



**South Carolina  
Coalition for  
the Homeless**

**Linking together. Breaking the cycle.**

# **2016 POINT-IN-TIME REPORT**

**SOUTH CAROLINA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

**June 2016**

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# Part I

## Executive Summary

The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) is federally mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all communities receiving federal funds through the McKinney - Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program. The PIT Count takes an unduplicated census of people experiencing homelessness – sheltered or not – on a given night in January and helps communities better understand the magnitude and characteristics of its homeless population. Using HUD’s definition of homeless, the PIT consists of two components: a count of how many people are staying in a shelter on a given night (including emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens), and a count of unsheltered people living in places unfit for human habitation.

South Carolina’s 2016 annual PIT Count estimated 5,050 persons experiencing homelessness. This represents a 5.6 percent decrease from 2015 when 5,354 persons experiencing homelessness were identified.<sup>1</sup> In all, 34 percent of those interviewed were unsheltered (compared to 35 percent last year). About 36 percent of the 2016 individuals experiencing homelessness were staying in emergency shelters, and another 30 percent indicate they were staying in transitional housing.

The number of individuals counted who were experiencing homelessness declined or stayed about the same in all four regions of the state. The eastern regions’ (ECHO) totals were unchanged but a decline in unsheltered individuals of 91 and an increase in sheltered of 94 was observed. The other three regions showed modest declines averaging about 8% comparing 2015 to 2016. The number of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness increased substantially in the Lowcountry, due mostly to enhanced outreach efforts allowing for more complete counting.

A total of 384 families were identified as experiencing homelessness in 2016. This included 759 children under 18 and 307 youth ages 18-24. An estimated 190 people under the age of 24 were reported to be living without shelter. These estimates are lower compared to those reported in 2015 when 510 families experiencing homelessness were counted.

**Veteran** - An estimated 100 fewer veterans were counted this year as compared to last. Veterans represented 12% of the total homeless population in 2016, with about one in five living without shelter.

**Chronic** - One thousand fifty-six or 20 percent were counted as experiencing chronic homelessness; a slight increase over 2015. Overall, about 14 percent of those interviewed said they suffer from serious mental illness. Seventeen percent self-reported having a substance use disorder. Self-reported mental illness increased slightly while self-reported substance abuse disorder was down significantly.

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<sup>1</sup> These data reflect the raw numbers provided by each Continuum of Care, except ECHO. In the Eastern part of the state, ECHO extrapolated its unsheltered estimates in both 2015 and 2016. In the remainder of this report, extrapolated data is used when available, but as individual records cannot be extrapolated, demographic and other special population data are presented in raw form for ECHO and in total.

County - Five counties – Greenville (991), Richland (876), Horry (492), Charleston (461) and Spartanburg (346) – in rank order, collectively represent 63% (3,166) of the total homeless population the state.

## Definition of Terms<sup>2</sup>

**Children** are people under the age of 18.

**Chronically Homeless People in Families** are people experiencing homelessness in families (with at least one adult and one child) in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

**Chronically Homeless Individuals** are individuals experiencing homelessness with disabilities who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

**Continuums of Care (CoC)** are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state.

**Emergency Shelter** is a facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

**Family** refers to a household that has at least one adult and one child. It does not include households composed of only adults or only children.

**Households with Adults and Children** includes households that have at least one adult and one child under 18.

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<sup>2</sup> SOURCES: The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, NOVEMBER 2015, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

THE 2015 ANNUAL HOMELESS ASSESSMENT REPORT TO CONGRESS, NOVEMBER 2013, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, pg. 6.

**Households without Children** includes single adults and adult couples unaccompanied by children under 18.

**Individual** refers to a person who is not part of a family during his/her episode of homelessness. Individuals are homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

**Literally Homeless** refers to households or individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**Parenting Youth** are individuals under age 25 who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present and sleeping in the same place as the youth parent.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** is designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long- term basis for chronically homeless individuals.

**Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts** are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by Continuums of Care nationwide, and occur during the last week in January of each year.

**Rapid Re-housing** is a program that provides financial assistance and services to prevent households from becoming homeless and helps those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly rehoused and stabilized.

**Safe Havens** provide private or semi-private long-term housing for people with severe mental illness and are limited to serving no more than 25 people within a facility.

**Sheltered Homeless People** are people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

**Transitional Housing Program** is a type of housing in which homeless people may stay and receive supportive services for up to 24 months.

**Unaccompanied Children and Youth** are people who are not part of a family during their episode of homelessness and who are under the age of 18 and 25, respectively.



**Unsheltered Homeless People** include people who live in places not meant for human habitation, such as the streets, vehicles, or parks.

**Veteran** refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

## About This Report

Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by Continuums of Care (CoCs) nationwide, and occur during the last week in January of each year. This report presents data from the 2016 PIT Count conducted by the Continuums of Care in South Carolina. These include the **Lowcountry Homeless Coalition (LHC)** (Berkeley, Charleston, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, and Jasper counties); the **Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH)** (Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, and York counties); the **Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO)** (Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg counties); and the **Upstate Homeless Coalition (UHC)** of SC (Cherokee, Union, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick, Greenwood, Laurens, Spartanburg, Greenville, Abbeville, Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee counties). The data were collected by the CoCs and analyzed by the Riley Center, College of Charleston.

This report presents key findings about individuals and families experiencing homelessness in South Carolina. Comparisons across subpopulations are also reported, and include demographic information, shelter status, and health status. The report also provides findings for each CoC. The 2016 PIT count data are also compared to 2015 and 2014 counts. Prior year homelessness estimates are taken from *2015 Point in Time Count Results: A report of the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless* available at [www.schomeless.org](http://www.schomeless.org) and HUD's *Annual Homeless Assessment Report*, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2015-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>.

The findings in this report are estimates of the number of individuals and families in South Carolina who are experiencing homelessness on a given night. There are several important limitations to the PIT Count (see the Limitations section for more information). Because of these limitations, the count should not be viewed as an exact census, but rather as a tool to assist communities and state policy makers in understanding the use of homeless shelters and other facilities, the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness, and in improved planning and provision of homeless assistance programs.

## Methodology

The PIT Count uses the HUD definition of homelessness to estimate the number of individuals and families “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground” (U.S. Government, 24 CFR §578.3) or staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing. HUD mandates reporting requirements but states and localities determine how the count will be conducted.

The Point-in-Time count is a statewide data collection effort that involves service providers, homeless outreach workers, volunteers, and individuals currently experiencing homelessness within each CoC. Individuals at the county level and within CoCs are designated to lead the local effort. Training is provided for all count volunteers conducting street interviews with unsheltered individuals. Meetings with local homeless outreach workers and individuals currently and formerly experiencing homelessness helped identify locations where people living unsheltered were likely to be staying. Teams of two or more volunteers conducted street interviews after sunset on the night of the count and for the entire next week, until February 3. Information on the sheltered homeless population was collected using the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) to generate counts of people living in shelters. The effort included both street interviews and service-based visits to soup kitchens, shelters, and other institutions in order to interview those experiencing homelessness who may not have been interviewed on January 27.

Following the PIT Count, data committees in each CoC entered data from the street count surveys and reviewed data extracted from the HMIS system. Multiple entries of the same individual were accounted for through the use of a unique identification number and unduplicated data were extracted for the count.

All data is presented in its raw form, prior to extrapolation, with one exception. ECHO extrapolated their data in order to report it to HUD in both 2015 AND 2016. The total statewide count includes ECHO's extrapolated data. See the ECHO section for a more detailed presentation of the extrapolated versus raw data.

## **PIT Count Limitations**

PIT counts help communities to understand the magnitude of homelessness, the use of homeless services, and patterns in total homelessness over time. The PIT count helps identify those experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered. However, these counts may over-represent frequent and long-term users of shelters, who are more likely to be present on the night of the PIT count. Conversely, the PIT count may underrepresent infrequent and short-term users of shelters. The PIT count also has little detail on the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness and their patterns of homelessness. Although interviewers ask how often individuals have been homeless, the data are often incomplete.

The Point in Time count is an estimate and most experts believe it represents an undercount of people experiencing homelessness. The HMIS database which is used to count individuals using homeless services increases the accuracy of sheltered individuals. However, unsheltered individuals and those who do not visit homeless services such as soup kitchens and other emergency services are not counted unless they are interviewed through the street count. The street-based count is an observational sample of individuals who are interviewed by convenience sampling. It is not a representative sample so it is difficult to make projections about the total population of individuals who are homeless.

Volunteers who participate in street counts interview individuals that they encounter, and thus it is likely that the street count underestimates the number of unsheltered

individuals experiencing homelessness. Homeless resources are often concentrated in urban and metropolitan areas which may bias efforts and focus there in comparison to rural areas throughout the state. In addition, individuals who are unsheltered and chronically homeless are often under-counted due to the difficulty of finding these individuals.

The HUD definition of homelessness may be narrower or different from other plausible definitions of homelessness. For example, the HUD definition does not include those who are unstably housed in hotels or living doubled up with relatives or friends; however, those people would be considered to be experiencing homelessness under the Federal McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. The PIT count relies on self-reported information which also impacts the accuracy of the data. The following data are self-reported: serious mental illness, substance abuse. Self-reported data should not be viewed as an exact number since individuals choose whether to answer these personal questions and it is not possible to verify the accuracy of the answers.

Unaccompanied children and youth are typically undercounted. This population is harder to count because they tend to not reside in the same areas as older adults experiencing homelessness, not self-identify as “homeless”, stay on friends’ couches, or try to blend in.

Limitations specific to this year’s PIT count and the data shown in the report include 3 of the 4 Continuums of Care presenting raw data without any extrapolation, whereas one CoC, ECHO, extrapolated their data in 2015 and 2016. Comparing 2015 extrapolated data to 2016 raw data from this region has the effect of overstating the decline in homelessness in the eastern region of the state. This is why the extrapolated numbers are used for total count estimates.

While much effort was involved in extracting and attempting to clean the data file for this research, many idiosyncrasies and missing data remain. Among these are missing data for shelter type and individuals being counted as part of more than one household. Data regarding domestic violence was carefully reviewed but deemed unreliable due to errors and omissions during the collection period. For this reason, this variable is not presented in the 2016 report.

