

2020 ANNUAL POINT-IN- TIME REPORT

May 2020





ABOUT THIS REPORT

- Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness occur yearly in each jurisdiction in Virginia.
- The Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness, the governing body for homeless services in the region, is the lead entity that conducts the PIT count annually.
- To ensure that all are counted, homeless service providers from the City of Roanoke's Homeless Assistance Team, the Salem VA Medical Center, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and volunteers from Radford University Carilion searched the streets, under bridges, in doorways and other places to identify, count and interview the unsheltered on the night of January 22, 2020.
- The data collected provides valuable information to area service providers, policy makers, and the general public on the individual and family challenges and barriers associated with homelessness.
- In addition to numbers counted, this report includes demographic characteristics for all people experiencing homelessness, people experiencing homelessness in households without children, people in families with children, and veterans experiencing homelessness.
- This report uses hard count and survey data obtained directly from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for all emergency shelter providers (excluding DV).

METHODOLOGY

- This 2020 Point-in-Time Count and Homeless Survey Report presents a snapshot of data obtained on the night of January 22nd from sheltered and unsheltered people in the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care (CoC) Region of Virginia: Alleghany County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Roanoke County and the cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem.
- The instruments used to collect survey data were the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) v2.0 for single adults, the VI-SPDAT v2.0 for families, and 24 supplemental questions.
- The VI-SPDAT v2.0, the CoC's primary common assessment tool, is administered to all homeless individuals and/or families upon entry into the region's coordinated system of care to determine 1) the level of vulnerability for the individual or family; and 2) to prioritize services based on vulnerability.
- VI-SPDAT data are entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in addition to other essential elements such as demographic characteristics; homelessness and housing histories; and income and benefit amounts.



