



## BrainGain@PEC

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**Date: November, 2017**

BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/29MhFEx>.

## Philadelphia Point in Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) for “Persons in Families”<sup>i</sup>

This report summarizes Philadelphia’s **Point in Time** (PIT)<sup>ii</sup> count and the **Housing Inventory Chart** (HIC) as they relate to “*persons in families*”<sup>1</sup> *experiencing homelessness*.

**Data Sources:** The source of the data of the 2017 PIT and 2017 HIC are from the Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services. HIC data of previous years and the Point in Time come from the “HUD Exchange,” found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>, and from the Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services.

This BrainGain@PEC presents three sections:

1. PIT Data
2. PIT Data on children and youth
3. HIC data

Readers should understand that HUD and homeless service leaders use the PIT and HIC to understand trends. However, the documents at HUD’s website does not offer an analysis as to why numbers increase or decrease.



Readers should be cautious about what the data seems to be for a variety of reasons. For instance, HUD has suggested that family homelessness is in decline<sup>2</sup>. It relies on the PIT count to make this assertion. However, the PIT is based, in part, on the number of emergency and transitional housing units and beds available. A person occupying an emergency or transitional housing bed gets counted in PIT. When the number of beds is reduced or is increased, so would the PIT count be reduced or increased. Using only this publically available data, it seems to be the case in Philadelphia that family homelessness is declining because of the reduction of beds and units in transitional housing and the increasing number of beds in ‘Rapid Rehousing,’ whose

<sup>1</sup> “Persons in Families” is a phrase used by HUD to distinguish between homeless single individuals and homeless persons who are with their families.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/homelessness-in-the-u-s-continues-to-decline/>

occupants are no longer counted as homeless. It is likely that other factors are involved, including changing definitions and standards set by HUD. A key challenge is that the **United States Interagency Council on Homelessness** is listing as a **benchmark**<sup>3</sup> that all regions identify *all* homeless persons, encouraging local agencies to go beyond the PIT.

## Highlights:

- Adding all units of housing in the family homeless system, there was an **increase** in the number of **units** for families experiencing homelessness.
- There was a significant **reduction** in the **number of persons in households with children** who were homeless and counted in the Point in Time Count from 2008 to 2017, that number **decreased** from 3,392 to 2,352.
- **Emergency** and **Transitional** housing units have decreased since 2009. The number of family emergency housing units has decreased from 490 units in 2009 to 465 in 2017. The number of **transitional** housing units has **decreased** from 625 to 392 from 2009 to 2017.
- Combining emergency and transitional housing units, the **capacity** to serve homeless families **shrunk**. As mentioned previously, because the PIT is based on the number of families in emergency and transitional housing, it would be difficult to assert with confidence that family homelessness is increasing or decreasing because of changes to HIC capacity. Other measurements are needed to answer the question –*‘is family homelessness increasing or decreasing?’*
- The number of ‘Rapid Rehousing’ units for families has **increased** from 147 to 291 from 2015 to 2017, and the number of beds has **increased** from 544 to 926 during the same time frame.
- The number of permanent supportive housing beds has **increased**, although the number of units has **fallen**.
- For the first time in the past 10 years during the PIT, 1 family was identified as **living on the street** (or, ‘unsheltered’).
- There were **1,534 children ages 0-18** in emergency or transitional housing counted in the one night by the PIT.
- There were **524 persons ages 18-24** in emergency or transitional housing during the PIT.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/criteria-and-benchmarks-for-ending-family-homelessness>