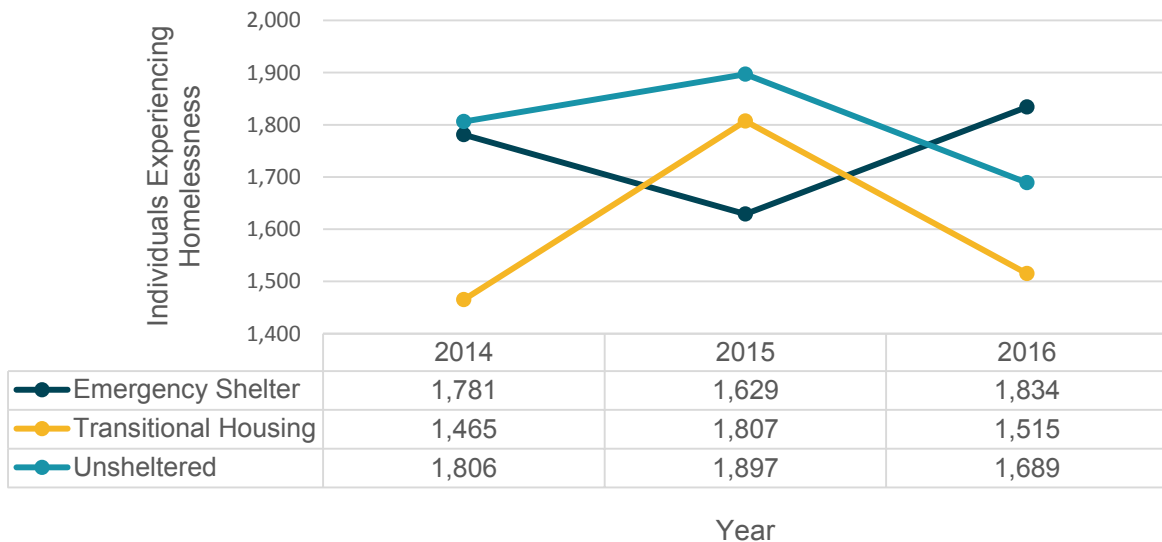
Finally, the count is a useful tool in understanding homelessness at a point in time and in identifying overall trends. However, it is a point in time estimate and does not include all individuals and families who experience periods of homelessness over the course of a year; are unsheltered but not identified on the day of the count; or qualify under a broader definition of homelessness (for example, living in motels, staying with family/friends, in jail or in a treatment facility).

## Key Findings

### Overall Point-in-Time Estimates

**Figure 1.1** shows the three year trends in people experiencing homelessness in South Carolina by shelter type and those unsheltered. A significant decline in unsheltered from last year is observed. The number of unsheltered people in 2016 is even lower than that recorded in 2014. There has also been a decline from 2015 in the number of people in Transitional Housing. Those experiencing homelessness in Emergency Shelters is at its highest point since 2014, with a marked increase from 2015 to 2016.

Figure 1.1  
Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in S.C.  
Sheltered (Emergency, Transitional) vs  
Unsheltered, 2014-2016



● Emergency Shelter    
 ● Transitional Housing    
 ● Unsheltered

**Table 1.1** presents the total number of individuals, households, and families statewide who were counted as experiencing homelessness on a given night in January 2016 and identifies their shelter status. The table also includes the number of individuals who were part of a family unit (consisting of at least one adult and one child) and provides a percent breakdown of shelter status.

**Table 1.1**  
**Individuals, Households Experiencing Homelessness**  
**by Age and Sheltered or Unsheltered Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Number and % of Row	
<b>Individuals</b>	1,834 (36%)	1,515 (30%)	1,689 (34%)	5,038* (100%)**	
<b>Households</b>	1,561 (39%)	1,199 (30%)	1,227 (31%)	3,999 (100%)	
<b>HWC***</b>	153 (40%)	192 (50%)	39 (10%)	384 (100%)	
<b>Individual Members of HWC</b>	472 (41%)	545 (47%)	139 (12%)	1,156 (100%)	
					<b>% of PIT Count</b>
<b>Children &lt;18</b>	317 (42%)	356 (47%)	86 (11%)	759 (100%)	16%
<b>Youth 18-24</b>	97 (32%)	106 (35%)	104 (34%)	307 (100%)	7%
<b>Adults &gt;24</b>	1,420 (39%)	1,053 (29%)	1,188 (32%)	3,673 (100%)	77%

\*12 Individuals reported Safe Haven for program type. All are adults. Extrapolated data used for totals.

\*\*Total and sub-sample counts vary slightly from table to table due to missing data and other idiosyncrasies in the data extracted from the SC HMIS.

\*\*\*HWC = Households with Children

Children and youth comprised 23 percent of the homeless estimate. Children were much less likely to be unsheltered compared to youth and adults. The number of

children and youth experiencing homelessness are similar to the numbers reported in 2015.

**Table 1.2** presents gender, ethnicity and race distributions for all individuals experiencing homelessness by shelter type. Males constituted 65 percent of the homeless count. Ninety-eight percent of the count was non-Hispanic. Whites accounted for 43 percent of individuals who were homeless and 29 percent were unsheltered. Fifty-two percent of the count were African-American and five percent were of some other or mixed race. This final “other” category had the highest proportion unsheltered (36 percent). These gender, ethnic and racial distribution of individuals experiencing homelessness are very similar to the 2015 estimates.

**Table 1.2**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Gender, Ethnicity and Race**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Male</b>	1,167 (38%)	945 (31%)	357 (31%) 8 (0.3%)*	3,077	65%
<b>Female</b>	666 (40%)	569 (34%)	420 (25%) 4 (0.2%)*	1,659	35%
<b>Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino</b>	1,778 (39%)	1,485 (32%)	1,348 (29%) 12 (0.3%)*	4,623	98%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	56 (48%)	30 (26%)	30 (26%)	116	2%
<b>White</b>	796 (39%)	652 (32%)	583 (29%) 3 (0.1%)*	2,034	43%
<b>Black or African-Am.</b>	940 (38%)	795 (33%)	702 (29%) 9 (0.4%)*	2,446	52%
<b>Other</b>	98 (38%)	68 (27%)	93 (36%)	256	5%

\*12 Individuals reported Safe Haven for program type. All are adults.



**Table 1.3** presents family data by age and presents the count of unaccompanied Children.

In total, 384 families experiencing homelessness were counted this year. A total 1,156 individuals were part of these 384 families (average family size is 3.3 persons). In total, families experiencing homelessness represented about 24% of the total homeless population in South Carolina. The number of unaccompanied children was 19 this year compared to 23 in 2015. The total number of families, the number of persons in these families, and the proportion of families to the total homeless population has declined from 2015.

**Table 1.3**  
**Families Experiencing Homelessness by Age and Unaccompanied Children**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Total Families</b>	153 (40%)	192 (50%)	39 (10%)	384	8%
<b>Total Individual in Families</b>	472 (41%)	545 (47%)	139 (12%)	1,156	24%
<b>Age of Individuals in Families</b>					
<b>&lt;18</b>	299 (41%)	350 (48%)	80 (11%)	729	15%
<b>18-24</b>	22 (30%)	41 (55%)	11 (15%)	74	2%
<b>24+</b>	151 (43%)	154 (44%)	48 (14%)	353	7%
<b>Unaccompanied Children</b>	9 (47%)	4 (21%)	6 (32%)	19	<1%

**Table 1.4** shows gender, ethnicity and race of families experiencing homelessness in 2016. Families experiencing homelessness were more likely to be African American, of “other” race, and of Latino origin than the total of all individuals experiencing homelessness.

**Table 1.4**  
**Gender, Ethnicity, and Race of Families Experiencing Homelessness**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of PIT Count (families)
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Male</b>	160 (39%)	196 (47%)	59 (14%)	415	36%
<b>Female</b>	312 (42%)	349 (47%)	80 (11%)	741	64%
<b>Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino</b>	436 (40%)	529 (48%)	130 (12%)	1,095	95%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	36 (59%)	16 (26%)	9 (15%)	61	5%
<b>White</b>	165 (48%)	136 (39%)	46 (13%)	347	30%
<b>Black or African-Am.</b>	269 (37%)	372 (52%)	81 (11%)	722	62%
<b>Other</b>	38 (44%)	37 (43%)	12 (14%)	87	8%

**Table 1.5** presents selected sub-populations of individuals experiencing homelessness counted on January 27, 2016 by shelter status. A total of 584 veterans representing 12 percent of the total were counted as experiencing homelessness in 2016. This is a decline from 2015 when 681 veterans were counted. The majority of these veterans were in Transitional Housing (55 percent). This is an increase from 2015 when 51 percent were in Transitional Housing. Still, more than one in five veterans who were experiencing homelessness remained unsheltered in 2016.

When interviewed, respondents were asked to self-report their mental health status, including substance abuse. Fifteen percent of the total sample self-reported serious mental illness. This compares to 12 percent in 2015. Eighteen percent reported substance abuse disorders, a decline from 24 percent reporting the same status in 2015. Finally, the 1 percent reporting HIV/AIDS is unchanged from 2014 and 2015.

**Table 1.5**  
**Special Populations of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Chronic</b>	462 (44%)	0	582 (55%)	1,056 (100%)	20%
<b>Veteran</b>	146 (25%)	307 (53%)	130 (22%)	584 (100%)	12%
<b>Serious Mental Illness</b>	309 (43%)	186 (26%)	220 (30%)	727 (100%)	14%
<b>Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	233 (27%)	343 (39%)	287 (33%)	870 (100%)	17%
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	21 (36%)	19 (33%)	17 (29%)	58 (100%)	1%

**Table 1.6** shows the shelter status of individuals experiencing homelessness by county for the five counties with largest number of individuals counted in 2016. Five counties - Greenville, Richland, Horry, Charleston and Spartanburg - accounted for 3,166 of those experiencing homelessness and counted in 2016. This represents 63% of the total people experiencing homelessness on a given night in January.

Two coastal counties, Horry and Charleston, showed the highest percentage of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, more than 40% in both cases, substantially higher than the other large counties.

**Table 1.6**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in South Carolina**  
**by County and Housing Status: Five Counties with**  
**Largest Number of Individuals Experiencing**  
**Homelessness Counted**

County	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Greenville</b>	479 (48%)	374 (38%)	126 (13%)	991*	20%
<b>Richland</b>	420 (48%)	261 (30%)	195 (22%)	876	17%
<b>Horry</b>	97 (20%)	159 (32%)	236 (48%)	492	10%
<b>Charleston</b>	151 (32%)	112 (25%)	198 (43%)	461	9%
<b>Spartanburg</b>	207 (58%)	87 (26%)	52 (16%)	346	7%

\*12 are reported to be living in a Safe Haven.

