ANALYSIS OF PINELLAS COUNTY POINT IN TIME (PIT) DATA FROM 2015 THROUGH 2017

Ray C. Santa Lucia, PhD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the number of individuals in Emergency, Transitional, and Safe Haven shelters in Pinellas County as well as a count of Unsheltered homeless individuals is provided to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These data, along with supplemental data collected through the Unsheltered street survey, Pinellas County Schools, and the Pinellas County Jail are reported to provide a broader understanding of the Pinellas County homeless population. This year, we present data collected from 2015 through 2017 to examine trends across time to gain insights concerning the nature of the homeless population and how best to examine this population moving forward.

While there are changes in the number of homeless individuals reported by specific shelters across years that affect subpopulation counts, changes in the overall PIT number provided to HUD each year are largely dependent on the number of shelters that are included in the data. The overall count increases and declines as shelters are added and removed across years. The number of Unsheltered individuals counted through the street survey has not varied substantially across years. The demographic makeup of the Unsheltered population has trended toward a heightened female and African-American population in 2017. A heightened female population is also seen in the Jail data. Data suggest a higher prevalence of substance abuse and mental health difficulties among the homeless population in 2017. Pinellas County Schools data suggests that the couch surfing population has increased yearly. Across years, approximately 75% of the Unsheltered homeless population reports remaining homeless for more than three months with 50% remaining homeless for more than one year. Each year, approximately 11% of the Unsheltered homeless population reports having previously been in foster care.

Reliability of the data incorporated in the PIT count has improved each year. These improvements include improvements in shelter classification, validation of veteran status, and validation of shelter entry date. Further efforts to ensure the reliability of each data element and the consistency of data collected across years will continue to enhance the reliability of results. Discussion suggests ways in which incorporating additional data points beyond those collected through the Point in Time count can provide further clarity concerning the nature of homelessness in Pinellas County. Enhanced understanding of the determinants of homelessness across time will continue to enhance the ability to make policy decisions that effectively impact homelessness prevention and support.

INTRODUCTION

Each year, each Continuum of Care (COC) is required to report the number of homeless persons within its community to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The count takes place in the last week of January and includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons. Sheltered persons are those residing in Emergency Shelters (ES), Transitional Housing (TH) or Safe Havens (SH). Unsheltered persons (UN) are those residing in places not meant for human habitation. The two primary sources for these data each year are the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and a street survey of homeless persons.

Prior to 2017, these data along with supplemental data were submitted to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). While DCF reporting was discontinued in 2017, supplemental data continued to be collected to provide continuity across years. The Pinellas County Jail and the Pinellas County School District also provide data each year that do not meet inclusion criteria for HUD yet are valuable toward efforts to better estimate the size and needs of the homeless population in Pinellas County.

This report examines data across each of these sources for 2015 through 2017. Doing so enhances our understanding of factors that affect changes across time in the Point in Time count as well as reporting of supplemental data. Results can inform future data collection and service provision efforts to benefit the homeless population in Pinellas County.

METHOD

DATA

STREET SURVEY DATA

The street survey asks each respondent to identify where they slept on a date in the final week in January. Demographic and survey questions are asked in accord with HUD reporting requirements. Supplemental questions are included to provide useful information beyond the HUD requirements.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) DATA

HMIS is used to report data for individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, and safe havens on the night of the PIT count. HMIS contains data necessary to report to HUD.

NON-HMIS SHELTERED DATA

For the shelters not participating in HMIS, a separate survey is administered to obtain data necessary for the HUD count and supplemental questions.

JAIL DATA

The jail count is comprised of individuals residing in the Pinellas County Jail on the night of the PIT count who either reported an address of "transient" at booking or were arrested while living on the street or in a place which falls under the definition of not being meant for human habitation prior to entering the facility. These individuals are not considered literally homeless according to HUD. As such, these data are provided separately.

The school count consists of those students who were reported as homeless or "doubled up" (individuals or families who are sharing permanent housing) in a survey conducted by the Pinellas County School System in August near the beginning of the school year. Homeless students can also come to the attention of the Homeless Emergency Assistance Team (H.E.A.T) specialists at any time during a school year.

ANALYSIS

To fulfill the requirement that Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point in Time (PIT) counts must match exactly, street survey respondents who reported living in shelters are cross-checked with the sheltered dataset. If they are not found in that dataset they are designated as living in a place not meant for habitation. Additionally, street survey respondents indicating that they are unsheltered are designated as being sheltered if they are found in the sheltered dataset.

Reporting data consistent with HUD requirements requires combining data concerning demographics, chronicity, disability status, veteran status, foster care status, and domestic violence across street data, HMIS data, and non-HMIS shelter data. Street data are included in HUD counts if the individual reported residing in a place not meant for habitation. Non-HUD street data for those reporting couch surfing, hospital or psychiatric facility in-patient placement, placement in a hotel/motel, or jail are reported separately.

Data in this report is presented in a stepwise fashion where the broader totals are presented first. These are then followed by more specific analysis of each component to better understand the reasons underlying changes across time.

OVERALL HOMELESS DATA

Table 1

Overall Homeless Data			
	Totals		
Total with HUD data only	2015	2016	2017
Households	3042	2518	2568
Persons	3387	2777	2831
Total including non-HUD street survey data			
Households	3423	2756	2799
Persons	3775	3016	3062
Total including non-HUD street survey and jail data			
Households	3831	3234	3337
Persons	4183	3494	3600
Total Including non-HUD street survey, jail and school data			
Households	6147	6047	6433
Persons	6499	6307	6696

Results presented in Table 1 include the total number of households and persons for 2015-2017. HUD data results are presented first followed by Totals when non-HUD street survey data, jail data, and school data are added. Results indicate that HUD totals declined from 2015 to 2016. 3387 persons were reported as homeless in 2015 whereas 2777 were reported in 2016. The number of homeless persons reported then increased from 2777 in 2016 to 2831 in 2017. Reasons for these results will be examined in Tables 3 through 6. Street survey, jail, and school data will be examined in Tables 12 through 15.

