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Trends in Philadelphia's Housing for Families
Who Experience Homelessness

This report summarizes Philadelphia's various **housing programs for families who experience homelessness**.

The data comes from reports by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing (OSH). HUD's data can be searched and viewed at https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/, unless otherwise noted.

Data from the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing has been used to present the HUD data as accurately as possible. For unknown reasons, HUD sometimes changes the different categories in its online reports.

Policy considerations: *How do advocates, funders, and policymakers know if more or less beds are needed to combat homelessness in Philadelphia?* Readers are cautioned when interpreting this data. Decreases and increases in the number of beds are caused by several reasons and not necessarily because of funding cuts. Changes seem to occur mostly due to changes in how the data is collected and categorized.

Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. Just understanding the trends over time can be challenging. This report has numbers of the available beds for homeless families, providing a sense of the size of the system and trends in types of housing.

Overall, this data seems to suggest:

- An overall very slight decline in the number of beds
- A decline in emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing housing beds
- An increase in Safe Haven and in permanent housing beds

Chart #1: The number of **permanent** housing units has **increased** since 2011. These numbers include the categories of "permanent supportive housing" and the "PHA Blueprint" housing, i.e., accessing conventional housing at the Philadelphia Housing Authority. This accounts for the large increase occurring between 2012 and 2013, according to OSH.
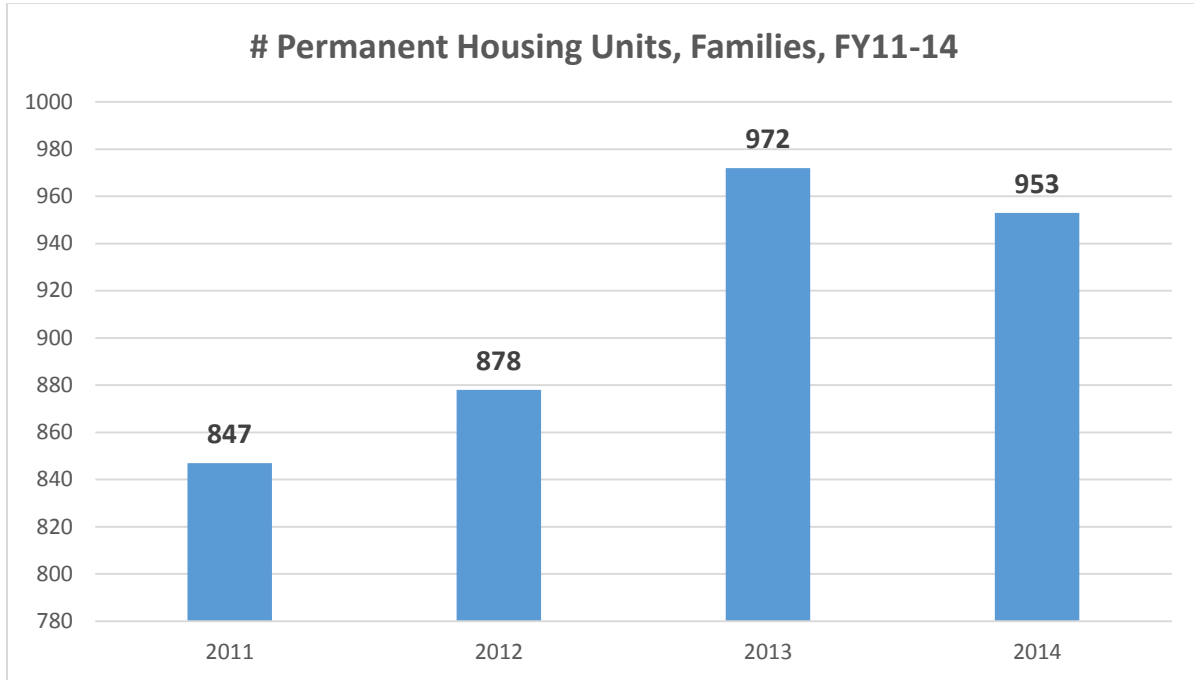
 # Permanent Housing Units, Families, FY11-14

Year	Units
2011	847
2012	878
2013	972
2014	953

Chart #2: The number of **Emergency Housing (EH)** units for **families** has **declined** since 2011.