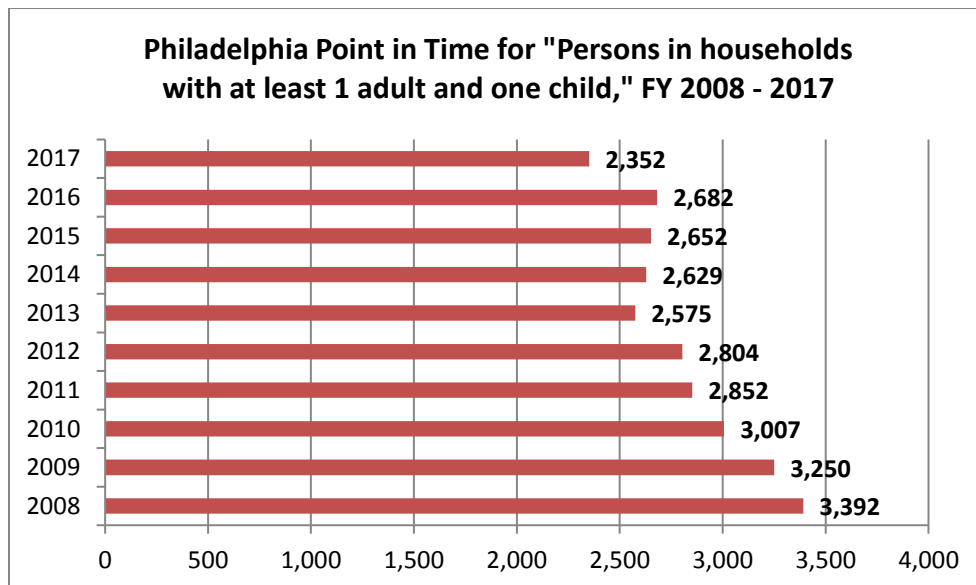
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## Section 1: Total # of *Persons in Families* in Philadelphia Experiencing Homelessness and counted in the Point in Time Count Fiscal Year 2008-2017

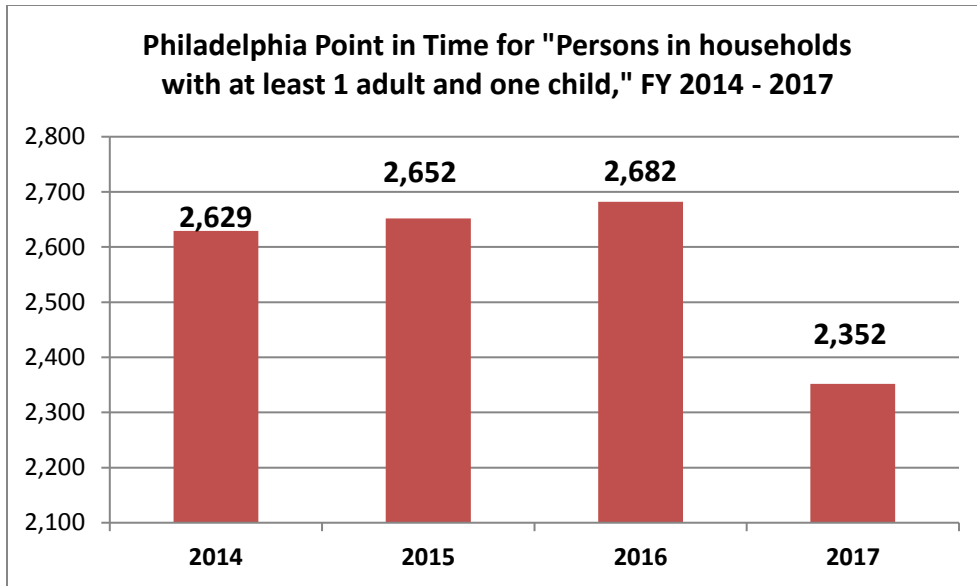
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The (PIT) chart below suggests:

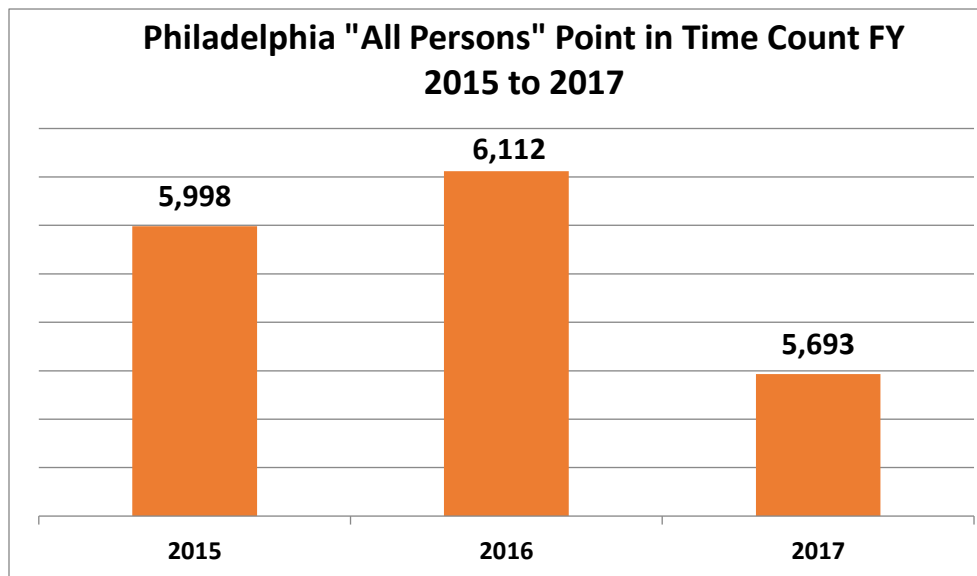
- From fiscal years (FY) 2008 to 2017, there was a significant **reduction** in the number of persons in households with children experiencing homelessness being served in emergency or transitional and counted on a single day by the PIT. These numbers do not include families living doubled up.
- The **average** number of persons in families experience homelessness homeless since 2008 is 2,904, and the **median** is 2,804.
- There is nearly a 1,000 persons in families **decline** from 2008 to 2017.



