



Alliance to House Everyone

HOMELESSNESS 101

Presented to the Monte Vista Historical Association by:

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South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless

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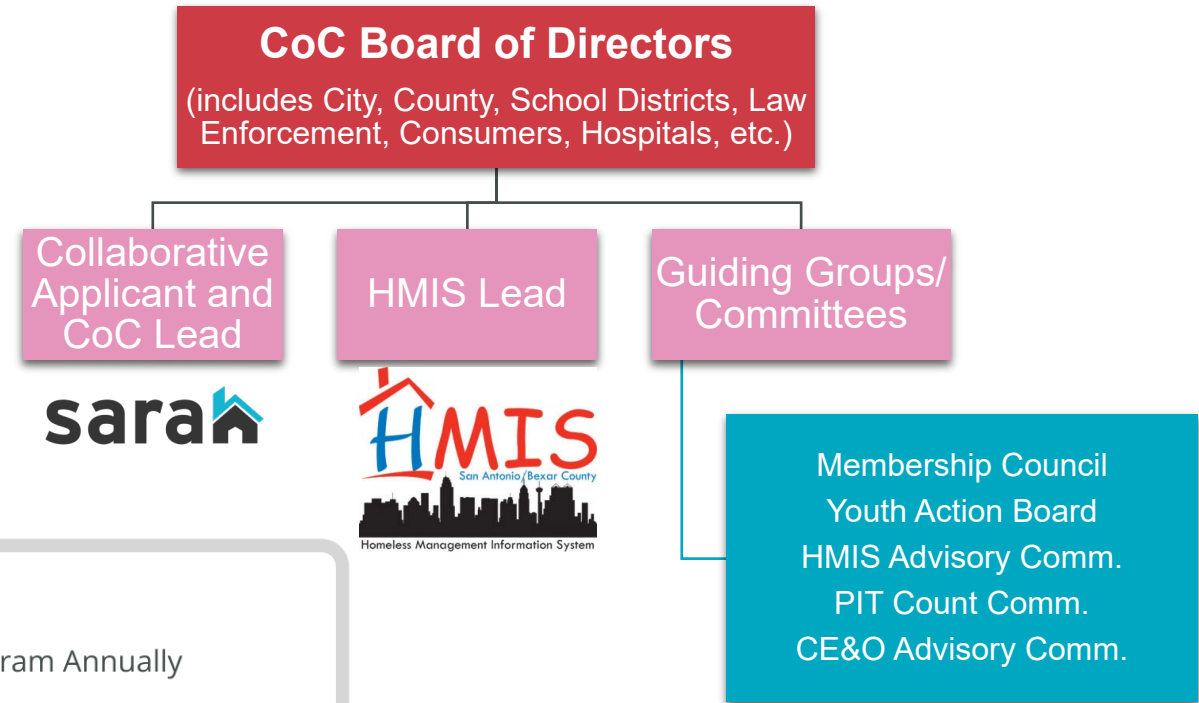
WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) **exists to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County.**

SARAH is HUD's designated **Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency**, the regional coordinating body around homelessness.

Key Functions of the CoC

- Facilitate Funding Process for approximately \$14 Million in HUD CoC Program Annually
- Federal & Community Reports on Homelessness
- Homelink, our local Coordinated Entry System
- Technical Assistance & Coordination with 50+ Partner Agencies
- Programs to Support Homeless Service Providers
- Facilitate Community Workgroups & Set Standards to Improve our Homeless Response System



Person-First Language

- Puts the person before the circumstance or diagnosis, describing what a person “has,” NOT what a person “is.”
- Currently Experiencing Homelessness vs. Homeless People
- Labels can generate strong emotional reactions that create barriers and reinforce stereotypes
- Homelessness is a temporary circumstance. It does not define someone.
- People experiencing homelessness are – first and foremost - people

HUD'S CATEGORIES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Category 1**
Literally Homeless
- Category 2**
Imminently Losing
Nighttime Residence
- Category 3**
Persistent Housing
Instability
- Category 4**
Fleeing Domestic
Violence



Sheltered vs Unsheltered Homelessness



Sheltered Homelessness refers to people living or sleeping in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing.



Unsheltered Homelessness refers to people living or sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as the street, sidewalk, park, abandoned building, etc.