**Table 1.7** shows the same five largest counties with population data from the US Census 2015 Population Estimates. Rates per 100,000 were calculated and presented at the county level. These data show that on a per capita basis the highest rate of homelessness among these five counties was Richland County and the lowest is Spartanburg County. Aggregating these five counties shows that 63% of the total individuals experiencing homelessness were counted in these five counties, yet these counties represent just 38.6% of South Carolina’s total population. Of course, one of the limitations of the PIT count methodology is that counting those experiencing homelessness are more likely to be observed and counted in urban areas.

**Table 1.7**  
**Five Counties with Largest Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Population**

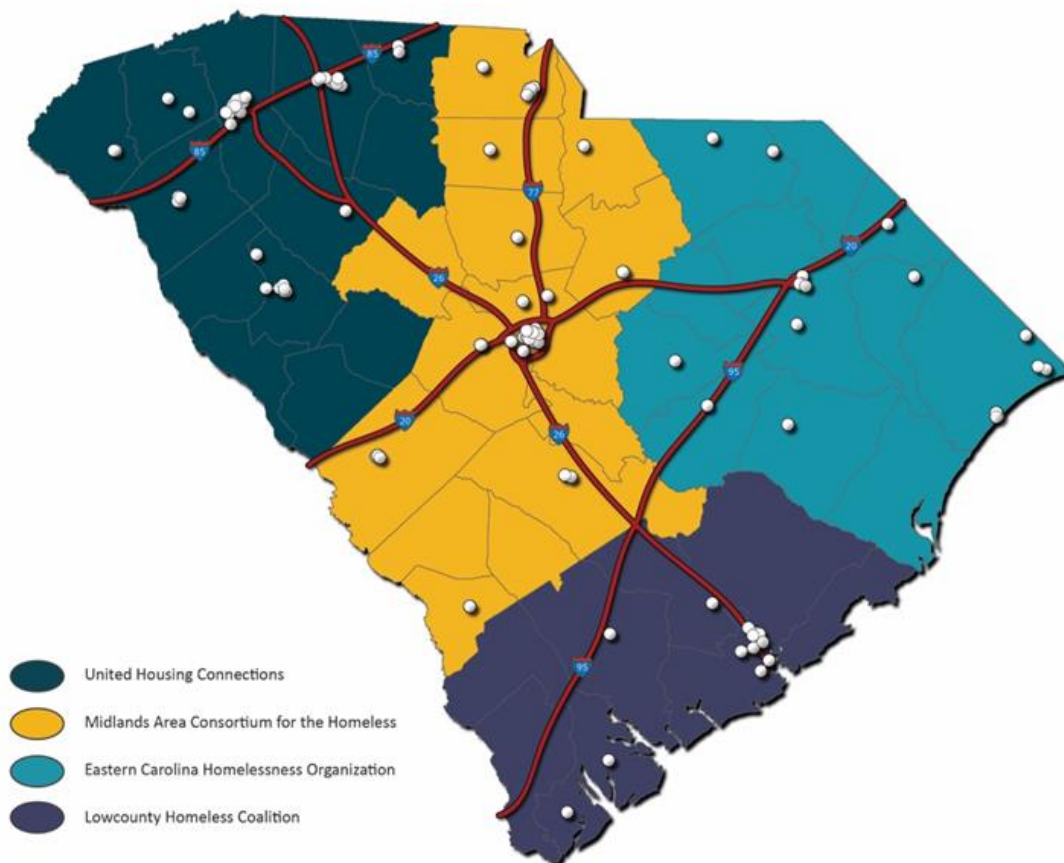
<b>County</b>	<b>Total Homeless</b>	<b>Percent of State Total</b>	<b>2015 Population Est.</b>	<b>Homeless Per 100,000</b>
<b>Greenville</b>	991	20%	491,863	20.14
<b>Richland</b>	876	17%	407,051	21.53
<b>Horry</b>	492	10%	309,199	15.91
<b>Charleston</b>	461	9%	389,262	11.84
<b>Spartanburg</b>	346	7%	297,302	11.63

## Part II

### Homelessness Across Continuums of Care

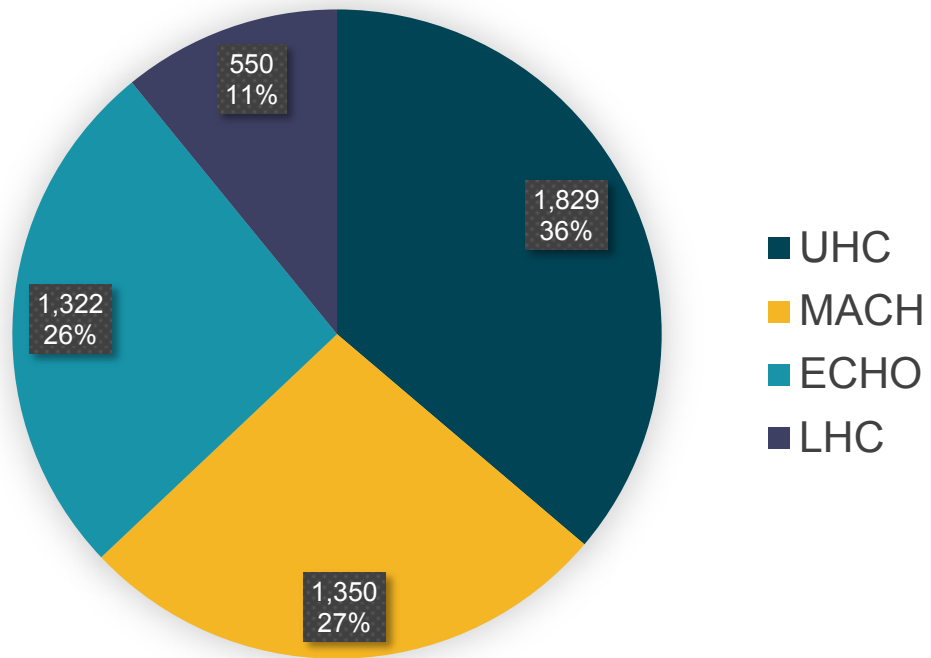
#### Introduction and Overview

The state of South Carolina is divided into four Continuums of Care. A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. These CoCs are also responsible for conducting and reporting annual Point-in-Time counts of the homeless population in the geographic area they serve. These regions are illustrated on the map below. The figures on the following pages present the 2016 homeless population totals for each of the four CoCs in South Carolina – Upstate Homeless Coalition (UHC), the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH), the Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO), and the Lowcountry Homeless Coalition (LHC).



**Figure 2.1** shows the distribution of individuals experiencing homelessness by Continuum of Care. The count of individuals and the percent of total are shown. The largest proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness was in the Upstate, representing 36 percent of the total (1,829). MACH was next with 27 percent (1,350), followed by ECHO with 1,322 or 26 percent (extrapolated data). The smallest CoC by count of individuals experiencing homelessness was the Lowcountry, which represented just 11 percent (550) of the total. These proportions are very similar to those reported in 2015.

Figure 2.1  
Distribution of Homeless Individuals by CoC



**Table 2.1** shows the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness by shelter status. ECHO had the largest proportion of unsheltered individuals at 63 percent followed by the LHC with just under half. The percentage unsheltered was lowest in UHC with only 14 percent unsheltered. One quarter of the people experiencing homelessness in the Midlands were unsheltered.

**Table 2.1**  
**Percentage of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status by CoC**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	
<b>UHC</b>	48%	38%	14%
<b>MACH</b>	41%	34%	25%
<b>ECHO*</b>	17%	20%	63%
<b>LHC</b>	32%	21%	48%

\* Extrapolated data.

The percentage unsheltered declined significantly for ECHO which had 70% unsheltered in 2015. In stark contrast, in the Lowcountry just 27% were reported as unsheltered in 2015, compared to 48% in 2016, a substantial increase.

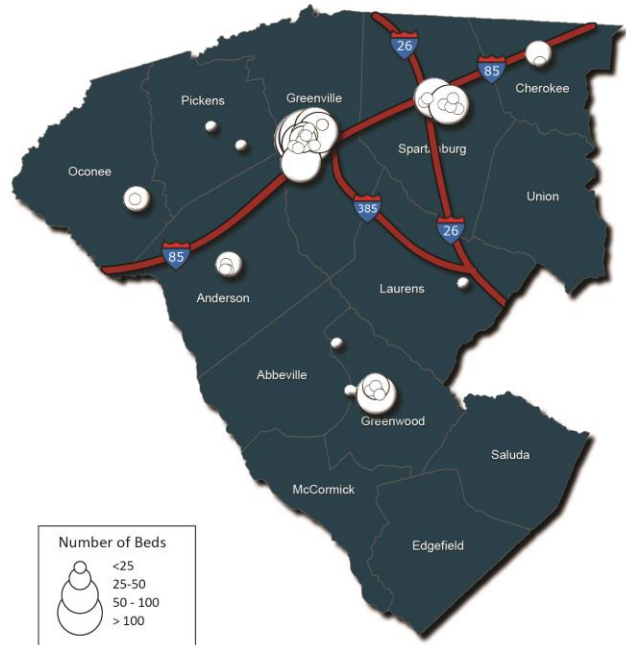
In the sections that follow, specific and detailed information about homelessness and each region’s homeless service providers are provided.