Table 2

Overall Homeless Data by Household Type									
	Adult/Child Households			Households with No Children			Households with Children Only		
Total with HUD data only	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Households	151	143	115	2821	2338	2425	70	37	28
Persons	484	394	365	2827	2343	2435	76	40	31
Total including non-HUD street survey data									
Households	153	143	115	3198	2576	2649	72	37	35
Persons	493	394	365	3204	2582	2659	78	40	38
Total including non-HUD street survey and jail data									
Households	153	143	115	3606	3054	3187	72	37	35
Persons	493	394	365	3612	3060	3197	78	40	38
Total Including non-HUD street survey, jail and school data									
Households	153	143	115	3716	3187	3327	2278	2717	2991
Persons	493	394	365	3722	3193	3337	2284	2720	2994

Results presented in Table 2 separate the total number of households and persons across household types. Households with No Children are the highest prevalence household type. The HUD data indicate that these data track the overall results in that a decline is seen from 2827 persons in 2015 to 2343 persons in 2016. This is followed by an increase to 2435 persons in 2017. The number of persons in Adult/Child households decline from 484 in 2015 to 394 in 2016 and then again to 365 in 2017. The same pattern is found for households with Children Only where the number of persons declines from 76 in 2015 to 40 in 2016 and then again to 31 in 2017. Reasons for these changes are examined in Tables 7 through 11.

Non-HUD street survey data and jail data increase the totals in Households with No Children across years. School survey data include both Households with No Children for those enrolled who are 18 or older and Households with Children Only. The number of children in the school data increases across years. These data will be examined more closely in Tables 14 and 15.

Table 3

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- EMERGENCY SHELTERS	2015	2016	2017
Catholic Charities, Pinellas Hope	181	158	168
Pinellas Hope, Medical Respite Services	6	5	1
Family Resources, SafePlace2B, Clearwater	23	7	8
Family Resources, SafePlace2B, St. Petersburg	11	6	7
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Emergency Shelter	107	83	96
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Homeless Outreach	23	23	25
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas Safe Harbor	464	393	407
Religious Community Services, Grace House	79	64	71
St. Vincent de Paul South Family Shelter Program	13	45	47
St. Vincent de Paul South Nighttime Shelter	72	86	72
WestCare, Turning Point Inebriate Intervention Center	65	60	65
Community Action Stops Abuse	29	105	116
The Haven of RCS, Emergency Safe House	20	35	35
People That Love Church and Mission, Men's Shelter	3	4	0
TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	1096	1074	1118
2-1-1 Family Service Initiative Homeless Specialist	1		
2-1-1 Family Service Initiative	31		
Directions for Living, Street Outreach Team	31		
Operation PAR, St Pete Homeless Street Outreach Team	8		
Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services	134		
YWCA Family Village Emergency Housing Program	46		
Salvation Army St. Petersburg Emergency Shelter	20	28	
St. Vincent de Paul South VA 10 Emergency Shelter		7	9
St. Vincent de Paul South VA 10 Emergency Shelter 2		9	9
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Residential Center, Families			21
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Residential Center, Individuals			78
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg VA Medical Respite			1
Family Promise of Pinellas County			17
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Family Housing Program			41
TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	271	44	176
TOTAL ACROSS ALL EMERGENCY SHELTERS	1367	1118	1294

Shelters included in the HUD data vary across years. For Emergency Shelters that have been included across years, the totals were 1096 in 2015, 1074 in 2016 and 1118 in 2017. Pinellas Safe Harbor contributes the most data and that data tracks the overall results in that the number reported declined in 2016 and then increased in 2017.

Among shelters that did not remain constant across years, the total dropped from 271 persons in 2015 to 44 persons in 2016, then increased to 176 persons in 2017. Overall, Table 1 had indicated there was a drop of 610 persons from 2015 to 2016; 227 of those are accounted for in differences among these Emergency Shelter data that vary across years.

Table 4

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- SAFE HAVENS			
	2015	2016	2017
Boley Centers, Mid-County Safe Haven, Morningside	16	16	18
Boley Centers, Safe Haven Apartments	22	23	18
TOTAL ACROSS ALL SAFE HAVENS	38	39	36

The Safe Haven data were similar across years among the two safe havens included.

Table 5

HUD Homeless Count by Shelter- TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS			
	2015	2016	2017
ALPHA House of Pinellas County, Transitional Living Program	19	10	11
Boley Centers, Jerry Howe Transitional Apartments	12	10	10
Brookwood Florida, Central Transitional Housing	20	22	10
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Beacon House Transitional Shelter	22	19	31
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) Transitional Housing	181	70	35
Salvation Army, Clearwater Hope Crest Transitional Living Center	3	27	27
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Women's Residence	18	13	45
WestCare, The Mustard Seed Inn	55	54	38
Kimberly Home, Transitional Housing, Single Females	7	11	18
TOTAL ACROSS TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS INCLUDED ACROSS YEARS	337	236	225
Boley Centers, The Oaks Apartments	12		
Catholic Charities, Pinellas Hope Phase II	96		
Family Resources, Prism Transitional Living	3		
Bay Pines Domiciliary Residential Rehab & Treatment Program	42		
CASA-Gateway Program	55		
St. Vincent de Paul South, Center of Hope Transitional Housing	85		
YWCA Family Village Transitional Housing Program	20		
Florida Resurrection House	35	26	
Salvation Army St. Petersburg Transitional Housing	71	73	
Faith House Florida	26	23	
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Family Housing Program	28	48	
Catholic Charities, Per-Diem Housing Program		18	16
Family Resources, Maternal Transitional Living Program		3	7

Family Resources, Prism Transitional Living Program, St. Pete		4	3
St. Vincent de Paul South VA GPD 10 Transitional Housing		10	8
St. Vincent de Paul South VA GPD 40 Transitional Housing		37	37
St. Vincent de Paul South, SRO Transitional Housing		3	3
Salvation Army, St. Petersburg Re-Entry Program			7
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) GPD Transitional Housing			32
Westcare, Mustard Seed Inn GPD Transitional Housing			11
TOTAL ACROSS TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS THAT VARY ACROSS YEARS	473	245	124
TOTAL ACROSS ALL TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS	810	481	349

For Transitional Shelters that have been included across years the total persons declined from 337 in 2015 to 236 in 2016 and 225 in 2016. These data track declines in persons reported by the largest contributor to the data- the Homeless Empowerment Program.

