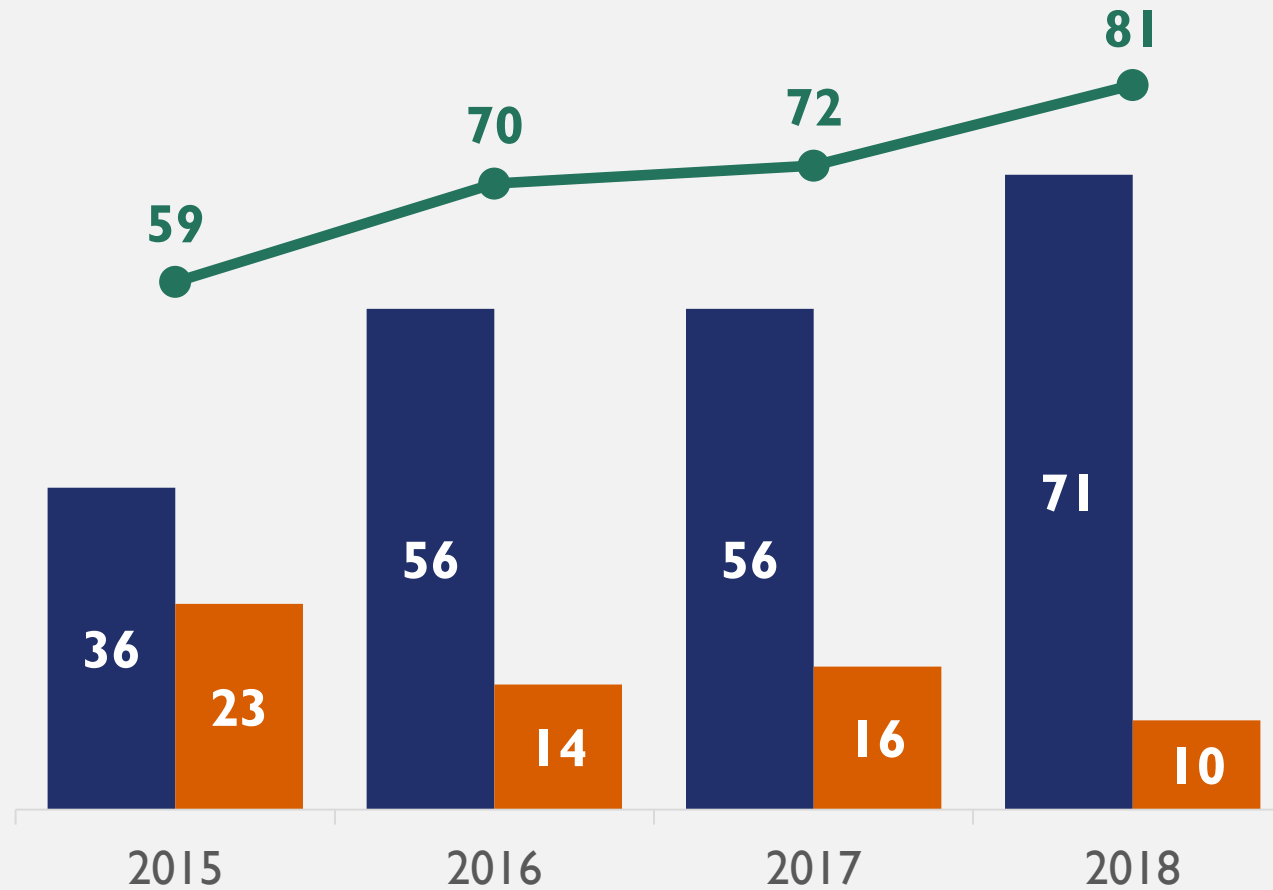
There is a lot of variation in the number of people self-reporting mental illness

Unsheltered mental illness continues to decline

17% of those self-reporting mental illness also reported substance use disorders in 2018

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Shelter access among people reporting a substance use disorder is increasing over time



