2016 Homeless Point-In-Time Count

Partners for HOME

Prepared for the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Homeless Continuum-of-Care

4,063
TOTAL
Included in Count
on Jan. 26, 2016

1,782
In Emergency
Shelters

1,443
In Transitional
Housing

838
Unsheltered

21%
of persons
identified were
unsheltered

13%
of persons
identified were
chronically
homeless

Introduction

The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) is federally mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all communities receiving federal funds through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program. The PIT Count takes an annual unduplicated census of people experiencing homelessness, sheltered or unsheltered, on a given night in January. The PIT Count is a useful estimation tool to understand characteristics of the Atlanta homeless population and gauge changes in the homeless population over time.

Additionally, the data helps communities gauge their progress, identify unmet need, raise awareness and advocate for additional federal, state, and local resources to provide services for the homeless population. This data is also used to determine whether and how the Continuum of Care is impacting homelessness overall and specifically, which subpopulations are increasing or decreasing.

Data driven communities have greater success at leveraging resources, making informed decisions about where to target and reinforce resources and have a clearer understanding about their communities capacity and need for additional services and resources.

↓26%
Decrease in Total Count from 2013

↓6%
Decrease in Total Count from 2015*

Recognizing the value of having accurate and up-to-date data on the number and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta, Partners for HOME and the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) has committed to conducting an annual PIT Count.

Through the coordinated work of partners throughout the Atlanta homeless Continuum of Care, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Atlanta is on a downward trend. This positive trend is expected to continue as agencies work with greater coordination and collaboration throughout the City. This report highlights the findings from the 2016 Atlanta PIT Count taken on January 26th and examines trends in PIT data from 2011 to 2016.

New This Year

The 2016 PIT methodology utilized a comprehensive, census which improved on past years' methods by incorporating: unsheltered count on the night of the count; sheltered count including emergency shelters; transitional housing; canvassing of social service agencies over subsequent five days; and count of individuals in abandoned buildings, wooded areas and encampments known to law enforcement and street outreach.

Note: There are two components to the PIT Count using HUD's definition of homeless: a sheltered count of how many people are in shelters (transitional housing, emergency and seasonal shelter, and safe havens) and an unsheltered count of how many people are living in places unfit for human habitation (e.g. streets, camps, abandoned buildings, social service agencies).

TRENDS

61%
Decrease in chronically homeless since 2013; 1,378 total in 2013 to 531 total in 2016.*