For Transitional Shelters that varied across years, the number of persons reported declined from 473 in 2015 to 245 in 2016 to 124 in 2017. This variability accounted for an additional 228 persons of the 610 persons that had declined overall from 2015 to 2016.

Declines in Transitional Housing across years were due in part to providers converting their housing to Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing are not included in the Point-In-Time count by HUD.

Table 6

TOTALS BY SHELTER TYPE			
	YEAR		
	2015	2016	2017
Emergency Shelters	1367	1118	1294
Safe Havens	38	39	36
Transitional Shelters	810	481	349
Unsheltered	1172	1139	1152
FINAL HUD TOTALS	3387	2777	2831

Unsheltered HUD data from the street survey have not varied considerably across years. The decline in final HUD totals from 2015 to 2016 was associated with changes in the programs included in both Emergency and Transitional Shelter numbers as well as a decline in the number of persons reported by the HEP Transitional Housing program.

The increase in persons reported to HUD from 2016 to 2017 was associated mainly with inclusion of 99 individuals in the Salvation Army Family and Individual programs. Changing the designation of the Saint Petersburg Free Clinic Family Housing Program from a Transitional Shelter to an Emergency Shelter also accounted for a change in the relative representation of homeless individuals by shelter type.

Table 7

Demographic Data for Total HUD Sample						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	3042		2518		2568	
Total number of persons	3387		2777		2831	
Number of children (under age 18)	377	11.1	266	9..6	261	9.2
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	158	4.7	130	4.7	116	4.1
Number of adults (over age 24)	2852	84.2	2381	85.7	2454	86.7
Gender (adults and children)						
Female	958	28.3	746	26.9	814	28.8
Male	2423	71.5	2027	73.0	2011	71.0
Transgender: male to female	6	0.2	4	0.1	6	2.3
Ethnicity (adults and children)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	3155	93.2	2595	93.4	2647	93.5
Hispanic/Latino	232	6.8	182	6.6	184	6.5
Race						
White	2168	64.0	1756	63.2	1716	60.6
Black or African-American	1077	31.8	880	31.7	972	34.3
Asian	8	0.2	8	0.3	4	0.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	31	0.9	31	1.1	25	0.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	0.1	9	0.3	8	0.3
Multiple Races	99	2.9	93	3.3	106	3.7

Overall the percentage of children in the HUD sample went down from 11.1 % in 2015 to 9.6% in 2016 to 9.2% in 2017. This was mainly due to elimination of the CASA Gateway Program and YMCA Family Village from Transitional Shelter data in 2016.

Overall, the percentage of females in the HUD sample went down from 28.3% in 2015 to 26.9% in 2016 and then increased to 28.8% in 2017. This pattern was mirrored in the Emergency Shelter data where the percentage of females decreased from 36.9% in 2015 to 32.3% in 2016 and then increased to 36.5% in 2017. Transitional Shelter data showed an increase in the percentage of females from 32.7% in 2015 to 36% in 2016 followed by a slight decrease to 35.5% in 2017. The percentage of females in Emergency and Transitional Shelters across years track changes in the shelters that were included in the data. A presence of more shelters with a predominantly female population was associated with a higher percentage of females in the data.

The percentage of females in the Unsheltered population increased from 15.4% in 2015 to 17.9% in 2016 to 18.5% in 2017. The raw numbers included 181 females in 2015, 204 females in 2016 and 213 females in 2017. Taken together these data suggest there has been an increase in the percentage of females in the unsheltered homeless population. These data agree with an increased percentage of females in the jail population reported later in Table 13.

Data has remained relatively consistent across years in terms of the Ethnicity of the homeless population. Across years, approximately 93% are non-Hispanic and 7% are Hispanic.

Overall the percentage of African-American individuals decreased from 31.8% in 2015 to 31.7% in 2016 then increased to 34.3% in 2017. The increase of African-American individuals was mirrored in both the Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered populations. The percentage of individuals in Emergency Shelters who are African-American rose from 30.5% in 2016 to 34.1% in 2017. This was due in part to the addition of Family Promise of Pinellas County, which served 17 persons, each of whom were African-American. The percentage of Unsheltered individuals who are African-American also rose from 30.7% in 2016 to 35.9% in 2017. The raw number of Unsheltered African-American individuals increased from 350 in 2016 to 414 in 2017 while the raw number of Unsheltered Caucasian individuals decreased from 723 to 677.

