

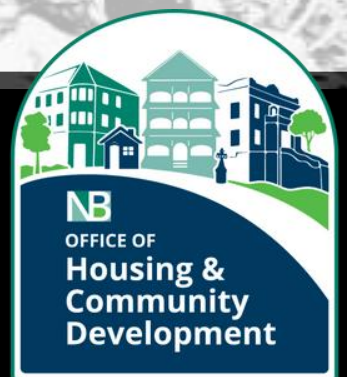
2025 HOMELESSNESS IN THE BRISTOL COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Point In Time Census and Analytics



Prepared for the MA-505 CoC by the City of New Bedford
Office of Housing & Community Development

Joshua Amaral, Director



Overview

- Executive Summary
- Baseline Information
- Statistical Highlights
- Housing Inventory
- 2025 Take Aways

Although this presentation approaches some discussion as to patterns and trending revealed by the 2025 annual data collection, it is not intended to supplant a more robust discussion about performance and response to homelessness.



Executive Summary

Given the 2024 merger between the New Bedford Continuum of Care and the former Greater Bristol County/Attleboro/Taunton Coalition to end Homelessness (GBCATCH), the **Point In Time (PIT) Count** and **Housing Inventory Count (HIC)** conducted in January 2025 is the first-time data from the entire region has officially been captured and recorded.

Because each CoC had distinct ways of presenting and understanding its data in the past, information around trending over time (beyond some limited 2024 data that was combined) is not available for the newly merged CoC.



*Of
note...*

NOTE: The Bristol County Continuum of Care (MA-505 or "BCCC") is comprised of all cities and towns within Bristol County with the exception of Fall River which is its own Continuum of Care.

Executive Summary

	EMERGENCY SHELTERS	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, ETC.	CoC TOTAL
Total Number of Housing Units Available	322	58	372	752
Total Number of Beds Available	1,081	84	674	1,839
Overall PIT Count	1,010	78	641	1,729
Utilization Rates	93%	93%	95%	94%

Baseline Information

Baseline Information

- Point In Time (PIT) focuses on people
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) focuses on beds
- Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is required to undertake a PIT Count by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). It is a census of those unsheltered and living on the streets and those in emergency shelters and transitional housing. The PIT is a sampling of what homelessness might look like in the **MA-505 CoC** on any given day.
- Across the country, the PIT is generally undertaken on the last Wednesday of January, consistent with federal guidelines. In the Bristol County CoC (BCCCC) the count was conducted on Wednesday, January 29th 2025.

Baseline Information



This is the first year that reflects data from the newly merged MA-505 CoC. Although the two former CoCs both conducted PIT counts independent of one another in past years, given their 2024 merger into MA-505, the 2025 PIT and HIC is the first formal attempt reflecting combined efforts and data.

Baseline Information

- The 2025 PIT involved many people who participated in preparing for, conducting the count and gathering information:

Throughout New Bedford:

Steppingstone Street Outreach Team

Throughout Dartmouth:

Matt Dansereau - Council on Aging

Throughout the Balance of Bristol County:

- CCBC's Housing Team, Coordinated Entry Team, Peer Recovery Center staff, Community Support Team and BHCP Team
- Dan Joyce, St. Vincent dePaul
- Manet Community Health Center
- Our Daily Bread
- Laura Branco - Comprehensive Tx Center
- Cory Nelson - Manet
- Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative (AAIC)
- Emergency shelter and transitional housing personnel for their respective facilities across the MA-505 CoC

...and Volunteers behind the scenes

who coordinated, collected donations, filled backpacks that were provided to unsheltered folks encountered during the PIT Count.

Statistical Highlights

Statistical Highlights

Overall Counts



Statistical Highlights

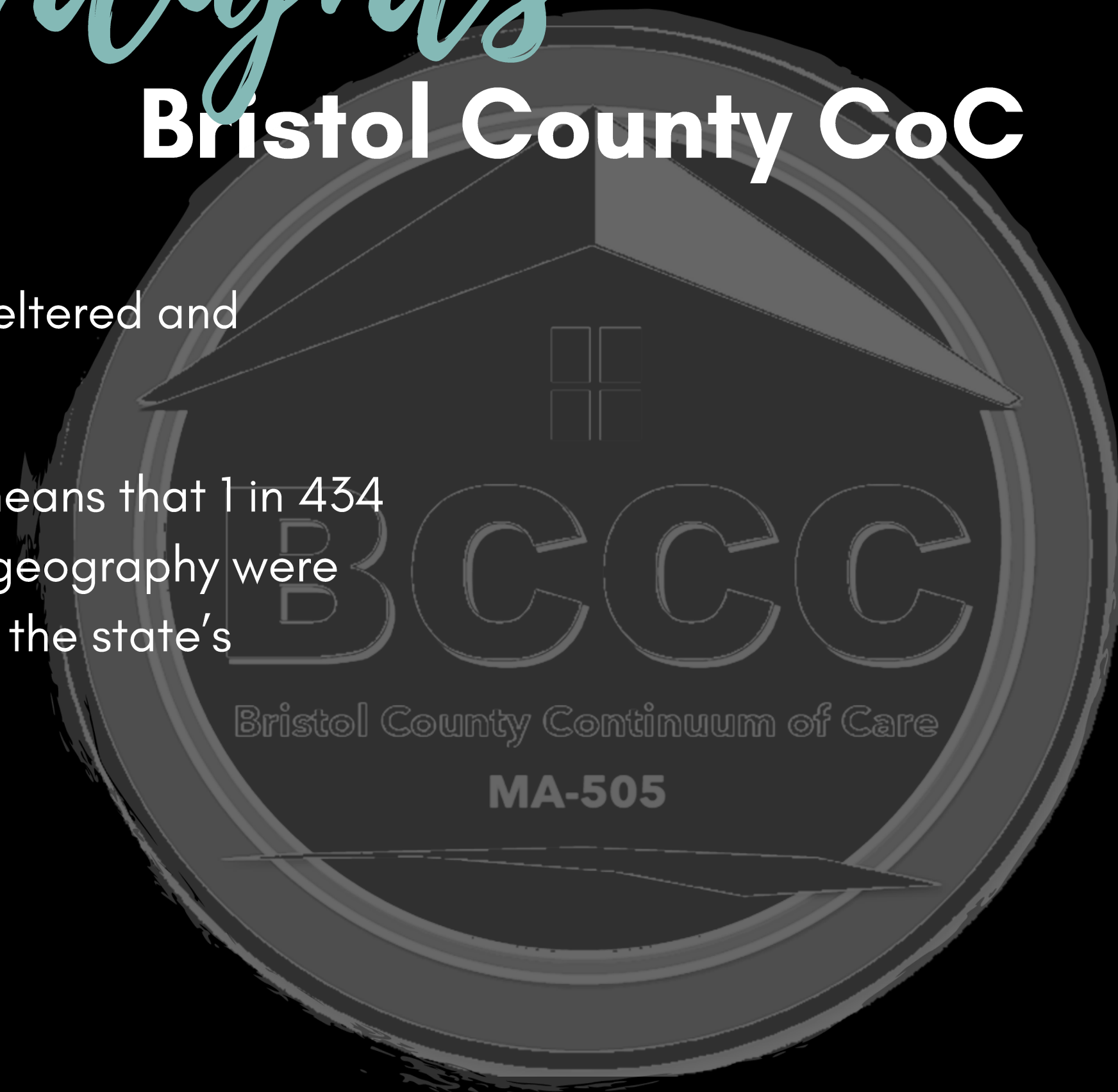
Massachusetts

- Homelessness is a growing problem across Massachusetts, with the state's annual homeless count in 2024 finding 29,435 people (roughly **26 per 10,000 residents**) experiencing homelessness, 54% higher than the previous year (19,107). It is anticipated that the 2025 figures will again show an increase.
- Of particular concern is Massachusetts' increased numbers that revealed a **74% increase in family homelessness, the highest rate in the country.**
- When contrasting such high numbers one finds that of those experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts, a relatively low percentage of those individuals and families are unsheltered.

Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

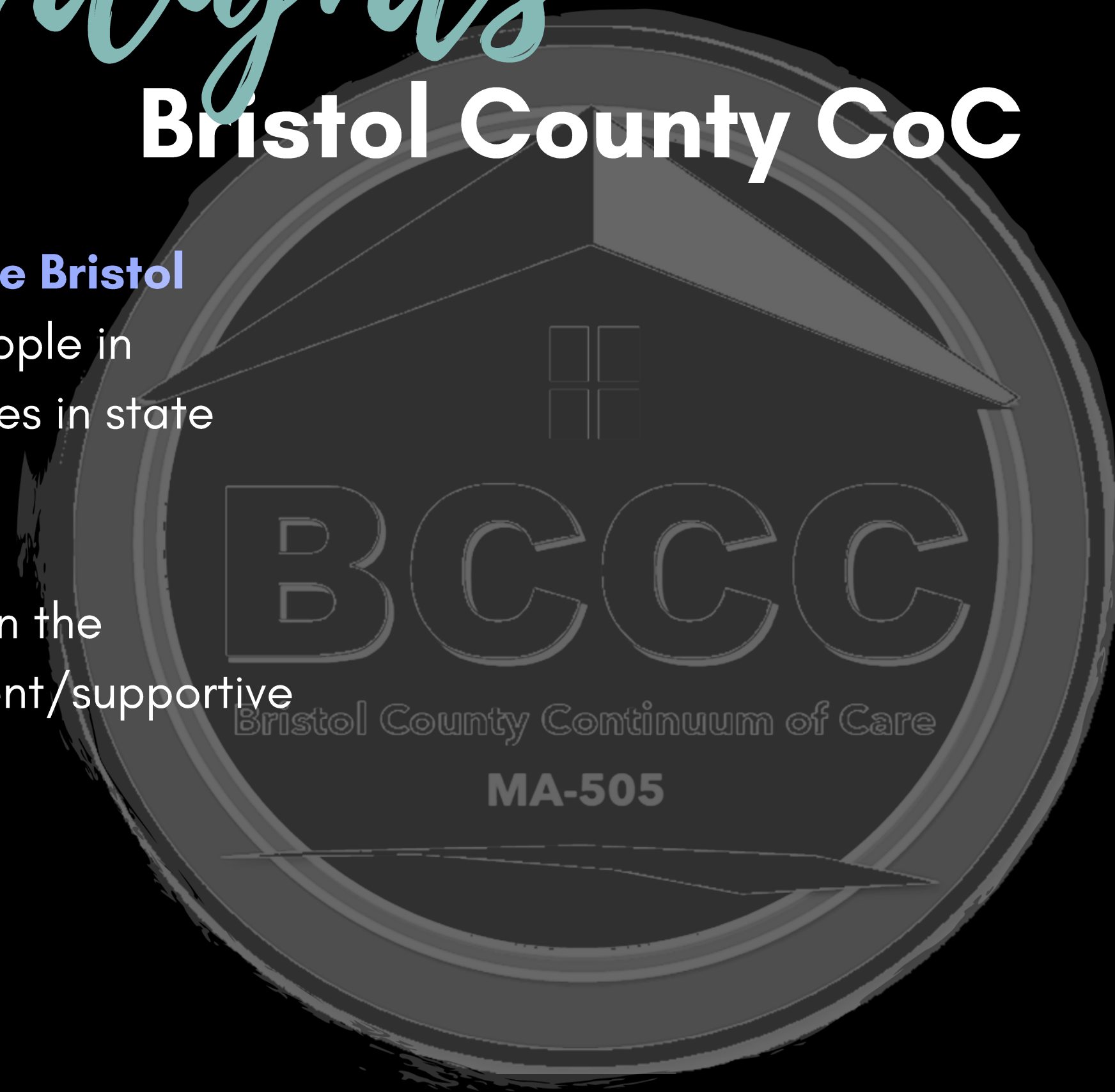
- **The 2025 PIT Count identified 1,130 people**, both sheltered and unsheltered, throughout the Bristol County CoC.
- Given the population within the BCCC in 2025, this means that 1 in 434 people (roughly **23 per 10,000 residents**) the CoC's geography were counted as experiencing homelessness, slightly below the state's average.



Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

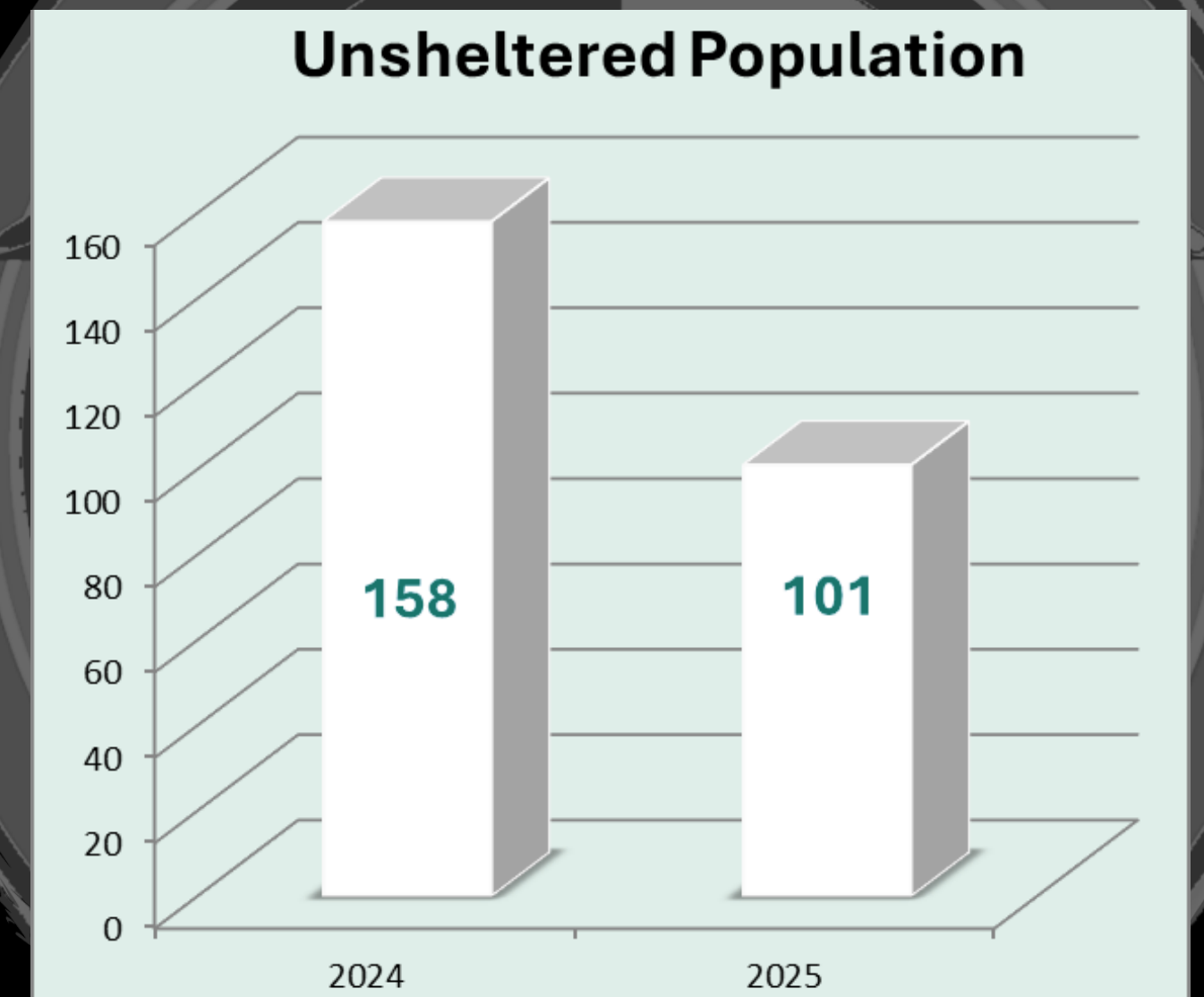
- **The 1,130 people experiencing homelessness in the Bristol County CoC** includes 101 unsheltered people, 951 people in emergency shelters (549 or 57% of whom were families in state hotels) and 78 people in transitional housing.
- The 1,130 figure does not include the 641 people within the Continuum who were living in some form of permanent/supportive housing.



Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

- **UNSHELTERED** PIT Count numbers from 2025 compared with those collected in 2024 shows a 36% decrease between 2024 and 2025.
- This decrease can be attributed, however, to the availability of the cold weather overflow shelter that was open in 2025 but that was not open during the 2024 count.



Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

The number of unsheltered people does not include 63 folks who were staying in the CoC's overflow shelters the night of the Count. Following federal guidelines, those individuals were counted as being in Emergency Shelter that night.

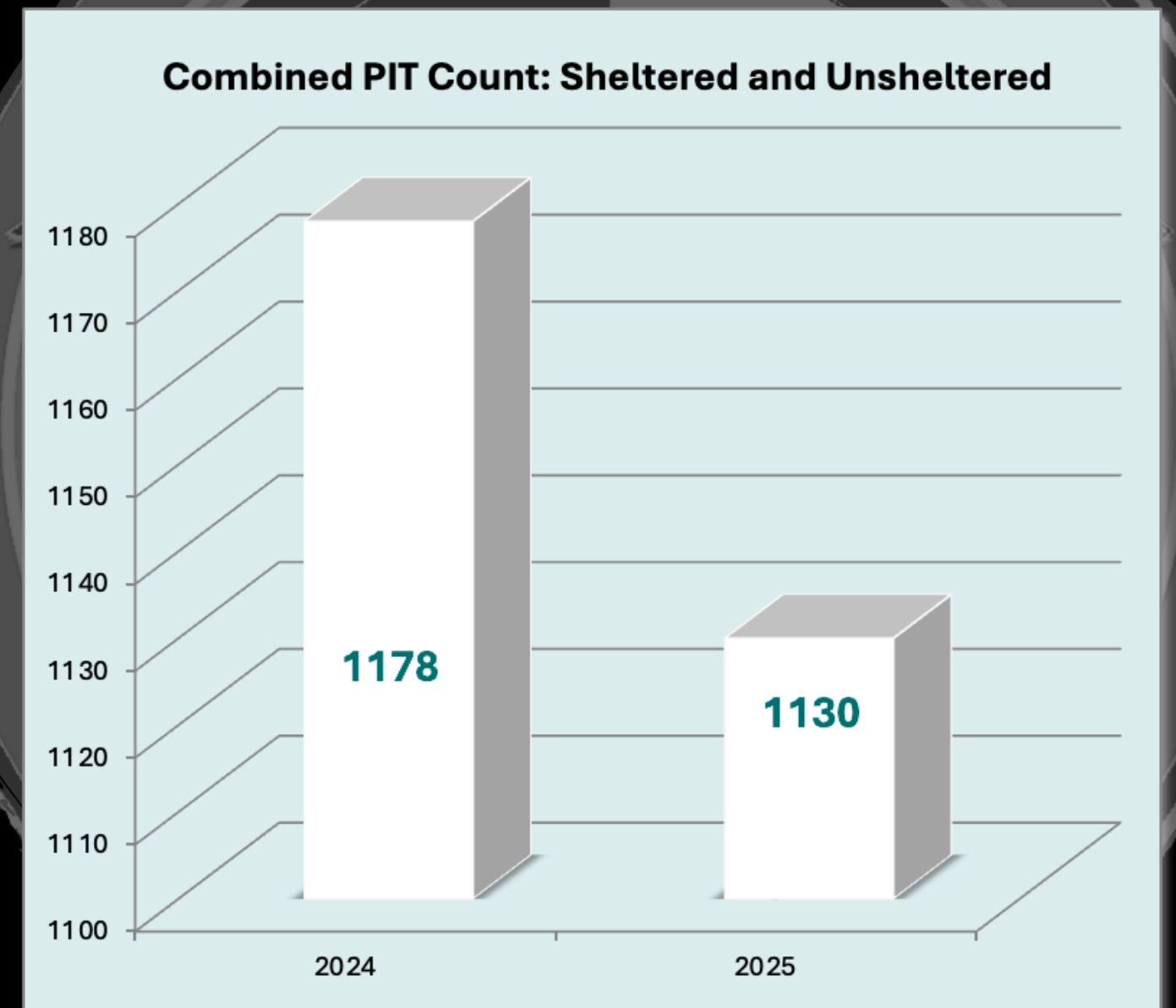
*Cf
note...*

Poor weather on the night of the 2025 Count meant the cold weather overflow shelter was open. Having the overflow shelter open meant that many who are typically unsheltered were unable to stay indoors that night resulting in a lower unsheltered count than may have existed had it been a warmer night.

Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

- The **COMBINED SHELTERED and UNSHELTERED PIT Count** number for 2025 of 1,130 is less than the 1,178 combined count undertaken in 2024.
- The Total PIT Count was 4% lower than the Total Point In Time Count conducted last year.



Statistical Highlights

Households



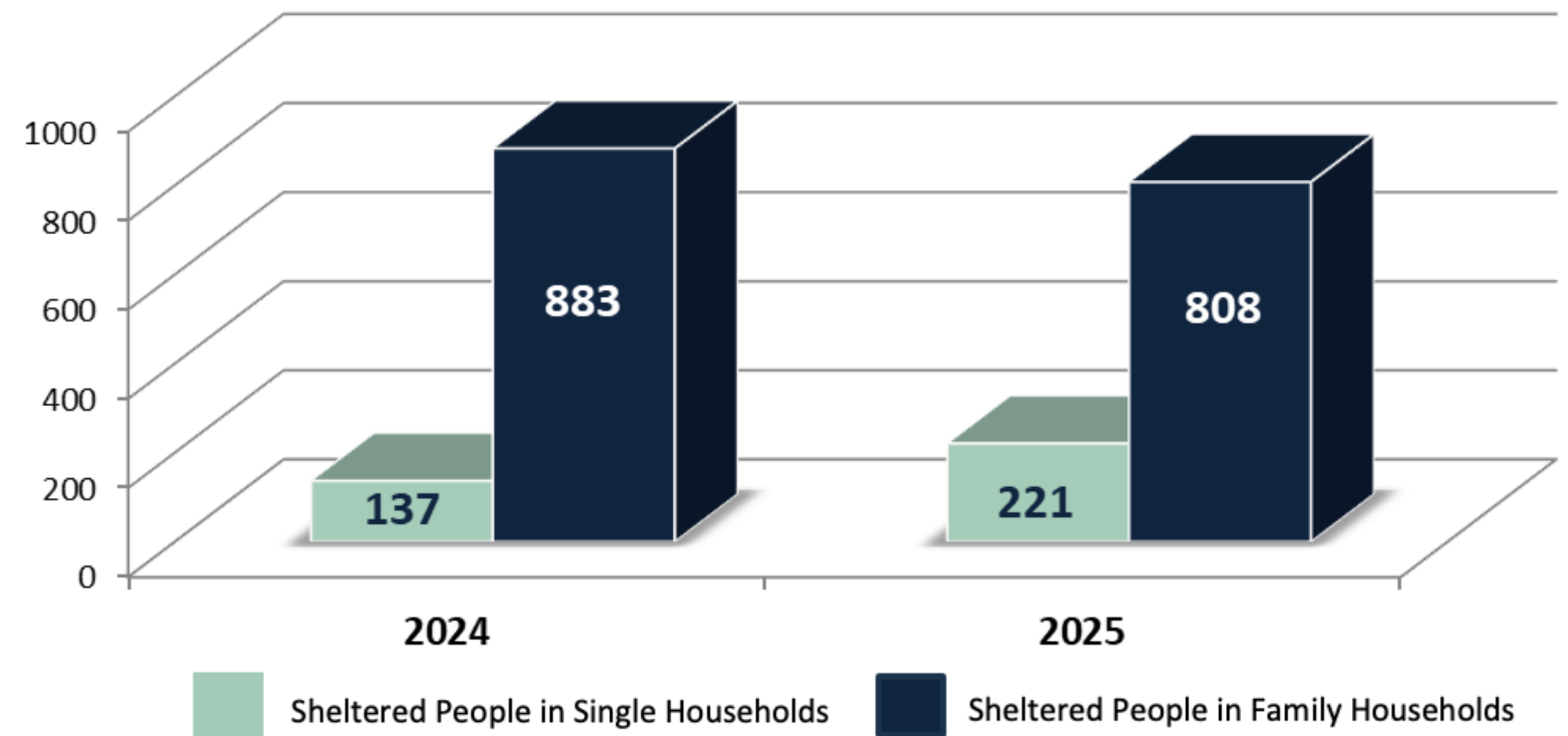
Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

