



2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness:

Youth Specific PIT Count Survey Addendum (Unsheltered)

Eastern PA Continuum of Care

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on behalf of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

Agenda

- Why should CoCs have youth specific counting strategies?
- What can youth homelessness look like?
- Overview: Eastern PA CoC 2022 youth specific counting strategies
- Walk through the youth specific survey
- Next Steps/Reminders

Why should CoCs have youth specific counting strategies?

Data on youth homelessness

Data on youth homelessness can help CoCs:

- Understand the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness
- Better understand the scope of youth homelessness
- Advocate for/compete for youth-targeted resources
 - By geography
 - By subpopulation

Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count Study

- Most comprehensive research on youth homelessness to date; conducted by Chapin Hall at University of Chicago in 2017
- Findings show **1 in 10 young adults** ages 18-25 and at least **1 in 30 adolescents** ages 13-17 experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.
- Youth homelessness is often hidden. Youth experiencing homelessness may be transient and living between various situations (shelter, streets, family/friends).
- Youth experiencing homelessness may be hesitant to disclose their situation, and hesitant to access services (especially services that are not youth-specific)

National Statistics

RESULTS SHOW

1 in 10

young adults ages 18 to 25 endures some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

1 in 30

adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.

Youth 13-17	Young Adults 18-25
4.2% Household prevalence in urban counties.	9.6% Population prevalence in urban counties.
4.4% Household prevalence in rural counties.	9.2% Population prevalence in rural counties.



About half of the youth who experienced homelessness over a year faced homelessness for the first time.

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

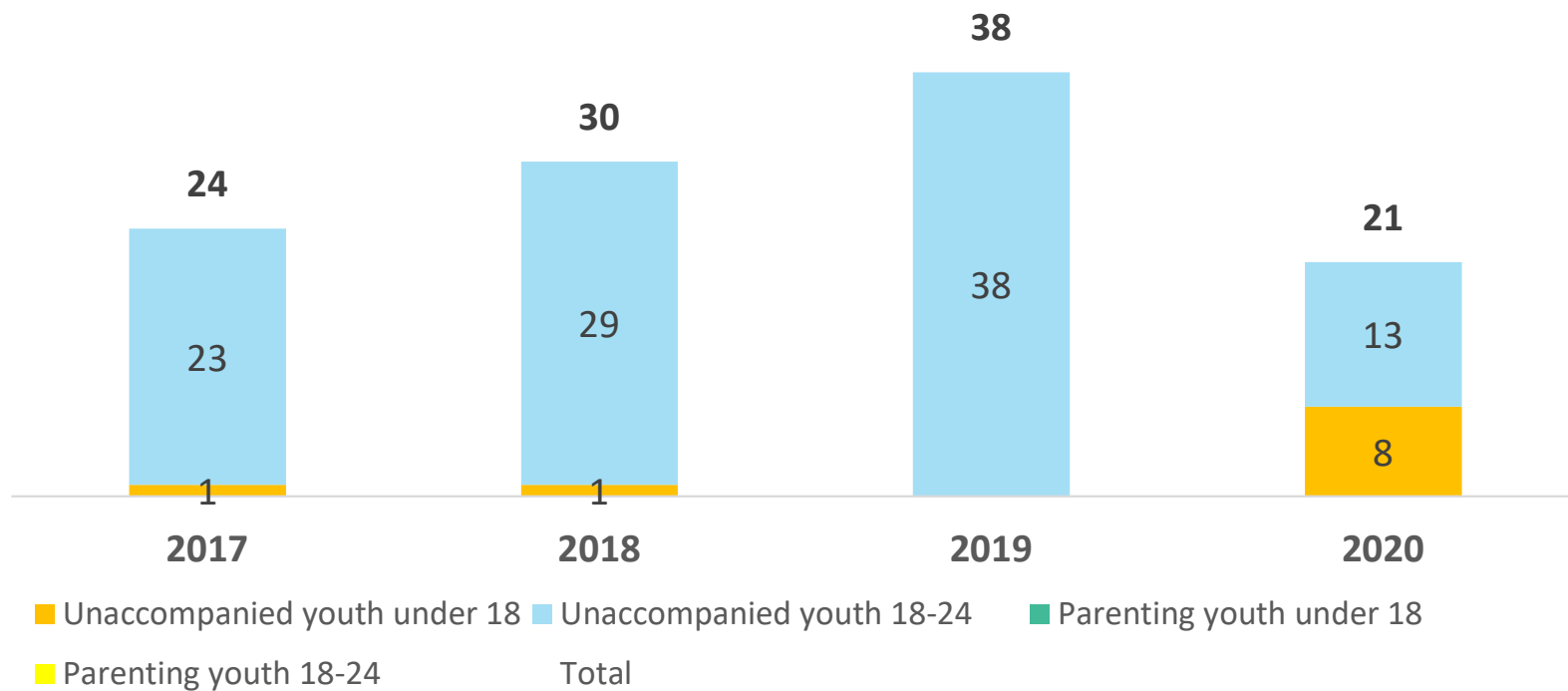
200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