Table 8

Demographic Data for Emergency Shelters						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	1137		957		1067	
Total number of persons	1367		1118		1294	
Number of children (under age 18)	243	17.8	161	14.4	220	17.0
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	82	6.0	54	4.8	56	4.3
Number of adults (over age 24)	1042	76.2	903	80.8	1018	78.7
Gender (adults and children)						
Female	504	36.9	361	32.3	472	36.5
Male	863	63.1	756	67.6	820	63.4
Transgender: male to female	0	0.0	1	0.1	2	0.2
Ethnicity (adults and children)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1267	92.7	1041	93.1	1195	92.3
Hispanic/Latino	100	7.3	79	7.1	99	7.7
Race						
White	913	66.8	724	64.8	786	60.7
Black or African-American	398	29.1	341	30.5	441	34.1
Asian	6	0.4	5	0.4	1	0.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	0.5	5	0.4	1	0.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Multiple Races	43	3.1	42	3.8	65	5.0

Table 9

Demographic Data for Transitional Shelters						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	699		400		320	
Total number of persons	810		481		349	
Number of children (under age 18)	132	16.3	95	19.8	41	11.7
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	44	5.4	34	7.1	30	8.6
Number of adults (over age 24)	634	78.3	352	73.2	278	79.7
Gender (adults and children)						
Female	265	32.7	173	36.0	124	35.5
Male	542	66.9	307	63.8	222	63.6
Transgender: male to female	3	0.4	1	0.2	3	0.9
Ethnicity (adults and children)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	757	93.5	450	93.6	326	93.4
Hispanic/Latino	53	6.5	31	6.4	23	6.6
Race						
White	507	62.6	280	58.2	229	65.6
Black or African-American	277	34.2	181	37.6	107	30.7
Asian	1	0.1	1	0.2	1	0.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.2	3	0.6	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Multiple Races	23	2.8	16	3.3	12	3.4

Table 10

Demographic Data for Safe Havens						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	38		39		36	
Total number of persons	38		39		36	
Number of children (under age 18)			0	0.0		0.0
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	1	2.6	1	2.6	0	0.0
Number of adults (over age 24)	37	97.4	38	97.4	36	100.0
Gender (adults and children)						
Female	8	21.1	8	20.5	5	13.9
Male	30	78.9	31	79.5	31	86.1
Transgender: male to female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ethnicity (adults and children)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	36	94.7	35	89.7	35	97.2
Hispanic/Latino	2	5.3	4	10.3	1	2.8

Race						
White	32	84.2	29	74.4	24	66.7
Black or African-American	3	7.9	8	20.5	10	27.8
Asian	0	0.0	1	2.6	0	0.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Multiple Races	2	5.3	1	2.6	2	5.6

Table 11

Demographic Data for Unsheltered Persons						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of households	1168		1122		1145	
Total number of persons	1172		1139		1152	
Number of children (under age 18)	2	0.2	10	0.9	0	0.0
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	31	2.6	41	3.6	30	2.6
Number of adults (over age 24)	1139	97.2	1088	95.5	1122	97.4
Gender (adults and children)						
Female	181	15.4	204	17.9	213	18.5
Male	988	84.3	933	81.9	938	81.4
Transgender: male to female	3	0.3	2	0.2	1	0.1
Ethnicity (adults and children)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1095	93.4	1069	93.9	1091	94.7
Hispanic/Latino	77	6.6	70	6.1	61	5.3
Race						
White	716	61.1	723	63.5	677	58.8
Black or African-American	399	34.0	350	30.7	414	35.9
Asian	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.2
American Indian or Alaska Native	21	1.8	23	2.0	24	2.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	0.3	8	0.7	8	0.7
Multiple Races	31	2.6	34	3.0	27	2.3

Table 12

Non-HUD Responses to the Street Survey			
	2015	2016	2017
Couch surfing	333	217	198
Couch surfing family member	7	0	0
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	5	4	3
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	36	17	29
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	6	1	1
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	1		
TOTAL	388	239	231

The Non-HUD responses to the street survey include those persons whose reported status is not classified as being homeless by HUD rules. These persons are mainly reported as couch surfing. These numbers have declined from 2015 to 2017. The couch surfing declines do not agree with couch surfing reported later in the school data in Tables 14 and 15 in which reports of couch surfing have increased. The school data are likely a more reliable representation of whether couch surfing is increasing or declining.

JAIL HOMELESS POPULATION

Table 13

Jail Homeless Population Across Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race						
Asian	3	0.7	2	0.4	1	0.2
Black	102	25	117	24.5	131	24.3
Hispanic	42	10.3	61	12.8	53	9.9
White	261	64	298	62.3	353	65.6
Gender						
Female	34	8.3	47	9.8	78	14.5
Male	374	91.7	431	90.2	460	85.5
Age						
Youth (18 to 24yo)	39	9.6				
Adult (over 24yo)	369	90.4				
Total	408		478		538	

Persons included in the data provided by the Pinellas County Jail have increased each year from 408 in 2015 to 478 in 2016 to 538 in 2017. The relative percentage of females increased from 9.8% in 2016 to 14.5% in 2017.

These data agree with the increase in the percentage of females in the Unsheltered data. Age data were provided in 2015 only. These data indicated that 9.6% of persons were age 18-24.

Table 14

School Homeless Data for Students Age 17 and Younger						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Awaiting Foster Care	28	0.03	33	0.03	33	0.03
Living in Hotels or Motels	308	0.31	434	0.40	437	0.41
Unsheltered	32	0.03	68	0.06	56	0.05
Couch Surfing	1838	1.84	2145	2.00	2430	2.28
Homeless Total	2206	2.21	2680	2.50	2956	2.77
Living in Emergency or Transitional Shelters	392		472		543	
Not Homeless	97413		104076		103071	
Total	100011		107228		106570	

Those who report living in Emergency or Transitional shelters in the school data are not counted as homeless as the school survey is conducted at the start of the school year and is not congruent with the Point in Time Survey.

Table 15

School Homeless Data for Students Age 18 and Older						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Awaiting Foster Care	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Living in Hotels or Motels	5	0.10	11	0.18	17	0.30
Unsheltered	2	0.04	9	0.15	3	0.05
Couch Surfing	103	2.07	113	1.89	120	2.09
Homeless Total	110	2.21	133	2.23	140	2.44
Living in Emergency or Transitional Shelters	8		13		19	
Not Homeless	4867		5821		5573	
Total	4985		5967		5732	

The school homeless data show an increase in the number of students reported as homeless across locations. These numbers include the students themselves and not the families with whom they are living. These data suggest that those living in hotels or motels or couch surfing have increased from 2015 to 2017. These data also suggest that there is a subset of children who live in Unsheltered locations who are not captured by Point in Time data each where few if any children are reported as being Unsheltered each year.