## Upstate Homeless Coalition (Upstate)

County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
Abbeville	A Place For Us Ministries	Abbeville	HC	8
Anderson	Anderson Sunshine House	Anderson	HC	6
	Family Promise	Anderson	HC	14
	Safe Harbor	Anderson	HC	20
	Salvation Army (Anderson)	Anderson	HC	6
	Upstate Homeless Coalition of SC	Anderson	SMF + HC	26
Cherokee	Miracle Hill Ministries	Gaffney	SMF+HC	44
	Upstate Homeless Coalition of SC	Gaffney	SMF + HC	15
Greenville	Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network	Greenville	HC	14
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	HC	21
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	Men	142
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SF+HC	58
	Project Care	Greenville	SM (HOPWA)	7
	Safe Harbor	Greenville	SF + HC	34
	Salvation Army (Greenville)	Greenville	SM	50
	Salvation Army (Greenville)	Greenville	SF + HC	25
	Upstate Homeless Coalition of SC	Greenville	SMF	12
	Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network	Greenville	HC	81
	Homes of Hope	Greenville	SM	8
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	6
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SF	6
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	4
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	6
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	6
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	5
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	4
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	8
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	6
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SM	80
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SF	25
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Greenville	SF	6
	Safe Harbor	Greenville	SF + HC	16
	SHARE	Greenville	SMF + HC	131
	Step By Step Ministry	Greenville	SF	12
	The Lighthouse	Greenwood	SM	24
	Turning Point	Greenville	SM	73
Greenwood	Meg's House	Greenwood	HC	26
	Pathway House	Greenwood	SM	8
	Connie Maxwell Children's Home	Greenwood	HC	15
	Lutheran Family Services	Greenwood	SM (Veterans)	18
	Meg's House*	Greenwood	SF + HC	49
	Meg's House*	Greenwood	SM	7
	Pathway House	Greenwood	SM	7
	Phoenix Rising	Hodges	SM	5
	Salvation Oaks	Greenwood	SMF	62



County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
Laurens	Laurens County Safe Home	Clinton	DV	19
	Open Door	Clinton	SM	23
Oconee	Our Daily Rest	Seneca	SMF+HC	35
	Safe Harbor	Seneca	HC	25
Pickens	Family Promise of Pickens County	Easley	HC	14
	Mary's House	Pickens	SF	17
Spartanburg	Divinity Care	Spartanburg	SM	13
	Miracle Hill Ministries	Spartanburg	SMF+HC	100
	Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition	Spartanburg	HC	52
	Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network	Spartanburg	HC	14
	The Haven	Spartanburg	HC	23
	Hope Center for Children	Spartanburg	YMF (RHY)	8
	Jump Start	Spartanburg	SMF	54
	Operation Restoration Community Dev Corp	Spartanburg	SM	7
	Upstate Homeless Coalition of SC	Spartanburg	SMF + HC	21

## Safe Haven

In addition to the categories of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, the UHC operates a Safe Haven. A Safe Haven “is a form of permanent supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.”

([https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/SafeHavenFactSheet\\_CoCProgram.PDF](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/SafeHavenFactSheet_CoCProgram.PDF))

The Upstate’s Safe Haven program offers 12 one-bedroom apartments in a stand-alone facility with 24-hour security. As with all Safe Haven programs, clients in this program have access to a number of wraparound services but are not required to participate in or utilize them. This model is often referred to as “low demand” because the primary objective is to keep those who are particularly vulnerable housed in a safe environment despite behaviors or issues (such as substance abuse) that might result in termination from more stringent housing programs. In some cases, receiving these intensive supportive services has allowed clients to exit the program and live independently in the community.

As to the clients in the Upstate Safe Haven program in this year’s PIT count, all 12 met HUD’s definition for chronic homelessness, all 12 had a serious mental illness, and 7 reported substance abuse issues

**The Upstate Homeless Coalition** (also known as **United Housing Connections**) is a group of approximately 80 homeless service providers operating in Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, and Union counties. The map on the previous page shows the primary location of these providers. (Domestic Violence shelters’ locations are not shown.) In 2016, 80 service providers in the Upstate region participated in the PIT count. This compares to 83 last year and 71 in 2014. The variation in agencies reporting may affect year to year comparisons.

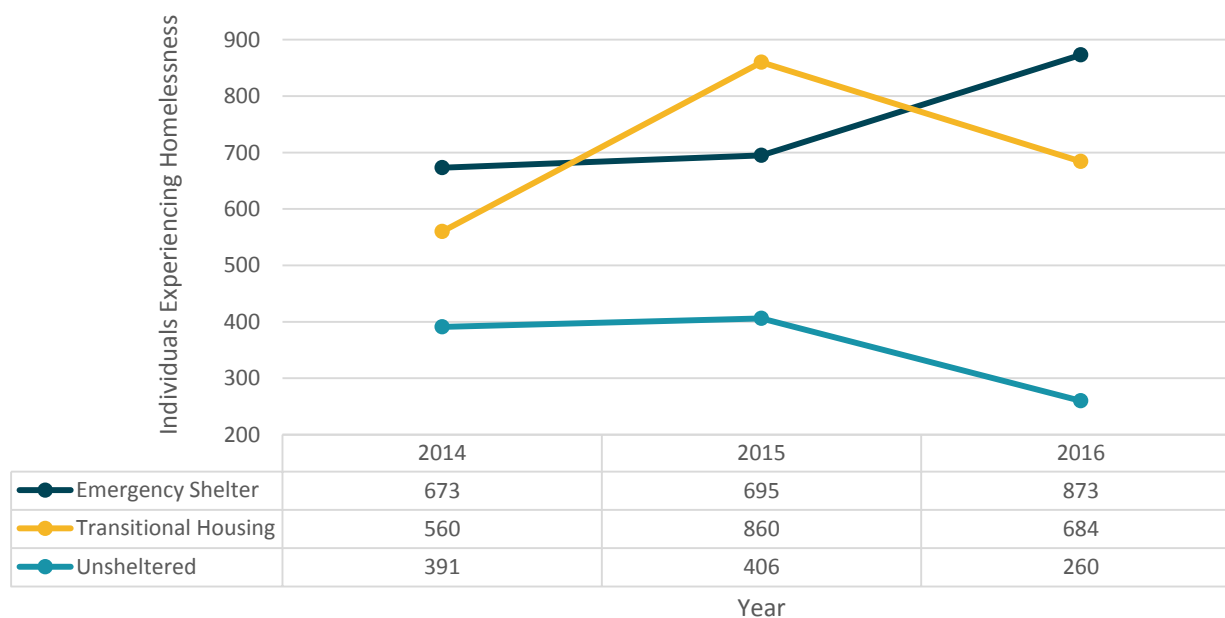
### Upstate at Glance

- The 2016 PIT count data reveal that there were substantially fewer individuals counted experiencing homelessness in the Upstate in 2016 compared to 2015, though the largest proportion of the state’s individuals experiencing homelessness were recorded in the Upstate region.
  - In total, there has been a decline of 144 people from 1,961 in 2015 to 1,817 in 2016. This represents a 7% decline. Both the number of individuals in transitional housing and unsheltered have declined since 2015. The unsheltered count declined by 146 and the Transitional Housing count declined by 176.
- At the same time, the number reported to be in emergency housing has increased by 178. The proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness who were unsheltered in the Upstate is low comparatively at 14%, the lowest proportion in the state. This compares to 48% in the LHC, 25% in MACH and 52% in ECHO.

## Detailed PIT Data Analysis

The 2016 PIT count data reveal that there were substantially fewer individuals experiencing homelessness counted in the Upstate in 2016 compared to 2015, displayed in **Figure 2.2**. In total, there has been a decline of 144 from 1,961 in 2015 to 1,817 in 2016. This represents a 7% decline. Both the number of persons in transitional housing and unsheltered have declined since 2015. The unsheltered count declined by 146 and the Transitional Housing count declined by 176. At the same time, the number reported to be in emergency housing has increased by 178. Upon further investigation of these changes, it was reported that in years past UHC counted seasonal beds as part of its unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, but that changed this year. This may account for part or most of the decline in the unsheltered numbers. The proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered in the Upstate is low comparatively at 14%. This compares to 48% in the LHC, 25% in MACH and 52% in ECHO.

Figure 2.2:  
Homeless In the Upstate:  
Sheltered (Emergency, Transitional) vs Unsheltered  
2014-2016



The vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Upstate (71%) were individuals older than 24. Yet, 23% of the total (417) were children. This is a much higher proportion of children than in other parts of the state. All but 18 of these children were housed in either emergency or transitional housing. The 18 unsheltered children represented 1% of the total homeless population in the UHC Continuum of Care.

**Table 2.2**  
**Individuals and Households Experiencing Homelessness**  
**in the Upstate by Age and Sheltered and Unsheltered**  
**Status**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven		Row Total	
<b>Individuals</b>	870 (48%)	686 (38%)	12	261 (14%)	1,817	
<b>Households</b>	634 (47%)	490 (36%)	12	227 (17%)	1,351	
<b>HWC</b>	106 (52%)	87 (43%)	0	9 (4%)	202	
<b>Individual Members of HWC</b>	339 (52%)	280 (43%)	0	309 (48%)	928	
						% of UHC Total
<b>Children &lt;18</b>	218 (52%)	181 (43%)	0	18 (4%)	417	23%
<b>Youth 18-24</b>	39 (38%)	49 (48%)	0	14 (14%)	102	6%
<b>Adults &gt;24</b>	613 (47%)	456 (35%)	12	228 (18%)	1,297	71%

Sixty-one percent of the individuals experiencing homelessness counted in UHC were men and 39% were women. Females were a slightly higher proportion of the homeless population in UHC as compared to the rest of the state, though all but 79 were sheltered. By race, whites constitute the largest group of people experiencing homelessness in the Upstate at 53% of the total. Blacks or African Americans represented 43% and the remainder report being of “other” race. Only 3% reported being of Latino/Hispanic heritage.

**Table 2.3**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Upstate**  
**by Gender, Ethnicity and Race**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total	Percent of UHC PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Row Total		
<b>Male</b>	495 (45%)	424 (39%)	8 (0.7%)	181 (16%)	1,108	61%
<b>Female</b>	375 (54%)	261 (36%)	4 (0.5%)	79 (11%)	719	39%
<b>Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino</b>	841 (48%)	669 (38%)	12 (0.6%)	252 (14%)	1,774	97%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	29 (53%)	17 (31%)	0	9 (16%)	55	3%
<b>White</b>	456 (48%)	347 (36%)	3 (0.3%)	157 (16%)	963	53%
<b>Black or African-Am.</b>	372 (48%)	312 (41%)	9 (1%)	86 (11%)	779	43%
<b>Other</b>	48 (51%)	29 (31%)	0	18 (19%)	95	4%

The number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the Upstate was down from last year with 345 counted in 2015 and 297 this year. The number of veterans experiencing homelessness was up since last year when 101 were counted in the Upstate. In 2016, 141 veterans were counted.

The number who self-reported a serious mental illness has increased by 37 to 198, with most of these residing in emergency shelters. Similarly, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness who reported a substance use disorder declined from 396 to 314. Finally, the number with HIV/AIDS was up slightly to 21 in 2016 from 12 in 2015.

**Table 2.4**  
**Special Populations Experiencing Homelessness in the Upstate**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven		
<b>Chronic</b>	152 (51%)		12 (4%)	133 (45%)	297
<b>Veteran</b>	54 (39%)	60 (43%)	1 (0.7%)	26 (19%)	141
<b>Serious Mental Illness</b>	93 (50%)	38 (20%)	12 (6%)	55 (29%)	198
<b>Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	79 (25%)	169 (55%)	7 (2%)	59 (20%)	314
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	3 (15%)	15 (75%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	21

The vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Upstate were counted in Greenville (991), Spartanburg (346) and Greenwood (187) Counties. Greenville has the largest homeless population in the state. Spartanburg is fourth in the state of counties ranked by highest number of people experiencing homelessness. Combining these three counties results in 82% of the Upstate homeless population.