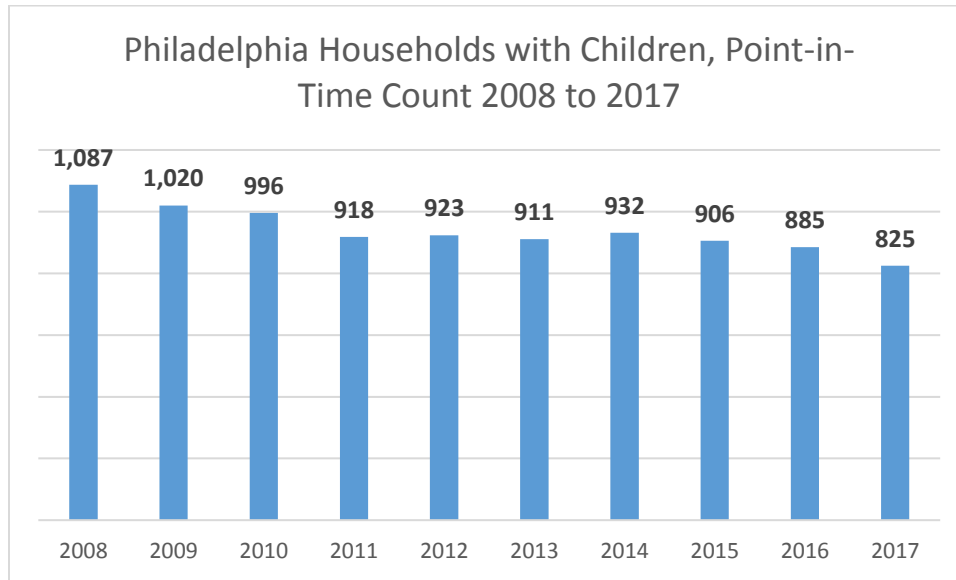
- From FY 2014 to 2017, the number of persons in households with children experiencing homelessness being served in emergency or transitional and **counted on a single day** by the PIT **increased** in the two years prior to 2016, and **dropped by 330 'persons in families'** from 2016 to 2017.



- The decline in families identified in emergency or transitional housing was **similar** to the overall drop of **all persons** (single individuals plus 'persons in families') in Philadelphia.