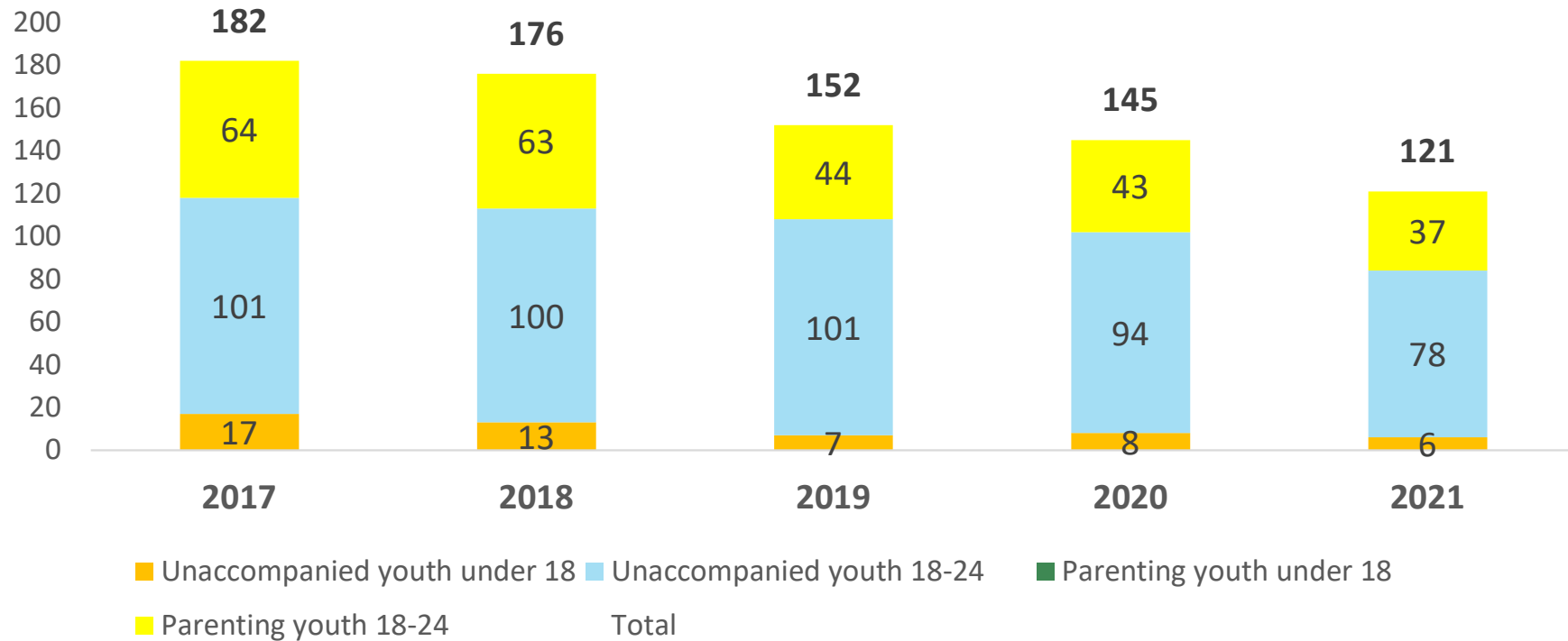
Eastern PA CoC Youth PIT Data

Unsheltered youth counted during PIT
Eastern PA CoC 2017-2020



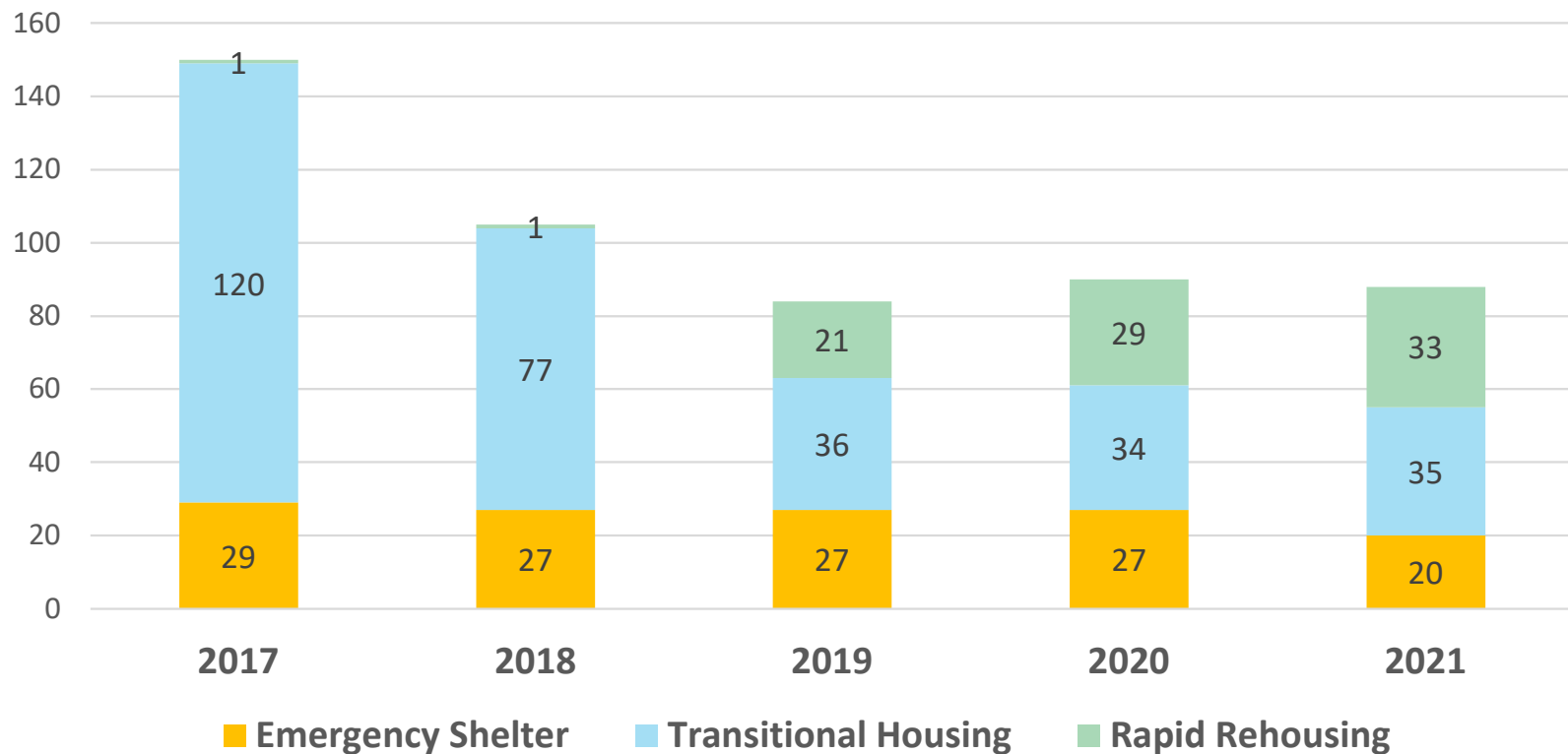
Eastern PA CoC Youth PIT Data

Sheltered youth (ES or TH) countered during PIT
Eastern PA CoC 2017-2021



Eastern PA CoC Youth Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory Count - Youth Dedicated Housing Beds
Eastern PA CoC 2017-2021



What can youth
homelessness look like?

What can youth homelessness look like?

Youth who are experiencing homelessness may look like:

- Staying with family or friends (couch-surfing/house-hopping)
- Staying in a shelter
- Staying in an abandoned building, park, train station, or outside

Signs a young person may be experiencing homelessness:

- Spends a lot of time at community locations (e.g., library, community center, hanging out) and seems like they have nowhere else to go
- Carrying a lot of belongings (overstuffed backpacks, etc.)
- Chronic hunger and fatigue
- Wearing the same clothes repeatedly
- Inconsistent grooming and/or poor hygiene
- Marked change in behavior or school performance
- *Could be combination of above, or none of the above*

Many youth experiencing a housing crisis may not identify with the term “homeless”

What can youth homelessness look like?

Youth may describe their situation like this:

I've been staying from house to house

I wandered around all night

I need housing

I'm staying with a friend

Human trafficking

Youth experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to human trafficking (including sex or labor trafficking)

- “With no place to call home and no one to care for their well being... No one will know he or she is gone.”

