

County of Santa Clara

Office of Supportive Housing

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October 10, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors
Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee (HLUET)
Committee

FROM: Consuelo Hernandez, Office of Supportive Housing (OSH)

SUBJECT: Supportive Housing System in Santa Clara County

The attached report highlights trends, successes, and challenges of the supportive housing system in Santa Clara County between September 2021 and August 2022. The report's primary function is to communicate how different programs are contributing to an overall reduction in homelessness. The supportive housing system includes housing programs that fall into five main categories: Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and Homelessness Prevention (HP). Additionally, this report provides supplementary data focusing on the County's RRH programs. This report will also include the annual Supportive Housing System report which provides a summary of the progress of the Community Plan to End Homelessness and effectiveness of the supportive housing system.

Supportive Housing System Trends and Highlights

Appendix A highlights data on two of the five overarching targets detailed in the County's [2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness](#) (Community Plan). As shown in Chart 1, the County has housed 8,392 individuals since January 2020, 42% toward the goal of housing 20,000 people by 2025. Chart 2 depicts progress toward the County's goal of reducing the number of newly homeless individuals and families each year by 30%. Inflow for calendar year 2019 (4,771 people) is used as a baseline. Inflow for the September 2021 to August 2022 reporting period is 3,168 households, exceeding the five-year goal. The sharp reduction since 2020 may be related to increased financial assistance programs and/or eviction moratoria. The Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) will continue to monitor trends over the next several months to better understand the impacts of eviction moratoria.

Appendix B provides program capacity and utilization for the five program categories outlined above plus the Safe Parking (SP) initiative. As depicted in the Program Utilization chart in Appendix B, HP (136%) and PSH (99%) have the highest utilization for the reporting period. Utilization of HP programs over 100% means that the prevention system has served more households over the past year than the annual goal.

While capacity across programs has remained relatively stable over the past year, there are 1,109 housing units in construction or approved by the Board of Supervisors and are in the pipeline. As these units are completed and approved for occupancy, PSH and RRH capacity will increase significantly.

Appendix C illustrates key system performance measures, benchmarks for which are determined in coordination with community partners on an annual basis. A few highlights for the reporting period are provided below.

- Chart 2 provides data on exits to permanent housing destinations by housing type and period. Seventy-three percent (73%) of households exiting RRH programs exited to permanent housing for the current reporting period, nearly meeting the 75% benchmark. Thirty-three percent (33%) of households exiting ES programs moved on to permanent housing, exceeding the County's 30% performance goal. The system-wide benchmark of 40% has decreased slightly to 35% for the September 2021 through August 2022 study period.
- Chart 3 provides data on the percentage of people in Permanent Housing Programs (excluding RRH) retaining their housing in the reporting year. This primarily represents PSH programs. Across the County, this number has remained near or above the benchmark of 95% for several years. The housing retention rate was 95.9% for the current reporting period.
- Chart 4 provides data on returns to homelessness after exiting a program to a permanent housing destination. Data for 2021 shows decreases in returns at 6-month, 1-year, and 2-year timeframes compared to 2019 but the levels are mostly consistent when compared to 2020.

Appendix D presents data on housing placements and inflow by project type and month. The upper chart indicates the number of households that moved to permanent housing (housing placements), compared to the number of households completing their first housing assessment (inflow). Over the past one year, 2,210 households have been permanently housed and 3,166 households have taken the VI-SPDAT assessment for the first time (inflow). The inflow is stratified by level of housing intervention – minimal, RRH, or PSH. The lower chart breaks down the housing placements by the type of project from which the household was receiving assistance. While the need remains high with 311 households

became homeless for the first time in August as shown in the upper chart, the average gap between the number of housing placements and inflow each month has decreased by 36% from the previous year. While this is a positive sign in the effort to decrease the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, the OSH will also continue to monitor trends over the next several months as it relates to the number of households becoming homeless for the first time. As more housing developments are completed and additional emergency housing vouchers utilized, the OSH expects placements into permanent housing to increase in the coming months.

Rapid Rehousing Programs

Appendices E through G include data related to the County's RRH Programs. RRH programs provide time-limited rental assistance and supportive services to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and remain stably housed. Seventy-five percent (75%) of RRH programs are focused on serving specific subpopulations. Accordingly, the RRH data provided is stratified by subpopulation. A few highlights:

- As shown in the table in at the top of Appendix E, RRH programs have the largest capacity to serve any population (25%), veterans (24%), and families (23%).
- The lower chart in Appendix E indicates that 1,306 households - including 479 families with minor children - were permanently housed during the study period.
- Appendix F provides some RRH client outcomes and characteristics. Chart 1 illustrates the average number of days from program enrollment to housing and the average number of days housed in the RRH program by subpopulation. The average number of days housed represents the length of time a household receives a rent subsidy before they achieve self-sufficiency and exit the program. Previous years' data indicates that the pre-pandemic average was nine to ten months. For September 2021 through August 2022, however, this average across all subpopulations was nearly one year (329 days). The average days housed for families with children is highest at 1.4 years (524 days). While the pandemic is slowing down, economic challenges continue for many due to inflation and rising interest rates. This has resulted in the continued need for programs to adjust to these circumstances, providing longer-term subsidies.
- The community benchmark for finding permanent housing for a household enrolled in an RRH program is 60 days. For the September 2021 through August 2022 period, this target was met for families (Chart 1). The highest average number of days to housing for the period is seen for programs serving the reentry and any adult subpopulations at 117 days. This reflects the multiple barriers to finding permanent housing that clients who are exiting jail or prison back into the community face.