62%
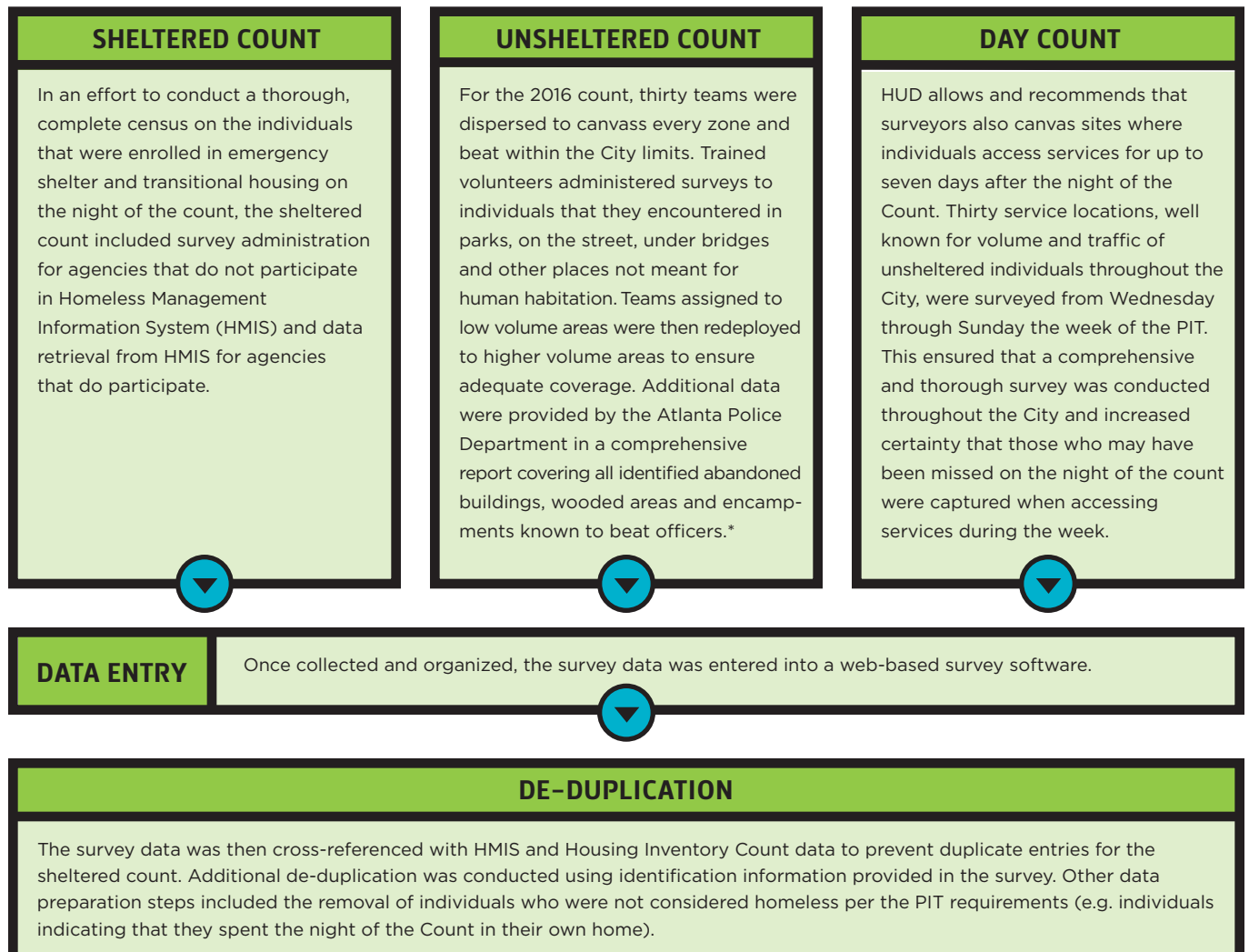Decrease in the number of homeless Veterans in our community since 2013, 983 to 369.*

52%
Decrease in unsheltered homeless since 2013.*

* Note change in census methodology in 2016 versus sampling methodology in 2013.

Methodology

Change in Methodology The 2016 PIT Count used a census method of counting versus a sampling and extrapolation method that has been used in previous counts. A census count is an enumeration of all homeless people in the CoC, which provides a direct and complete count of all people and their characteristics and does not require any estimates, incorporates the entire CoCs' geography and can be used as a benchmark for future PIT counts. All survey data collected is self reported directly from individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

SHELTERED COUNT

In an effort to conduct a thorough, complete census on the individuals that were enrolled in emergency shelter and transitional housing on the night of the count, the sheltered count included survey administration for agencies that do not participate in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and data retrieval from HMIS for agencies that do participate.

UNSHELTERED COUNT

For the 2016 count, thirty teams were dispersed to canvass every zone and beat within the City limits. Trained volunteers administered surveys to individuals that they encountered in parks, on the street, under bridges and other places not meant for human habitation. Teams assigned to low volume areas were then redeployed to higher volume areas to ensure adequate coverage. Additional data were provided by the Atlanta Police Department in a comprehensive report covering all identified abandoned buildings, wooded areas and encampments known to beat officers.*

DAY COUNT

HUD allows and recommends that surveyors also canvas sites where individuals access services for up to seven days after the night of the Count. Thirty service locations, well known for volume and traffic of unsheltered individuals throughout the City, were surveyed from Wednesday through Sunday the week of the PIT. This ensured that a comprehensive and thorough survey was conducted throughout the City and increased certainty that those who may have been missed on the night of the count were captured when accessing services during the week.