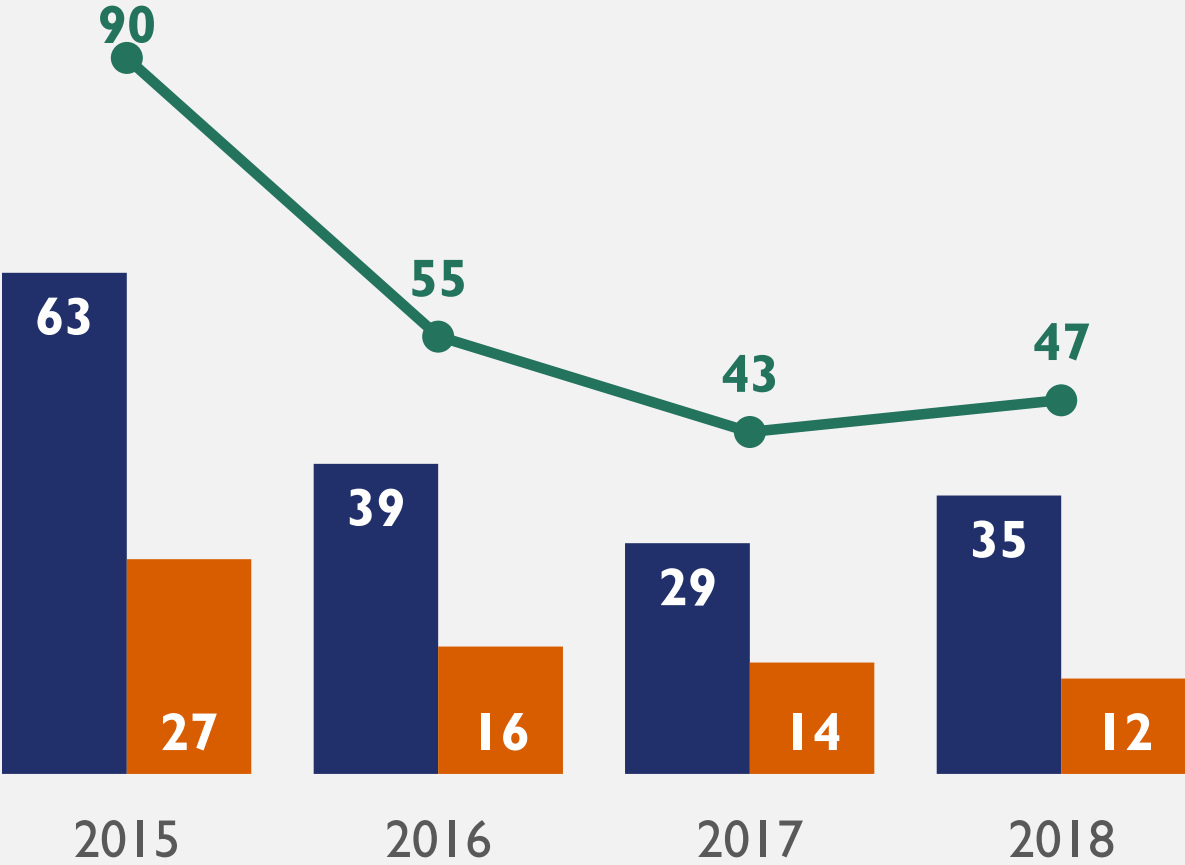
Self-reported substance use disorders have been rising

There is a steady decline in unsheltered people with a substance use disorder

62% of those self-reporting substance use disorders also reported mental illness in 2018

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronic homelessness occurs when a person with a disability experiences homelessness for more than a year