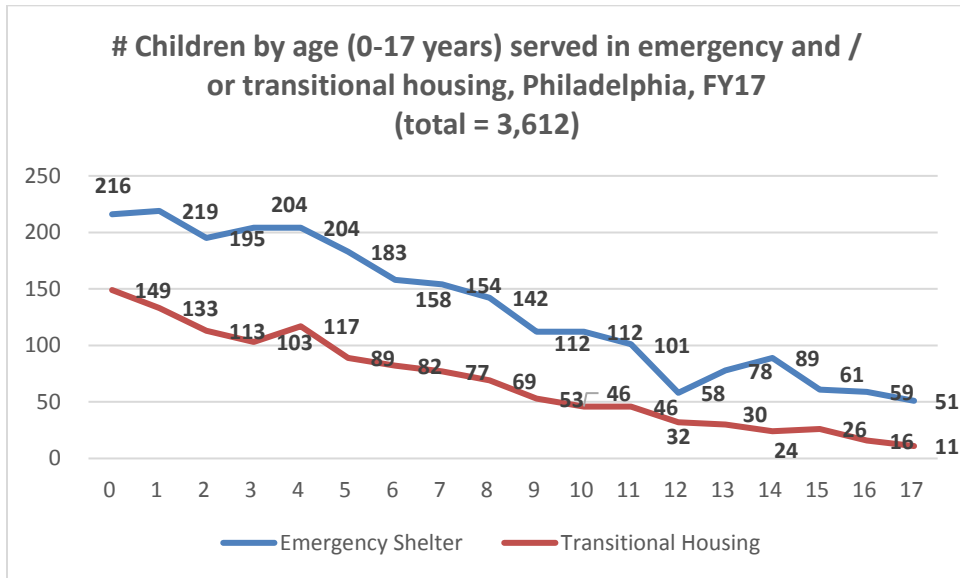
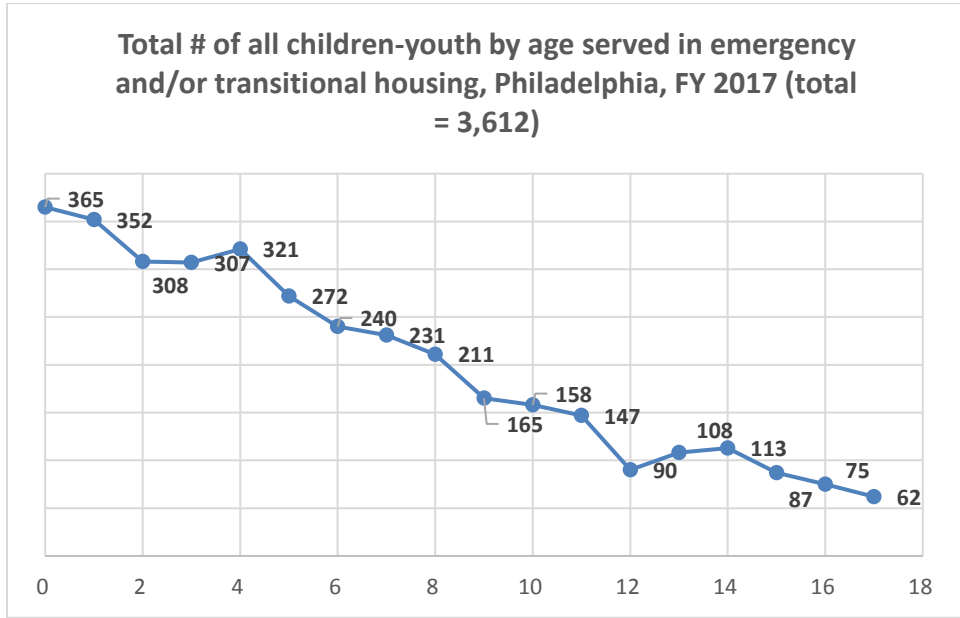
- The chart below shows the number of families, i.e., ‘households with children’, from FY 2008 to 2017.



**Other notable data points:**

- For the first time in the past 10 years during the PIT, 1 family was identified as **living on the street** (or, ‘unsheltered’).
- There were **1,534 children ages 0-18** in emergency or transitional housing during the PIT.
- There were **524 persons ages 18-24** in emergency or transitional housing during the PIT.

## Section 2: PIT Data on children and youth



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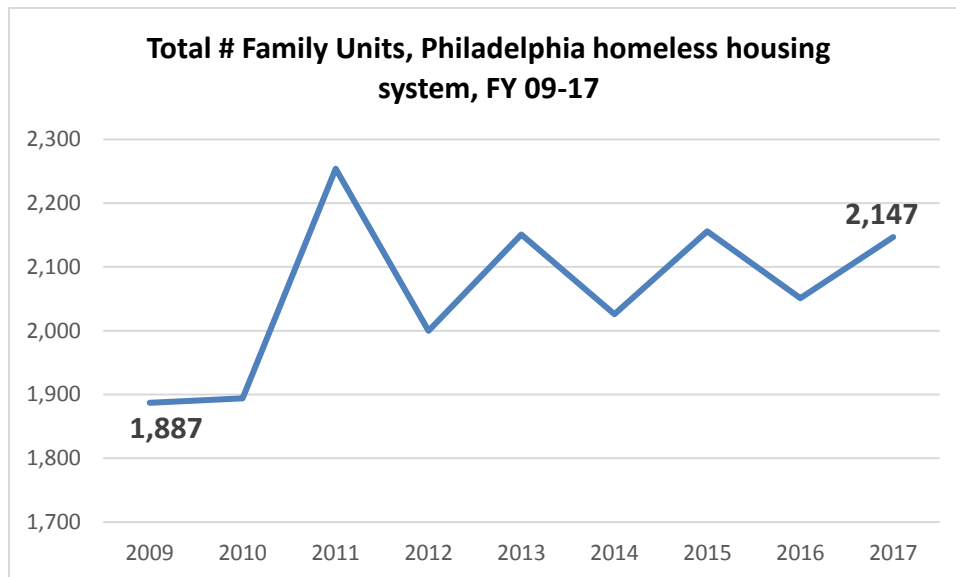
## Section 3: HOUSING INVENTORY