DATA ENTRY

Once collected and organized, the survey data was entered into a web-based survey software.

DE-DUPLICATION

The survey data was then cross-referenced with HMIS and Housing Inventory Count data to prevent duplicate entries for the sheltered count. Additional de-duplication was conducted using identification information provided in the survey. Other data preparation steps included the removal of individuals who were not considered homeless per the PIT requirements (e.g. individuals indicating that they spent the night of the Count in their own home).

Note: Demographic details were extrapolated from the data provided by APD

Households

WITH ADULTS AND CHILDREN

	SHELTERED		UNSHELTERED	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
	EMERGENCY	TRANSITIONAL			
Total Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	**195**	**199**	**59**	**453**	
Number of Persons (under age 18)	124	137	33	294	65%
Number of Persons (18-24)	21	10	2	33	7%
Number of Persons (over age 24)	50	52	24	126	28%
Gender (Adults and Children)					
Female	109	128	26	263	58%
Male	86	70	33	189	42%
Transgender	0	1	0	1	0.20%
Ethnicity (Adults and Children)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	195	194	57	446	98%
Hispanic/Latino	0	5	2	7	2%
Race (Adults and Children)					
White	13	2	1	16	3%
Black or African-American	177	197	54	428	94%
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	5	0	4	9	2%

141 HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD

Legend:
- Sheltered Emergency
- Sheltered Transitional
- Unsheltered
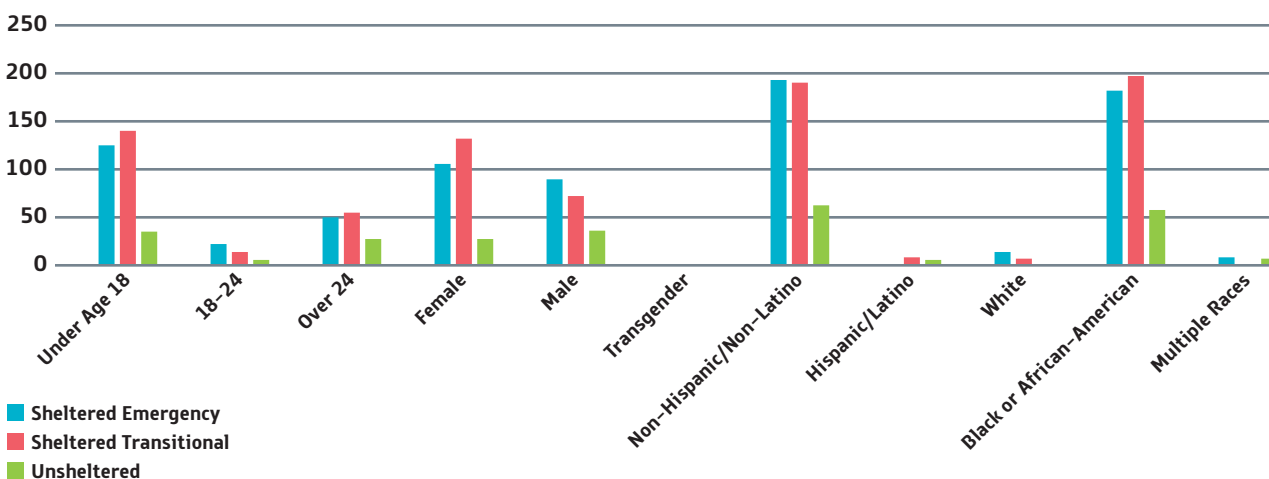
Households