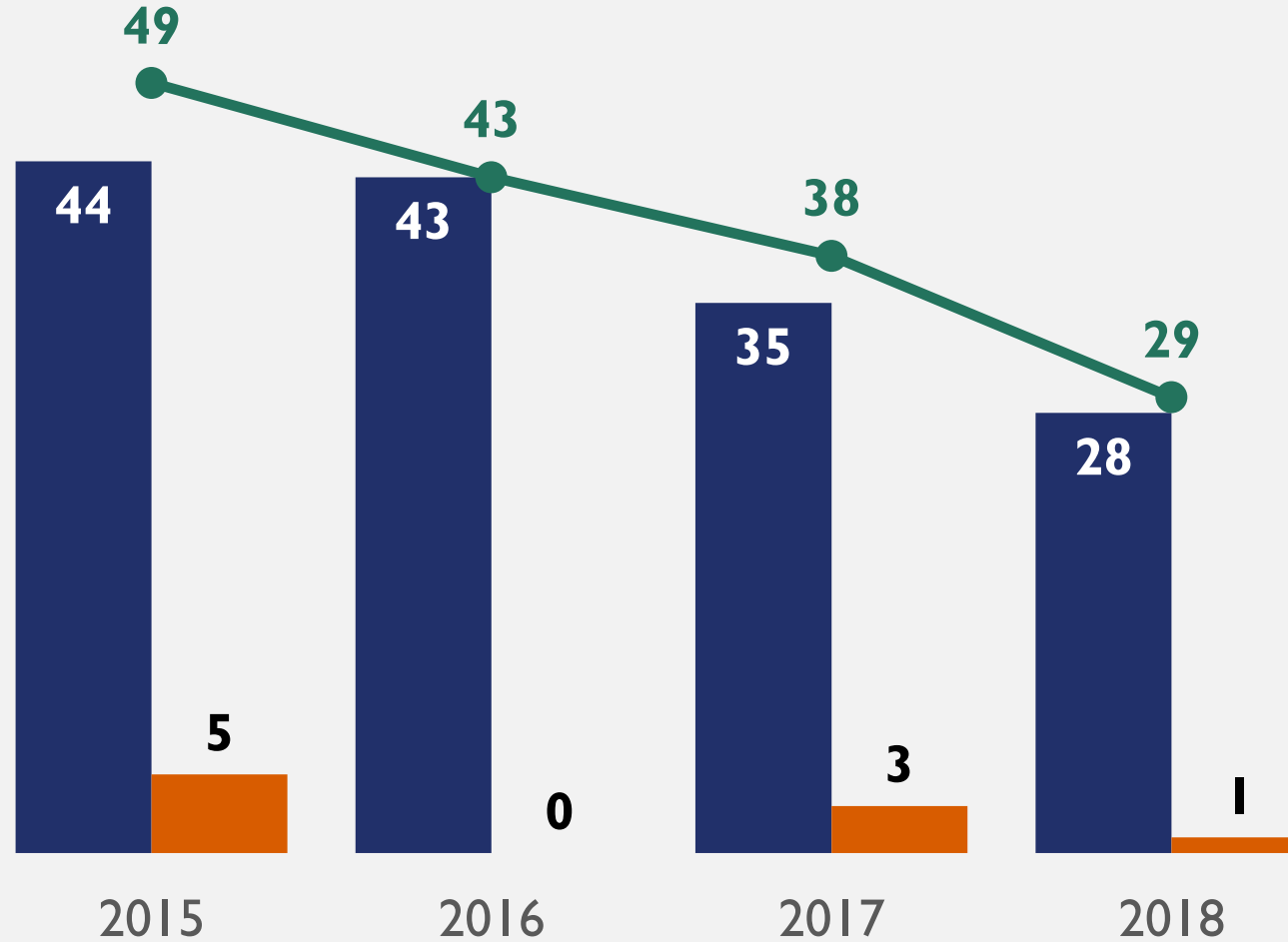


Total chronic homelessness has fallen by 50% since 2015

Unsheltered chronic homelessness is at an all time low

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Veteran homelessness is falling faster than total homelessness