 # EH Family Units, Phila., FY 11-14

Year	Units
2011	516
2012	446
2013	516
2014	459

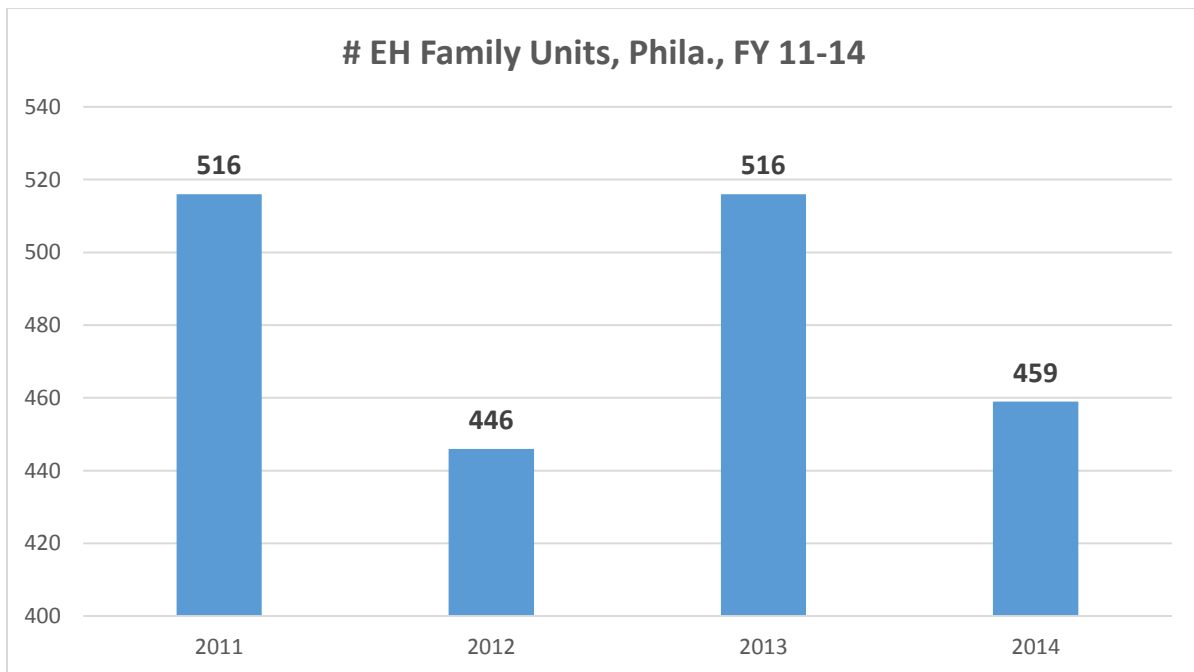**Chart #3**: The number of **Transitional Housing (TH)** units for **families** has **declined** since 2011.

 # TH Units, Families, Philadelphia, FY 11 - 14

A bar chart showing TH Units for families in Philadelphia from 2011 to 2014:
- 2011: 506
- 2012: 492
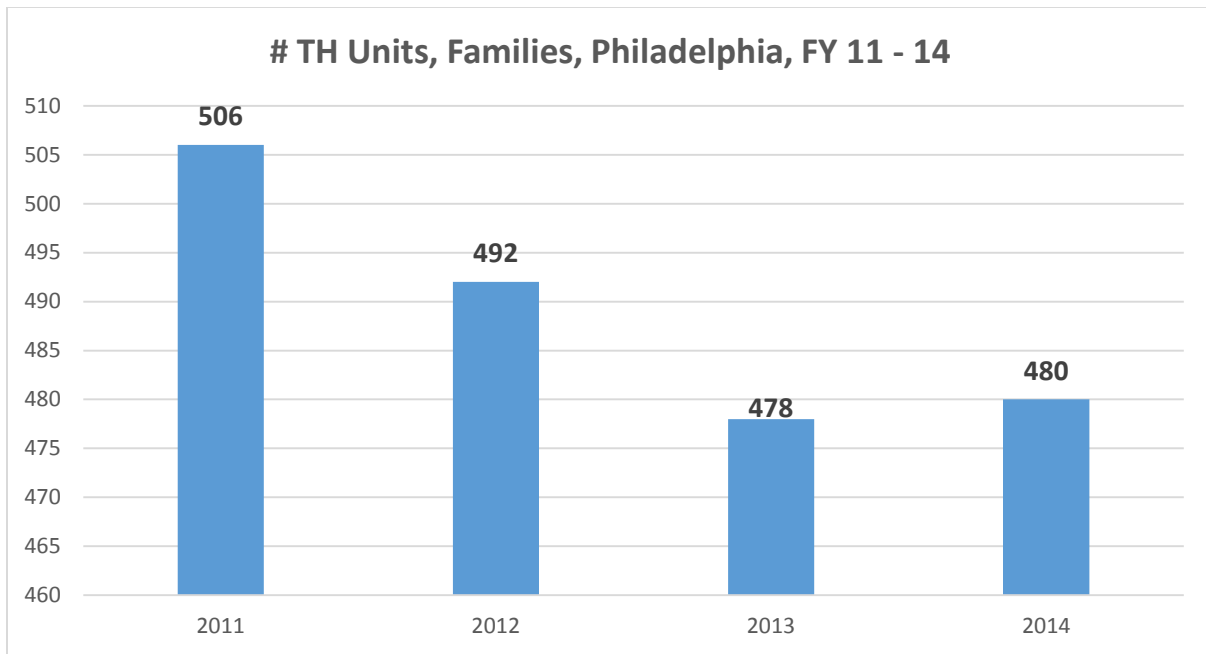- 2013: 478
- 2014: 480