Response System Map



FOR HELP, CALL 210.207.1799  OR VISIT AN ACCESS POINT

Homelink assessments determine if an individual or family household is...



AT-RISK

Behind on rent, mortgage, or utility payments. Considered *Imminent Risk* if residence will be lost within 14 days.

PREVENTION

- Rental, Mortgage & Utility Assistance
- Legal Guidance
- Case Management



HOMELESS

Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or is fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence.

CRISIS RESPONSE

- Diversion
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
- Housing Vouchers
- Day Centers
- Homeless Resource Hubs
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Housed by Shelter Provider

HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES

- Call or visit Homelink (Coordinated Entry) Access Points
- Call the Homeless Connections Hotline at 210.207.1799
- Visit Haven for Hope Intake, Homeless Resource Hubs, or Day Centers
- Engage with street outreach workers or case managers
- For more information visit sarahomeless.org/housing

CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



HUD'S CATEGORIES OF HOMELESSNESS

Category 1 Literally homeless	Category 2 Imminently Losing Nighttime Residence	Category 3 Persistent Housing Instability	Category 4 Fleeing Domestic Violence
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Day Centers & Homeless Resource Hubs

Strategically placed daytime locations providing services, resources, and case management to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Diversion

A strategy to immediately return people to housing through flexible one-time assistance, without entering a temporary shelter or housing program.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

A facility where the primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Homelink

Our local Coordinated Entry System, ensuring that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair & equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing & assistance based on their strengths & needs.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)

A program to assist very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Administered locally by public housing authorities (PHAs).

Housing First

An approach to quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent recidivism.

Prevention

A coordinated homelessness prevention and eviction response system to help low-income households resolve a crisis that could otherwise lead to a loss of housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness with indefinite leasing or rental assistance, paired with supportive services to assist those with a disabling condition.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Rapidly connecting families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Time-limited housing, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months.

HOMELINK ACCESS POINTS

Mobile or physical locations providing fair and equal access to Homelink to persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. A Homelink enrollment or assessment is initiated by walking into or calling an Access Point during designated hours.

CALL-IN ASSESSMENT SITES

Endeavors

(210) 840-6437
Monday: 9:00a-10:45a

Homeless Connections Hotline

(210) 207-1799
Mon-Fri: 8:30a-11:45a & 12:30p-4:30p

IN-PERSON ASSESSMENTS

American GI Forum

611 N Flores, Ste 200
& 206 San Pedro Ave
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30a-11:30a

Roy Maas Youth Alternatives

(ages 18-24)
3103 West Ave
Mon-Fri: 10:00a-4:00p

Haven for Hope

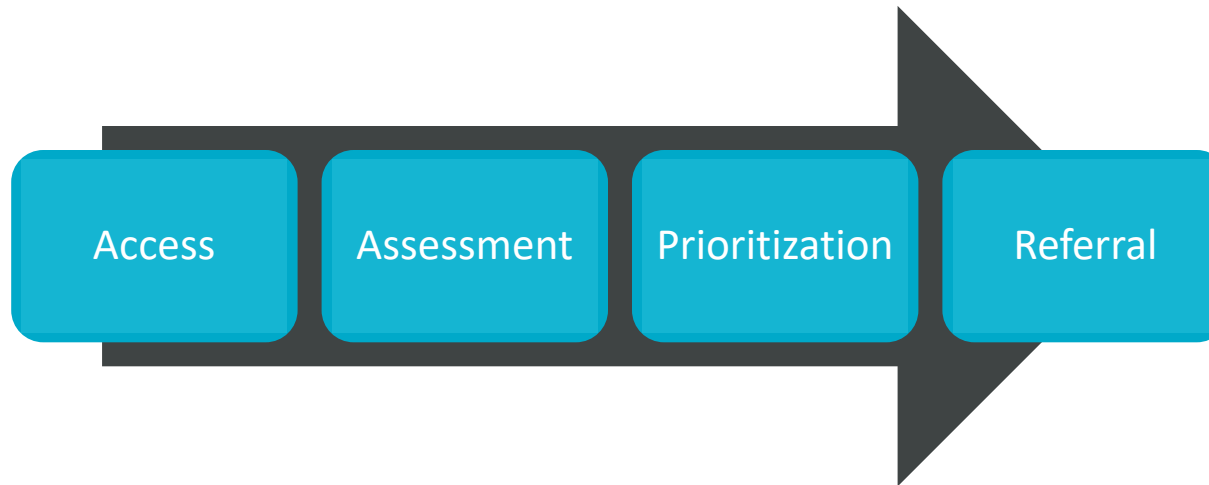
1 Haven for Hope Way
Mon-Fri: 7:00a-3:00p