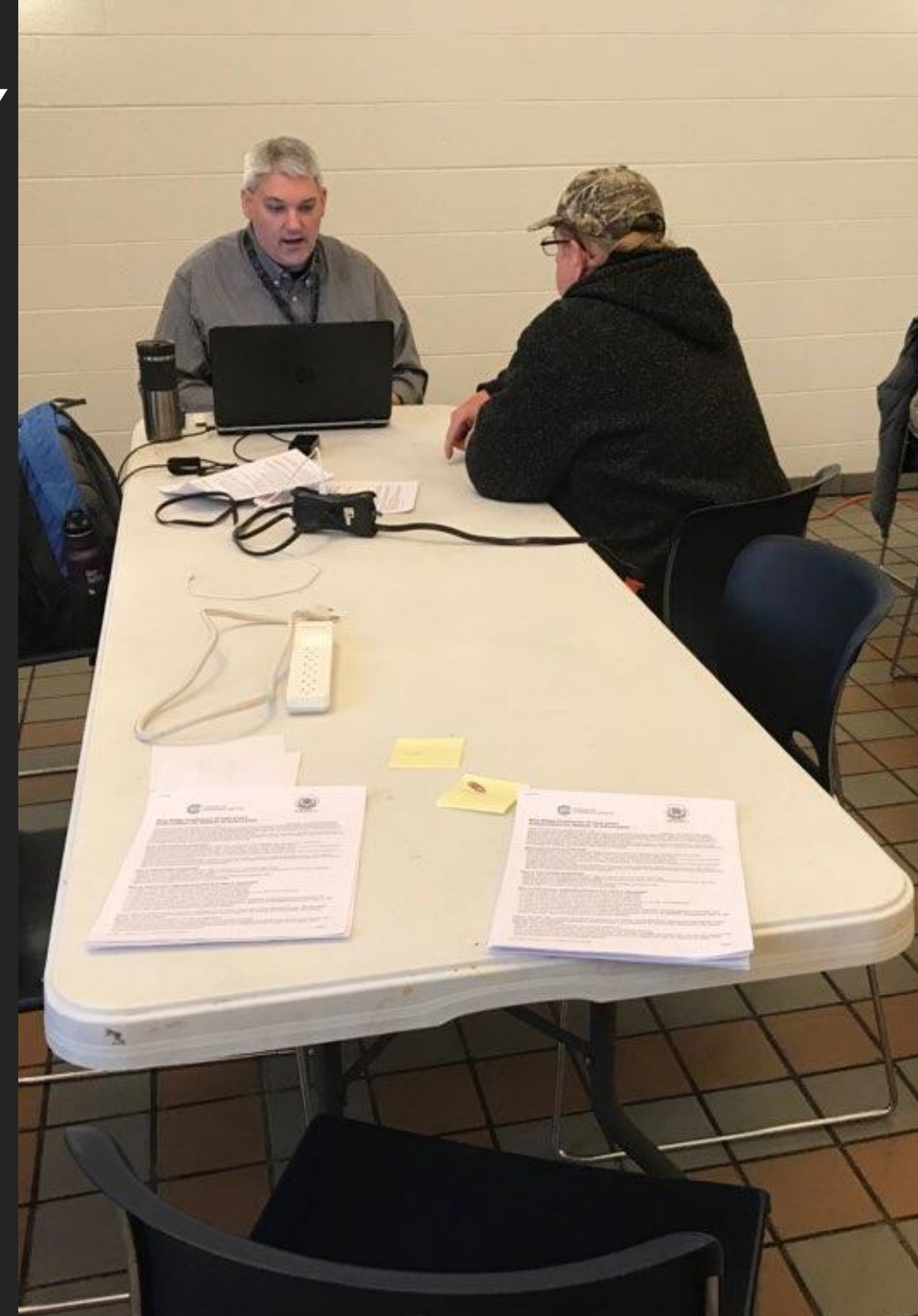


KEY FINDINGS

- 276 people were experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC decreased by 13.5%. (319 in 2019 and 276 in 2020).
- A majority, 89.1%, (246) were staying in emergency shelters, and 10.9% (30) were in unsheltered locations.
- Of those experiencing homelessness, 13.4% (37) were children, 80.1% (221) were over the age of 24, and 5.8% (16) were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Homelessness increased among people staying in unsheltered locations by 100%. (15 in 2019 and 30 in 2020).
- A trend of decreasing numbers over the past eight years in the Blue Ridge CoC shows our high-water mark count in 2012 was 561. The count has decreased by 50.8% since 2012.

HOMELESSNESS BY SUBPOPULATION

- 30 veterans were experiencing homelessness, representing a decrease of 26.8% over 2019 (41).
- Twenty-nine (29) veterans were homeless in households without children, and one was in a household with children. Three veterans were chronically homeless, and one was unsheltered.
- There were 44 individuals in households without children with chronic patterns of homelessness. There were no chronically homeless families with children.
- Chronic homelessness decreased by 29% between 2019 (62) and 2020 (44). Chronic homelessness has decreased by 70.1 percent since 2012 (149).
- There were 14 unaccompanied homeless youth between the ages of 18 and 24 counted in 2020 (all were sheltered).
- There were 5 individuals in two parenting youth households (2 youth), all were sheltered.



WHERE INDIVIDUALS WERE STAYING

Program	Number of individuals in families	Number of individuals in households without children	Number of veterans	Number of chronically homeless	Number of youth	Total number of individuals
ARCH BRBH	0	1	0	1	0	1
ARCH Families and Single Women	0	10	0	2	3	10
ARCH Veterans Housing/GPD Contract	0	11	11	1	0	11
Family Promise Housing for Families with Children	10	0	1	0	0	10
Rescue Mission Men's Shelter & Male Respite	0	114	16	19	8	114
Rescue Mission Women & Children's Center (WCC)	36	47	1	13	5	83
Safe Home Systems	7	0	0	0	0	7
Turning Point	10	0	0	0	0	10
Unsheltered	0	30	1	8	0	30
Totals	63	213	30	44	16	276