Chart #4: The number of **Rapid Rehousing Family** units have **decreased** since 2011. Originally funded, in Philadelphia, by the federal stimulus funds, Rapid Rehousing provides short-term rental assistance for qualified homeless families. The decline is heavily influenced by the elimination of stimulus funds.
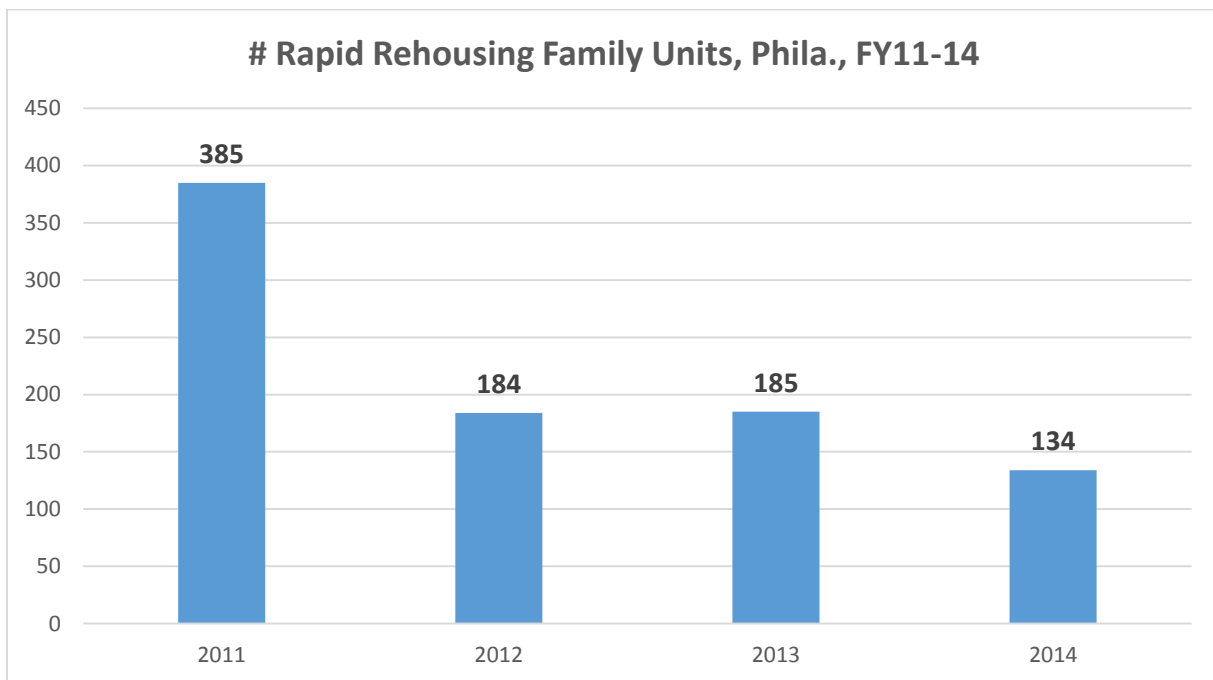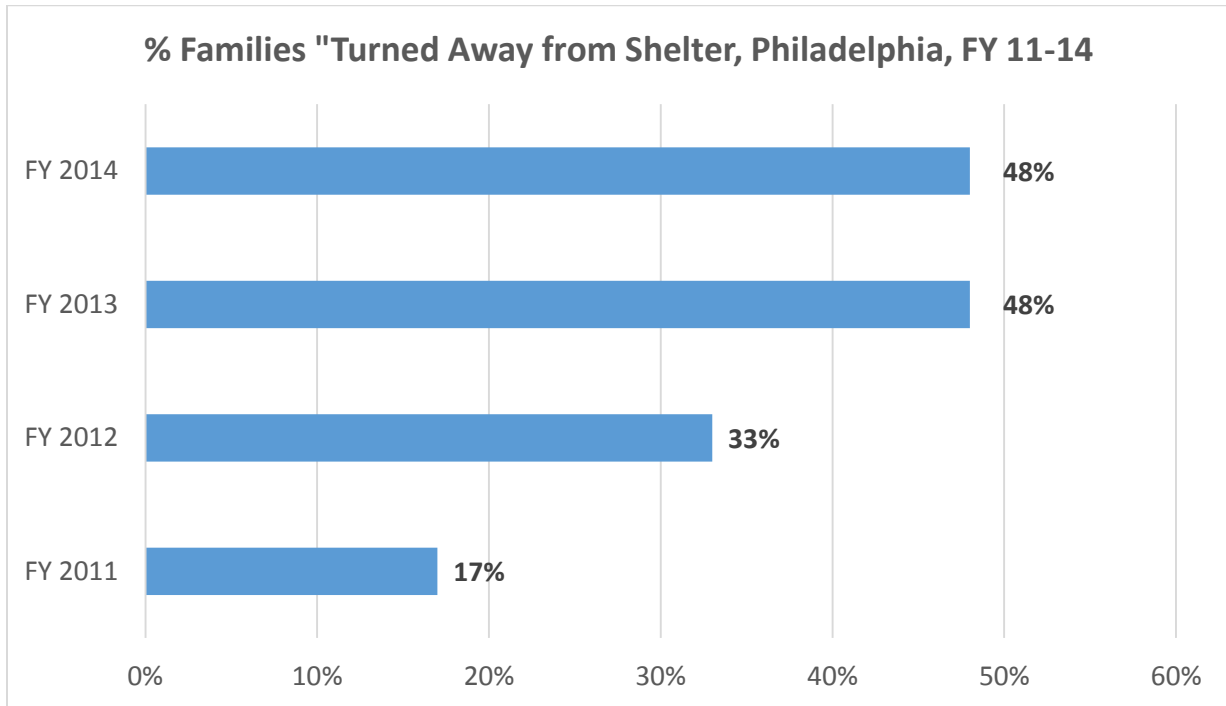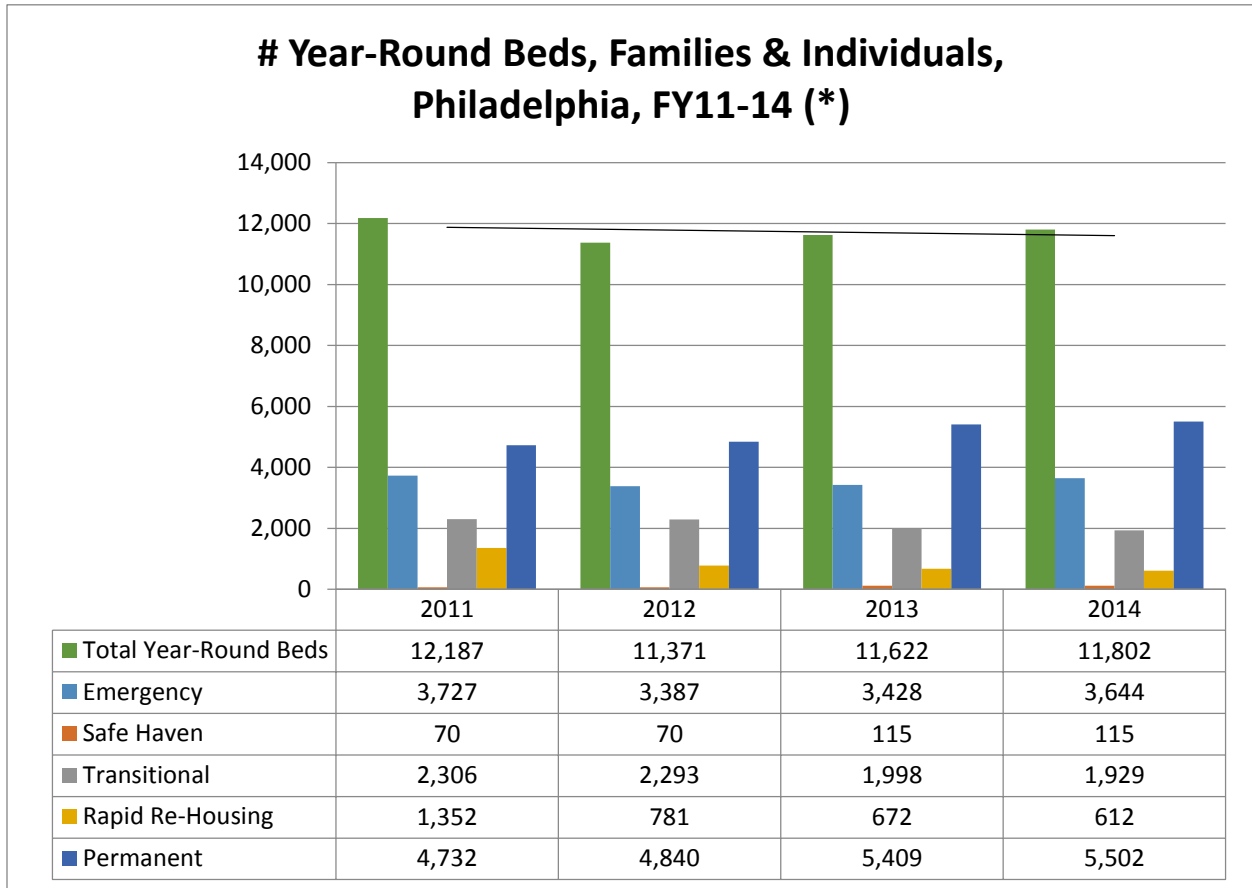
 # Rapid Rehousing Family Units, Phila., FY11-14