Table 16

Total Unaccompanied Youth Across Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Number of unaccompanied youth households	193		127		115	
Total number of unaccompanied youth	200		127		118	
Number of unaccompanied children	74	37.0%	34	26.8%	31	26.3%
Number of unaccompanied young adults (age 18 to 24)	126	63.0%	93	73.2%	87	73.7%
Gender (unaccompanied youth only)						
Female	106	53.0%	60	47.2%	56	47.5%
Male	92	46.0%	67	52.8%	60	50.8%
Transgender: male to female	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.7%
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth only)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	181	90.5%	116	91.3%	106	89.8%
Hispanic/Latino	19	9.5%	11	8.7%	12	10.2%
Race (unaccompanied youth only)						
White	109	54.5%	72	56.7%	65	55.1%
Black or African-American	76	38.0%	42	33.1%	45	38.1%
Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	3	2.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	2	1.6%	1	0.8%
Multiple Races	13	6.5%	11	8.7%	4	3.4%

Table 17

Total Parenting Youth Across Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Number of parenting youth households	19		14		10	
Total number of persons In parenting youth households	52		37		29	
Number of parenting youth (youth parents only)	23		14		12	
Number of parenting youth (under age 18)	1	4.3%	3	21.4%	0	0.0%
Number of parenting youth (age 18 to 24)	22	95.7%	11	78.6%	12	100.0%
Number of children with parenting youth	29		23		17	
Female	20	87.0%	14	100.0%	10	83.3%
Male	3	13.0%	0	0.0%	2	16.7%
Transgender	0		0		0	

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	23	100.0%	14	100.0%	11	91.7%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%
White	7	30.4%	7	50.0%	3	25.0%
Black or African-American	14	60.9%	7	50.0%	8	66.7%
Asian	0		0		0	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		0		0	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		0		0	
Multiple Races	2	8.7%	0		1	8.3%

The total number of unaccompanied youth declined from 200 in 2015 to 127 In 2016 and 118 in 2017. Likewise, the number of persons in parenting youth households declined from 52 in 2015 to 37 in 2016 and 29 in 2017. These differences across years are accounted for mainly by declines in the number of unaccompanied and parenting youth reported by Pinellas Hope, Family Resources Clearwater and Alpha House from 2015 to 2016 as well as elimination of PEHMS, the 211 Family Service Initiative and the Directions for Living Street Outreach Team from 2015 to 2016.

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS

Table 18

Veteran Household Totals Across Years			
	Total HUD Sample		
	2015	2016	2017
Total number of households	589	379	329
Total number of persons	606	394	337
Total number of veterans	589	380	329
	Emergency Shelter Totals		
	2015	2016	2017
Total number of households	139	117	128
Total number of persons	152	127	135
Total number of veterans	139	118	128
	Transitional Shelter Totals		
	2015	2016	2017
Total number of households	291	135	115
Total number of persons	294	139	115
Total number of veterans	291	135	115
	Safe Haven Totals		
	2015	2016	2017
Total number of households	17	16	20
Total number of persons	17	16	20

Total number of veterans	17	16	20
	Unsheltered Totals		
	2015	2016	2017
Total number of households	142	111	66
Total number of persons	143	112	67
Total number of veterans	142	111	66

The number of Veterans in the HUD sample declined from 589 in 2015 to 380 in 2016 and again to 329 in 2017. The decline from 2015 to 2016 was primarily associated with the number of veterans reported in Transitional Shelters. Veterans in Transitional Shelters declined from 291 in 2015 to 135 in 2016. This decline was primarily due to declines in the numbers reported by the Homeless Empowerment Program, Saint Vincent de Paul, and the Bay Pines Domiciliary Residential Rehab & Treatment Program. These programs accounted for 223 Veterans in 2015 and 82 Veterans in 2016. From 2016 to 2017 the number of Veteran households declined in part due to verification of veteran status with the Veterans Administration for all homeless individuals in the sample.

Table 19

Veteran Household Demographic Data Across Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
	Total N	%	Total N	%	Total	%
Total number of households	589		379		329	
Total number of persons	606		394		337	
Total number of veterans	589		380		329	
Gender (veterans only)						
Female	34	6%	25	7%	20	6%
Male	554	94%	354	93%	309	94%
Transgender: male to female	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Ethnicity (veterans only)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	566	96%	357	94%	314	95%
Hispanic/Latino	23	4%	23	6%	15	5%
Race (veterans only)						
White	432	73%	264	69%	240	73%
Black or African-American	144	24%	102	27%	79	24%
Asian	2	0%	1	0%	0	0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	1%	4	1%	1	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0%	2	1%	1	0%
Multiple Races	6	1%	7	2%	8	2%

While the number of Veterans reported and confirmed as Veterans have declined from the 2015 to 2017, the demographic representation of the final samples has remained similar.

Table 20

How long were in you in Pinellas County before you became homeless?						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
One week or less (2015 'arrived homeless')	236	20.7%	280	27.7%	65	5.7%
More than 1 week, less than 1 month	Not in Survey		25	2.5%	33	2.9%
1 to 3 months	62	5.4%	36	3.6%	81	7.2%
More than 3 months, less than 12 months (2015 '3 to 6 months')	68	6.0%	67	6.6%	92	8.1%
1 Year or longer (2015 '6 months or longer')	772	67.8%	602	59.6%	861	76.1%
Total	1138		1010		1132	

Responses to the street survey question regarding how long the individual was in Pinellas County before becoming homeless are affected by measurement considerations. The metric changed from 2015 to 2016 to align with the Florida Department of Child and Families survey. In 2015, '6 months or longer' was the longest time duration option whereas in 2016 'one year or longer' was the longest option. This could account for the drop in the percentage of those reporting this option.