WITH ADULTS ONLY

	SHELTERED		UNSHELTERED	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
	EMERGENCY	TRANSITIONAL			
Total Number of Persons (Adults only)	1582	1244	779	3605	
Number of Persons (18-24)	195	129	18	342	9%
Number of Persons (over age 24)	1387	1115	761	3263	91%
Gender (Adults only)					
Female	212	197	119	528	15%
Male	1351	1047	655	3053	85%
Transgender	19	0	5	24	0.67%
Ethnicity (Adults only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1473	1170	749	3392	94%
Hispanic/Latino	109	74	30	213	5.91%
Race (Adults only)					
White	211	52	72	335	9%
Black or African-American	1301	1132	652	3085	86%
Asian	6	0	2	8	0.22%
American Indian or Alaska Native	21	0	17	38	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	1	0.03%
Multiple Races	42	60	36	138	4%

3,605 HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN (ADULTS ONLY)

Legend:
- Sheltered Emergency
- Sheltered Transitional
- Unsheltered
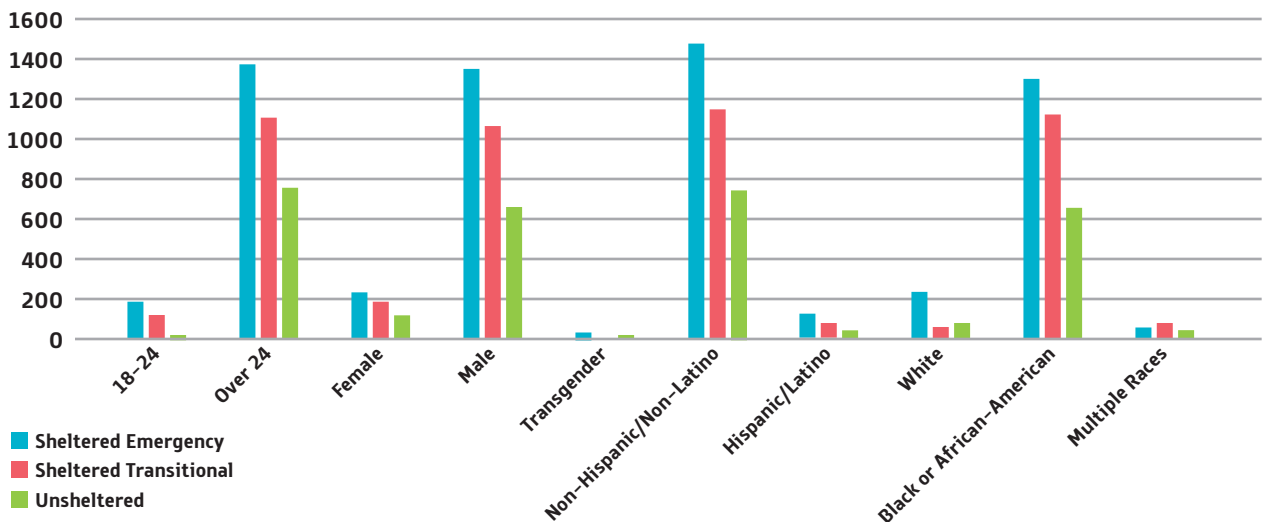
Trends 2013-2016