South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless

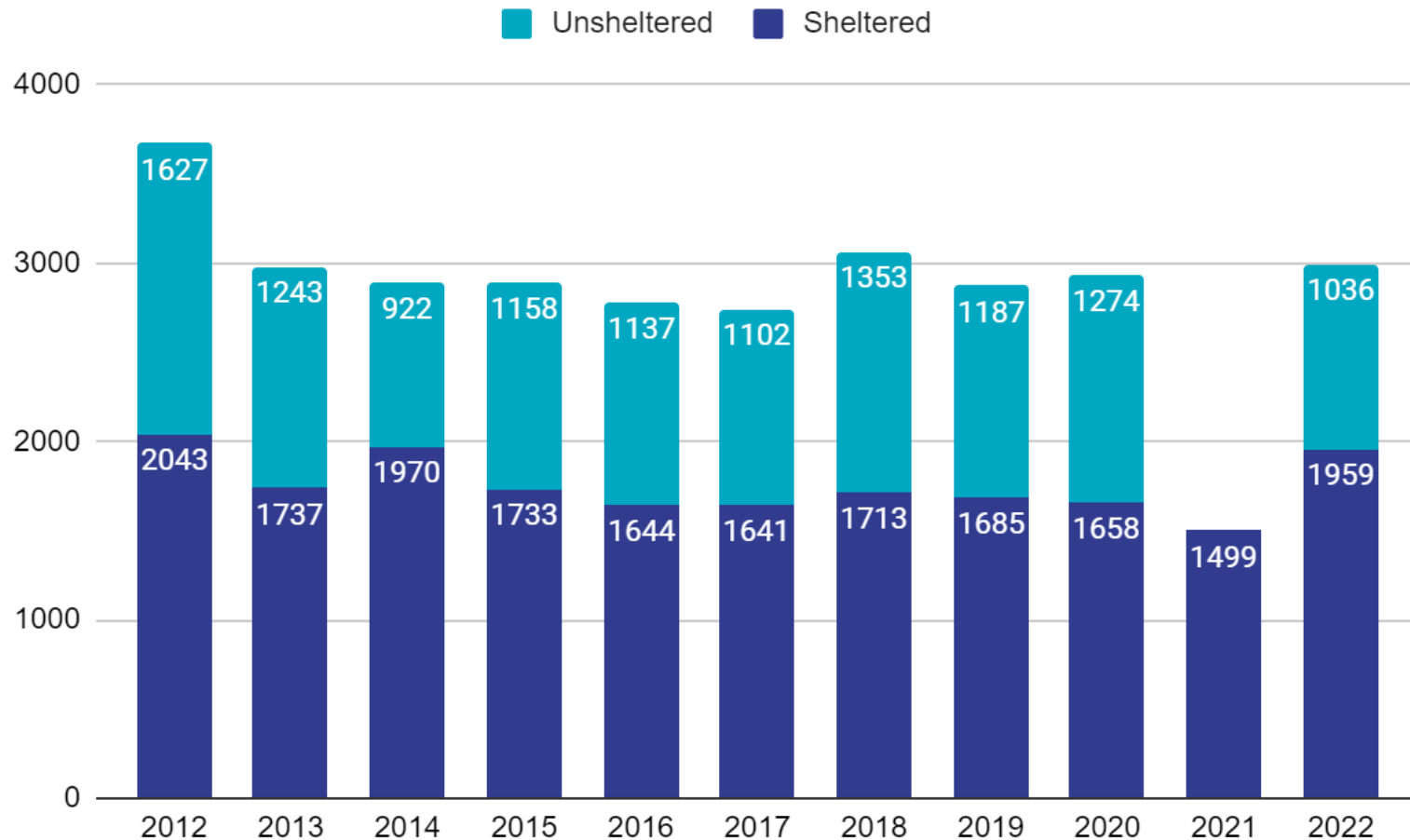
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Homelink/ Coordinated Entry

- Homelink is our local Coordinated Entry System – a uniform, community-wide approach to connect persons who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to housing resources.
- Ensures that people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to the system and are quickly identified, assessed, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.