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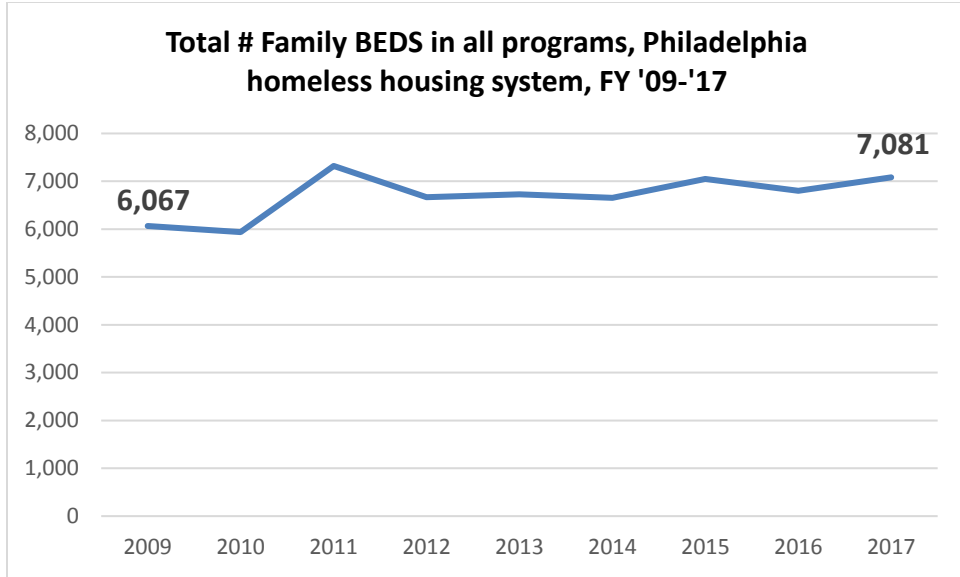
### Total # of Housing UNITS for Families Experiencing Homelessness in Philadelphia Fiscal Years 2009 - 2017

The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) shows the number of beds and units, i.e., the system's capacity. The chart below suggests that since 2009 that there has been an **overall increase** in both housing **units** and **beds** available for families who experience(d) homelessness in Philadelphia. The HIC does not offer commentary on the reason(s) numbers will go up or down.

The chart below totals all emergency, transitional, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive, and 'other permanent' housing. Please know that in fiscal year 2013, HUD included RRH Units/Beds in the Transitional Housing Category.