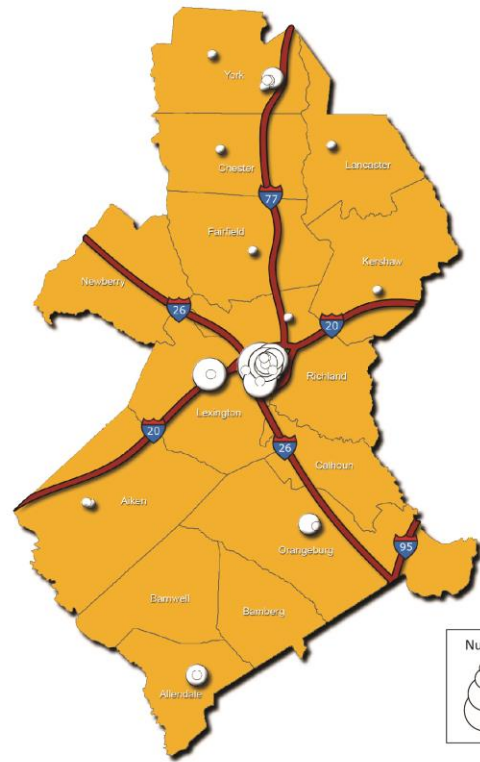
**Table 2.5**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Upstate**  
**by County and Housing Status**

County	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven		
<b>Greenville</b>	479 (48%)	374 (38%)	12 (1%)	126 (13%)	991
<b>Spartanburg</b>	194 (58%)	87 (26%)	0	52 (15%)	333
<b>Greenwood</b>	30 (16%)	149 (80%)	0	8 (4%)	187
<b>Anderson</b>	49 (51%)	26 (27%)	0	22 (23%)	97
<b>Pickens</b>	28 (48%)	5 (9%)	0	25 (43%)	58
<b>Cherokee</b>	39 (72%)	15 (28%)	0	0	54
<b>Oconee</b>	34 (71%)	0	0	14 (29%)	48
<b>Laurens</b>	23 (59%)	15 (38%)	0	1 (3%)	39
<b>Abbeville</b>	0	10 (100%)	0	0	10
<b>Saluda</b>	0	0	0	10 (100%)	10
<b>Union</b>	0	0	0	1 (100%)	1
<b>McCormick</b>	0	0	0	1 (100%)	1
<b>Edgefield</b>	0	0	0	0	0



## Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH)

County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
Aiken	Cumbee Center	Aiken	SFHC	20
	MHA Aiken	Aiken	HC	2
	Salvation Army Aiken	Aiken	SMF+HC	24
Allendale	Christ Central	Allendale	SFHC	20
	Christ Central	Allendale	SFHC	47
Chester	The Turning Point of Chester	Chester	SM	16
Fairfield	Christ Central	Winnsboro	SM	12
Kershaw	United Way Kershaw	Camden	HC	12
	United Way Kershaw	Camden	HC	2
Lancaster	United Way of Lancaster	Lancaster	SMF+HC	10
Lexington	Christ Central	Lexington	SMF	18
	Christ Central	Lexington	SFHC	19
	Christ Central	Lexington	SM	86
	Growing Home Southeast	West Columbia	SMF	6
Orangeburg	CASA Family System	Orangeburg	HC	16
	Samaritan House Orangeburg	Orangeburg	SMF+HC	40
Richland	Alston Wilkes Society	Columbia	SMF	17
	Christ Central	Columbia	SFHC	4
	City of Columbia	Columbia	SMF	240
	Elmwood Church of God	Columbia	SM	29
	Family Promise	Columbia	HC	14
	Family Shelter	Columbia	HC	49
	Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas	Columbia	SF	6
	Midlands Housing Alliance	Columbia	SMF	4
	Midlands Housing Alliance	Columbia	SMF	14
	Midlands Housing Alliance	Columbia	SMF	68
	Midlands Housing Alliance	Columbia	SMF	64
	Oliver Gospel	Columbia	SM	46
	Oliver Gospel	Columbia	SM	42
	Palmetto Place Children's Shelter	Columbia	YMF	4
	Providence Home	Columbia	SM	11
	Providence Home	Columbia	SM	8
	Sistercare	Columbia	SFHC	66
Sistercare	Columbia	SFHC	15	
Trinity Housing Corp.	Columbia	HC	84	
Women's Shelter	Columbia	SF	11	
Women's Shelter	Columbia	SF	13	



County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
York	Bethel United Methodist Church	Rock Hill	SMF	45
	Family Promise of York	Rock Hill	SMF	4
	Family Promise of York	Rock Hill	SMF+HC	14
	Pilgrim's Inn	Rock Hill	SMF+HC	17
	Pilgrim's Inn	Rock Hill	SMF+HC	10
	Safe Passage	Rock Hill	SFHC	25
	Salvation Army Rock Hill	Rock Hill	HC	12
	Salvation Army Rock Hill	Rock Hill	SFHC	14
	Tender Hearts Ministries of York County	York	SFHC	12
	The Haven Men's Shelter Inc.	Rock Hill	SM	13
	Multiple	Motel Vouchers Provided by Various Churches	Multiple	HC



**MACH** is a group of approximately 50 homeless service providers operating in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, and York counties. The map on the previous page shows the primary location of each of these providers. (Domestic Violence shelters' locations are not shown.)

## **MACH at a Glance**

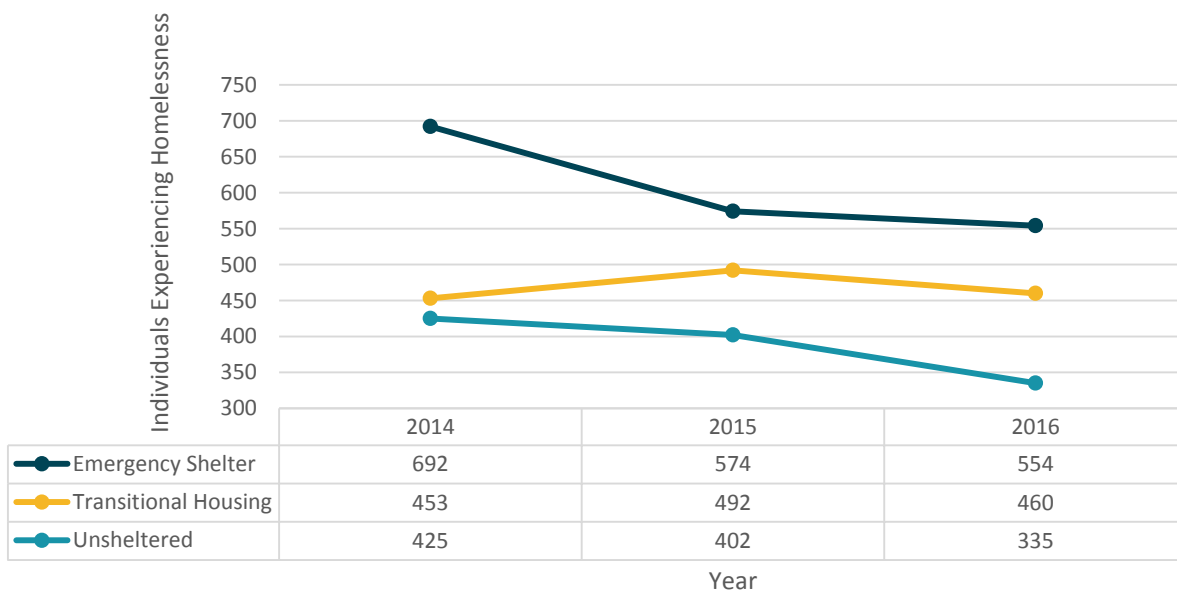
- The Midlands reported a total 1,350 individuals experiencing homelessness in 2016. This represents a decline of 118 or 9% compared to 2015.
- There were declines in individuals experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered populations with the biggest decline among those unsheltered (down 65 or 16%)
- The largest concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands was in Richland County where 876 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted on January 27, 2016 representing 65% of the total homeless population in the MACH Continuum of Care.
- The homeless population in Richland County, home of the state's capital, represented 18% of South Carolina's total homeless population, the second highest county in the state in terms of number of people experiencing homelessness (behind Greenville).
- People identified experiencing chronic homelessness increased slightly, yet significant increases were evident in those who self-reported serious mental illness, substance abuse disorders and those having HIV/AIDS.

## Detailed PIT Data Analysis

The 2016 PIT count data revealed that there has been a substantial decrease in individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands. In 2014, 1,570 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted, 1,468 in 2015 and 1,350 in 2016. This represents a decline of 118 individuals from last year, a 9% decline. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness was down for each housing category: emergency shelter, transitional, and unsheltered. The single biggest decline for MACH was among unsheltered individuals, where 67 fewer were counted in 2016 compared to 2015, representing a 16% decline.

Representatives of MACH believe the decline in unsheltered people may be a result of new permanent supportive housing units developed with the VASH program (Veteran Affairs and Columbia Housing Authority) and the Mental Illness Recovery Inc. (MIRCI) Supportive Housing program. Another factor that may be influencing the comparative statistics is that some of MACH's rural districts didn't have adequate volunteer numbers, which may contribute to a decrease in unsheltered individuals counted and due to the difficult nature of conducting counts in locations with fewer service and housing providers.

Figure 2.3:  
Homeless In the Midlands:  
Sheltered (Emergency, Transitional) vs Unsheltered  
2014-2016



**Table 2.6** shows individuals and households experiencing homelessness in the Midlands by age. The Midlands homeless population skewed younger, as 174 or 13% of the total were children. In total, there were 262 individuals experiencing homelessness living in households with children. Seven children under age 18 and 16 youth between ages 18-24 are unsheltered in the Midlands.

**Table 2.6**  
**Individuals and Households Experiencing Homelessness**  
**in the Midlands by Age and Sheltered or Unsheltered**  
**Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total
<b>Individuals</b>	549 (41%)	461 (34%)	339 (25%)	1,349
<b>Households</b>	497 (43%)	332 (29%)	318 (28%)	1,147
<b>HWC</b>	20 (24%)	59 (69%)	6 (7%)	85
<b>Individual Members of HWC</b>	67 (26%)	184 (70%)	11 (4%)	262
<b>Children &lt;18</b>	49 (28%)	118 (68%)	7 (4%)	174
<b>Youth 18-24</b>	35 (47%)	24 (32%)	16 (21%)	75
<b>Adults &gt;24</b>	465 (42%)	319 (29%)	316 (29%)	1,100

Generally consistent with other regions and previous data, individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands were more likely to be male (66%) than female (32%). Unsheltered individuals were even more likely to be male (77%). Still, the Midlands data suggest there were 78 females experiencing homelessness who were unsheltered. This is 18% of all women who were homeless in the Midlands and 6% of the total homeless population in the region.