Point-In-Time (PIT) Count



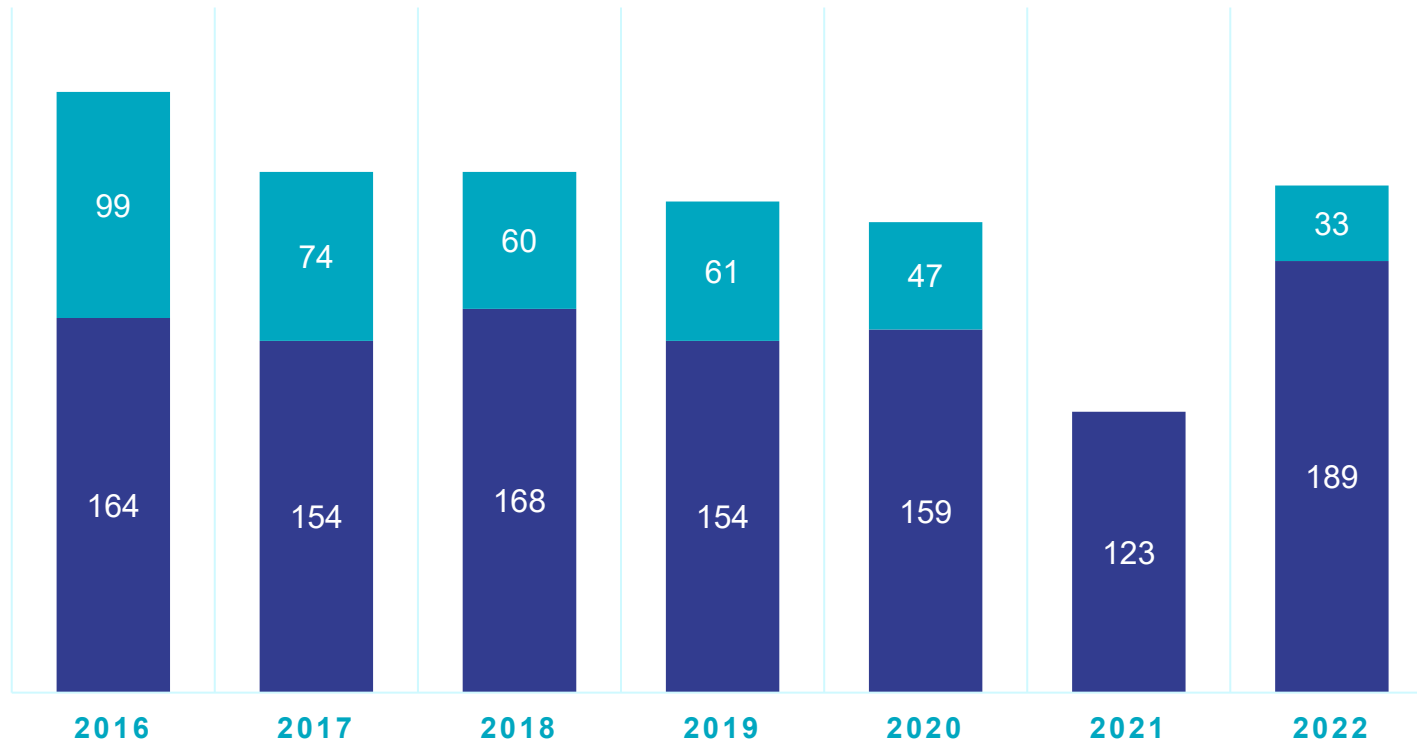
*The PIT Count is a **one-night snapshot of homelessness in Bexar County.***

- *Measure and share data*
- *Demonstrate the need for federal funding*
- *Identify potential gaps or inequities*
- *The overall count of people experiencing homelessness **increased by 2% from 2020, but remained flat at 0.14% of the total population.***
- *Unsheltered homelessness **declined by about 19%***