- Chart 2 displays exit destinations by subpopulation after being housed in the RRH program. Exits to permanent destinations after a move-in date across all subpopulations nearly meet or exceed the 75% benchmark, ranging from 97% (reentry) to 72% (single adults). One-fourth (25%) of all exits occur before the household is housed by the program. This percentage goes up 50% for single adult and any population programs (which are predominantly single adults). These exits without a program move-in date are primarily to temporary and unknown destinations with only 14% exiting to permanent destinations.
- Chart 4 shows disabilities reported during RRH program enrollment by subpopulation. Nearly half of single adult and any population households reported chronic health conditions. Incidences of mental health disorders are highest for single adults (49%) followed by veterans (38%) and reentry (37%) households.
- The largest program in the “any population” group is an RRH program funded via the State’s Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Currently, 110 households are housed in this program and 46 households exited in the past year. CARES RRH serves medically vulnerable households placed into hotels during the pandemic through Project Roomkey. Over 70% of the individuals served in the program are elderly (65 years old or above) and have chronic health conditions. This program launched in 2021, and most households that were enrolled and housed have not yet exited the program.

Ending Homelessness 2021: The State of the Supportive Housing System in Santa Clara County

This annual report provides a summary of the progress of the Community Plan to End Homelessness and the capacity and effectiveness of the supportive housing system, as well as OSH's efforts to develop innovative solutions to end and prevent homelessness in Santa Clara County.

In 2015, the Santa Clara County community came together to create a roadmap to guide their efforts to end homelessness. Coordinated by the Office of Supportive Housing and nonprofit partner Destination: Home, the resulting Community Plan to End Homelessness set ambitious goals and identified strategies to help the community achieve this shared vision. Despite ending homelessness for over 14,000 people between 2015 and 2019, thousands of people became homeless for the first time as a result of vast income disparities and extreme housing costs in the county. In 2020, the community again came together to evaluate progress since 2015 and set new, ambitious targets towards ending and preventing homelessness. The 2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness was endorsed by the Board of Supervisors in August 2020.

This report provides a summary of the progress towards the goals included in the 2020 Community Plan, as well as OSH's efforts to enhance and improve the County's Supportive Housing System. The following elements are included in the report:

- Introduction – An overview of the purpose of the report and the causes and impacts of homelessness in Santa Clara County.
- Where We've Been/Where We Are Now – An update on the work to expand the supportive housing system, prevent homelessness, and increase stability in housing through additional supports.
- Supportive Housing System Map – A graphic representation of the components of the supportive housing system.
- Lived Experience Advisory Board Highlight – A profile of the work of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB), including a coordinated and extensive street outreach campaign throughout the county and work to improve the homeless system of care.
- Youth and Young Adults Highlights – This section provides an overview of the Youth Action Board, established in 2021, a community of youth and young adults with lived expertise who are focused on creating collaborative, local solutions to homelessness, as well as an overview of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project.

- 2016 Measure A Affordable Bond Progress – An update on progress across the county since the introduction of the Housing Bond.
- Community Plan Implementation Update – An overview of progress toward the goals of the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness.
- City Efforts Across the County – Highlights from partnerships with the Cities of Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Cupertino, and Santa Clara.
- Community Plan: Looking Ahead – An overview of some next steps in Community Plan Implementation.
- Conclusion

In the first two years since adopting the 2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness over 7,850 homeless people have been placed in permanent housing.

The Homelessness Prevention System has expanded from a capacity to serve 1,000 households to more than 2,000 families annually. Homelessness prevention programs expanded to keep more people housed, including the Emergency Rental Assistance program, which distributed \$46,000,000 to at-risk households. These overall efforts contributed to a 33 percent decrease in the annual inflow of people becoming unhoused, while continual increases in the stock of permanent affordable housing also help ensure that periods of homelessness are brief and non-recurring. While the County and partners have more to go to achieve the goals of the plan, the first two years demonstrated the community-wide commitment to working strategically and collaboratively to end and prevent homelessness.



Office of Supportive Housing
Supportive Housing System
Dashboard

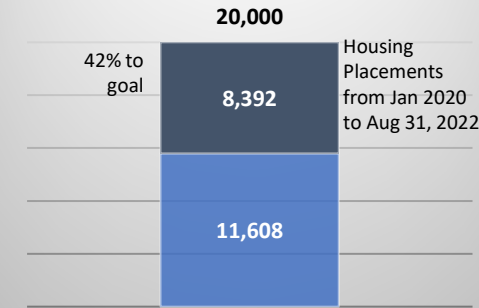
September 1, 2021 –
August 31, 2022

The 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness

The county-wide plan is our roadmap for ending homelessness in Santa Clara County. The 2020-2025 plan sets aggressive targets designed to reverse the current growth in homelessness and bring us one step closer to our collective goal of eliminating homelessness in our community. Appendix A will highlight specific goals related to this plan.