A bar chart showing Rapid Rehousing Family Units in Philadelphia from 2011 to 2014:
- 2011: 385
- 2012: 184
- 2013: 185
- 2014: 134

Chart #5: Using data from the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing's "**Unmet Need**" figures, Chart #5 shows the increase in the percentage of families who are turned away from shelter. Source of the data for this chart is United States Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey.

% Families "Turned Away from Shelter, Philadelphia, FY 11-14

FY 2014: 48%
FY 2013: 48%
FY 2012: 33%
FY 2011: 17%

Chart#6: For comparison, this chart shows overall "# year-end beds" for all categories of homeless individuals and families. The number of beds changes annually due to a variety of reasons, including changes in how the data is collected, categorized, and reported.

Overall, this data seems to suggest:

- An overall very slight decline in the number of beds
- A decline in emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing housing beds
- An increase in Safe Haven and in permanent housing beds

Year-Round Beds, Families & Individuals, Philadelphia, FY11-14 (*)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Year-Round Beds	12,187	11,371	11,622	11,802
Emergency	3,727	3,387	3,428	3,644
Safe Haven	70	70	115	115
Transitional	2,306	2,293	1,998	1,929
Rapid Re-Housing	1,352	781	672	612
Permanent	4,732	4,840	5,409	5,502