Considering race and ethnicity, the largest group of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands were Black or African American, representing 65% of the total. Whites made up 31% of the total, and those of other races represented 4% of the total. These data reflect that people who identify as Latino/Hispanic represented a minority of people experiencing homelessness in the Midlands, as only 27 (2%) self-reported this ethnic heritage.

**Table 2.7**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Midlands**  
**by Gender, Ethnicity and Race**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Row Total	Percent of MACH PIT Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Male</b>	385 (42%)	269 (29%)	261 (29%)	915	68%
<b>Female</b>	163 (38%)	192 (44%)	78 (18%)	443	32%
<b>Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino</b>	534 (40%)	453 (34%)	335 (25%)	1,322	98%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	15 (56%)	8 (30%)	4 (15%)	27	2%
<b>White</b>	172 (41%)	137 (33%)	108 (26%)	417	31%
<b>Black or African-Am.</b>	355 (40%)	300 (34%)	225 (26%)	880	65%
<b>Other</b>	22 (42%)	24 (46%)	6 (12%)	52	4%

**Table 2.8** shows special homeless populations in the Midlands by housing status. In total, the 2016 PIT count reported 311 individuals who were chronically homeless in the Midlands. This compares to 298 in 2015 or an increase of 13 individuals who chronically experience homelessness. One notable factor regarding individuals who are chronically homeless is MACH’s increased outreach efforts and expanded use of the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT, a screening tool). This tool and expanded street outreach helped to prioritize the most vulnerable with the longest histories of homelessness and assist them getting into permanent supportive housing. Use of this tool may help to identify people with extended experiences of homelessness, rather than a real increase.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness is very similar between 2015 and 2016, with 227 reported in 2016 and 221 reported in 2015. MACH’s experiencing homelessness efforts included more outreach from participating MACH agencies, the local Veterans Administration and the development of a new One80 branch in Columbia.

Finally, the number who self-reported serious mental illness has increased from 14% in 2015 to 19% in 2016 (204 vs. 254). The same trend is revealed with substance abuse disorders, with 12% (176) reporting substance use disorders in 2015 compared with 20% (273) in 2016. Finally, the number who reported that they have HIV/AIDS has also increased from 1% (17) in 2015 to 2% (26) in 2016.

**Table 2.8**  
**Special Populations Experiencing Homelessness in the Midlands**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
<b>Total</b>	554 (41%)	460 (34%)	335 (25%)	1,349
<b>Chronic</b>	143 (49%)	0	148 (51%)	291
<b>Veteran</b>	56 (25%)	125 (56%)	43 (19%)	224
<b>Serious Mental Illness</b>	133 (52%)	71 (28%)	54 (21%)	258
<b>Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	99 (36%)	101 (37%)	74 (27%)	274
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	15 (58%)	4 (15%)	7 (27%)	26*

\*One individual could not be classified into a shelter category

Sixty-five percent (876) of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands resided in Richland County on the night of the PIT count. This is the largest concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands, followed by 11% (153) in York County and 8% (113) in Lexington County. No individuals experiencing homelessness were reported in Calhoun and Newberry counties; however conducting one-day counts in areas with limited or no homeless service providers is challenging.

**Table 2.9**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Midlands**  
**by County and Housing Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		
<b>Richland</b>	416 (47%)	261 (30%)	199 (23%)	876
<b>York</b>	92 (60%)	19 (12%)	42 (27%)	153
<b>Lexington</b>	0	112 (99%)	1 (1%)	113
<b>Orangeburg</b>	7 (15%)	39 (81%)	2(4%)	48
<b>Kershaw</b>	12 (29%)	4 (10%)	25 (61%)	41
<b>Aiken</b>	13 (37%)	15 (43%)	7 (20%)	35
<b>Fairfield</b>	0	0	21 (100%)	21
<b>Barnwell</b>	7 (47%)	0	8 (53%)	15
<b>Lancaster</b>	0	9 (64%)	5 (36%)	14
<b>Chester</b>	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	7 (64%)	11
<b>Allandale</b>	0	0	7 (100%)	7
<b>Bamberg</b>	0	0	6 (100%)	6

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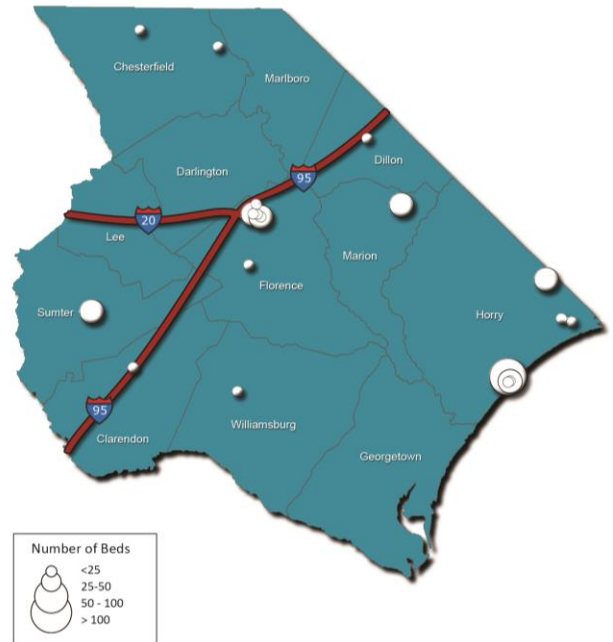
<b>Total</b>	554 (41%)	460 (34%)	225 (25%)	1,349
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## East Carolina Homeless Organization (ECHO)

County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
Chesterfield	His Hands and Feet	Cheraw	SM	5
	The Good Samaritan Colony Inc.	Ruby	SM	7
Clarendon	Salvation Army	Alcolu	SMF+HC	14
Dillon	Pee Dee Community Actions Partnership	Dillon	SMF+HC	15
Florence	Family Promise of Florence	Florence	SMF+HC	6
	Resurrection Outreach Ministries	Florence	SMF+HC	12
	Whosoever Church	Florence	SMF	10
	House of Hope of the Pee Dee	Effingham	SM	24
	House of Hope of the Pee Dee	Florence	SFHC	30
	PDCAA Transitional Shelter	Florence	SM	14
	PDCAA Transitional Shelter	Florence	SFHC	30
Horry	New Directions	N. Myrtle Beach	HC	5
	New Directions	Myrtle Beach	SM	75
	New Directions	N. Myrtle Beach	SF	5
	North Strand Housing Shelter	Longs	SMF+HC	30
	Sea Haven Inc.	Little River	YMF	9
	New Directions	N. Myrtle Beach	SFHC	13
	New Directions	N. Myrtle Beach	HC	45
	New Directions	Myrtle Beach	SM	86
	New Directions	N. Myrtle Beach	SF	18
	Veterans Welcome Home Center	Little River	SM	7
Marion	Kings Court	Mullins	SMF+HC	47
Sumter	Sumter United Ministries	Sumter	SMF	28
Williamsburg	Through the Storm	Kingstree	YF	12



ECHO has 36 member agencies that are homeless service providers operating in Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter and Williamsburg counties. The map shows the primary location of the service providers who offer shelter. (Domestic Violence Shelters' locations are not provided). In 2016, 27 of the providers participated in the PIT count. In 2015, 18 of

## ECHO at a Glance

- The 2016 PIT count data reveal that the number of people experiencing homelessness in East Carolina was basically unchanged. In total, 1,319 were counted in 2015 and 1,322 in 2016 (extrapolated).
- The most significant changes are that 91 fewer unsheltered and 94 more sheltered were counted compared to 2015. ECHO representatives attribute these changes to an increase in Permanent Supportive Housing in the ECHO region as well as the expansion of a few shelters in ECHO’s 12 county service area.
  - As a percentage of the total, 63% of the individuals experiencing homelessness in East Carolina are unsheltered (Extrapolated). This is a decline from last year for ECHO, but still the highest percentage unsheltered of any of the South Carolina regions (LHC=48%, MACH = 25% and UHC = 14% unsheltered as a percentage of the total.)
  - The number of veterans experiencing homelessness in ECHO declined significantly, from 181 in 2015 to 88 in 2016. This represents a decline of 51% and 93 individual veterans.

these providers participated, and 22 participated in 2014. Variation in rates of participation may affect statistical comparisons year to year.

### Methodological Note: Extrapolation of Data

For most of the state and all of the three other regions, raw data as recorded from the PIT count surveys are analyzed and presented. ECHO uses a different methodology called “extrapolation”. (See <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4036/point-in-time-count-methodology-guide/>) ECHO used the extrapolation method in both 2015 and 2016 for the unsheltered counts only. The reason to use extrapolated data is to generate better estimates of people experiencing homelessness especially in hard to count rural areas. Below we present the total data for 2016 comparing raw to extrapolated data. The extrapolated data estimates 311 more individuals experiencing homelessness than the raw data.

**PIT Counts in ECHO: Raw compared to Extrapolated.**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total Count
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Raw	Extrapolated	
Raw Total	231	259	521		1,011



Extrapolated	231	259		832	1,322
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Using the extrapolated data, ECHO's total count of people experiencing homelessness in 2016 (1,322) is very similar to 2015 (1,319). With the extrapolated figures ECHO records 91 fewer unsheltered and 94 more sheltered people experiencing homelessness than were estimated in 2015.