Total Veteran homelessness has dropped by 40% since 2015

Unsheltered Veteran homelessness continues to be very rare

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Krista Girty, Ozone House

OZONE HOUSE

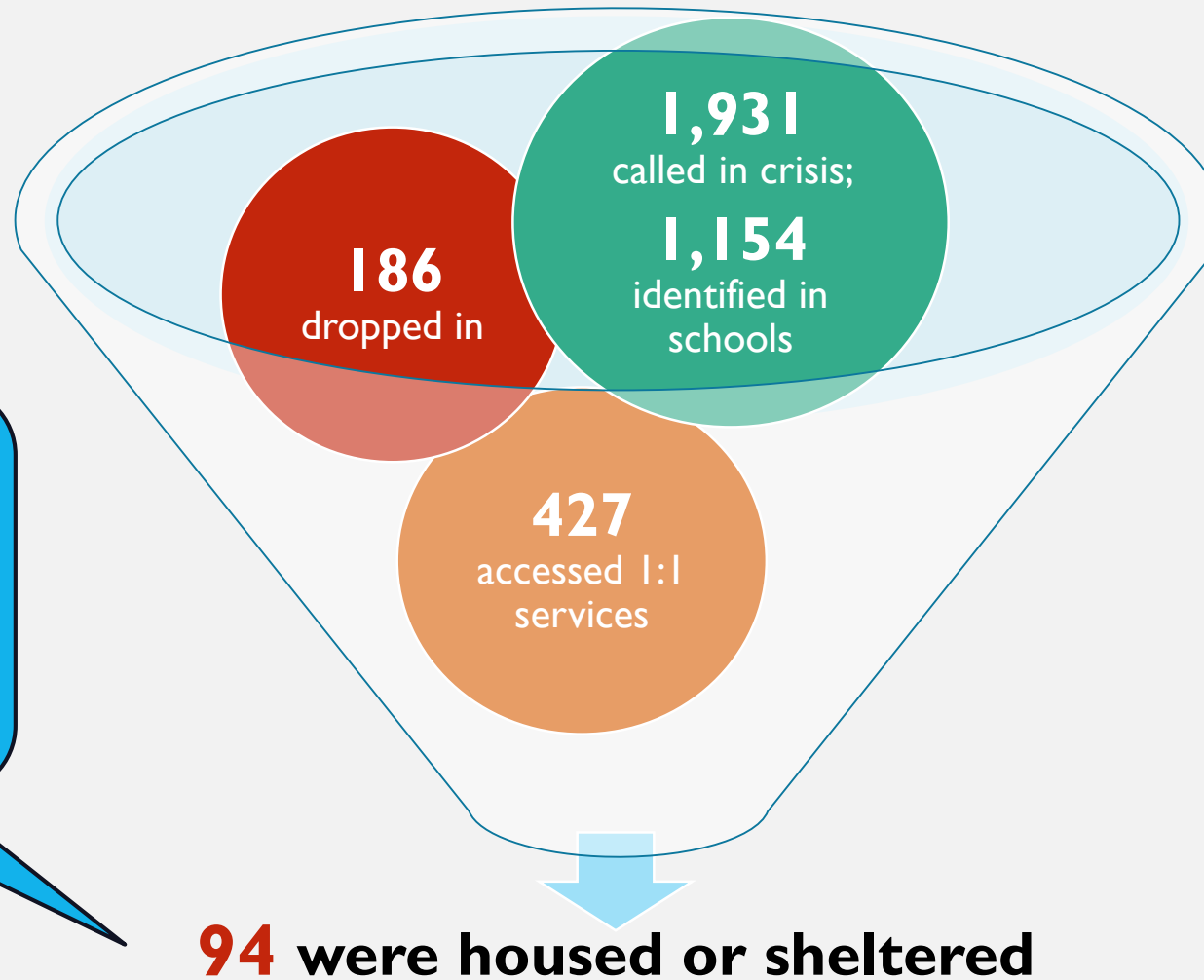


Ozone House helps youth lead safe, healthy, and productive lives through intensive prevention and intervention services.



Homelessness among youth is about a lack of safe, appropriate relationships.

Last year, Ozone House supported the following youth who are considered “homeless” by other federal agencies...



Almost none of these youth uses the term “homeless” to describe themselves

LAST YEAR AT OZONE HOUSE



94% of youth ages 10-21 in all our programs exited services to SAFE HOUSING

87% of minor youth were REUNITED with their families



69% of formerly homeless youth in our WorkZone program are now working or are in school

SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Barbara Niess-May, SafeHouse Center

SAFEHOUSE CENTER

To provide **safety, support, advocacy** and resources for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children, and...



To work relentlessly to **change the systems** and attitudes that allow this abuse to continue.

SAFEHOUSE
CENTER

Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual abuse

MORE THAN A SHELTER

- Throughout all programs, SafeHouse serves over **5000 survivors** of sexual assault and domestic violence annually
- Programs include **counseling, support groups, response teams, legal advocacy**, children's programming and community outreach
- For many of the survivors we interact with, shelter is a last resort which is intended to **support survivor empowerment** and assailant accountability



Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual abuse

SHELTER SERVICES...

- Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence become literally homeless because they are **fleeing a situation where they are at risk of being hurt or killed**
- Local data gathered for Washtenaw County's Blueprint to End Homelessness showed that **46% of women** with children reported domestic violence as the primary reason for homelessness. This is in line with national estimates

In 2017:

- **182 survivor heads of household were approved for shelter**
- **135 adults and 192 children stayed for 8,500 nights**
- **All were homeless due to the risk of continued abuse and having nowhere else to go**
- **Households with children stay over 40% longer**



Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual abuse

Building communities
free of domestic violence
and sexual abuse

AFTER EMERGENCY SHELTER...

