

# 2021 Point-in-Time Report



# About this Report

- Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of the sheltered and unsheltered occur annually and are conducted by the Blue Ridge Interagency Council of Homelessness (BRICH).
- Service providers from HAT, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, the Salem VA Medical Center, and a Radford MSW intern conducted the unsheltered count on January 27, 2021.
- Data provides valuable information to area service providers, policymakers, and the general public on challenges and barriers associated with homelessness.

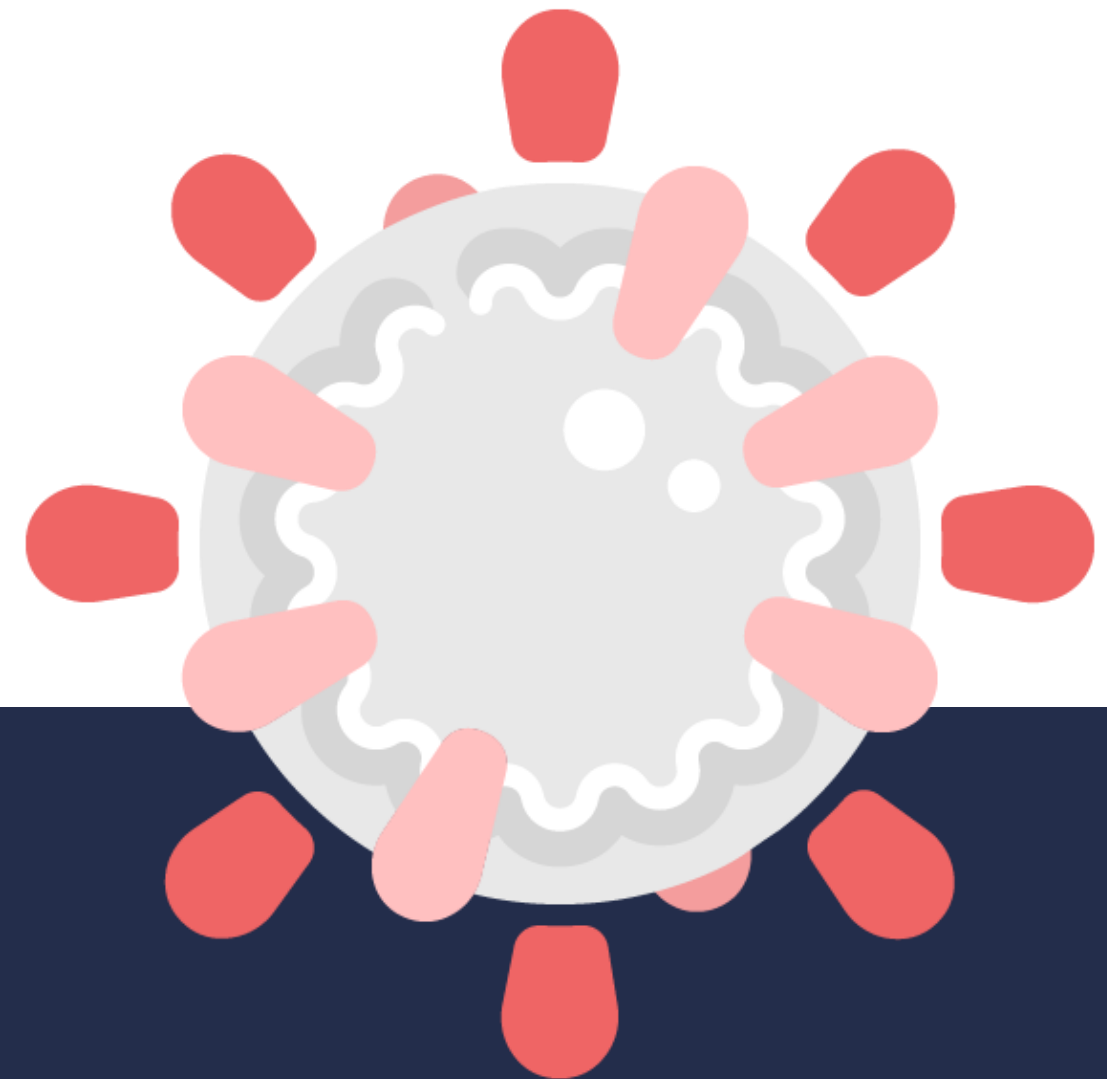


- This report includes demographic characteristics for people experiencing homelessness.
- This report uses hard count and survey data obtained directly from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for all emergency shelter providers (excluding DV).



# Methodology

- This year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the full, voluntary survey, including the use of the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), was not conducted in an effort to minimize close contact between individuals being surveyed and volunteers.
- Instead, an abbreviated survey was used by the two street outreach teams conducting the unsheltered count. The teams visited the same number of sites as in previous years but with limited staff and no volunteers.
- A copy of the survey has been included in the full report.



# PIT Count Key Findings

- 250 people were experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC.
- A majority, 95.2%, (238) were staying in emergency shelters; 4.8% (12) were in unsheltered locations.
- Of those experiencing homelessness, 14% (35) were children, 84.4% (211) were over the age of 24; 1.2% (3) were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- The number of people experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC has decreased by 55.4% since 2012.