People

Persons (Adult-only
Individuals) and Adult-only
Individual Households
compared with Persons in
Families and Family
Households

Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons in Adult-Only Households compared
with Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons in Households with Children

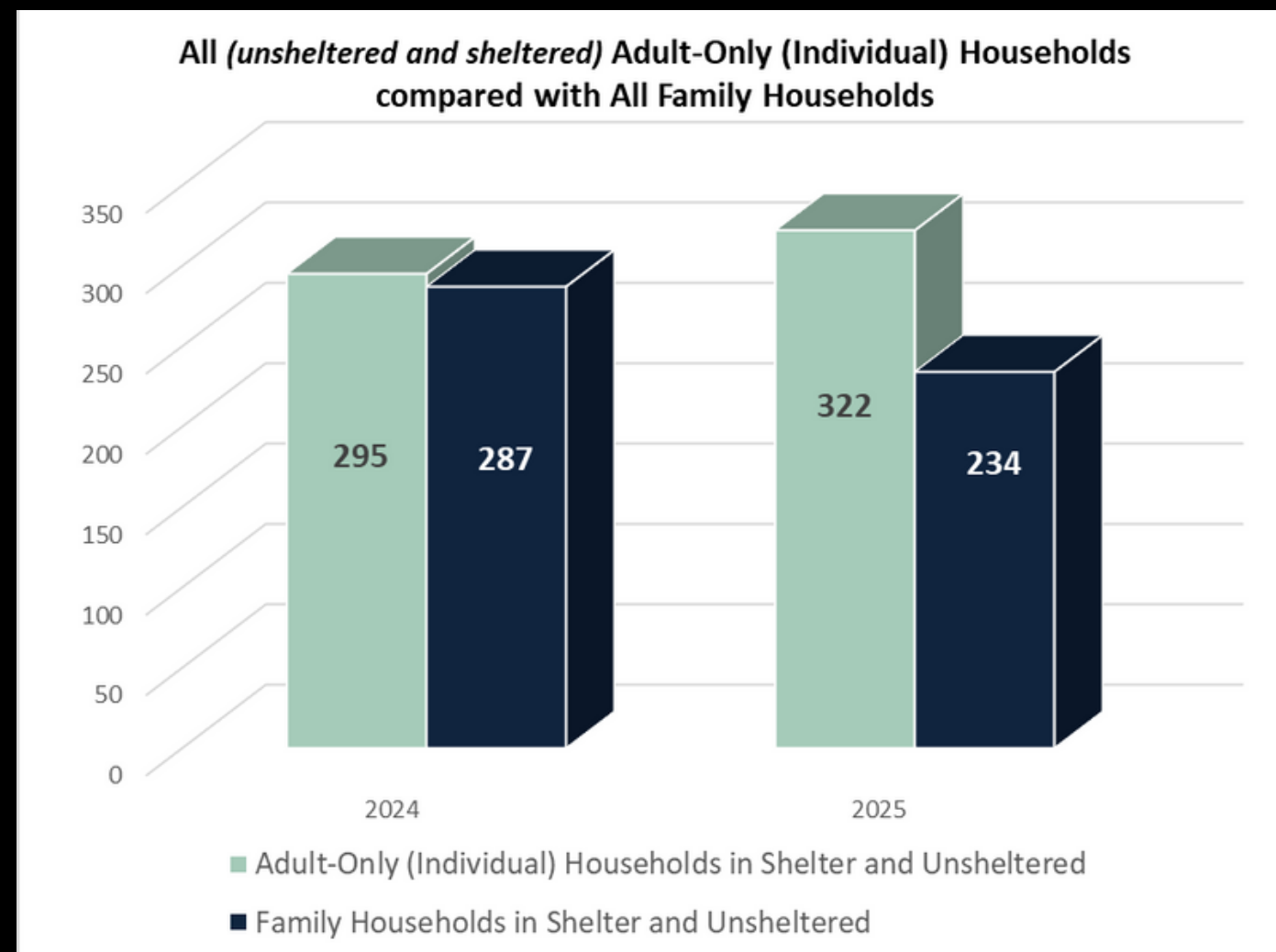


Statistical Highlights

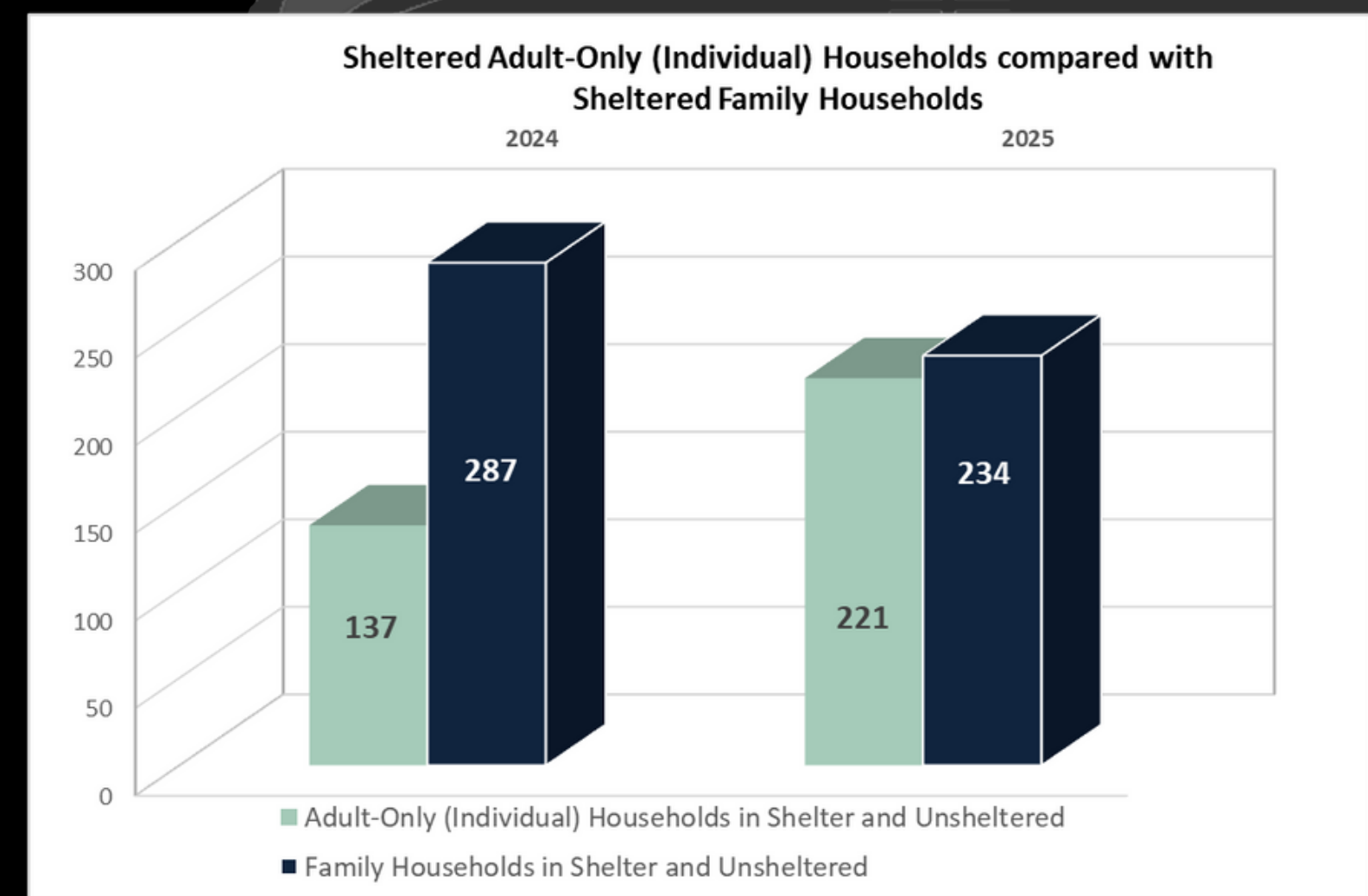
Bristol County CoC

Adult-only Individual Households compared with Family Households

Sheltered and Unsheltered (All) Households



Sheltered Only Households



Statistical Highlights

Chronic Homelessness



Statistical Highlights

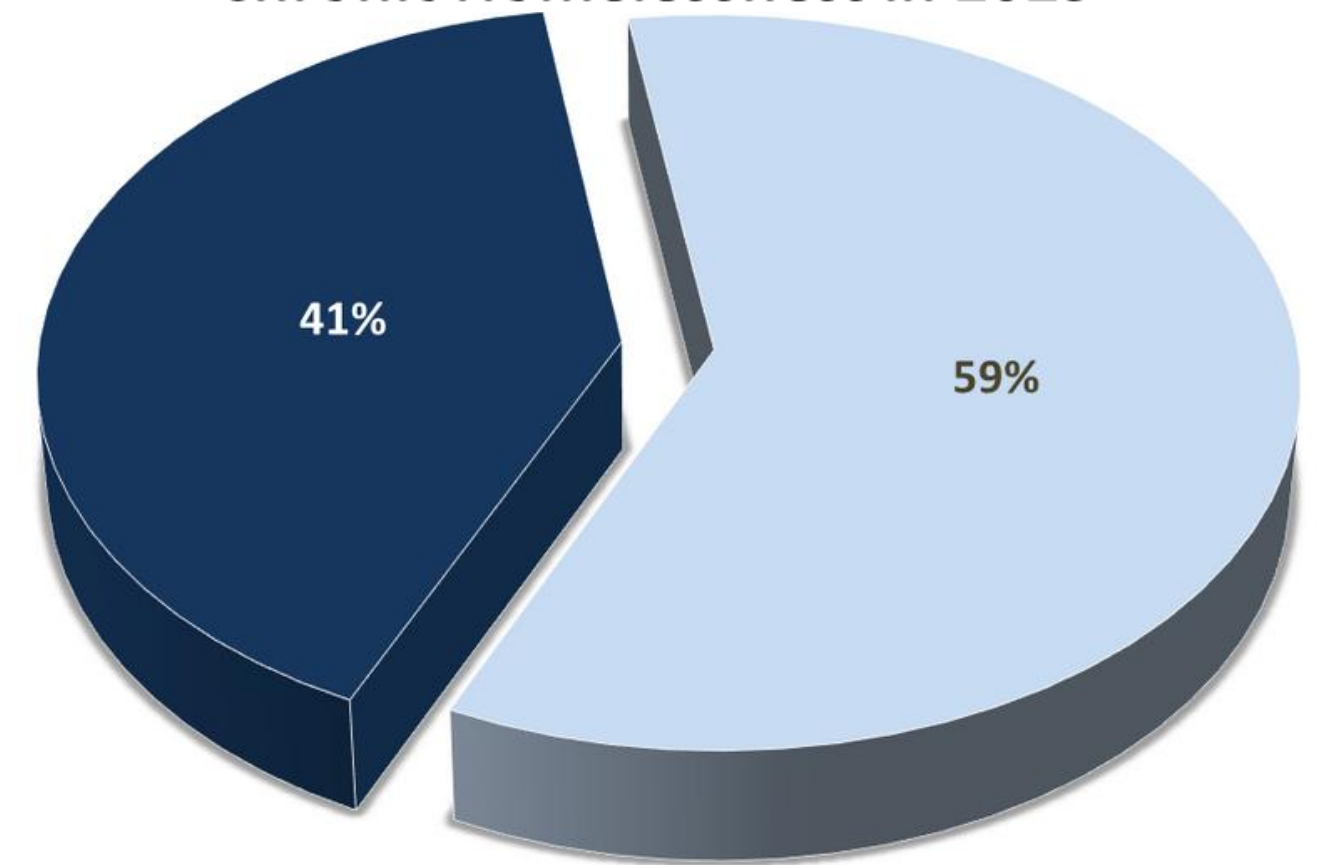
Bristol County CoC

Those unsheltered identifying as chronically homeless...

Roughly 41% of those who were unsheltered were identified as being chronically homeless in 2025's PIT.