PIT Count: Veterans

VETERAN PIT COUNT

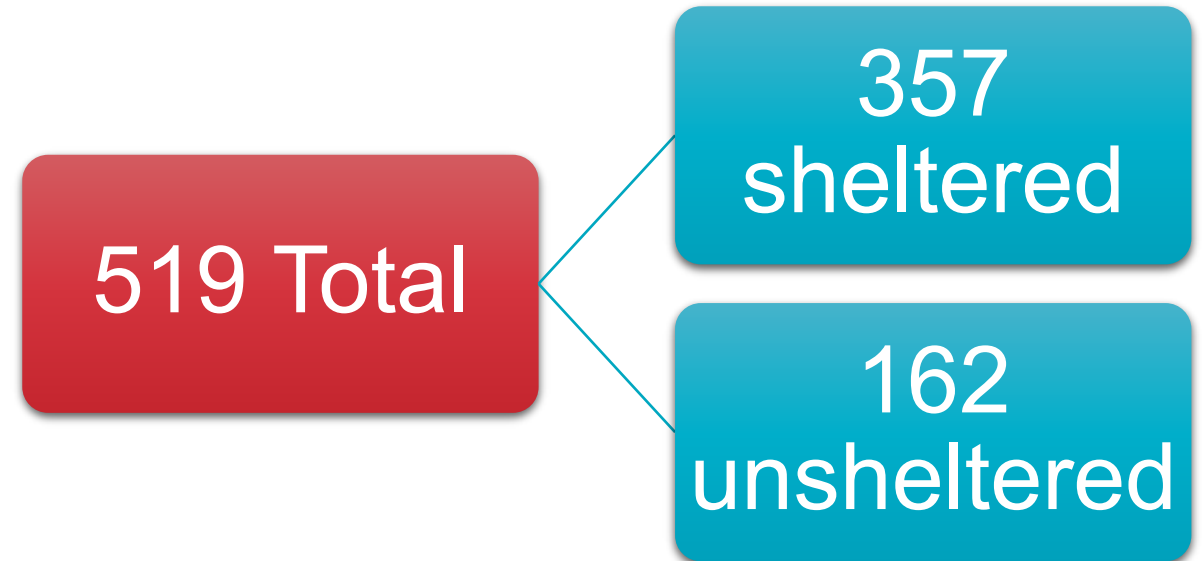
■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered



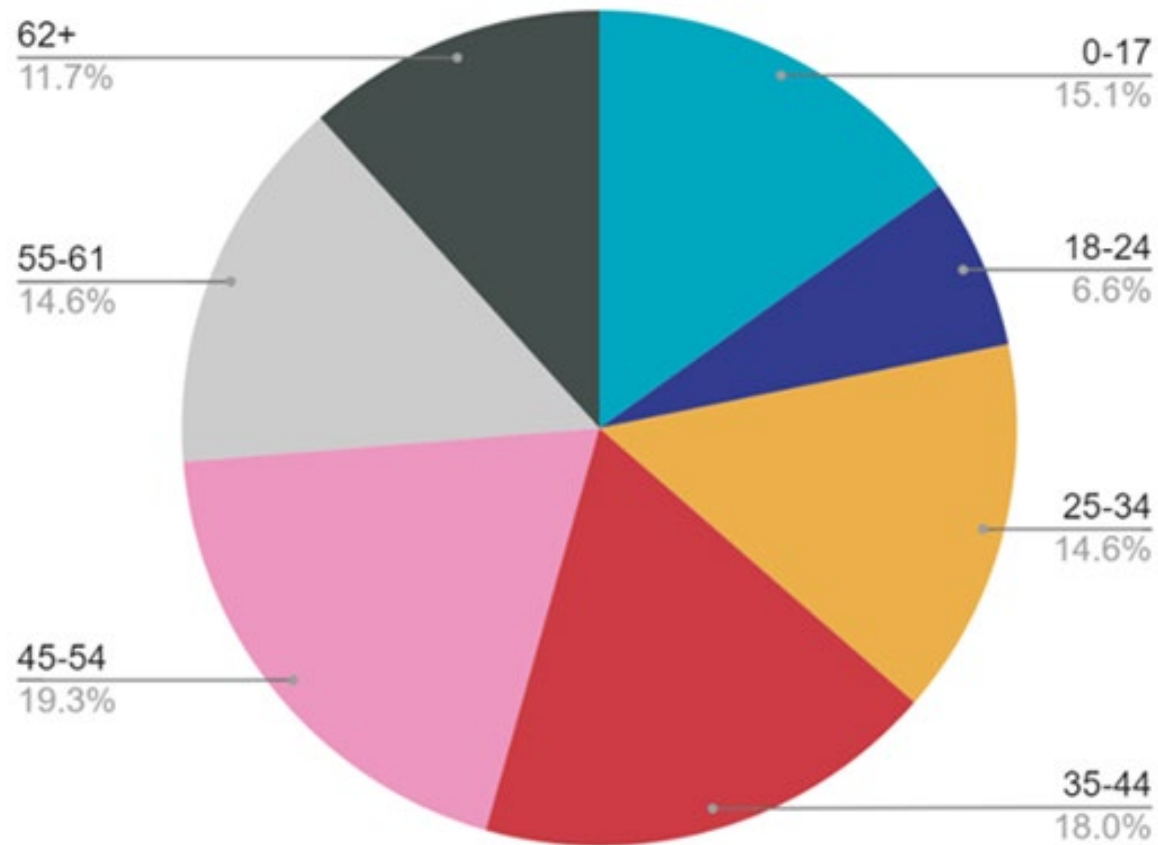
- In response to the Mayor's Challenge to Effectively End Veteran Homelessness, San Antonio reached a 'functional zero' in 2016.
- There was an **8% overall increase** in the number of veterans counted
- However, just **33 unsheltered veterans** were counted, our **lowest reported count**.