CHANGE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

Legend: ■ Sheltered (ES) ■ Sheltered (TH) ■ Unsheltered

Year	Sheltered (ES)	Sheltered (TH)	Unsheltered	Total
2011	2105	2340	1587	5987
2012	*			
2013	2564	1239	1733	5536
2014	1988	1434	1375	4797
2015	1688	1592	1037	4317
2016	1782	1443	838	4063
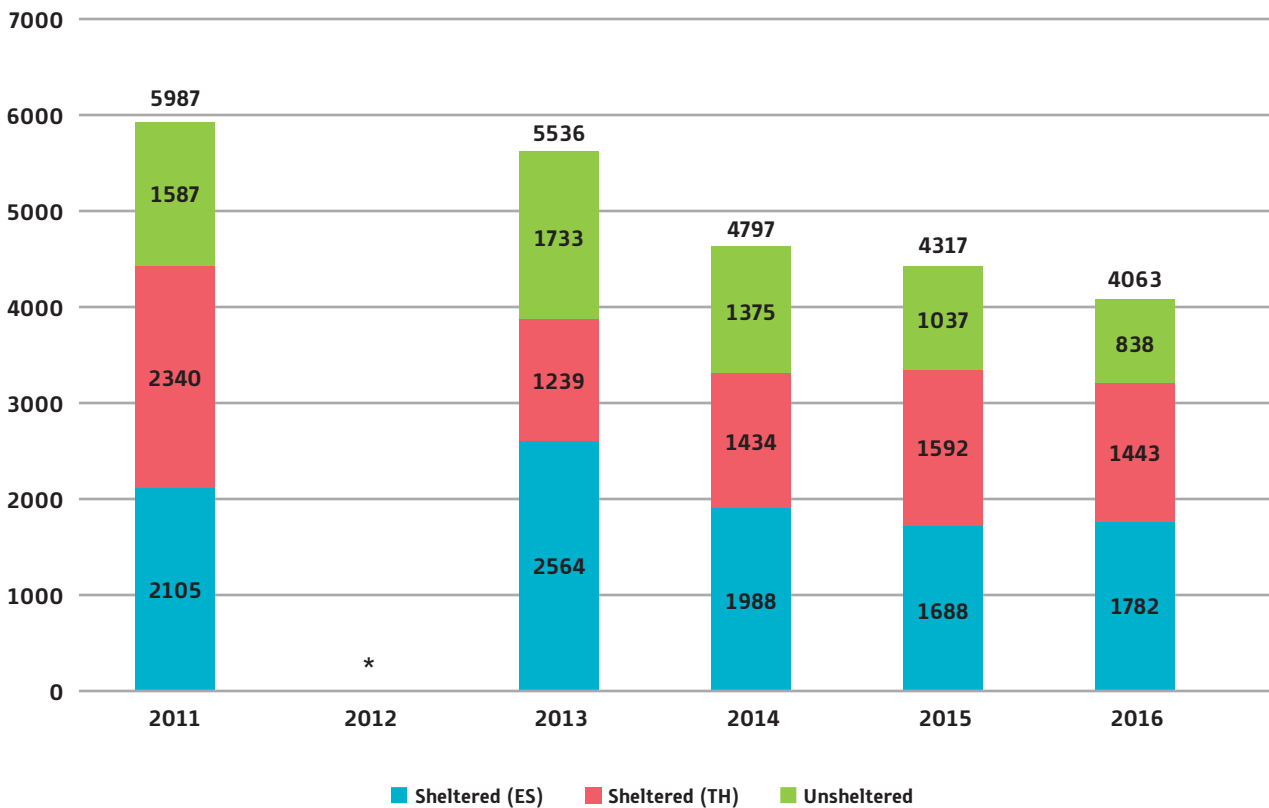
In 2016, there was a total population of 4,063, which is a 6% decrease from 2015 (total: 4,317) and 26% decrease from 2013 overall (5,536). From 2015 to 2016, the emergency sheltered population increased by 94 individuals.

Since 2013, there has been a 52% reduction in homelessness among individuals who are unsheltered from 1,733 in 2013 to 838 in 2016. The 2016 transitional housing count decreased from 2015 by 9% and since 2013 has increased by 15%.

*Note: A PIT Count was not conducted in 2012.