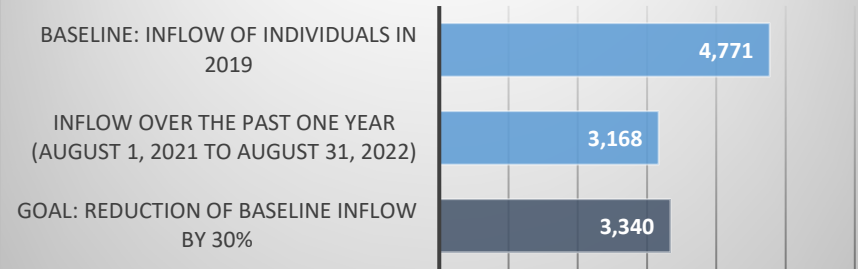
Appendix A: Community Plan Goals

1 Goal: Housing 20,000 People by 2025



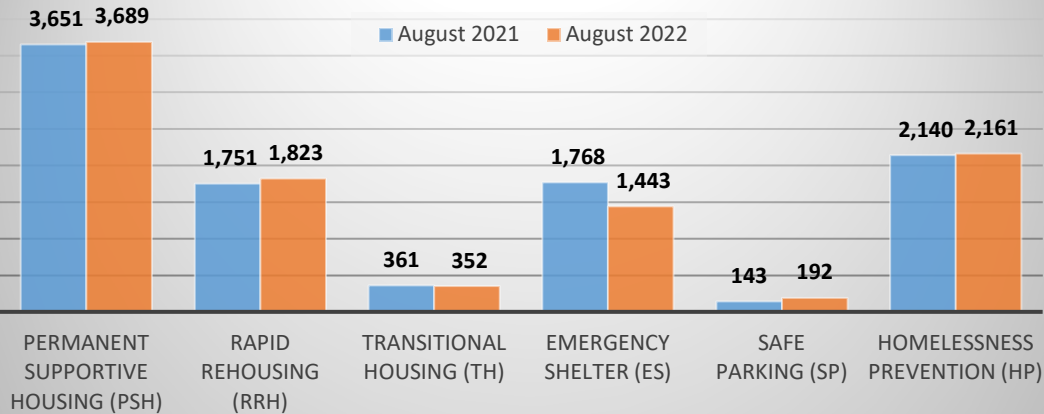
Goal: Achieve a 30% Reduction in Annual Inflow of People Becoming Homeless

(Inflow = Number of Households Completing Their First Assessment)



Appendix B: Capacity and Utilization as of 8/31/2022

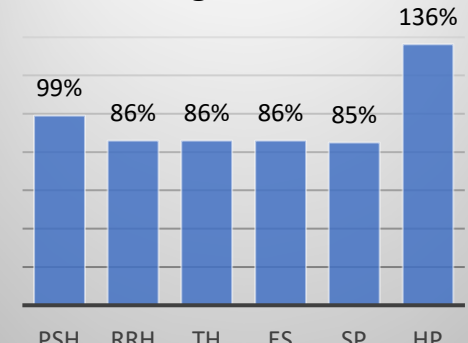
Program Capacity (Units or Households)



1,109 Total Housing Units (665 PSH, 369 RRH, and 75 VASH) Under Construction or in the Pipeline Approved by the Board