From 2016 to 2017, those reporting having stayed in Pinellas County 'one week or less' before becoming homeless declined by 22% from 27.7% to 5.7% while those reporting having stayed in Pinellas County 'one year or longer' increased 16.5% from 59.6% to 76.1%. In 2016, a separate question was asked concerning whether the individual "arrived homeless". 453 (41.3%) answered Yes and 643 (58.7%) answered No. This was asked just prior to asking how long the person had been living in Pinellas County before becoming homeless. This likely primed the higher response rate to the 'one week or less' answer. In 2015, 'arrived homeless' was a response choice instead of 'one week or less'. In 2017, respondents were not asked if they arrived homeless in a separate question.

Whether a person initially arrived homeless to Pinellas County and the length of time in Pinellas County before the current homeless episode are two separate measures that can be difficult to capture in a survey.

Table 21

What Area Do You Mainly Stay In?						
	2015		2016		2017	
Clearwater	222	19.2%	236	21.3%	229	20.2%
Dunedin	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	5	0.4%
Gulfport	2	0.2%	3	0.3%	4	0.4%
Kenneth City	1	0.1%	2	0.2%	1	0.1%
Largo	24	2.1%	41	3.7%	38	3.4%
Lealman	4	0.3%	5	0.5%	4	0.4%
Other	21	1.8%	10	0.9%	9	0.8%
Out Of State	5	0.4%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%
Palm Harbor	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Pasco County	1	0.1%	4	0.4%	5	0.4%
Pinellas Park	30	2.6%	43	3.9%	43	3.8%
St. Pete	772	66.7%	680	61.4%	740	65.3%
St. Pete Beach	27	2.3%	40	3.6%	23	2.0%
Tampa	9	0.8%	3	0.3%	3	0.3%
Tarpon Springs	37	3.2%	35	3.2%	29	2.6%
	1158		1107		1133	

The areas that Unsheltered individuals report staying in have remained similar across years with approximately 85% in Clearwater or Saint Petersburg. The percentage of those surveyed in Clearwater rose in 2016 and declined in 2017 while the percentage in Saint Petersburg declined in 2016 and rose in 2017. This may reflect actual differences in those areas at that point in time in January or may reflect who was present at meal sites and survey locations on that day.

LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS

Table 22

How Long Homeless This Time (TOTAL)	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 week or less	360	11.0%	448	16.8%	325	13.0%
more than a week less than a month	489	14.9%	547	20.5%	483	19.3%
1 to 3 months	685	20.9%	441	16.6%	555	22.2%
more than 3 months less than 12 months	832	25.4%	551	20.7%	587	23.5%
one year or longer	913	27.8%	675	25.4%	551	22.0%
Valid Total	3279		2662		2501	
Do Not Know	108		115		330	
Total	3387		2777		2831	

Overall, the percentage of individuals who are reported as homeless for more than a year has declined from 2015 to 2017. Tables below suggest this may be due improvements in data reliability.

Table 23

How Long Homeless This Time (Transitional Shelters)	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 week or less	34	4.4%	45	9.5%	30	8.8%
more than a week less than a month	74	9.6%	76	16.0%	42	12.4%
1 to 3 months	156	20.3%	102	21.5%	79	23.3%
more than 3 months less than 12 months	198	25.8%	180	37.9%	154	45.4%
one year or longer	305	39.8%	72	15.2%	34	10.0%

Valid Total	767		475		339	
Do Not Know	43		6		10	
Total	810		481		349	

The decline in the number of individuals homeless for more than a year is mainly seen for Transitional Shelters. 39.8% were reported as homeless for more than a year in 2015 compared to 10% in 2017.

Table 24

How Long Homeless This Time (Emergency Shelters)						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 week or less	283	21.5%	318	31.5%	265	22.5%
more than a week less than a month	342	25.9%	381	37.8%	373	31.7%
1 to 3 months	299	22.7%	226	22.4%	351	29.8%
more than 3 months less than 12 months	312	23.7%	62	6.1%	183	15.5%
one year or longer	82	6.2%	22	2.2%	5	0.4%
Valid Total	1318		1009		1177	
Do not know	49		109		117	
Total	1367		1118		1294	

The percentage of individuals reported as homeless for more than a year in Emergency shelters has also declined from 2015 to 2017. 84% of these individuals are reported as homeless for less than 3 months in 2017.

Reporting of longer stays in prior years was partly due to incorrect shelter entry data. Improvements in the verification of shelter entry data are associated with more reliable data present in 2017 relative to prior years. Missing data for Emergency and Transitional shelters are from the survey for non-HMIS shelters.

Table 25

How Long Homeless This Time (Safe Havens)						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 week or less	2	5.3%	3	7.7%	4	11.1%
more than a week less than a month	2	5.3%	4	10.3%	2	5.6%
1 to 3 months	9	23.7%	8	20.5%	7	19.4%
more than 3 months less than 12 months	22	57.9%	23	59.0%	21	58.3%
one year or longer	3	7.9%	1	2.6%	2	5.6%
Valid Total	38		39		36	
Do Not Know	0		0		0	
Total	38		39		36	

Most individuals in Safe Havens are present for one month to a year.

Table 26

How Long Homeless This Time (Unsheltered)						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 week or less	41	3.5%	82	7.2%	26	2.7%
more than a week less than a month	71	6.1%	86	7.6%	66	7.0%
1 to 3 months	221	19.1%	105	9.2%	118	12.4%
more than 3 months less than 12 months	300	26.0%	286	25.1%	229	24.1%
one year or longer	523	45.2%	580	50.9%	510	53.7%
Valid Total	1156		1139		949	
Do Not Know	16		0		203	
Total	1172		1139		1152	

In 2017, 53.7% of the Unsheltered population report being homeless for one year or longer. There is a trend present where a lower percentage report being homeless for 3 to 12 months and a higher percentage report being homeless for one year or longer from 2015 to 2017.