Sub-Population Trends

VETERANS
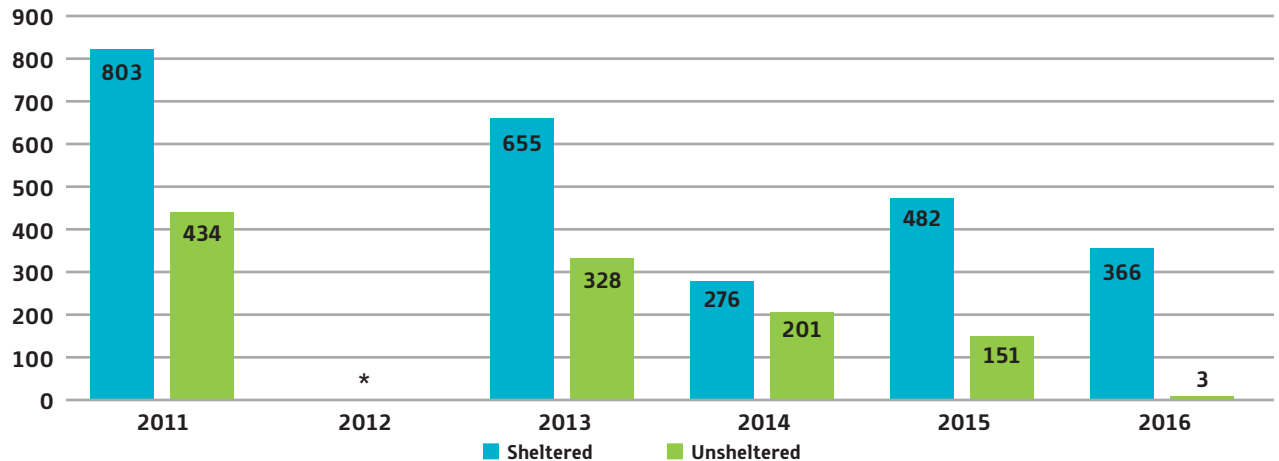
Since 2013, the CoC has seen a 62% decrease in homeless Veterans overall. Based on these findings, the unsheltered Veteran population has decreased by 99% since 2013 and the sheltered population has decreased by 44%. Significant effort and resources have been committed over the last year to meet the Mayor's Challenge to end Veteran's homelessness. As a result, over 1,000 homeless Veterans have been permanently housed since Mayor Reed accepted the Challenge.
*Note: A PIT Count was not conducted in 2012.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
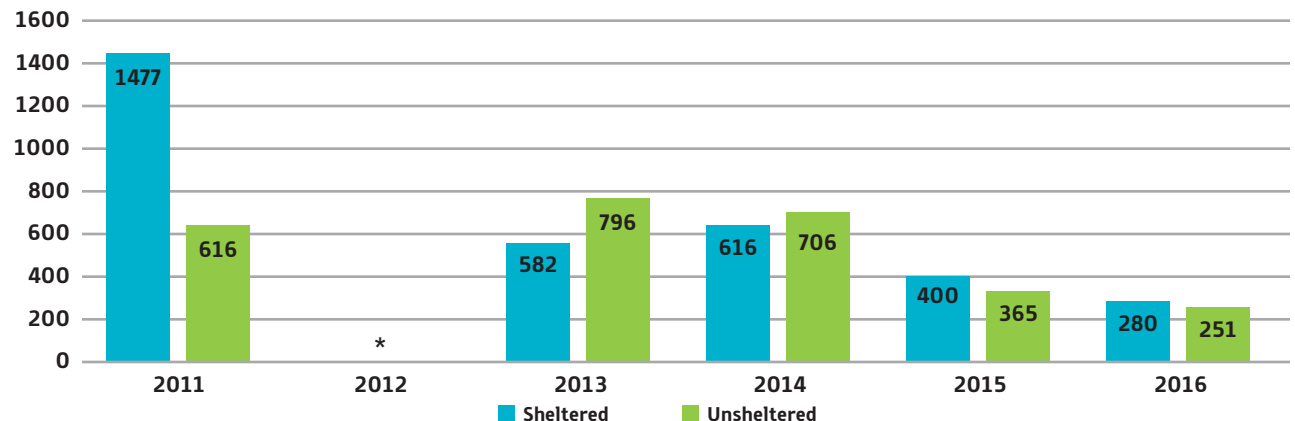
The Atlanta CoC continues to see declines in the chronically homeless. This could be attributed to the launch of coordinated entry and the prioritization of those who are chronically homeless for access to permanent supportive housing. Additionally, the CoC has strategically worked to reduce barriers to access by shifting to a Housing First approach. Since last year, there has been an overall decrease by 31%, from 765 in 2015 to 531 in 2016. Additionally, since 2013, there has been a 68% decrease in the number of unsheltered chronically homeless and a 52% decrease in the sheltered chronically homeless population.
*Note: A PIT Count was not conducted in 2012.