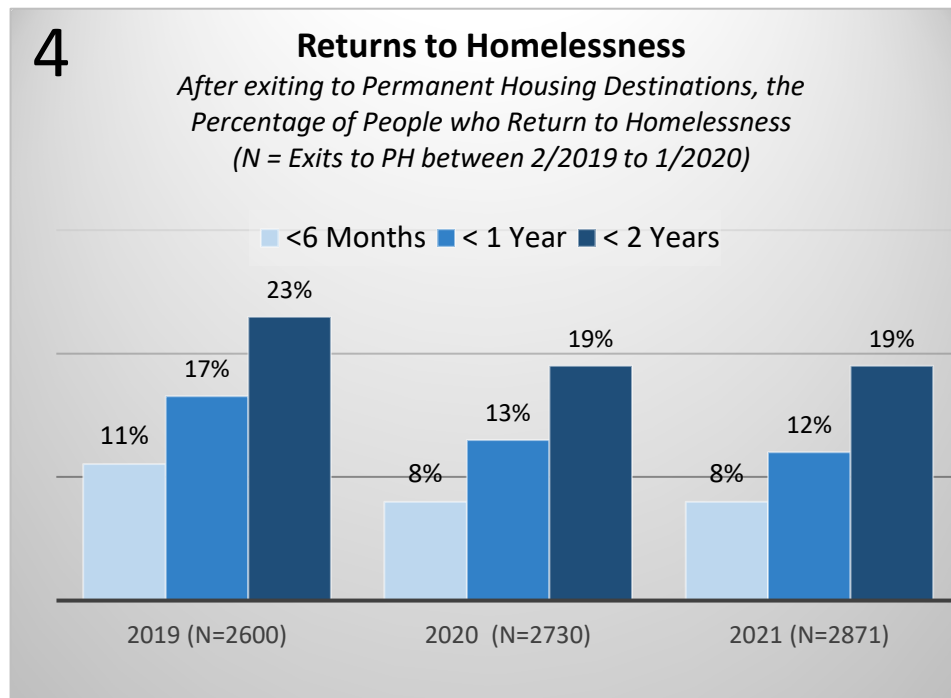
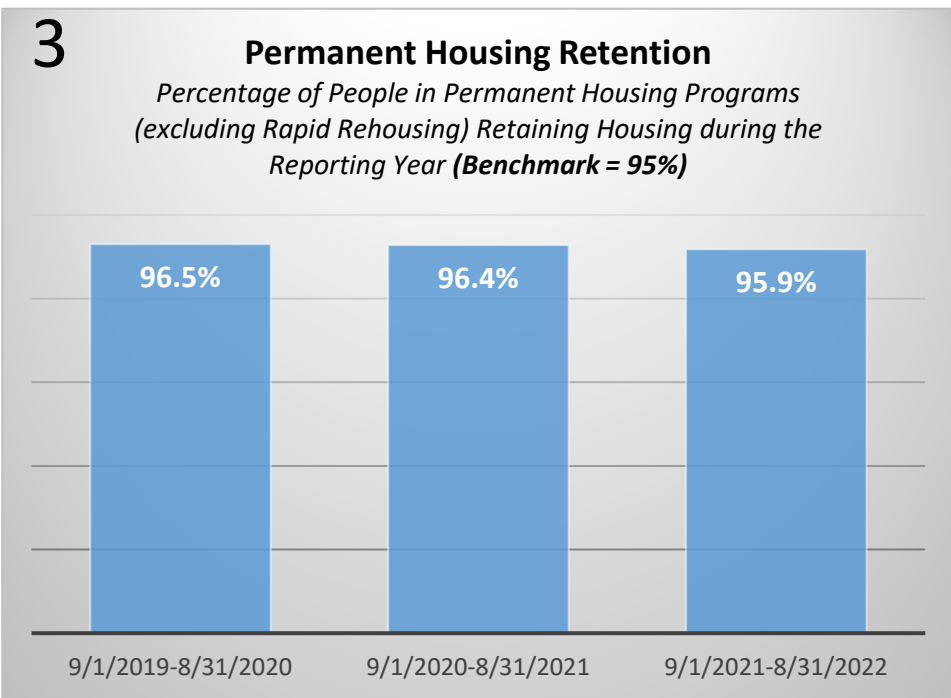
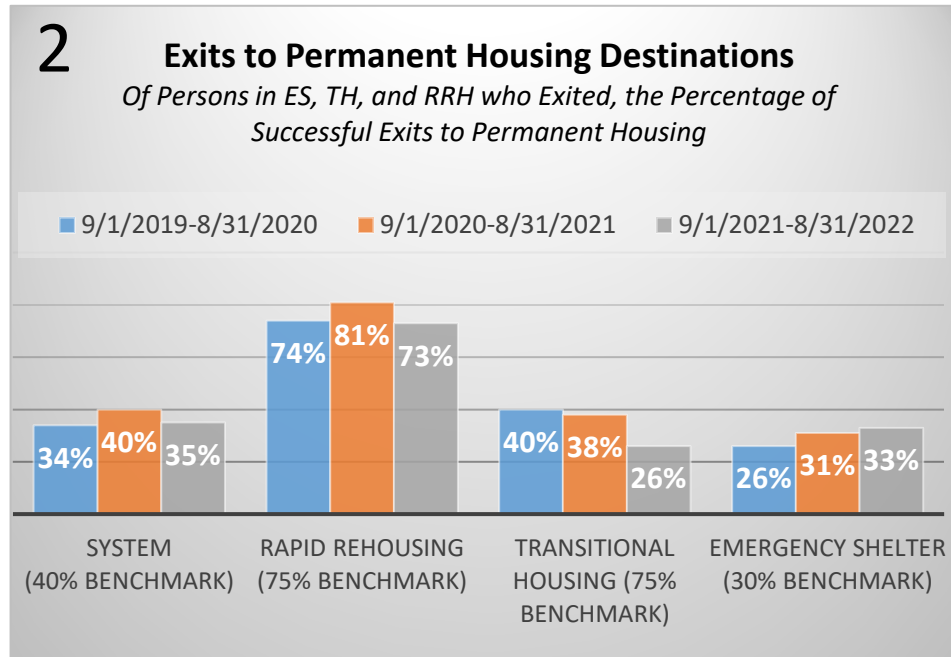
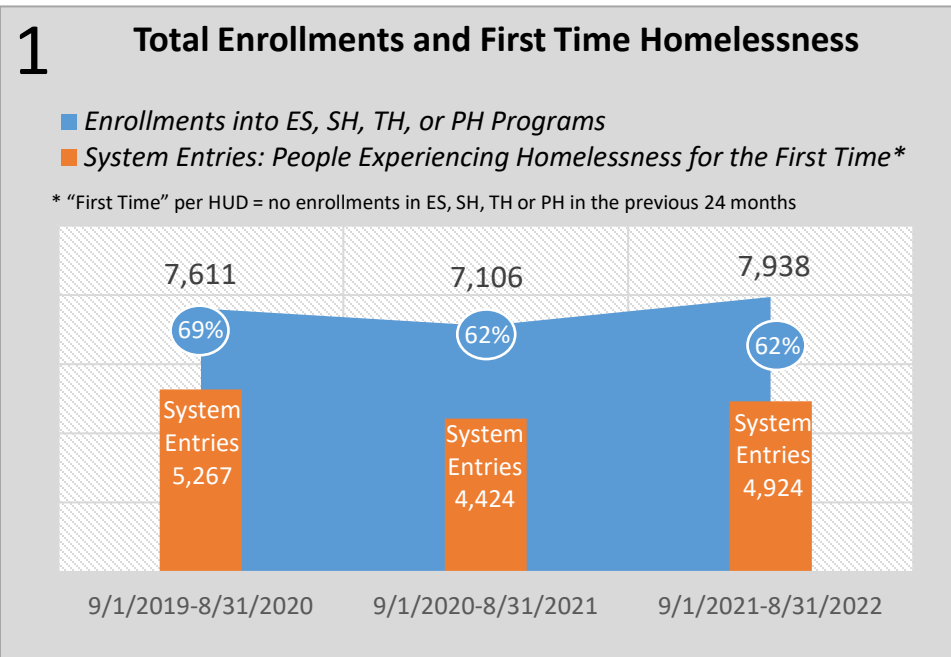


Program Utilization, August 2022



- Utilization: PSH, RRH are point-in-time utilization on August 31, 2022. TH and ES data reflects utilization for the month of August 2022, and SP and HP utilization are based on the last 12 months
- Program utilization is based on households enrolled in programs that are tracked in HMIS.
- PSH programs that are not tracked in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) include HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), consisting of 1,222 units, and other programs which comprise 53 units. PSH capacity includes 40 units which are Permanent Housing with services (no disability required).
- For Safe Parking programs, one parking space is the equivalent of one unit of capacity with an estimated 2.5 individuals per vehicle.