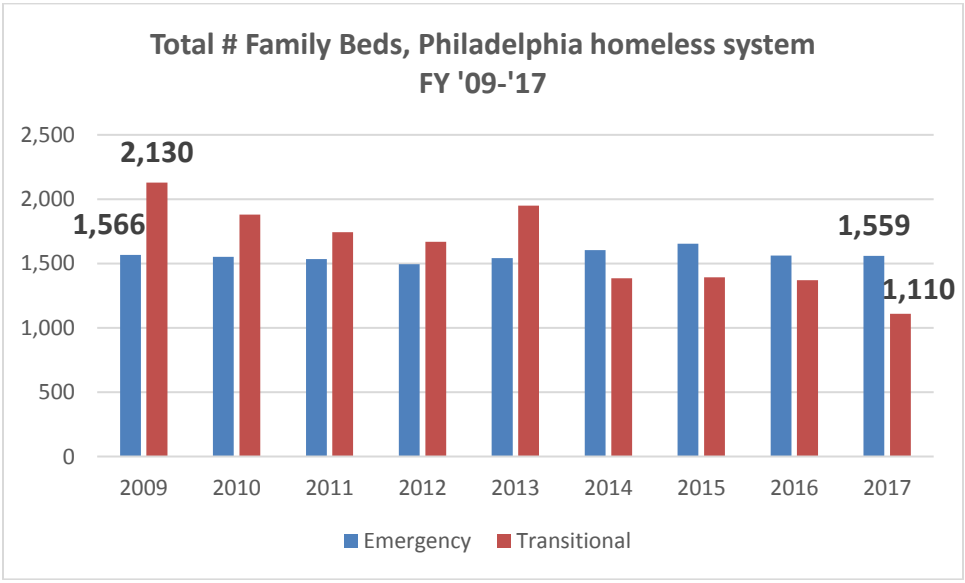
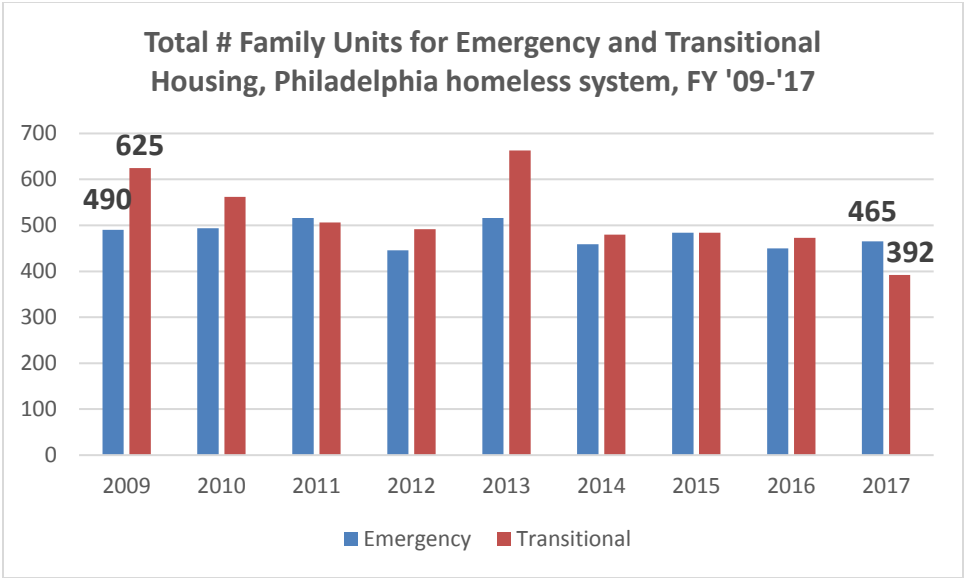