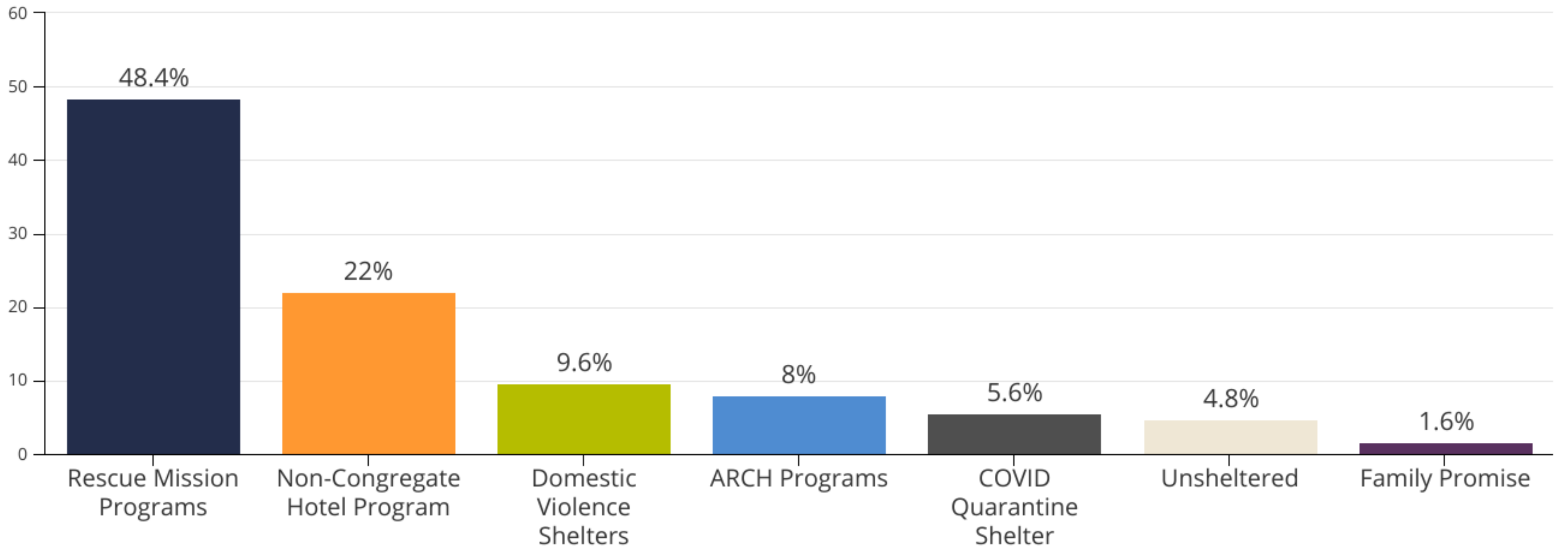


# Homeless by Subpopulation

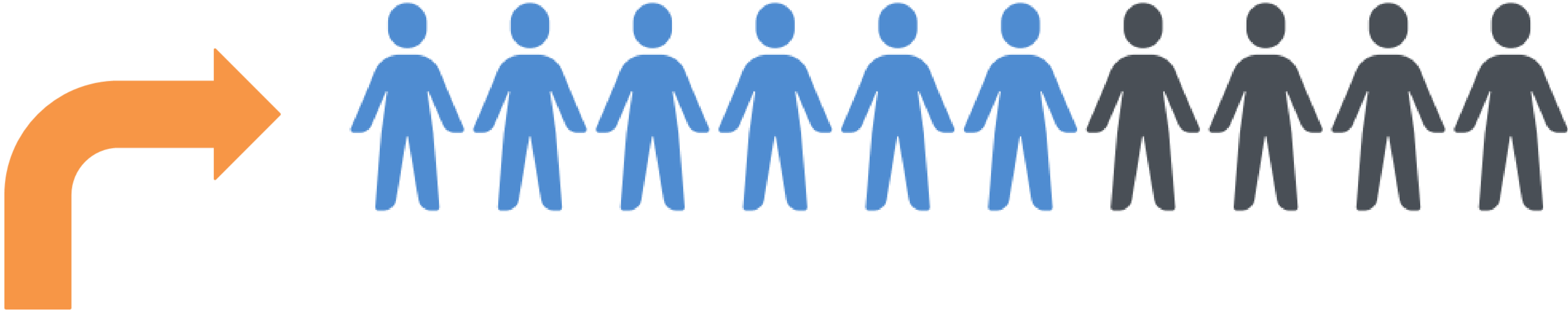
- 27 veterans were experiencing homelessness, representing a decrease of 6.9% over 2020.
- All veterans were homeless in households without children (as individuals), two were unsheltered and seven were identified as chronically homeless.
- Fifty-six individuals were identified as chronically homeless in the 2021 count.
- In 2021, there were 17 families experiencing homelessness, a decrease of 66% from 2012.



## 2021 Percentage Served by Program



# Disabling Conditions and Health Insurance



58.4% of individuals counted in the PIT reported having a disabling condition.