HOME TOGETHER: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

The Blue Ridge Continuum of Care's alignment with and progress against goals and priorities set forth in the Federal plan to end homelessness: 2012-2020

STRATEGIC GOALS AND RESULTS ACHIEVED 2012 - 2020

Goal One: To end homelessness among Veterans

Results since 2012: 58.3% reduction in Veteran homelessness – from 72 to 30

Goal Two: To end chronic homelessness among people with disabilities

Results since 2012: 70.5% reduction in chronic homelessness from 149 to 44

Goal Three: To end homelessness among families with children

Results since 2012: 52% reduction – from 50 families to 24

Goal Four: To end homelessness among all other individuals

Results since 2012: 50.8% reduction – from 561 to 276



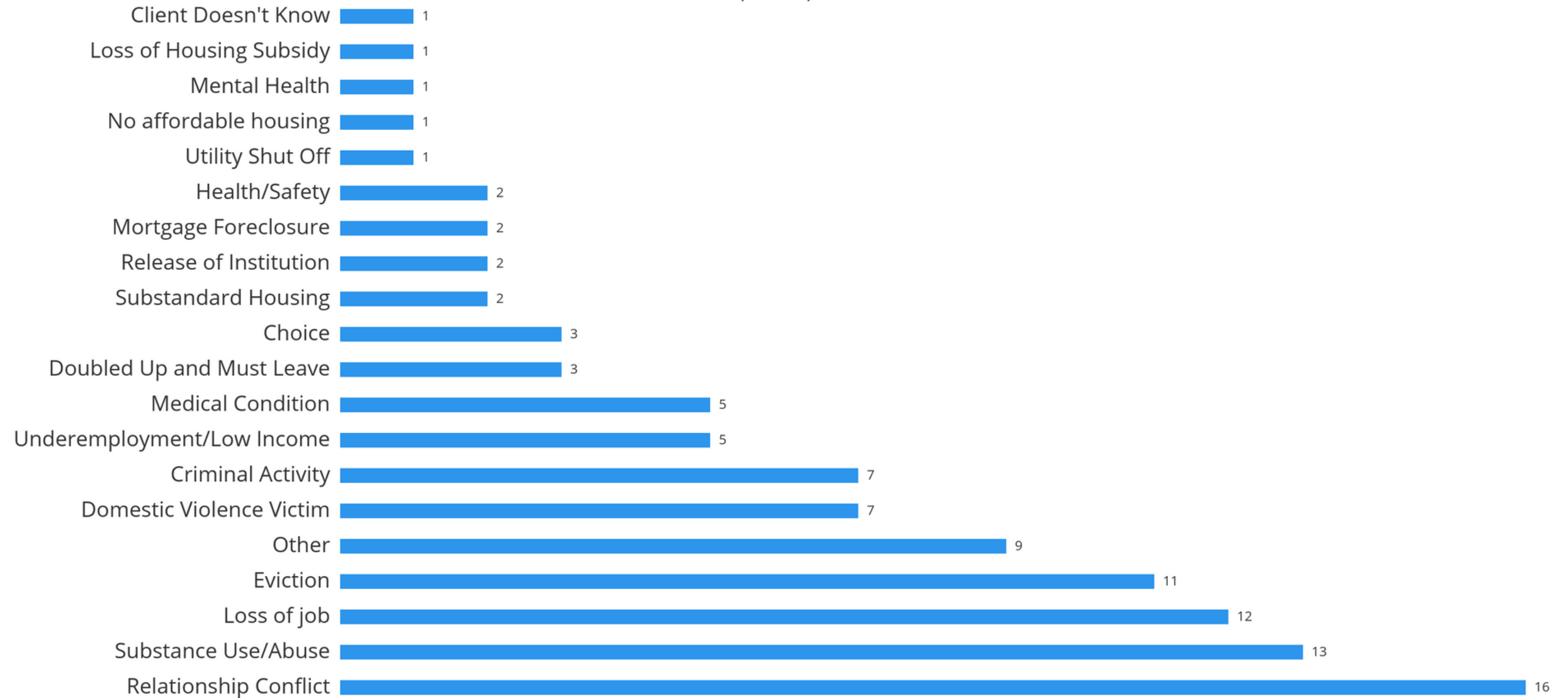
2020 Point-in-Time Survey

- There were 237 individuals and households that were eligible to participate in the survey.
- Of those, 57.4% (136) chose to participate in at least a portion of the survey.
- Two versions (Single Adult and Family) of the Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) v2.0 were used as survey instruments in addition to a 24-question supplemental survey designed to capture additional data regarding characteristics.
- The average VI-SPDAT score for single adults was 5.6 (out of 17); 6 average in 2019.
- The average VI-SPDAT score for families was 5.4 (out of 22); 6.8 average in 2019.



PRIMARY REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS

(n=104)



2020 Point-in-Time Survey Findings

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Singles: 59 of 123 (48%) indicated that it had been one year or more since living in permanent stable housing (44.3% in 2019)
- Families: 2 of 11 (18.2%) responded that it have been one year or more since living in permanent stable housing (31.6% in 2019)
- Singles: 28 of 124 (22.6%) reported having 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years; compared to 28 of 106 (26.8%) in 2019. Eight individuals reported having more than 10 episodes of homelessness in the last three years.
- Families: 0 of 11 reported having 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last year; 5 of 19 (19.2%) reported the same in 2019

INCARCERATION

- 100% (15 of 30) of unsheltered individuals that answered this question reported a history of jail incarcerations