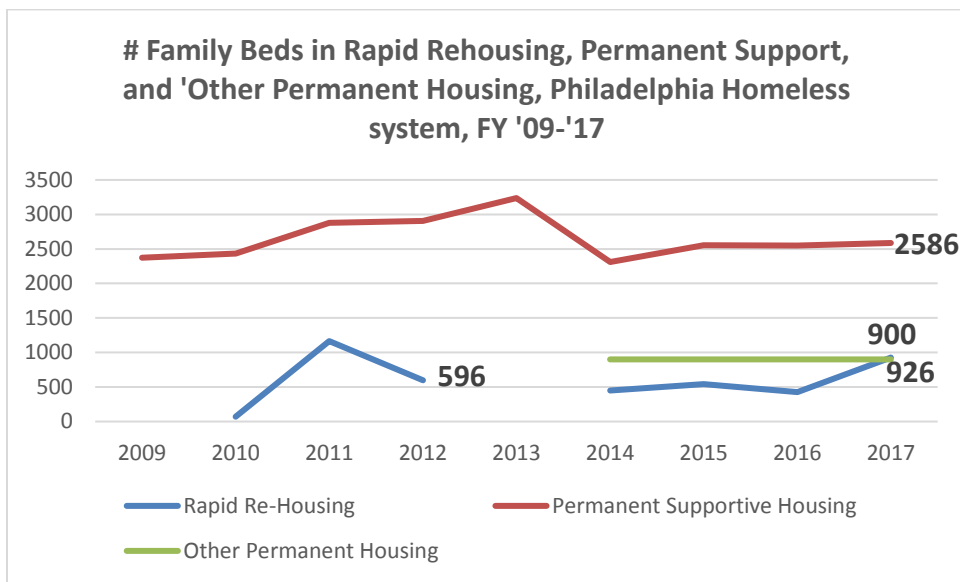
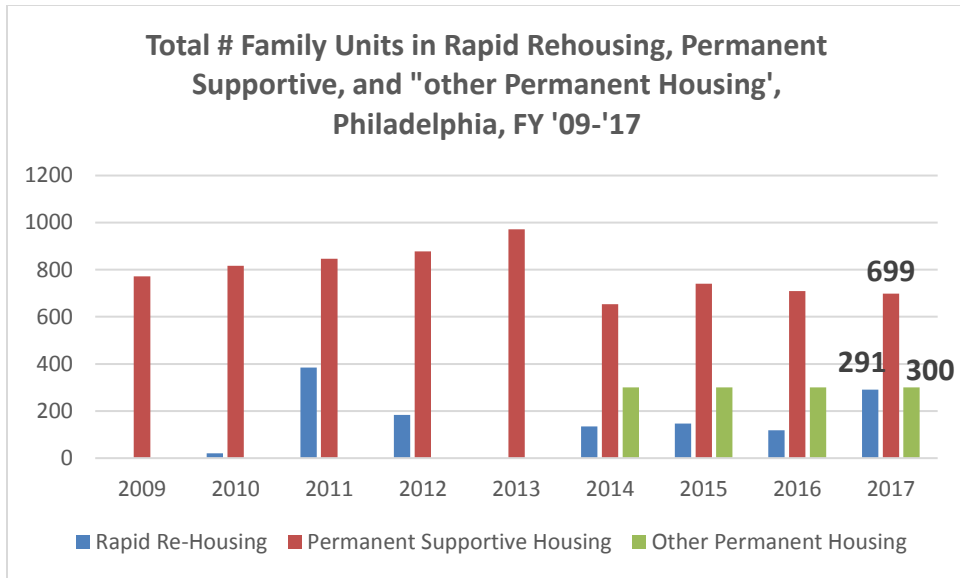
Total # Family Units, Philadelphia homeless system, FY ' 09-'17									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Emergency</b>	490	494	516	446	516	459	484	450	465
<b>Transitional</b>	625	562	506	492	663	480	484	473	392
<b>Rapid Re-Housing</b>		21	385	184		134	147	118	291
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	772	817	847	878	972	653	741	710	699
<b>Other Permanent Housing</b>						300	300	300	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>2,147</b>



<b>Total # Family Beds, Philadelphia homeless system FY '09-'17</b>									
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Emergency</b>	1,566	1,552	1,535	1,496	1,541	1,604	1,655	1,562	1,559
<b>Transitional</b>	2,130	1,881	1,744	1,670	1,949	1,386	1,394	1,370	1,110
<b>Rapid Re-Housing</b>		70	1,165	596		451	544	425	926
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	2,371	2,435	2,877	2,904	3,237	2,311	2,554	2,547	2,586
<b>Other Permanent Housing</b>						900	900	900	900
<b>Total Family Beds</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>6,666</b>	<b>6,727</b>	<b>6,652</b>	<b>7,047</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>7,081</b>







PEC is responsible for the content of this document. We thank the individuals who reviewed the document.

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<sup>i</sup> 1. According to HUD, the Point in Time Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. The PIT is just one way to count Pennsylvania’s families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The PIT data is used for program planning.

2. According to HUD, “These data are used to measure homelessness on a local and national level and are published annually on HUD’s HUD Exchange website, which can be viewed by CoCs and the general public. PIT count data are also provided annually to Congress as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The AHAR is used by Congress, HUD, other federal departments, and the general public to understand the nature and extent of homelessness. HUD’s PIT count data has become increasingly important as a measure of our local and national progress related to preventing and ending homelessness, especially with relation to our progress towards meeting the goals of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Therefore, it has become necessary to ask for more detailed information and to ensure that the data submitted to HUD are as complete and accurate as practicable.” (source: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>)

<sup>ii</sup> Data source is the Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services. Learn more at <http://www.philadelphiaofficeofhomelesservices.org/know-homelessness/point-in-time-count/>