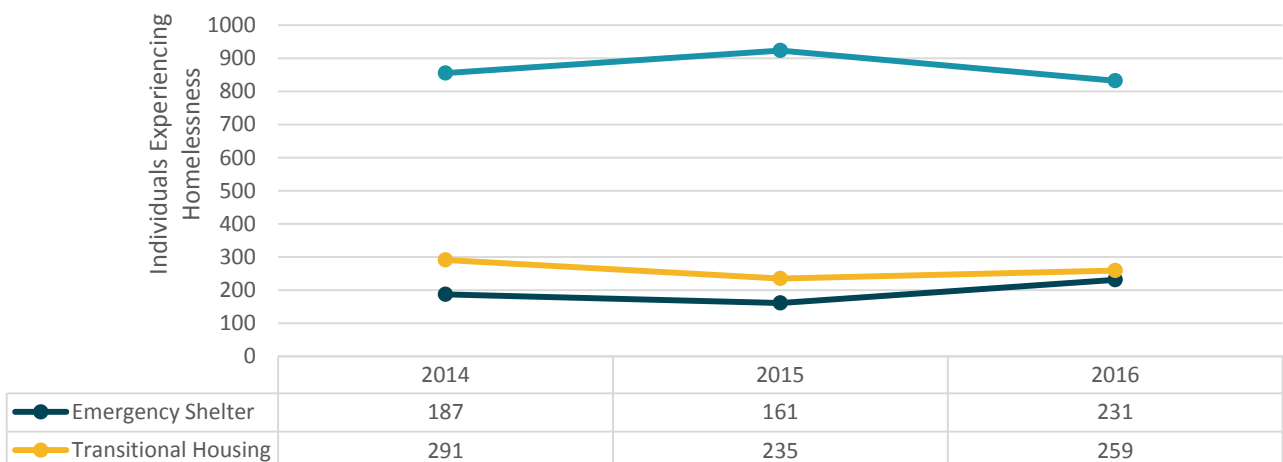
As extrapolated data does not allow for calculating statistics at the individual level, only the total extrapolated counts are shown below. In tables where we can provide extrapolated data we call it out. In all other cases, raw data is shown.

### Detailed PIT Data Analysis

The 2016 PIT count data reveal that the number of people experiencing homelessness counted in East Carolina was basically unchanged since 2015. In total, 1,319 were counted in 2015 and 1,322 in 2016 (extrapolated). The most significant changes are that 91 fewer unsheltered and 94 more sheltered were counted compared to 2015 (extrapolated). The numbers of both those in emergency shelters and in transitional housing increased from 2015 to 2016. The number in emergency shelters increased by 70 individuals and the number in transitional housing increased by 24.

ECHO representatives attribute the increase in people experiencing homelessness in shelters to an increase in Permanent Supportive Housing in the ECHO region as well as to the expansion of a few shelters in ECHO's 12 county service area. The majority of people experiencing homelessness in Eastern Carolina were unsheltered. The remainder either lived in emergency shelters, or in transitional housing in approximately equal proportions. As a percentage of the total, 63% of the homeless individuals in East Carolina are unsheltered. This is highest percentage unsheltered of any of the South Carolina regions (LHC=48%, MACH = 25% and UHC = 14% unsheltered as a percentage of the total.)

Figure 2.4:  
Homeless In Eastern S. Carolina:  
Sheltered (Emergency, Transitional) vs Unsheltered  
2014-2016 (extrapolated)



Fifteen percent of the total homeless population in this region were children and another 9% were youth. Only the Upstate had a higher proportion of children experiencing homelessness in South Carolina.

**Table 2.10**  
**Individuals and Households Experiencing Homelessness**  
**in Eastern Carolina by Age and Sheltered or Unsheltered**  
**Status**

	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total	
<b>Individuals</b>	224 (22%)	262 (26%)	525 (52%)	1,011	
<b>Households</b>	182 (18%)	206 (20%)	426 (42%)	814	
<b>HWC</b>	24 (2%)	27 (3%)	26 (3%)	77	
<b>Individual Members of HWC</b>	60 (6%)	81 (8%)	94 (9%)	235	
					<b>Percent of ECHO PIT Total</b>
<b>Children &lt;18</b>	38 (4%)	55 (5%)	58 (6%)	151	15%
<b>Youth 18-24</b>	15 (1%)	32 (3%)	47 (5%)	94	9%
<b>Adults &gt;24</b>	171 (17%)	175 (17%)	420 (42%)	766	76%

Similar to other regions in the state, the gender distribution was 63% male and 37% female. Slightly more than half of the men and women were unsheltered, but with sheltered women being more likely than their male counterparts to live in Transitional Housing.

Blacks or African-Americans made up the largest racial group of people experiencing homelessness at 53% and whites were next at 45%. Only 23 individuals experiencing homelessness reported being of Hispanic/Latino descent, representing 2% of the total.

**Table 2.11**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Eastern Carolina by Gender, Ethnicity and Race**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percent of ECHO PIT Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing			
<b>Male</b>	153 (24%)	155 (24%)	331 (52%)	639	63%
<b>Female</b>	71 (19%)	107 (29%)	194 (52%)	372	37%
<b>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</b>	217 (22%)	258 (26%)	513 (52%)	988	98%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	7 (30%)	4 (17%)	12 (52%)	23	2%
<b>White</b>	97 (21%)	123 (27%)	234 (52%)	454	45%
<b>Black or African-Am.</b>	124 (23%)	124 (23%)	283 (53%)	531	53%
<b>Other</b>	3 (12%)	15 (58%)	8 (31%)	26	26%

The special populations data for ECHO revealed that the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has increased from 156 in 2015 to 211 in 2016. In contrast, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness has declined by about half, from 181 in 2015 to 88 in 2016. A much smaller proportion of veterans were unsheltered in 2016, as well. (Based on reports from ECHO administrators, more recent outreach following the PIT count located and identified a total of 231 veterans. A few homeless camps were found by partner organizations after the official PIT count time period. Veterans in these camps stated they had been homeless on the night of the count.) Adults reporting serious mental illness declined from 127 (10 percent) in 2015 to 71 or 4 percent in 2016. Most dramatically, in 2015, 47 percent or 616 of the homeless adult individuals in ECHO reported a substance use disorder while in 2016 the number dropped to 131 or 13 percent of the total. Finally, the number with HIV/AIDS declined from 9 to 6 over the past year.

**Table 2.12**  
**Special Populations Experiencing Homelessness**  
**In Eastern Carolina**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total
<b>Chronic</b>	45 (20%)	0	166 (80%)	211
<b>Veteran</b>	27 (31%)	27 (31%)	34 (39%)	88
<b>Serious Mental Illness</b>	14 (18%)	17 (25%)	42 (58%)	71
<b>Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	16 (11%)	23 (18%)	92 (70%)	131
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	2 (33%)	0	4 (67%)	6

Nearly half of Eastern Carolina’s individuals experiencing homelessness were counted in Horry County in 2016, the single largest concentration in this region. The remainder were spread across 10 other counties with only Marlboro County reporting none.

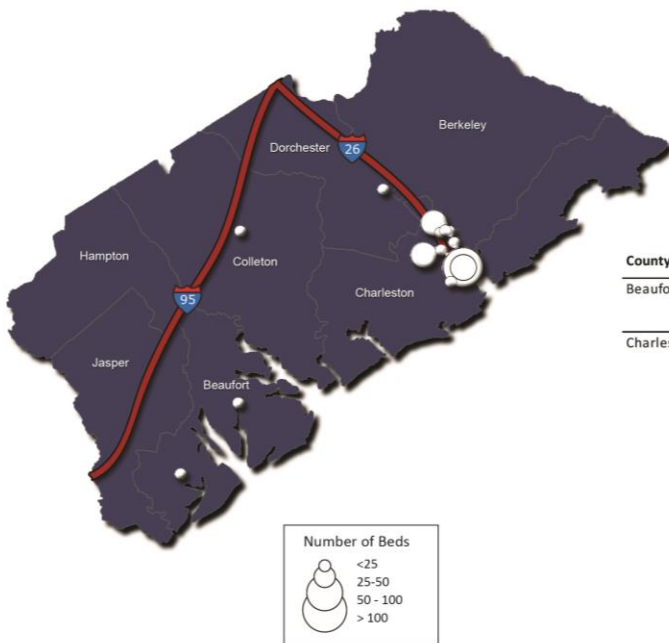
**Table 2.13**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Eastern Carolina by County and Housing Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Raw	Extrap.	Row Total
<b>Horry</b>	97 (20%)	159 (32%)	236 (48%)	479	492
<b>Florence</b>	49 (26%)	86 (45%)	55 (29%)	74	190
<b>Marion</b>	47 (61%)	0	30 (39%)	30	77
<b>Georgetown</b>	0	0	71 (100%)	85	71
<b>Sumter</b>	24 (47%)	0	27 (53%)	46	51
<b>Dillon</b>	6 (14%)	0	38 (86%)	45	44
<b>Chesterfield</b>	5 (23%)	7 (32%)	10 (46%)	12	22
<b>Williamsburg</b>	0	10 (31%)	22 (69%)	22	32
<b>Darlington</b>	0	0	21 (100%)	28	21
<b>Lee</b>	0	0	9 (100%)	9	9
<b>Clarendon</b>	0	0	2 (100%)	2	2
<b>Marlboro</b>	0	0	0	0	0

# LOWCOUNTRY HOMELESS COALITION

## LOWCOUNTRY HOMELESS COALITION

The Lowcountry Homeless Coalition (LHC) is a group of approximately 20 homeless service providers operating in Berkeley, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. The map below shows the primary location of each of these providers. (Domestic Violence shelters' addresses and locations are not shown.) In 2016, 16 of these providers reported data compared to 17 reporting in 2015 and 22 reporting in 2014. The lack of complete reporting may serve to underestimate the total number of people experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry.