In 2024, almost half of those counted on the streets (48%) were chronically homeless.

Unsheltered Persons who were experiencing Chronic Homelessness in 2025



■ Unsheltered Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

■ Unsheltered Non-Chronic

Statistical Highlights

Bristol County CoC

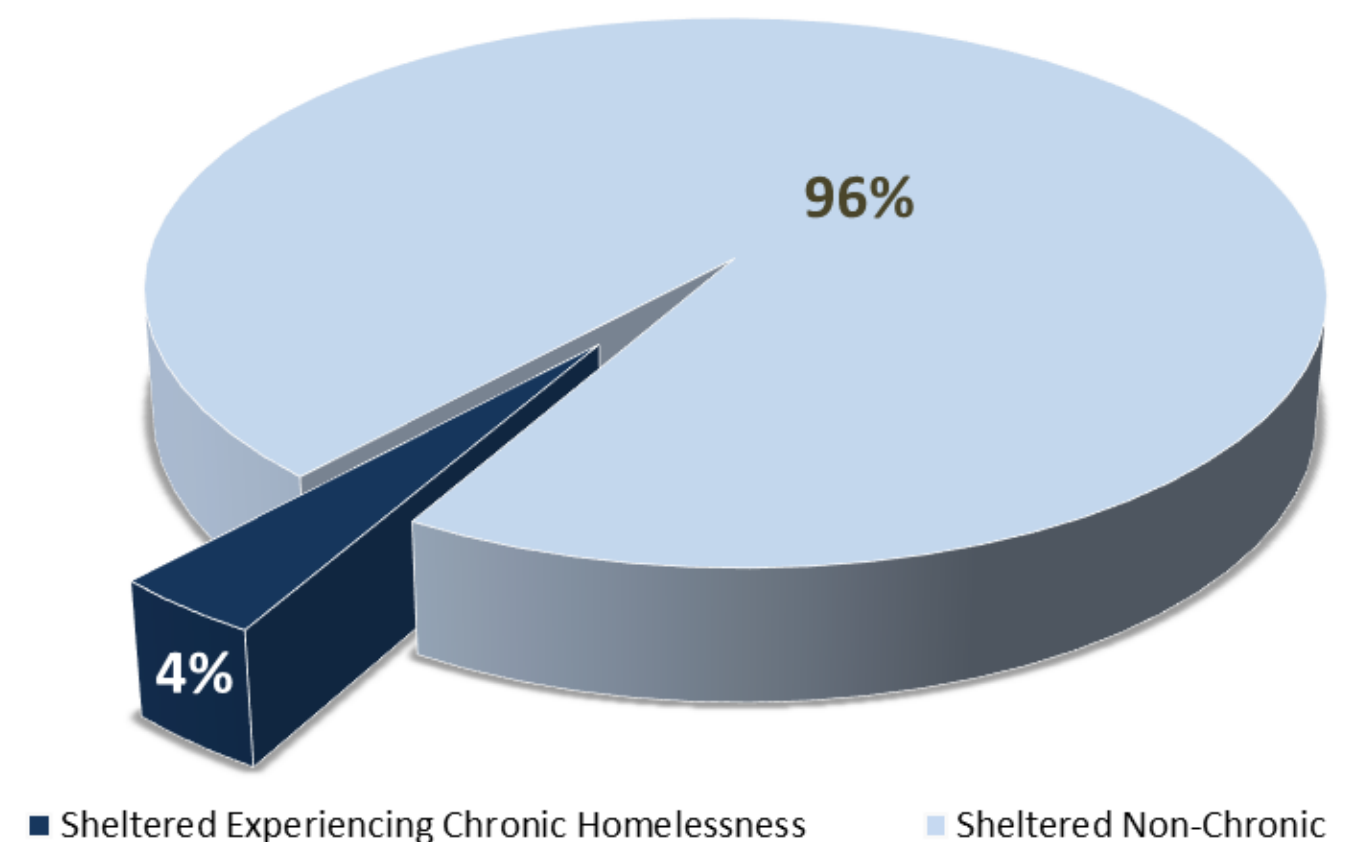
Those living in shelter who are chronically homeless...

Although in 2024, 16% of those in shelter were chronically homeless in 2025 only 4% of those living in shelter were identified as being chronically homeless. All of those identified as chronic were in Emergency Shelter. (*Nobody in Transitional Housing was identified as being chronically homeless.*)

Of the 544 people in the State-run Family Emergency Shelters, just 13 were identified as chronic (2%).