Perpetrators are known to target locations where youth- specifically homeless youth- spend time

Resources:

- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888
- <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

Overview: Eastern PA CoC 2022 youth specific counting strategies

Youth Specific Counting Strategies - Overview

HUD would like to see CoCs making efforts to better count youth as part of the PIT count.

Strategies for 2022 PIT Count:

- Convene a planning committee to work on youth specific counting strategies. 10 committee members (CoC providers, youth providers, community partners)
- Identify counties willing to pilot youth survey
- Develop brief youth survey to be completed with:
 - Any unaccompanied or parenting youth you encounter during the PIT Count who is 24 and under
 - This includes youth who identify their housing situation as “living with a family member or friend”, “living on own”, or any other situation that would not normally be included in the PIT

Add additional strategies in 2023 PIT

Goal of Eastern PA CoC youth specific count

- To build a better understanding of youth homelessness in Eastern PA, including both the scope of youth homelessness, demographics of youth experiencing homelessness, and needs of youth experiencing homelessness
 - Including both youth who are literally homeless and unstably housed
- Strategy is to start small in 2022 (piloting youth specific survey questions in several counties), and build out additional strategies in 2023

Counties piloting youth specific survey

As of December 20, 2021:

- Blair
- Cumberland
- Franklin
- Lebanon
- Lehigh
- Northampton
- Schuylkill
- Wayne

Who will be counted?

- Unaccompanied* and parenting youth ages 24 and under experiencing unsheltered homelessness
 - ***These youth will receive the regular PIT survey plus the youth addendum***
- Unaccompanied* and parenting youth ages 24 and under experiencing housing instability
 - ***If you survey a young person who identifies that they are staying with friends/family, or on their own, you will end the regular PIT survey and proceed to the youth addendum***
 - *This data will not be included in the PIT data reported to HUD – their data will be used for local planning.*

*Unaccompanied = without a parent/guardian

Where will youth be counted?

- Counties will conduct their unsheltered PIT in the same locations as normal.
- In future years we hope to expand the youth specific counting strategies to include more youth-specific locations and partners, and include youth who are residing in shelter.

Walk through the youth specific survey

Best Practices

- Remember that you are speaking to highly vulnerable people. Always lead with respect for the person you're speaking with and respect for their dignity.
- Everyone has the right to refuse to answer any or all of your questions.
- Always ask questions as they are written; do not ask questions in a way that shows you think you already know the answer.
- Provide resources when possible, if desired by the young person.

Best Practices

- Provide resources when possible, if desired by the young person. Resources vary from county to county. Some communities have organizations and programs that specifically serve or target youth. These may include homeless assistance providers, Boys & Girls Clubs, mental health organizations, employment programs, GED providers, LGBTQ organizations, etc. Resources might include:
 - 211 and local Coordinated Entry access sites, to be screened for housing resources
 - Shelter resources
 - Outreach teams
 - McKinney-Vento liaison (if youth is in school)
 - Mental health resources (including case management)
 - National hotlines
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline: National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888
 - National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-786-2929
 - National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233

Best Practices

- If you encounter a minor youth who is experiencing unsheltered homelessness:
 - These are very challenging situations. If volunteers encounter a minor youth, they should connect with their county coordinator to discuss next steps.
 - Discuss options for stable housing and make efforts to help them identify safe housing options for that night.
 - There may be situations where mandated reporters will need to report an unsafe situation for a minor child. We recommend talking with the young person about this and, when appropriate, make the call together.

Next
Steps/Reminders

Next Steps

- All PIT volunteers to receive training from their county coordinator prior to the PIT, including youth specific count training.
- **January 26, 2022: PIT COUNT DATE**
- Following the PIT count, the CoC analyzes and compiles all PIT data for HUD. The CoC will also analyze and compile data from youth-specific surveys, to be shared with CoC.

Items to review with your county unsheltered PIT coordinator:

- Schedule
- Key Contacts
- Safety Protocols
- What to bring
- Method for submitting surveys
- Any other questions you have

Additional Resources:

If you would like additional resources on the Point in Time Count:

How to approach an individual on the street training video:

- <https://www.homelessnesslearninghub.ca/library/resources/how-approach-individual-street-video>

HUD sample handout with tips and resources for volunteers conducting the PIT Count:

- <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Volunteer-Training-Toolkit-Sample-Refresher-Handout.docx>

FINALLY...

THANK YOU for
Giving your time
Caring
Helping
Showing up!

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE 2022
UNSHELTERED PIT COUNT!**