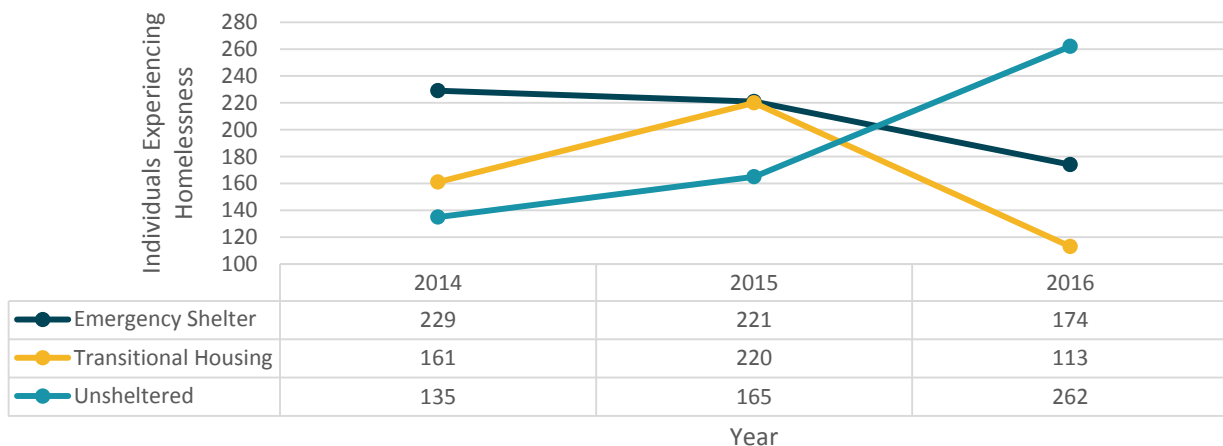


County	Organization	City	Population	# Beds
Beaufort	Family Promise of Beaufort County	Blufton	HC	14
	Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse	Beaufort	SF+HC	18
Charleston	Aldersgate United Methodist	N. Charleston	SM	0
	Charleston County	N. Charleston	SMF	0
	MAIA Moms	N. Charleston	HC	6
	My Sister's House	N. Charleston	SF+HC	36
	One80 Place	Charleston	SF+HC	40
	One80 Place	Charleston	SM	60
	Carolina Homeless Veterans	Charleston	SM	25
	Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc	N. Charleston	SM	20
	Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc	N. Charleston	SM	25
	Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc	Charleston	SMF	30
One80 Place	Charleston	SMF	53	
Shield Ministries	N. Charleston	SM	23	
Colleton	Lowcountry Community Action Agency	Walterboro	SF+HC	19
Dorchester	Dorchester County Community Outreach	Summerville	SM	6

## Lowcountry at A Glance

- The Lowcountry reported 550 individuals experiencing homelessness in the 2016 PIT count. This represents a decrease of 56 individuals (606 in 2015) compared to last year.
- The Lowcountry homeless population represented 11.6 percent of the homeless population in the state, similar to 2015.
- The number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry increased from 135 in 2014, to 165 in 2015 and 262 in 2016. This represents an increase over last year of 59 percent. At the same time, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters declined by 21 percent and the number in transitional housing declined by 49 percent.
- The number of individuals experiencing homelessness that self-reported that they have a serious mental illness was 187 in 2016 compared to 87 last year. Likewise, the number of adults self-reporting a substance use disorder was 148 in 2016, up from 89 in 2015.

Figure 2.5:  
Homeless In the Lowcountry:  
Sheltered (Emergency, Transitional) vs Unsheltered  
2014-2016



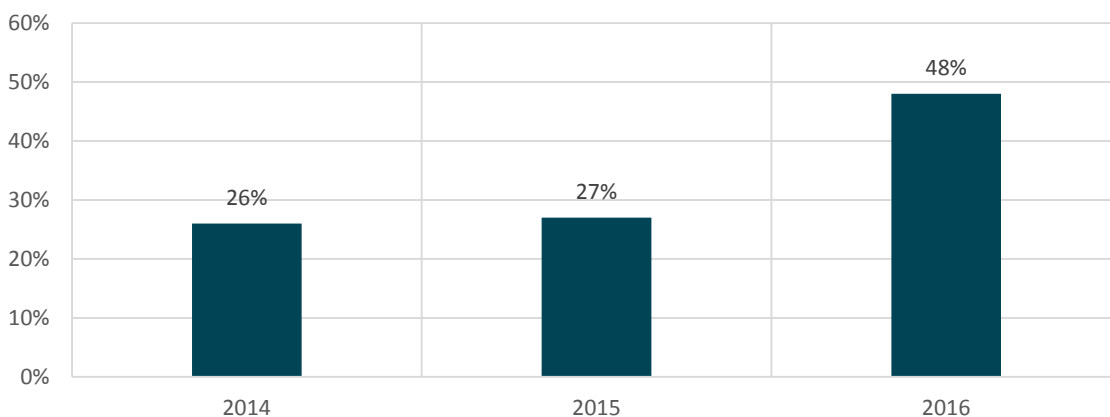
### Detailed PIT Count Data Analysis

2016 represents substantial change in the homeless population in the Lowcountry. While the overall count of individuals experiencing homelessness showed a decline,

there was a substantial increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness who were unsheltered (97 more individuals were unsheltered this year compared to last). The proportion of unsheltered homeless in the Lowcountry was 48 percent in 2016 compared to 26 percent and 27 percent in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

**Figure 2.6** illustrates the change over the past three years in the proportion of homeless individuals in the Lowcountry who were unsheltered, with nearly half (48 percent) in 2016 living without shelter.

Figure 2.6:  
Lowcountry Homeless  
Percent Unsheltered  
by Year 2014-2016



Representatives of the LHC believe these changes are a result of 3 main factors.

1. LHC has increased its capacity for street outreach over the 3 last years. In 2014 there were no funded outreach programs in the Lowcountry Homeless Coalition service area, resulting in less ability to locate and engage persons living unsheltered. Over 2015 and 2016, LHC retained three federally funded street outreach programs which significantly increased its ability to engage unsheltered populations for the purposes of the PIT Count.

2. The second factor was a concentration of people living unsheltered in one encampment area in the City of Charleston during the 2016 PIT Count time frame. At its peak, this encampment reached about 115 total people living in tents. The encampment provided an opportunity for outreach workers to engage with many people living unsheltered in one area instead of spread throughout many disparate areas, improving LHC's ability to document unsheltered homelessness.

3. The third factor is a decrease in the available emergency shelters and transitional housing programs during the 2016 PIT Count. This decrease was the result of emergency shelter and transitional housing programs reducing the number of beds available for people experiencing homelessness.



## Demographics of LHC

The vast majority of individuals experiencing homeless in the Lowcountry were adults older than 24 years. Only 3 percent (17) of individuals experiencing homeless counted in the Lowcountry were under 18 and 6 percent (35) are 18-24. The 2016 count found 3 unsheltered children and 27 unsheltered youth. As a proportion of the age group, youth 18-24 were most likely to be unsheltered.

**Table 2.14**  
**Individuals and Households Experiencing Homelessness**  
**in the Lowcountry by Age and Sheltered or Unsheltered**  
**Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total	
<b>Individuals</b>	173 (31%)	113 (21%)	264 (48%)	550	
<b>Households</b>	164 (32%)	103 (20%)	252 (49%)	519	
<b>HWC</b>	7 (58%)	2 (17%)	3 (25%)	12	
<b>Individual Members of HWC</b>	16 (52%)	8 (26%)	7 (23%)	31	
					<b>Percent of LHC PIT Total</b>
<b>Children &lt;18</b>	9 (53%)	5 (29%)	3 (18%)	17	3%
<b>Youth 18-24</b>	7 (20%)	1 (3%)	27 (77%)	35	6%
<b>Adults &gt;24</b>	157 (32%)	107 (21%)	234 (47%)	498	91%

Consistent with previous years and other regions in the state, individuals experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry were more likely to be male (76 percent) than female (24 percent). As a percent of the total, women were slightly more likely to be unsheltered than men: 53 percent of women experiencing homelessness were unsheltered and 47 percent of men experiencing homelessness were unsheltered in the Lowcountry.

Blacks or African Americans were the largest racial group represented among those experiencing homelessness, accounting for nearly half (47 percent). Whites accounted for 36 percent and “other” represented 17 percent. Notable is that the proportion unsheltered was the same among whites and blacks (45 percent), but substantially higher – 65 percent -- among those who self-reported their race as “Other.” Only a very small proportion (2 percent) of those experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry reported that they are of Latino or Hispanic origin.

**Table 2.15**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homeless in the Lowcountry**  
**by Gender, Ethnicity and Race**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	Percent of LHC PIT Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Row Total		
<b>Male</b>	122 (29%)	100 (24%)	193 (47%)	415 (100%)	75%
<b>Female</b>	51 (38%)	13 (10%)	71 (53%)	135 (100%)	25%
<b>Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino</b>	168 (31%)	112 (21%)	259 (48%)	539 (100%)	98%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	5 (45%)	1 (9%)	5 (45%)	11 (100%)	2%
<b>White</b>	65 (33%)	46 (23%)	89 (45%)	200 (100%)	36%
<b>Black of African-Am.</b>	79 (31%)	63 (25%)	114 (45%)	256 (100%)	47%
<b>Other</b>	29 (31%)	4 (4%)	61 (65%)	94 (100%)	17%

**Table 2.16** shows special populations within the Lowcountry by their housing status. The number of people who were chronically homeless in the Lowcountry (141) has increased compared to last year (117). This represents an increase of 24 individuals or 17%. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness comprised 34% of the total homeless population in the Lowcountry in 2016, contrasted with 19% in 2015. Similarly, the number of self-reports of serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders have increased markedly. The number of individuals self-reporting that they have a serious mental illness was 187 in 2016 compared to 87 last year. Likewise, the number of adults self-reporting a substance use disorder was 89 in 2015 and 148 in 2016.

In contrast to these increases in chronic homelessness and mental health status, the number of veterans counted has *decreased* in the Lowcountry as 179 were counted in 2015 and 144 in 2016. The number of people experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry reporting they have HIV/AIDS declined by about half from 9 in 2015 to 5 in 2016.

Previously cited explanations of the increased outreach and being in contact with those staying at the encampment may have affected these statistics. LHC appears to be working with a different and more severely challenged population of people experiencing homelessness in 2016 compared to 2015. As a result of the increased outreach and contact at the encampment, perhaps veterans were guided to services to help them address their homeless status, accounting for the slight decline over the last year

**Table 2.16**  
**Special Populations Experiencing Homelessness in the Lowcountry**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total
<b>Chronic</b>	48 (34%)	0	93 (66%)	141
<b>Veteran</b>	14 (10%)	101 (69%)	31 (2%)	146
<b>Serious Mental Illness</b>	60 (32%)	58 (31%)	69 (37%)	187
<b>Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	38 (26%)	51 (34%)	59 (40%)	148
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	1 (20%)	0	4 (80%)	5

**Table 2.17** shows individuals experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry by county. Within the Lowcountry, homelessness is centered in Charleston county with 461 of the total 550 (84 percent) living in Charleston county. Beaufort, Hampton, and Dorchester counties are next in terms of number of individuals experiencing homelessness, but all are far fewer than Charleston county. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Charleston county represent 10 percent of the state total, fourth most of South Carolina’s 46 counties.

**Table 2.17**  
**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Lowcountry**  
**by County and Housing Status**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		Row Total	% of LHC PIT Total
<b>Charleston</b>	151 (33%)	112 (24%)	198 (43%)	461	84%
<b>Beaufort</b>	10 (29%)	0	25 (71%)	35	6%
<b>Dorchester</b>	9 (36%)	0	16 (64%)	25	5%
<b>Hampton</b>	0	0	22 (100%)	22	4%
<b>Colleton</b>	5 (100%)	0	0	5	1%
<b>Jasper</b>	0	0	1 (100%)	1	<1%
<b>Berkeley</b>	1 (100%)	0	0	1	<1%