Chronically homeless individuals are disproportionately unsheltered and are far more likely to be living on the streets rather than in shelters.

Sheltered Persons who were experiencing Chronic Homelessness in 2025



Statistical Highlights

Subpopulations



Statistical Highlights

2024	SELF IDENTIFIED CONDITIONS*	EMERGENCY SHELTERS	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, ETC.	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL COC 2024
Key Subpopulation Insights	Serious Mental Health Issues	62	4	147	99	312
	Substance Use Disorder	22	4	66	71	163
	Victim/Survivor Domestic Violence	44	9	40	9	102

**NOTE: Not all individuals self-identified, and of those that did, some may have self-identified as having one or multiple conditions; because of this, these figures will not add up to the total number of people counted.*

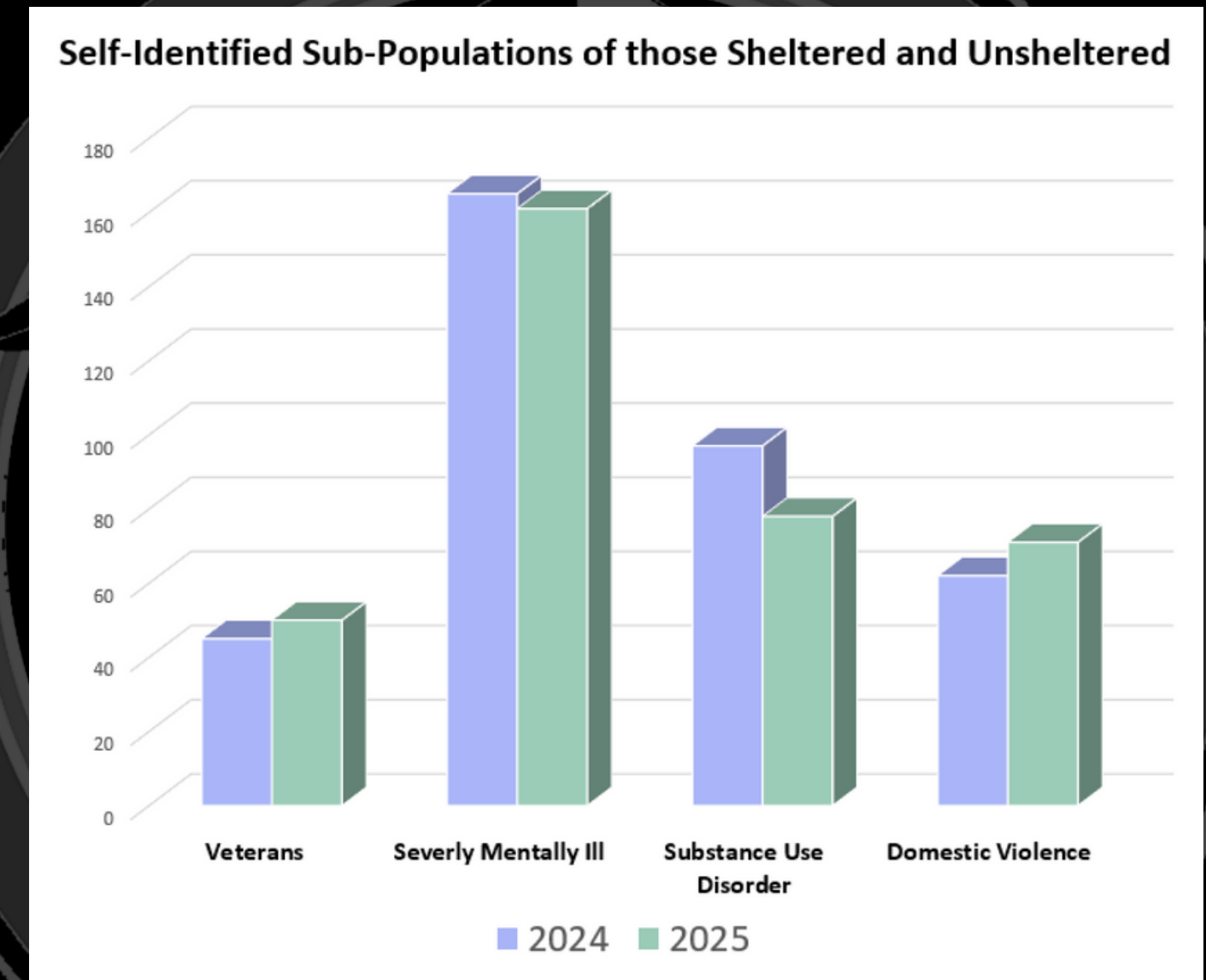
Statistical Highlights

2025	SELF IDENTIFIED CONDITIONS*	EMERGENCY SHELTERS	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, ETC.	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL COC 2025
Key Subpopulation Insights	Serious Mental Health Issues	77	15	154	69	315
	Substance Use Disorder	21	13	54	44	132
	Victim/Survivor Domestic Violence	55	9	39	7	110

**NOTE: Not all individuals self-identified, and of those that did, some may have self-identified as having one or multiple conditions; because of this, these figures will not add up to the total number of people counted.*

Statistical Highlights

- **Across the board**, those self-identifying as having lived experience with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) have continued to be the most prevalent self-identified subpopulation, identifying at a rate over double that of the next highest group, those living with addiction (Substance Use Disorder – SUD).
- Among those who were **unsheltered** at the time of the PIT Count, those identifying as having experience with SMI was almost one and a half times more common than those with SUD.
- Of those in **Emergency Shelters** during the 2025 Count, domestic violence victims/survivors identified at a rate almost double that of those with lived experience of SUDs while those with SMI identified at a rate of 171% higher than those with SUDs.