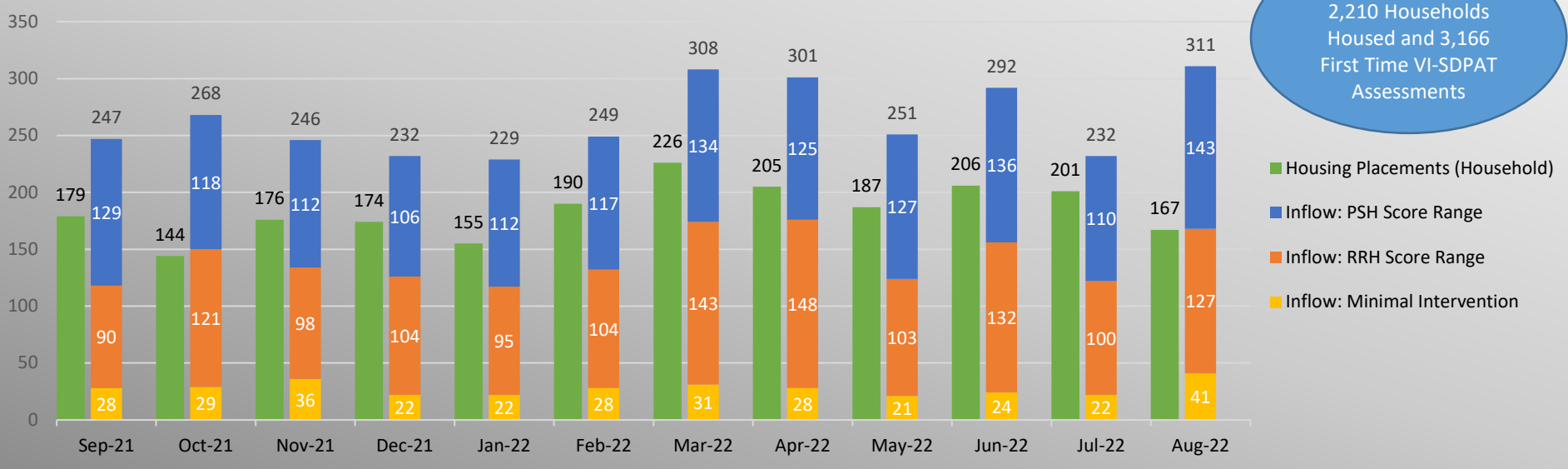
Appendix C: System Performance Measures



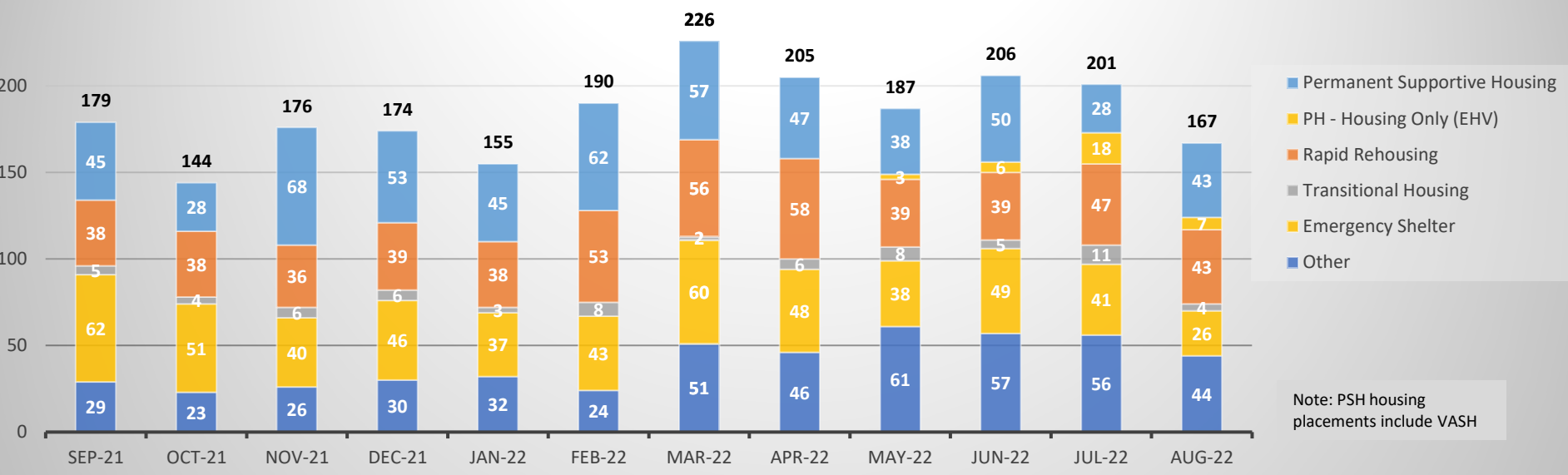
Appendix D: Housing Placements and Inflow by Month

Monthly Housing Placements vs. Homeless Inflow

Over Past 1 Year:
2,210 Households
Housed and 3,166
First Time VI-SDPAT
Assessments