- There is overall community awareness that there is a significant **lack of affordable housing**
- Approximately **30% of survivors find housing after being in shelter** a few months, of the other 70% most return to the assailant or turn to homelessness
- If a survivor is living/or could live with the assailant, they are considered to be “housed” by the HUD definition
- For those who find housing, there are a number of households that face the challenge of sustaining housing after six months

BUILT FOR ZERO UPDATE

Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance

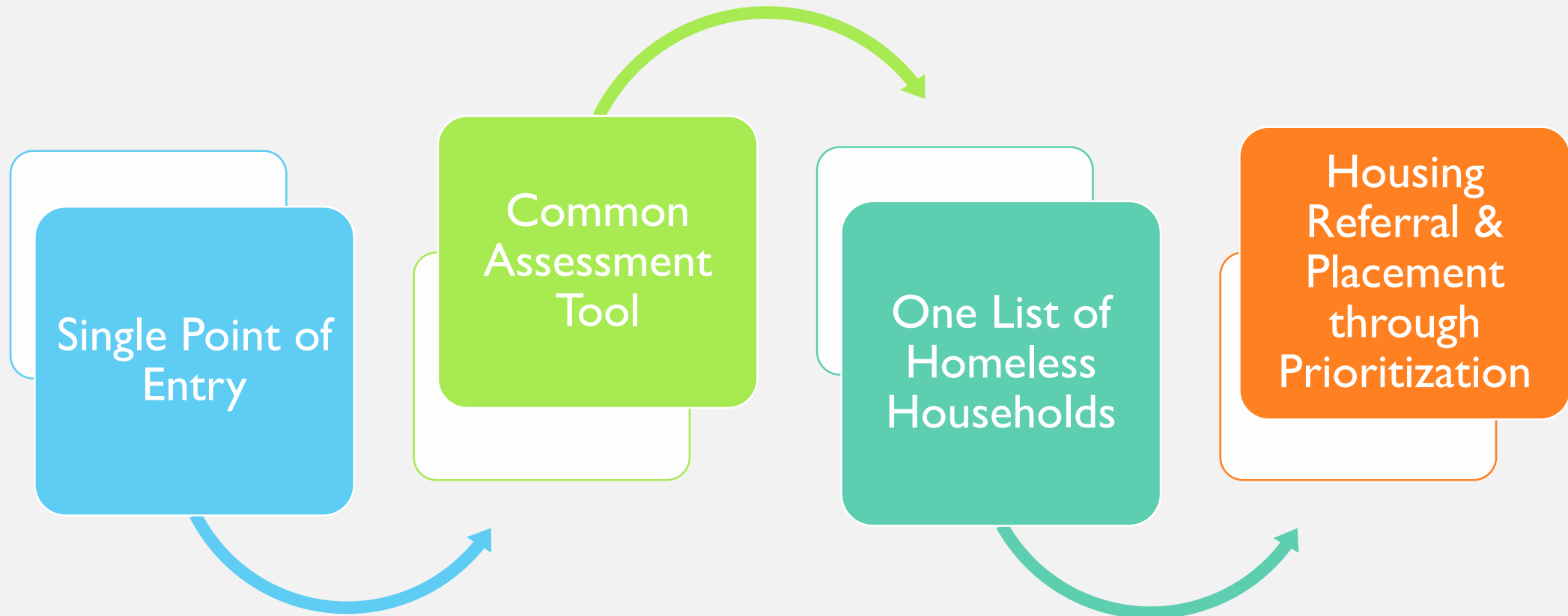
WHAT IS BUILT FOR ZERO?

- Rigorous **national change effort** designed to help a committed group of U.S. & International communities end veteran and chronic homelessness
 - Adopt proven best practices
 - Deploy existing resources more efficiently
 - Use real-time data to improve performance
- **Led by Community Solutions**, with assistance from federal partners:
 - U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
 - U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA)
 - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- **Benefits to participating communities:**
 - Coaches and technical assistance resources
 - Direct access to HUD, VA, and other top national officials