Table 27

Number of Times Homeless in the Last Three Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
1 time	151	23.4%	460	41.3%	577	58.8%
2 times	75	11.6%	186	16.7%	140	14.3%
3 times	34	5.3%	144	12.9%	88	9.0%
4 or more times	385	59.7%	325	29.1%	176	17.9%
Total	645		1115		981	

The percentage of unsheltered individuals reporting having been homeless 4 or more times in the last 3 years has decreased from 2015 to 2017 while the percentage reporting being homeless for the first time has increased. This metric is affected by having missing data for approximately half of the respondents in 2015. The data may also be affected by shifting from a checkbox format to an open-ended question in 2017. This shift may have led respondents to be less likely to indicate that they were homeless multiple times.

Table 28

HUD Subpopulation Data Across Years						
	2015		2016		2017	
Total Adults 18+ Years-Old in Sample	3010		2511		2570	
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	683	22.7%	583	23.2%	672	26.1%
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	559	18.6%	562	22.4%	595	23.2%
Adults with HIV/AIDS	23	0.8%	24	1.0%	33	1.3%
Victims of Domestic Violence (optional)	239	7.9%	188	7.5%	348	13.5%

The percentage of adults in the HUD sample reported as having a serious mental illness, substance use disorder and HIV/AIDS has increased each year. Those reported as having a serious mental illness in 2017 (672) is close to the number reported in 2015 (683) despite a much smaller adult sample (2570 adults in 2017 compared to 3010 adults in 2015). Those reported as having a substance use disorder in 2017 (595) is higher than the number reported in 2015 (559) despite the smaller sample. Similarly, those reported as having HIV/AIDS has increased. The increase in the percentage of adults reported as victims of domestic violence is due largely to the increase in persons reported by the CASA Emergency shelter. The CASA Emergency shelter reports data through a non-HMIS survey that is difficult to complete and requires further efforts to continue to improve reliability.

Table 29

Were you ever in Foster Care?						
	2015		2016		2017	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes (HUD)	132	11.3%	118	10.4%	127	11.0%
No (HUD)	1005	85.8%	910	79.9%	958	83.2%
Total	1172		1139		1152	

The percentage of Unsheltered homeless individuals who report having ever been in foster care has remained relatively consistent around 11% across years.

Table 30

Chronic Homeless Data Across Years			
	2015	2016	2017
Chronically Homeless Individuals	631	603	690
Chronically Homeless Families	1	2	0
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	2	4	0
Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	94	98	56
Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0
Persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0

The number of chronically homeless individuals has risen as the number of homeless individuals reporting a serious mental illness or substance use disorder has risen from 2016 to 2017. The decline in chronically homeless veterans is associated with efforts to validate veteran status for the sample with the Department of Veteran Affairs. Most of the chronically homeless are Unsheltered and few if any families are present in the Unsheltered data across years. Families may be more likely to be couch surfing as indicated by the school data. Unsheltered families may also be less likely to respond openly to a survey or may be more difficult to locate.

REPORTED REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS

Table 31

Reported Reason for Current Homeless Episode					
2015		2016		2017	
Alcohol or drug problems	114	Alcohol or drug problems	117	Alcohol or drug problems	1
Incarceration	82	Incarceration	88	Incarceration	1
Eviction	47	Eviction	44	Eviction	57
Family break-up	96	Family break-up	102	Family problems	166
Domestic Violence	12	Domestic Violence	19	Domestic Violence	18
Foreclosure	13	Foreclosure	29	Foreclosure	13
Financial Problems	564	Financial Problems	548	Financial Problems	651
Medical	84	Medical problems	56	Medical/Disability problems	196
		Disability	22		
Mental health problems	69	Mental health problems	47		
Natural/other disaster	5	Natural/other disaster	10	Natural/other disaster	10
Recent Immigration	2	Recent immigration	1	Recent immigration	4
		Running from foster care	1		
Left Foster Care at 21	2	Left Foster Care at 21	1		
Other	62				
Total	1152	Total	1085	Total	1117

The options concerning the reason for the current homeless episode have changed from 2015 to 2017. Consequently, the relative percentage endorsement of each option across years is not valid. Alcohol or drug problems and Incarceration were removed in 2017. These had been prevalent responses in 2015 and 2016. One

person wrote-in each as a reason in 2017. Eviction and Foreclosure have remained unchanged and relatively consistent across years as options. 'Family break-up' in 2015 and 2016 changed to 'Family problems' in 2017. This more general term was associated with an increase in endorsement in 2017. Medical problems were combined with Disability problems in 2017 while Mental Health problems were eliminated. This combined term likely contained individuals who would have endorsed Medical, Disability, or Alcohol or Drug problems to account for the higher level of endorsement at 196 individuals. Financial problems were the most frequently endorsed option across years. The increased endorsement of this option in 2017 is likely accounted for by elimination of Incarceration, Alcohol or drug problems, and Mental health problems. Remaining options were of lower sample size and relatively consistent across years.

DISCUSSION

TOTAL HUD PIT COUNT

The total number of homeless individuals reported in the PIT count to HUD across years is mostly a function of which shelters are included in the analysis. A large drop occurred from 2015 to 2016 as less shelters were included while an increase was found from 2016 to 2017 as more shelters were added. There are specific shelters that do change the number of persons reported from year to year such as the Homeless Empowerment Transitional Shelter Program that do affect results. The number of Unsheltered individuals counted has not changed considerably across years to affect changes in the Total PIT count.

VETERANS

The number of Veterans in the HUD sample declined from 589 in 2015 to 380 in 2016 and again to 329 in 2017. The decline from 2015 to 2016 was primarily associated with the number of veterans reported by the Homeless Empowerment Program, Saint Vincent de Paul, and the Bay Pines Domiciliary Residential Rehab & Treatment Program. The decline from 2016 to 2017 was primarily due to verification of veteran status in the HUD sample by the Veterans Administration.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Results suggested an increase in the representation of females in the Unsheltered and Jail populations as well as an increase in the representation of African-American individuals in the Unsheltered population from 2016 to 2017. These may represent demographic subgroups that have experienced increased risk of Unsheltered homelessness from 2016 to 2017.