FUNDING TRANSITIONAL AND PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chart #7: Overall, funding has increased. HUD's funding of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) has increased since 2011, while funds for Transitional Housing (TH) has **declined** since 2011. TH funding has been reduced 5% reduction, totaling a $3.2 million since 2011.
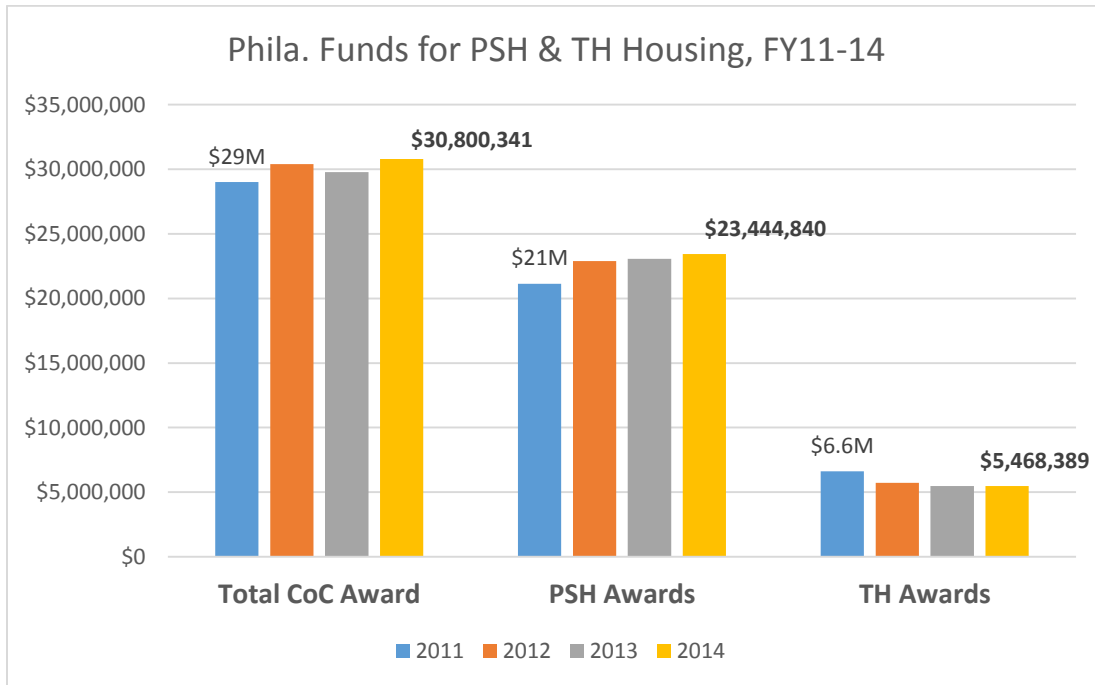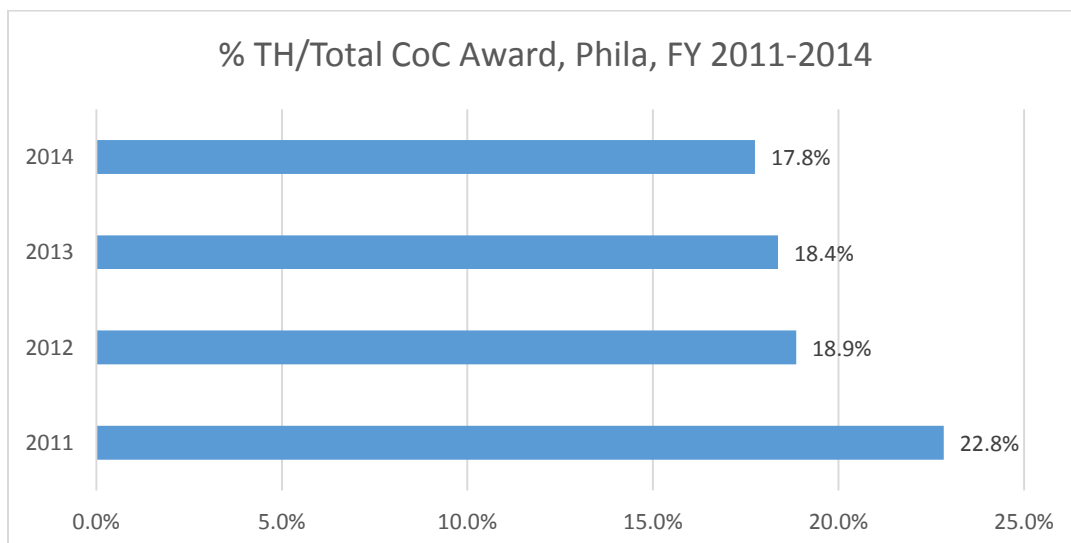

Phila. Funds for PSH & TH Housing, FY11-14

Chart #8: As a percentage of HUD funds, Transitional Housing (TH) funds have **declined** compared to overall Philadelphia's Continuum of Care program total McKinney Vento funding.

% TH/Total CoC Award, Phila, FY 2011-2014

PEC is grateful for the support from staff the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing for reviewing the data.