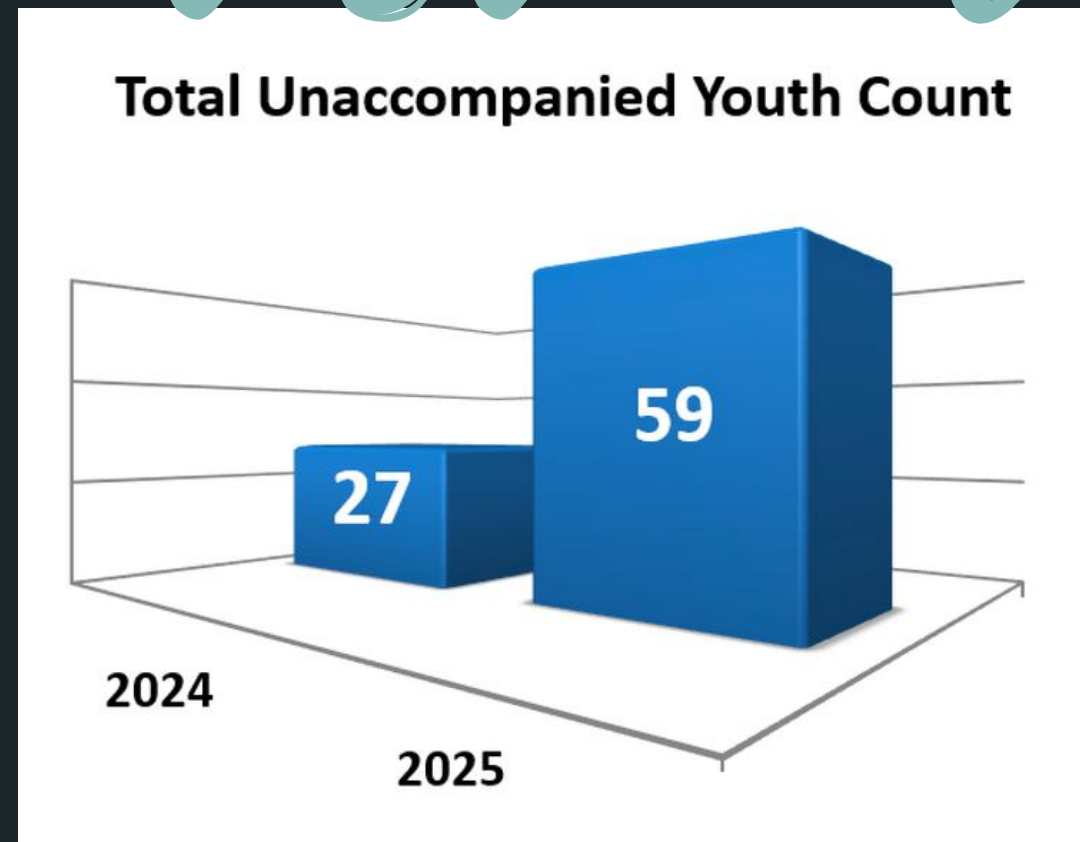


Statistical Highlights

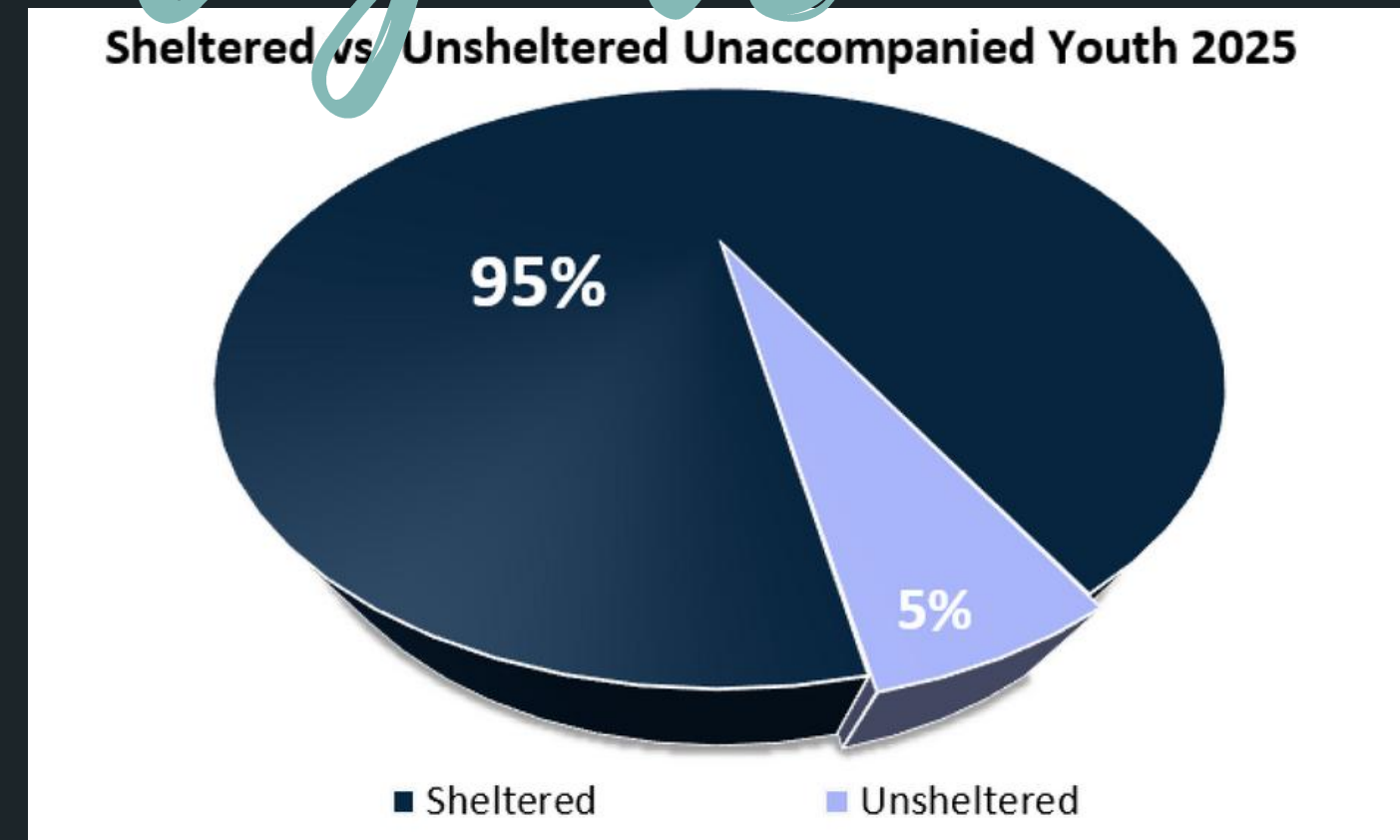
Unaccompanied Youth



Statistical Highlights



The overall number of people considered as unaccompanied youth in 2025 increased by 119% over 2024's figure. Despite this, both years show that this cohort accounts for a very small percentage of the overall number of people counted.



Of those considered to be unaccompanied youth in 2025, the vast majority were found to be living in shelters (95%), a contrast to the smaller percentage of those who were unsheltered on the streets (5%).

Of note...

For the purposes of this study, "Unaccompanied Youth" is considered to be anyone between the ages of 18-24 who are without any parent or guardian.

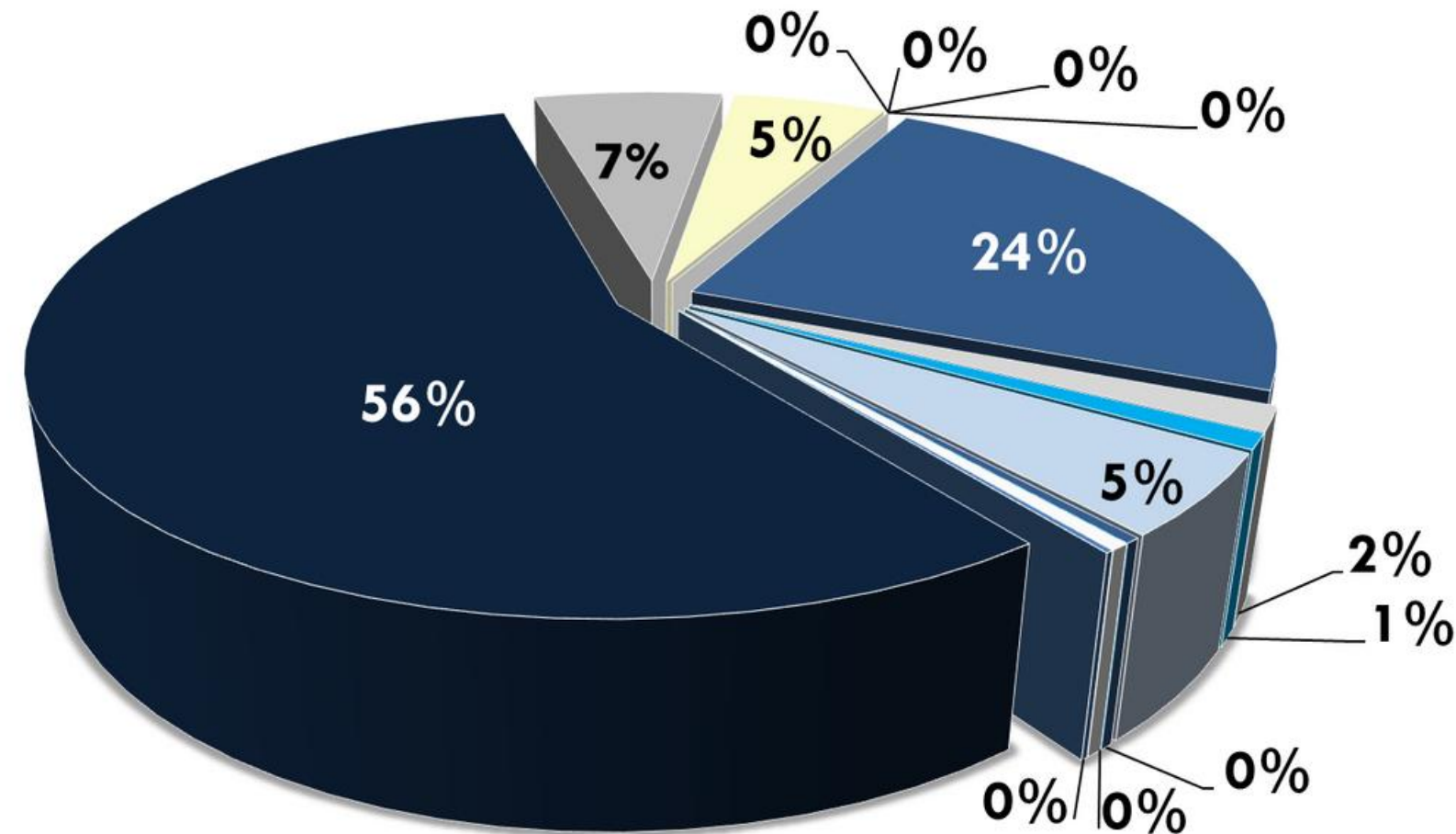
Statistical Highlights

Race/Ethnicity



Statistical Highlights

2025 Sheltered and Unsheltered Self-Identified Race & Ethnicity
(Of the total 1,114 responding, percentage of each identified race and ethnicity)



■ AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE OR INDIGENOUS	■ AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE OR INDIGENOUS & HIS / LAT
■ ASIAN OR ASIAN AMERICAN	■ ASIAN OR ASIAN AMERICAN & HIS / LAT
■ BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN OR AFRICAN	■ BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN OR AFRICAN HIS / LAT
■ HISPANIC/ LATINA	■ MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN
■ MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN/LAT	■ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
■ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER/LAT	■ WHITE
■ WHITE & HISP/LAT	■ MULTI-RACIAL & HISP/LAT
■ MULTI-RACIAL (NOT HISPANIC)	

- Of the **total 1,130 sheltered and unsheltered** persons counted, 1,114 self-identified their race/ethnicities: 624 of the 1,114 persons counted identified as Black African American or African (56%) and 262 identified as White (24%).
- Following HUD Data Collection Guidance, ethnicity was intertwined with race. This resulted in 7% of respondents identifying as “Black African American or African Hispanic/Latino,” 5% identifying as Hispanic/Latina and 5% identifying as “Multi-Racial Not Hispanic”.
- While 71% of **unsheltered** individuals responding self-identified as white, 16% self-identified as Black African American or African and 10% identified as Hispanic.

Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory

- During the 2025 PIT Count, a Housing Inventory was also conducted to better understand the Bristol County Continuum of Care's shelter and housing inventory.
- In the course of developing its Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), a utilization study was also undertaken to provide a snapshot as to the extent to which beds were occupied during a point in time.
- Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing projects in 2025 both had high utilization rates at 93% and both were higher than those from the previous year. Permanent Housing Utilization remained consistent with an even higher 95% rate in both 2024 and 2025.



Housing Inventory

Emergency Shelters

The **2025 Emergency Shelter Utilization rate of 93%** (including seasonal overflow shelters because they were open) did surpass the **2024 rate of 87%** indicating a higher use of emergency shelter beds for individuals and families throughout the Continuum.

Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	HOUSE Program	5	5	100%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Sister Rose and Grace House	35	36	97%
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	Family Housing Services/Focus	39	56	70%
Missionary Sisters of Charity	Missionary Sisters of Charity	9	9	100%
SEMCOA	Harbour House Family Center	59	59	100%
Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Artemis I Shelter	14	14	100%
Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Artemis II Shelter	16	16	100%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	CCFR Wrap Overflow	30	30	100%
Steppingstone	SS Overflow	33	33	100%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Ascension House	18	18	100%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	GBCATCH HOUSE Program	16	16	100%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Samaritan House	18	18	100%
HOTEL	Norton Extended Stay America	53	53	100%
HOTEL	Taunton Clarion Hotel	347	347	100%
HOTEL	Raynham Home 2 Suites	144	144	100%
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)	GBCATCH Focus	161	199	81%
SFS	Taunton Family Center	13	28	46%
New Hope	New Hope DV Shelter			
EMERGENCY SHELTER TOTAL		1010	1081	93%

Housing Inventory

Transitional Housing

The **2025 Transitional Housing (Shelter) Utilization rate of 93%** was higher than the Continuum's **2024 utilization rate of 83%** and significantly higher than the low **2023 utilization rate of 64%**.

All transitional housing is located within the City of New Bedford.

HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT - TRANSITIONAL HOUSING				
Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
SE MA Vets Housing Program, Inc.	VTH GPD	5	7	71%
SE MA Vets Housing Program, Inc.	SITH Program	11	12	92%
SE MA Vets Housing Program, Inc.	Vet's Main House	21	24	88%
Steppingstone, Inc.	Graduate Program	7	7	100%
Steppingstone, Inc.	NB Women's Therap.Community	21	21	100%
Greater New Bedford Women's Center	Housing Stabilization	13	13	100%
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING TOTAL		78	84	93%

Housing Inventory

Permanent Housing

Permanent Housing had the highest utilization rate of all housing types in **2025 at 95%** indicating very few unit vacancies.

This rate is also consistent with the **2024 rate of 95%** for permanent housing and serves as an important indicator as to the need for new permanent housing.

HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT - PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING				
Organization Name	Program Name	PIT Count	Year-Round Beds	Utilization Rate
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Portico	97	83	117%
PAACA	Step Up	27	35	77%
PACE	Green Light Project	2	9	22%
Providence VA	HUD - VASH	97	97	100%
SFS	Family Preservation Program	61	62	98%
SE Veterans	VTH - PSH	38	43	88%
Steppingstone	Welcome Home	23	22	105%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Emergency Solutions	0	0	N/A
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	EOHLC Stabilization	12	12	100%
PACE	HomeBase Stabilization	217	217	100%
PACE	PACE Housing Services	0	0	N/A
CCBC	Homes with Heart	39	42	93%
CCBC	Dighton	10	10	100%
CCBC	Heritage	5	6	83%
Catholic Charities of the Fall River Diocese	Steadfast	13	14	93%
NeighborWorks Housing Solutions	150 Pleasant Street	0	22	0%
EMERGENCY SHELTER TOTAL		641	674	95%

10 Take Aways

Take Aways

1 **Overall Count.** The 2025 PIT Count identified 1,130 people, both sheltered and unsheltered, an overall figure consistent with the first year of the merged Continuum in 2024. Over 57% of this total is attributable to the three state family shelters located within the CoC.

2 **Those Unsheltered.** Poor weather on the night of the 2025 Count meant the CoC's cold weather overflow shelters were open and provided shelter that night for 63 people. Because of this, it's important to understand that the number of unsheltered people recorded in the 2025 PIT (101) may have reached 164 that night had the overflow shelters been closed. This would mark a 49% increase in unsheltered persons over the previous year.

3 **Household Composition.** Although the number of single households is significantly higher than family households when considering both sheltered and unsheltered households, that ratio changes when looking at sheltered households, only. In 2025, the number of single sheltered households was almost 6% lower than the number of family sheltered households. This coupled with high utilization rates speaks to the need for additional shelter space to accommodate single adults.

Take Aways

4 **Chronicity.** Roughly 41% of those living on the street in 2025's count were identified as being chronically homeless, a number just slightly lower than the 48% in 2024. This is significantly different for those living in shelter. Of those individuals and families, only 4% were identified as being chronically homeless, lower than the 16% rate in 2024. Those with the most persistent and long-term homelessness are those most likely to be in the most precarious and dangerous situations – without shelter.

5 **Subpopulations I.** Across the board, those self-identifying as having lived experience with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) have continued to be the most prevalent self-identified subpopulation, identifying at a rate over double that of the next highest group, those living with addiction (Substance Use Disorder – SUD).

6 **Subpopulations II.** Among those who were unsheltered at the time of the PIT Count, those identifying as having experience with SMI was almost one and a half times more common than those with a SUD.

7 **Subpopulations III.** Of those in Emergency Shelters during the 2025 Count, domestic violence victims/survivors identified at a rate almost double that of those with lived experience of SUDs while those with SMI identified at a rate of 171% higher than those with SUDs.

Take Aways

8 **Unaccompanied Youth.** Unaccompanied youth figures increased dramatically from 2024 to 2025 although as a percentage of the overall shelter and street count, unaccompanied youth only accounted for a very small percentage.

9 **Race/Ethnicity.** The majority of persons counted during the PIT self-identified as Black African American or African (56%) while just 24% of the total counted identified as White. The majority of those who were unsheltered self-identified as being white

10 **Housing Inventory Utilization.** Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing projects in 2025 both had high utilization rates at 93% occupancy and both were higher than those from the previous year. Permanent Housing Utilization remained consistent with an even higher 95% rate in both 2024 and 2025. Across the board such high utilization rates coupled with increased demand signals the need for additional shelter and housing within the CoC.

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