A Consideration of the Philadelphia Point in Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) for “Persons in Families”

Highlights:

• Adding all units of housing and beds in the family homeless system, the system’s capacity to serve homeless families decreased between 2009 to 2019.

• Transitional housing units and beds for families have decreased in particular. In fact, it could be suggested that the decrease in the number of homeless family households in TH counted by the PIT between 2012 and 2019 could be accounted for by the decrease in TH units for families in that same timeframe.

• There was a 47% decrease in the number of homeless persons in families who were counted in the PIT Count from 2007 to 2019.

• From 2014 to 2019 the number of Rapid Rehousing units for families more than doubled, and the number of beds increased by 96% during the same time frame.

• The number of Permanent Supportive Housing units and beds for families decreased from 2016 to 2019.
This report summarizes Philadelphia’s **Point in Time (PIT)** count and the **Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)** as they relate to “**persons in families**” experiencing homelessness.


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 do not offer an analysis of why numbers increase or decrease over time.

Using only this publicly available data, it **seems to be the case in Philadelphia that family homelessness is declining because of the decrease in beds and units** in transitional housing and the increasing number of beds in Rapid Rehousing, housing that is managed by the homeless system but, legally, the residents are no longer defined as homeless.

### Section 1: PIT Data on Homeless People in Families in Philadelphia Fiscal Years 2007-2019

The PIT charts below indicate that:

- From FY 2007 to 2019, the Philadelphia PIT Count of homeless people in families **decreased** by nearly 2,000 people.

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1 “Persons in Families” is a phrase used by HUD to distinguish between homeless single individuals and homeless persons who are with their families.
• In the same timeframe, the number being served in emergency shelter (ES) or transitional housing (TH) and counted on a single day by the PIT decreased.

• 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 emergency or transitional housing in Philadelphia.
The charts below show decreases in the number of homeless family HOUSEHOLDS counted by the PIT between FY 2012 and 2019.
Section 2: PIT Data on Homeless Unaccompanied Children and Youth in Philadelphia, Fiscal Years 2015-2019

Philadelphia PIT for Homeless Family Households in ES and TH, FY 2012-2019

Philadelphia PIT for Homeless Unaccompanied Youth, FY 2015-2019
Note: Safe Haven programs are only included in 2019.
Philadelphia PIT for Homeless Parenting Youth, FY 2015-2019

Philadelphia PIT for Homeless Children of Parenting Youth, FY 2015-2019
Section 3: Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) Data for Homeless Families in Philadelphia, Fiscal Years 2009-2019

The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) shows the number of beds and units, i.e., the system’s capacity. The HIC does not offer commentary on the reason(s) that these numbers change over time. The charts below total all emergency, transitional, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive, and ‘other permanent’ housing.

Note: In fiscal year 2013, HUD included RRH units and beds in the Transitional Housing Category.

The charts below indicate that:

- The number of family units and beds in all types of housing programs have fluctuated since 2009.
### Total # Family UNITS, Philadelphia homeless housing system

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>436</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Re-Housing</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Permanent Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Family Units</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>1,894</td>
<td>2,254</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>2,026</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>2,051</td>
<td>2,147</td>
<td>1,760</td>
<td>1,639</td>
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### Total # Family BEDS in all programs, Philadelphia homeless housing system FY 2009-2019

![Graph showing the total number of family beds in all programs, Philadelphia homeless housing system FY 2009-2019.](image)
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency</strong></td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>1,552</td>
<td>1,535</td>
<td>1,496</td>
<td>1,541</td>
<td>1,604</td>
<td>1,655</td>
<td>1,562</td>
<td>1,559</td>
<td>1,503</td>
<td>1,446</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transitional</strong></td>
<td>2,130</td>
<td>1,881</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>1,949</td>
<td>1,386</td>
<td>1,394</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>762</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rapid Re-Housing</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1,165</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>885</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent Supportive Housing</strong></td>
<td>2,371</td>
<td>2,435</td>
<td>2,877</td>
<td>2,904</td>
<td>3,237</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>2,554</td>
<td>2,547</td>
<td>2,586</td>
<td>2,356</td>
<td>2,160</td>
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<td><strong>Other Permanent Housing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Family Beds</strong></td>
<td>6,067</td>
<td>5,938</td>
<td>7,321</td>
<td>6,666</td>
<td>6,727</td>
<td>6,652</td>
<td>7,047</td>
<td>6,804</td>
<td>7,081</td>
<td>5,645</td>
<td>5,253</td>
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- From 2009 to 2019 there was a **decrease** in the total number of **units and beds** available for families in **emergency and transitional housing**.

- **Emergency housing**: From 2009 to 2019 the number of **units** available for families in EH **decreased by 11%** and the number of **beds** available for families in EH **decreased by 8%**.

- **Transitional housing**: From 2009 to 2019 the number of **units** available for families in TH **decreased by 56%** and the number of **beds** available for families in TH **decreased by 64%**.
• From 2016 to 2019 there has been a decrease in the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units and beds available for families.

• From 2014 to 2019 there has been a large increase in the number of Rapid Rehousing units and beds available for families.
PEC is responsible for the content of this document. We thank the individuals who reviewed the document.

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. The phrase “persons in families” represents people living as a family in contrast to single individuals who are homeless without their families.

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 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).