Monthly Housing Placements from Project Types

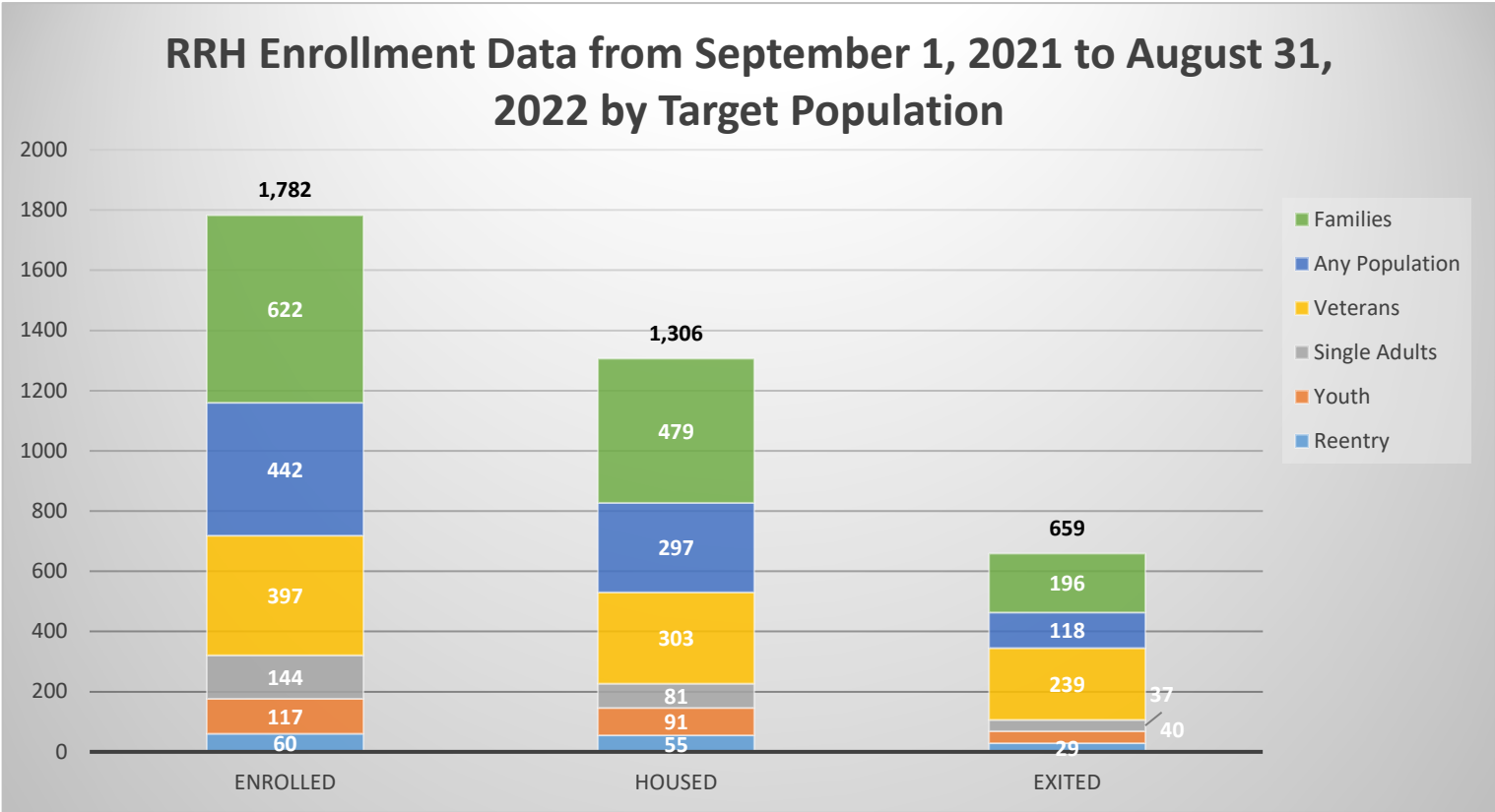


Note: PSH housing placements include VASH

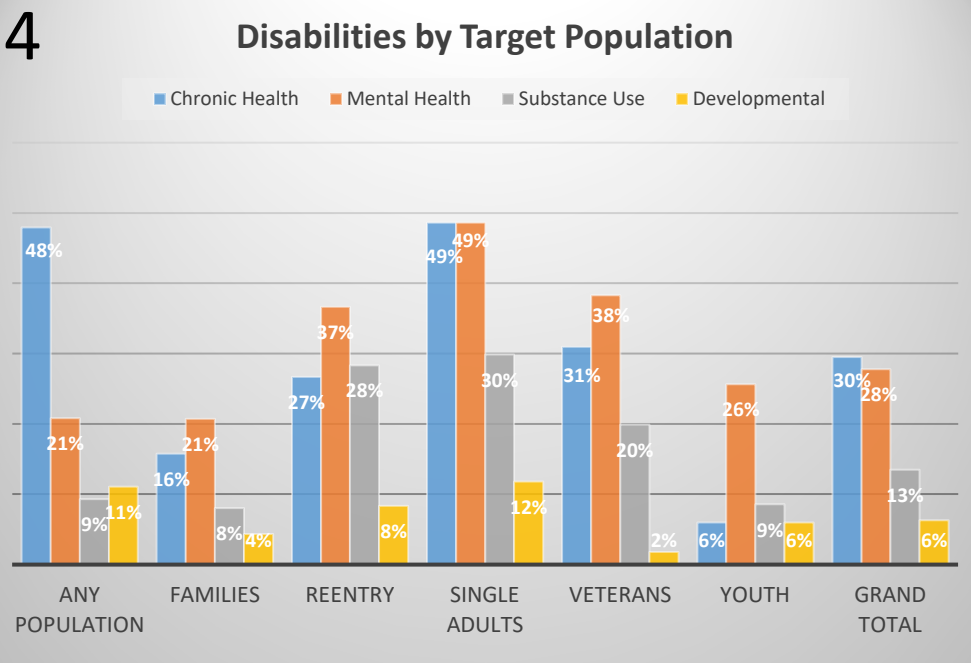
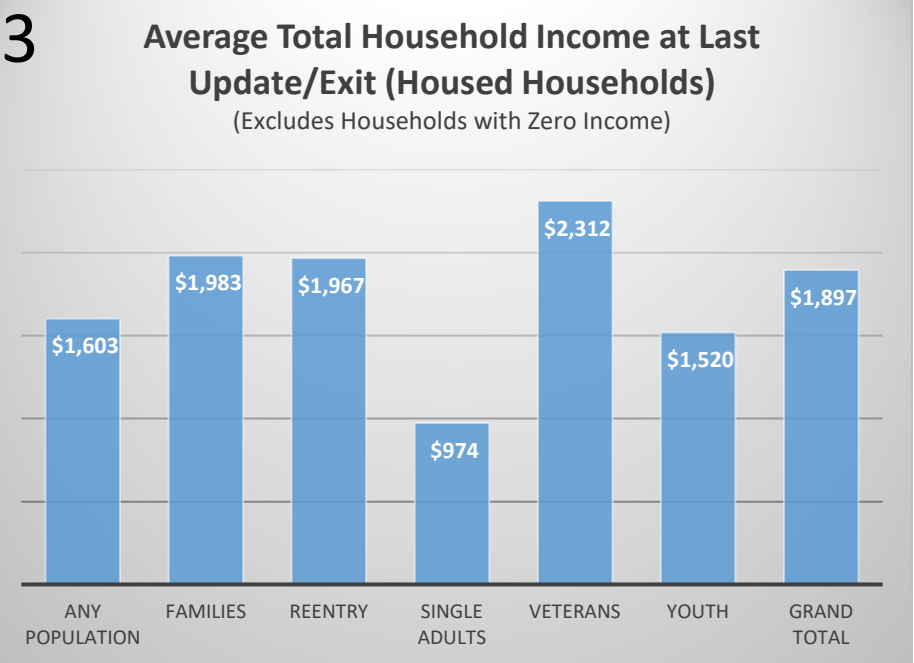
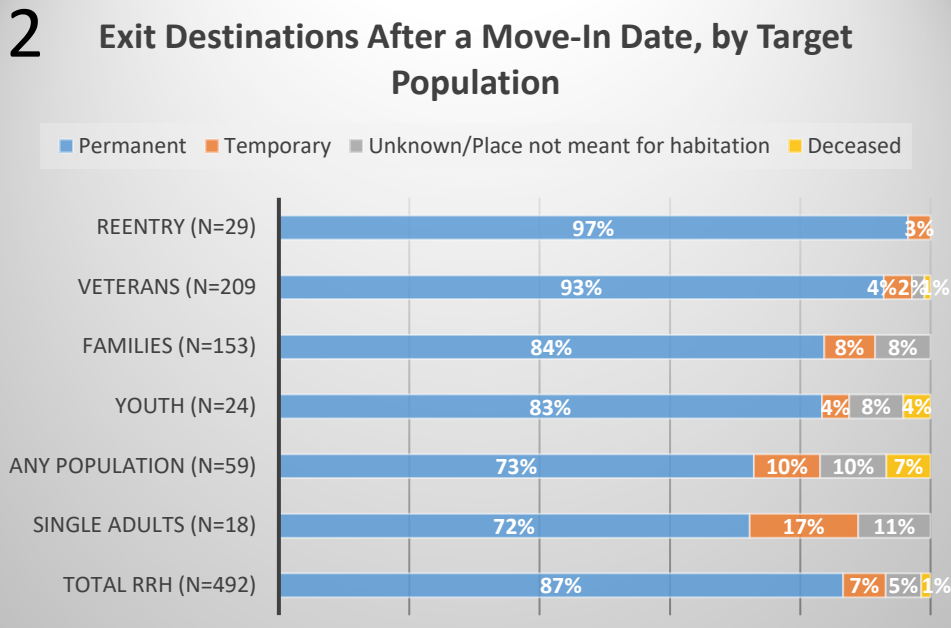
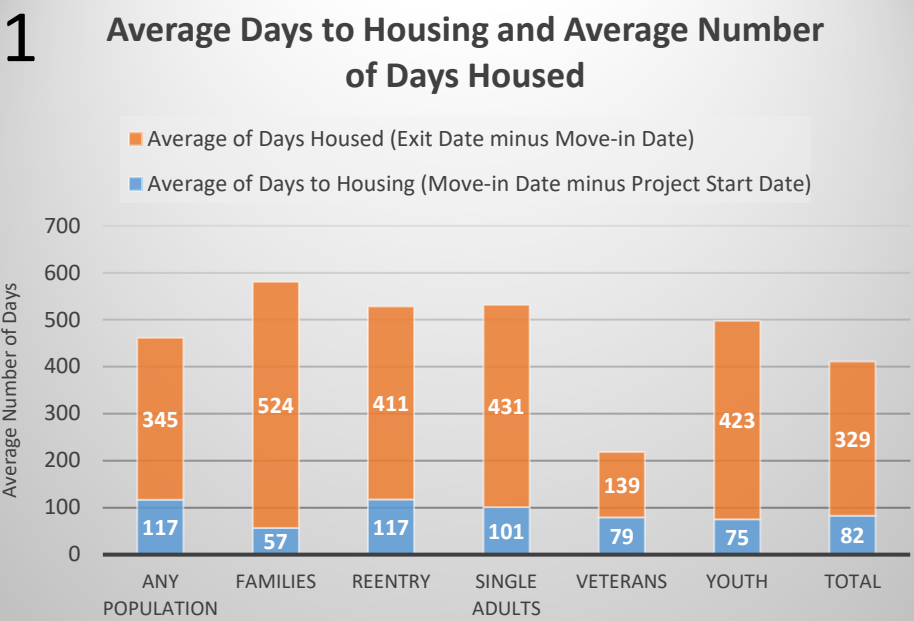
Appendix E: Rapid Rehousing Capacity and Enrollments - August 31, 2022

Target Population of RRH Program	Number of Programs	Annual Capacity (Units) as of 8/31/2022	Percentage of Total
Any Population	5	452	25%
Veterans	4	438	24%
Families	8	426	23%
Single Adults	3	245	13%
Youth	4	107	6%
Reentry	2	80	4%
IPV Victims	3	75	4%
Grand Total	29	1823	100%

Note: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) program data is not recorded in the HMIS.