PIT Count: Chronic Homelessness

- Chronic homelessness **increased by 77%** from 2020
- However, **unsheltered** chronic homelessness had **just a 4.5% increase**
- Our most vulnerable are often being moved into safer environments, but more permanent supportive housing is needed



PIT Count: Vulnerable Age Groups



- ALL Youth (ages 0-17) and most older adults (62+) were counted in **sheltered settings**
- 97 Youth & Young Adult (YYA) households were housed through our community's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant in 2019.
- The Youth Action Board (YAB), comprised mainly of YYA with lived experience, advises on YHDP projects and expands youth voice & equity in our response system.
- Learn more at yasscenter.org!



PIT Count: Additional Key Findings

- At **22.5%** of the overall homeless population, Black/African American individuals are **overrepresented by over 3-times** proportional to the community population
- **7%** of surveyed individuals identified as LGBTQ+, of which nearly **26%** reported that their sexual orientation affected their current experience of homelessness.
- **62.5%** of unsheltered individuals reported either going without any medical care or relying on emergency rooms.
- Of those surveyed with experience in the foster care system, **44%** reported not having a stable place to live upon exit.
- The overall count of individuals experiencing homelessness due to a domestic violence situation **decreased by 7%** from 2020.
- The top three self-identified needs among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness were housing, ID recovery, and healthcare.