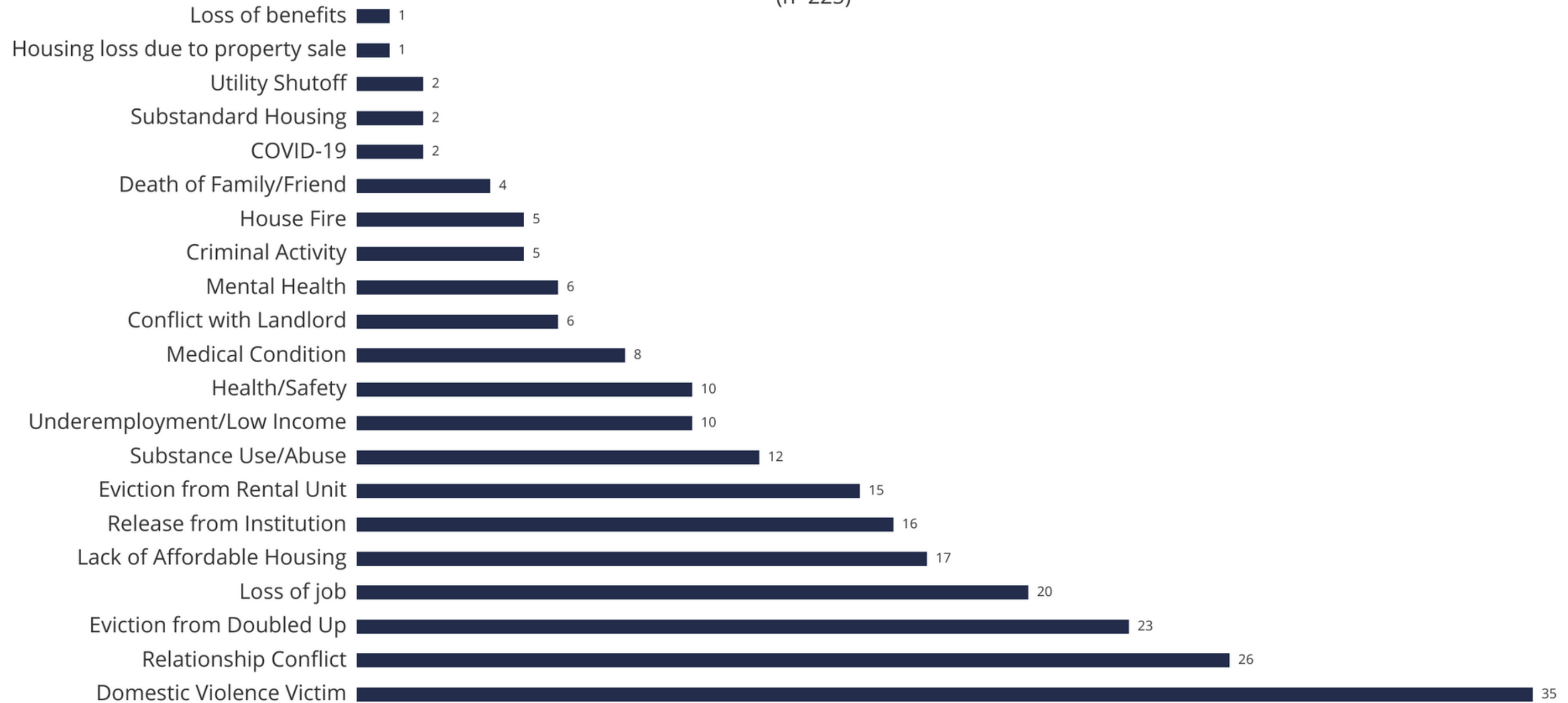
75.6% of individuals counted in the PIT reported having some form of health insurance.





# Primary Reason for Homelessness

(n=225)



## **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: 2012-2021.

# Strategic Goals and Results Achieved 2012 – 2021

**Goal One: To end homelessness among Veterans:**

62.5% reduction in Veteran homelessness – from 72 to 27

**Goal Two: To end chronic homelessness among people with disabilities**

62.4% reduction in chronic homelessness from 149 to 56

**Goal Three: To end homelessness among families with children**

66% reduction – from 50 families to 17

**Goal Four: To end homelessness among all other individuals**

55.4% reduction – from 561 to 250



# Conclusion

Homelessness in the Roanoke Region decreased by 9.4% in 2021. The overall count has decreased by 55.4% since 2012 (561).

Several significant achievements: the number of homeless families decreased by 29.2% this year over last; the number of homeless children under age 18 decreased 5.4%; the number of Veterans decreased by 10.0%; the number of unaccompanied homeless youth decreased by 81.3%; homelessness among African-Americans decreased by 17.2% (homelessness among White individuals decreased by 4.5%).

Chronic homelessness increased by 27.3% in 2021, likely the result of individuals staying in the homeless services system longer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Questions?

## **Matt Crookshank**

Human Services Administrator

City of Roanoke

(540) 312-8301

[matthew.crookshank@roanokeva.gov](mailto:matthew.crookshank@roanokeva.gov)

## **Alison Jorgensen**

Vice President of Planning

Council of Community Services

(540) 521-0312

[alisonj@councilofcommunityservices.org](mailto:alisonj@councilofcommunityservices.org)

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT:**

[www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org](http://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org)