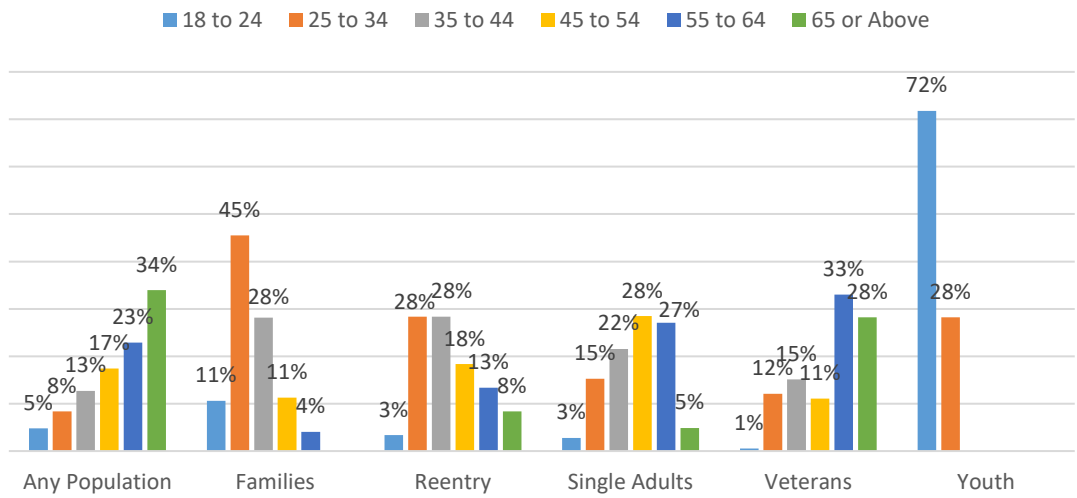


Appendix F: RRH Client Characteristics and Outcomes – Sept. 2021 to Aug. 2022

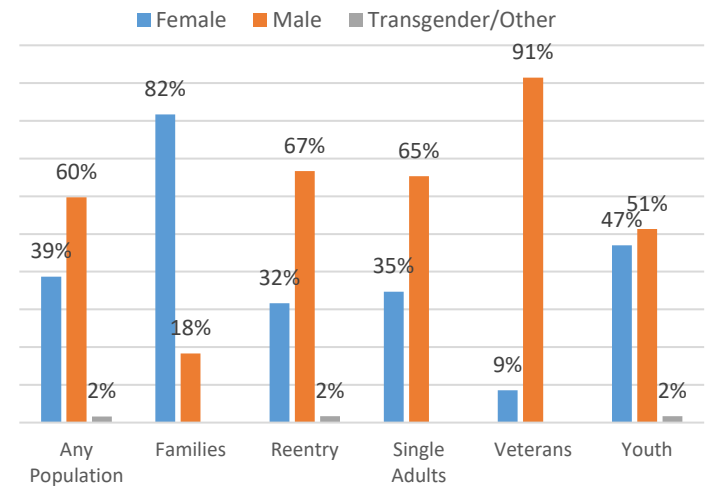


Appendix G: Demographics by RRH Target Population – Enrolled Sept. 2021 to Aug. 2022

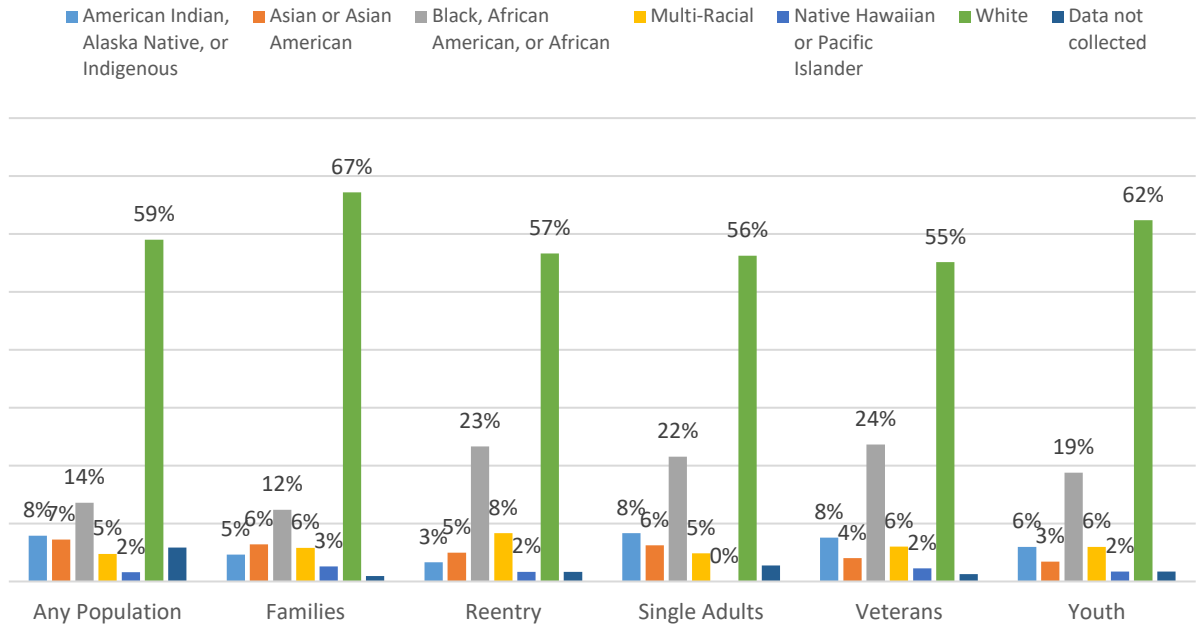
By Age Tier



By Gender



By Race



By Ethnicity