Conclusion

This year's Point-in-Time Count was a well-organized, comprehensive effort and as a result, led to more completed surveys than any years past. The good news is that the overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness continues to drop, continuing a steady downward trend especially in the Veterans sub-population. Due to the detailed nature of this year's census count, as compared to previous years sampling count, it is reasonable to expect that the 2016 PIT Count would have increased homeless numbers. However, even with an all-inclusive methodology including day shifts, abandoned buildings and shelter participation, the City still experienced an overall 6% decrease from last year. Moreover, since 2011, it's important to remind ourselves and keep in perspective the fact that since 2011, there has been a 60% decrease in unsheltered homelessness in Atlanta.

The 2016 PIT Count was an exhaustive undertaking worthy of the combined group effort. By making the shift from sampling to census methodology, organizational infrastructure and processes have been created to ensure that future annual counts will generate more reliable data. In spite of the continued decline, we will not become complacent. The 2016 data will be instrumental in informing the CoC's strategic planning process, gauging progress thus far, and leveraging and aligning additional public and private resources creating a clear path to making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in Atlanta.

Thank you for your active engagement and continued support.

Cathryn Marchman, LCSW, Esq.
Executive Director, Partners for HOME

APPRECIATION

**We are deeply thankful to all who contributed to make
this year's Point-in-Time Count a success.**

Point-in-Time Planning Committee

Atlanta Police Department Code Enforcement

Atlanta Police Department HOPE Officers

Atlanta Union Mission

Central Atlanta Progress

City of Atlanta Office of the Mayor

Cloudburst HUD Technical Assistance

HOPE Atlanta

Project Community Connections, Inc.

United Way of Greater Atlanta

Veteran's Administration

Supporters

Atlanta Police Department

City of Atlanta Constituent Services

City of Atlanta Human Resources Department

Dunkin Donuts

Furniture Bank

Home Depot Foundation

Kroger

Starbucks

Trader Joe's

Vehicles and Drivers

APD, First Step, HOPE Atlanta, Mercy Care, Salvation Army,
VA, and Veteran's Empowerment Organization

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Continuum of Care Mandate

The CoC Program is designed to assist individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families experiencing homelessness and to provide the services needed to help such individuals move into permanent housing, with the goal of long-term stability. More broadly, the program is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; improve data collection and performance measurement; and allow each community to tailor its program to the particular strengths and challenges within that community.

Governing Council Members

Chairman Tom Andrews, Kim Anderson, Lynn Copeland, Jack Hardin, Ed Powers, Tracey Scott, Councilmember Joyce Sheperd, Councilmember Cleta Winslow, Deputy Commissioner Carmen Chubb, Dana Johnson, A. J. Robinson, Jenifer Turner-Reid, Peter Aman, Deputy Commissioner Terri Lee, Commissioner Joan Garner, Kathy Palumbo, Reverend Connie Lee, and Phillip Hunter.

Partners for HOME

Created by the City of Atlanta in 2013, Partners for HOME is creating a collective and clear path to making homelessness rare and brief. The organization pulls together, nonprofit, government, and business leaders to zero in on a shared, consistent, and measure approach toward success.

Partners for HOME brings leadership and focus to the City's goal of preventing and ending homelessness in Atlanta.

As the support vehicle for the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC), Partners for HOME provides expertise in the planning and implementation of community-based strategies, works to secure private and public program funds, and is a resource to service providers regarding federal policy priorities and guidelines.

Created by the Mayor's Office in 2014, PFH is a public-private partnership operating as a 501(c)3 and is located in Atlanta City Hall.

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Partners for HOME