How to Request Outreach Assistance

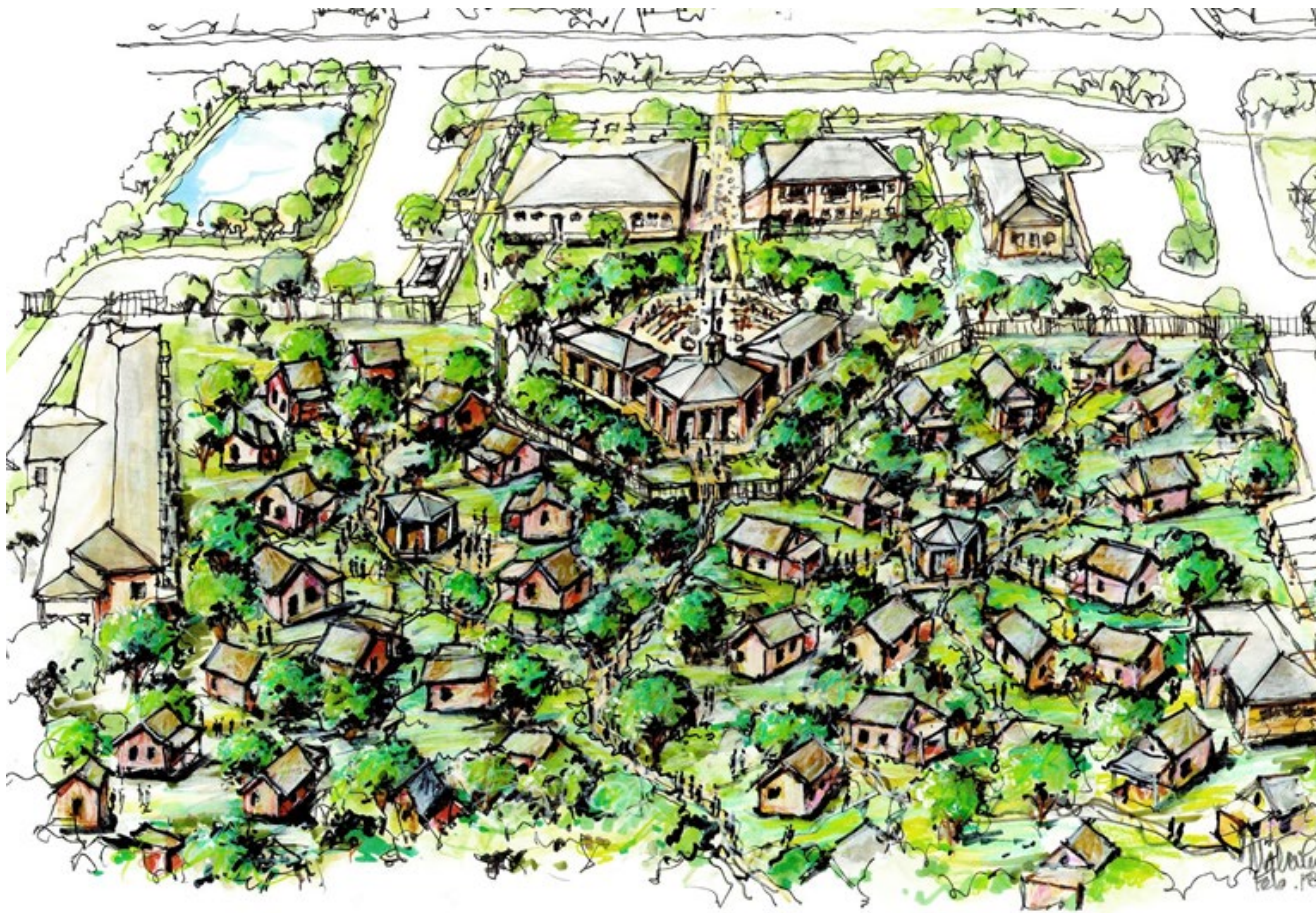
- Call the City of San Antonio's Homeless Connections Hotline at 210-207-1799, Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Call 3-1-1 or use the 311SA app on your smartphone
- Send an email to HomelessOutreach@sanantonio.gov



Recent Successes

- Launched our community's first Coordinated Homelessness Prevention Response in 2021
- Coordinated with SAHA & HABC to distribute 315 Emergency Housing Vouchers
- Led our Housing Surge Initiative, where our community made 660 permanent housing placements in the last five months of 2021
- Diverted 301 households from homelessness in 2021 through our Diversion program
- Increased San Antonio/Bexar County's HUD funding by over \$5 million over the last five years, with our largest year-over-year increase in FY2021
- Elevated the need for more **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** through involvement in the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP) and 2022 Housing Bond, which includes \$25 million dedicated to PSH

Towne Twin Village



Opportunities to Get Involved

- Sign-Up for our [Monthly Newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)
- Volunteer with [SARAH](#) or [Our Partners](#)
- Join our biweekly Community Collaboration Call, Wednesdays @ 9:15 AM
- Watch the [Beyond Homeless](#) documentary online
- Tour Haven for Hope – Every Tuesday at 10 AM
- Key Dates:
 - Big Give 2022 is September 22 at 6 PM through September 23 at 6 PM
 - [Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#) - November 12 to 20
 - [Giving Tuesday](#) is on November 29

SARAH Contact Information

- For general inquiries, contact Billy Mahone, SARAH's Director of Community Engagement at 210.876.0720 x114 or billymahone@sarahomeless.org
- Website – SARAHomeless.org
- Social - @SARAHomeless



Thank You!