- 77.9% (106 of 136) of all individuals surveyed reported a history of jail incarcerations (67.2% in 2019)
- 26.5% (36 of the 136) of all individuals reported having been to prison (22.9% in 2019)

2020 Point-in-Time Survey

Findings (continued)

INCOME & EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

- 80.6% of survey respondents reported having a High School diploma/GED or higher (62.9% in 2019)
- 19.4% of respondents reported not having a High School diploma/GED (17.7% in 2019)
- 6% of respondents reported being a college graduate or having a post-graduate degree (2.3% in 2019)
- 38.5% individuals reported having some form of income (40.6% in 2019; 44.6% in 2018)

HEALTH CARE AND EMERGENCY ROOM USAGE

- In 2020, 88.6% (124 responses of 140) reported having some form of health insurance (72.5% in 2019)
- 39 of 136 (28.7%) individuals and families participating in the VI-SPDAT survey reported receiving health care at an emergency room 3 or more times in the last six months, compared to 20% in 2019
 - These individuals used the ER a total of 146 times in six months (compared to 106 times in 2019)

2020 Point-in-Time Survey Findings (continued)

DISABILITES

- 16.4% (23 of 140 individuals) reported having a permanent physical disability (22.7% in 2019)

BECOMING HOMELESS IN ROANOKE

- 82 of the 137 responses (59.9%) individuals participating in the supplemental survey reported living inside of the Continuum of Care's service area prior to becoming homeless (58.4% in 2019)
- 38% individuals reporting living outside the CoC's service area prior to becoming homeless came from other states; 62% came from other parts of Virginia



CONCLUSION

Homelessness in the Roanoke Region decreased by 13.5% in 2020. The overall count has decreased by 50.8% since 2012 (561).

Several significant achievements: the number of homeless families decreased by 7.7% this year over last; the number of homeless children under age 18 decreased 21.3%; the number of Veterans decreased by 26.8%; the number of chronically homeless decreased by 29%; homelessness among African-Americans decreased by 23.8% (homelessness among White individuals decreased by 3.7%).

The number of individuals reporting to be covered by health insurance increased from 72.5% last year to 88.6% % this year.





**Blue Ridge
Continuum of Care**
A Place to Call Home



**COUNCIL OF
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QUESTIONS?

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