SCHOOL DATA

The Pinellas Schools data suggest that there is an increasing number of individuals who are couch surfing from 2015 to 2017 with 2430 children and 120 adult students reported as couch surfing in 2017. The school data also include 56 children reported as residing in Unsheltered areas. Both couch surfing data and Unsheltered child data are difficult to capture with the PIT street survey. These data suggest an increasing need for assistance from children and families in Pinellas County.

FOSTER CARE

Approximately 11% of the Unsheltered population report having previously been in foster care. This number has not changed considerably from year to year suggesting a consistent need for support to ensure that foster care participation does not result in adult homelessness.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The increase in the percentage of adults reported as victims of domestic violence in 2017 was due largely to an increase in persons reported by the CASA Emergency shelter. The non-HMIS survey is difficult to complete. This difficulty is sometimes associated with errors in data for subgroup questions (such as domestic violence) that can affect results.

CHRONICITY

Across years approximately 75% of the Unsheltered population reports being homeless for more than three months and half report being homeless for more than a year. Lengths of time reported residing in Emergency and Transitional Shelters have declined as data have become more reliable.

The length of time spent in Pinellas County before becoming homeless as well as reports of the number of times homeless in the past three years have been affected by changes in methodology across years. Results have varied markedly depending on how the questions are asked. An individual may arrive in Pinellas County and then become homeless multiple times for different durations each time. These data are both difficult for a surveyor to ask concisely and for an individual to remember and report correctly.

LOCATION

Location data for Unsheltered homeless individuals is similar across years with approximately 65% in Saint Petersburg and 20% in Clearwater. The number of persons in Saint Petersburg rose by 60 from 2016 to 2017, while the number for Saint Petersburg Beach declined by 17. The number of persons in Clearwater declined by 7 from 2016 to 2017.

CHALLENGES

Subgroup data include a rise in the number of persons reporting difficulties with substance use and mental illness. By definition, these are difficulties associated with a rise in chronic homelessness. These issues combine with incarceration, family stress, physical disability, domestic violence, and financial stress to place burdens on individuals that result in homelessness.

RELIABILITY

Improvements in data preparation have led to a clearer understanding of homelessness from 2015 to 2017 in several ways. Through better verification of which programs qualify as Emergency and Transitional Shelters there has been improved precision of those numbers. Through verification of veteran status with the Department of Veteran Affairs there is a more reliable estimate of the prevalence of homelessness among veterans in Pinellas County. Through verification of time spent in shelters there is a clearer understanding of how long individuals have currently been homeless.

Continued efforts to improve data preparation can continue to result in improved reliability. The Survey completed for non-HMIS shelters is difficult to complete. Results can be more reliable if the non-HMIS survey was completed with direct assistance at the time of completion. Continued use of identical street survey metrics across time can improve comparisons across years. Continued efforts to ensure reliability of substance use, mental health, physical health, domestic violence, foster care and chronic homelessness data in both HMIS and non-HMIS datasets can continue to ensure reliability of these data across time.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The data we have suggest that the couch surfing homeless population is growing. Females presented at higher rates this year than last year in the Jail count. Females and African-American individuals presented at higher rates in Unsheltered settings this year than last year on the day of the PIT count. The prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness in the homeless population are reported at higher rates than last year. Each year approximately 11% of the Unsheltered population reports having previously been in foster care. Each of these suggest a potential need for further support.

The number of Unsheltered homeless individuals who remain so for more than three months according to their self-report has remained at about 75% from 2015 to 2017. Understanding why these individuals remain homeless in Unsheltered settings for longer than three months may lead to solutions that lower the rate of unsheltered homelessness.

ASSESSING NEED

The Point in Time survey takes a snapshot of the homeless population. It provides a count of the number of individuals present in three specific types of shelters (Emergency, Transitional, Safe Haven) on one day in January. Many dedicated volunteers do an excellent job of canvassing a large area throughout Pinellas County to provide an estimate of the number of individuals residing in places not meant for habitation on the day of the count. Their efforts suggest that the Unsheltered count has not changed substantially from 2015 to 2017. Changes in the total HUD count are largely tied to changes in the shelters included in the count. We see from the school data that there are likely many individuals who are at risk for homelessness and are couch surfing. This number appears to be increasing in size from 2015 to 2017. We also see a subset of unsheltered children in the school data that are not captured in the PIT street survey. It remains important to supplement the HUD count with additional indices such as School and Jail data to capture the nature of homelessness in Pinellas County.

DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

As with any research, multiple reliable data points will strengthen conclusions. Continued efforts to ensure the reliability of existing Point in Time data will continue to strengthen conclusions moving forward. Supplementing Point in Time data with additional data can also strengthen conclusions and enhance our understanding of the constitution and needs of the homeless population. We see how School and Jail data provide insights beyond the HUD count. Analysis of Housing Inventory data can provide additional information concerning the degree to which shelters are at or near capacity on the day of the count. Analysis of shelter occupancy and waiting list data across a calendar year can also provide information concerning the degree to which the availability of shelter meets the need for shelter overall and among subgroups on more than one day in the year. Understanding a process that occurs across time can be difficult using a checklist that is presented at one point in time. Longitudinal and qualitative studies that confidentially examine individuals' experience of homelessness across time in Pinellas County would provide further insights that address issues we see in the

Point in Time, School, and Jail data. Further understanding how substance use, mental illness, foster care, domestic violence, family difficulties, financial stress and other factors combine across time to contribute to the Sheltered, Unsheltered, Couch Surfing, and Incarcerated homeless populations can further inform targeted policy decisions that enhance prevention and improve service delivery.