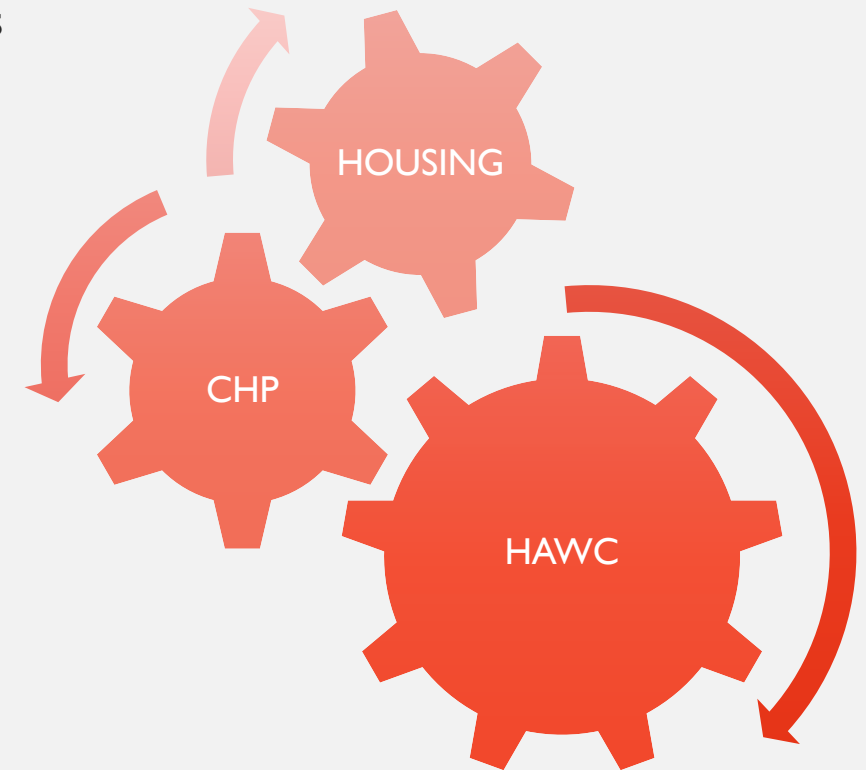
**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**

KEY COMPONENTS OF BUILT FOR ZERO



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND ACCOMPLISHED

- Focus on **systems transformation**
- Incorporation of a **real-time data** on who is experiencing homelessness in our community (by-name)
- Total Veterans & Chronically Homeless housed nationwide: **83,000+**
 - Veterans & Chronically Homeless Individuals Housed in Washtenaw County since 2015: **719**
- Systematic approach to **prioritizing permanent housing resources**
- **Continuous process improvement** → optimal system performance
 - Using data for systems improvement
- **Breaking Down System siloes** (increased collaboration with stakeholders & service providers)



UP NEXT IN BUILT FOR ZERO

- Continue the **sense of urgency to identify and house people** as quickly as possible
 - Streamline access and assistance
 - Continue to prioritize scarce permanent housing resources
 - Adapt to changing environment
- **Finalize and submit veterans homeless data** to U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- **Continue progress being made** on chronic homelessness and family homelessness
- **Leveraging the success of the initiative for youth** experiencing homelessness
- Focus on **Diversion**



PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderated by Mercedes Brown,
Office of Community & Economic Development

Ashlee Cunningham

Housing Access for Washtenaw County

Aubrey Patiño

Avalon Housing

Barbara Niess-May

SafeHouse Center

Jan Little

Michigan Ability Partners

Krista Girty

Ozone House

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance

FOUR WAYS **YOU** CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. **Donate** – time, money and goods/services

- **Volunteer** at an agency that serves people who are homeless or at-risk
- **Join a Board or Committee**

2. **Work with the Housing Coordinators Network** – if you are a landlord or property manager, or if you know one! Find out more: <http://www.housingaccess.net/landlords.html>. Benefits include:

- Assistance filling vacant units
- Case management support for formerly homeless residents
- Rapid response to landlord concerns or questions

FOUR WAYS **YOU** CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

3. **Advocate**

- **Speak** to your elected officials – email and call
- **WHA Speakers Workshop – March 20th from 1-3pm**
(info: <http://www.whalliance.org/news-events/>)
- **Attend** events
- **Educate** your family, friends, and neighbors about homelessness and affordable housing issues

4. **Partner with us**

- **Join** our email list serves, newsletters, and speak to us to find out more

RECOGNITION & THANKS

Mercedes Brown, Office of Community & Economic Development

THANK YOU

Thank you to the
2018 PIT Count Planning Committee.

Many thanks to the 45+ outreach staff, case managers,
board members, citizens, advocates, and community
partners for all their hard work!

Questions?

Contact Mercedes Brown, Human Services Manager
Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development
brownmer@ewashtenaw.org