

2026 State of Homelessness

Point-In-Time Count *(Winter 2026)*

**Foothills Housing Network represents Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison,
Orange, & Rappahannock Counties (Region 9)**

July 29, 2026 Final

Presented by
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

In here you will find➔

What's the PIT? & Why Do It?

Helpful Definitions & FAQ's

#'s: Highlights, Changes, reductions...

Identified GAPS

Coordinated Entry & Data

Solutions & Opportunities

-Continuum of Housing

-Cross-System Cost Offsets of Supportive Housing

What is FHN?

FHN Community Partners

What is the Point-In-Time Count?

The Point-In-Time Count is a count of all people experiencing homelessness in a community during the last ten days of January. Each year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuum of Cares (CoC) across the country to conduct this annual count of people experiencing homelessness in the geographic area that they serve, which includes people in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotel vouchers, as well as those experiencing unsheltered homelessness (HUD definition).

Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally using the same questions across communities. Communities, such as ours, also have the option of adding additional local questions to provide individualized data.

Point-In-Time 2026

Why We Do the PIT Count?

PIT Count data helps to:

Measure community progress toward ending homelessness, effectively target programs and services to the needs of the population, informs Street outreach efforts, assists communities plan, and raise public awareness about the trauma of homelessness.

HUD uses information from the local point-in-time counts, among other data sources, in the congressionally mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). This report informs Congress about the number of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and the effectiveness of HUD's programs and policies in decreasing those numbers.

PIT counts provide a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness, which frames the dimensions of the problem of homelessness and helps policymakers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.

Accuracy Issues:

- **One-Night Snapshot:** Measures just a single evening in winter, missing people who cycle in and out of homelessness during the year.
- **Excluded Populations:** Misses people sleeping in cars, staying temporarily with friends or family ("doubled up"), or residing in motels.
- **Visual Hiding:** Unhoused individuals often hide for safety or warmth, meaning physical street counts miss many people.
- **Inconsistent Execution:** Training, volunteer turn-out, and regional geography change how well a local Continuum of Care can canvas an area.

*According to the **2023 HUD PIT Report by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty**, “The definition of homelessness that HUD uses is narrow and does not measure the real crisis. It does not permit the inclusion of people that are “doubled up”, meaning that they are staying with friends or family due to economic hardship. The PIT counts also exclude people in some institutions such as hospitals and jails; this may result in a disproportionate undercounting of racial and ethnic minorities, who are overrepresented in incarcerated populations.”*

Helpful Definitions & Common Terms per the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Eligible for program screening via Coordinated Entry

Literally Homeless: Individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those staying in shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for human habitation (e.g., cars, parks, abandoned buildings).

Imminent Risk of Homelessness: Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain new housing, and have an income less than 30% of Average Median Income.

Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence: Individuals or families fleeing their permanent housing due to intimate partner violence with no other safe residence AND lack the resources and supports to obtain other housing.

Chronically Homeless: individuals or families with a disability who live either in a place not meant for human habitation, such as the street, in their car, a shed or abandoned structure, or in an emergency shelter. In order to meet the definition, the individual also must have been living as described above continuously for at least twelve (12) months or on at least four (4) separate occasions in the last three (3) years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least twelve (12) months AND a member of the household has a disability.

Definitions, Con't.

Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI): refers to a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder in adults (18+) that causes severe functional impairment, substantially interfering with major life activities like work, school, or self-care. It is characterized by long-term, disabling conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or severe depression.

Coordinated Entry: a HUD-mandated, centralized process designed to efficiently assess, prioritize, and connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services. It uses standardized tools and a "no wrong door" approach to ensure equitable access to resources, matching the most vulnerable individuals with available interventions.

By-Name List: a real-time, comprehensive, and voluntary list of every person experiencing homelessness in a community, including their names, needs, and history. It enables targeted, individualized housing solutions, allowing communities to track progress toward reducing homelessness.

Rapid Rehousing: Rapid re-housing assistance is limited to households experiencing literal homelessness. These households lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes those currently residing in a shelter, on the street, in a car, in a place not meant for habitation, and those exiting an institution where they resided temporarily for 90 days or fewer and were homeless at entry, and have no housing resources. Connection to resources, supportive services, and possible financial assistance is offered to the literally homeless without preconditions such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety. The resources and services provided are tailored to the household's unique needs.

Targeted Homeless Prevention: The Targeted Prevention Program can provide individuals in identified at-risk groups facing literal homelessness within 14 days, AND have a household income below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), AND lack sufficient resources and support networks necessary to retain housing without assistance or access rental housing without assistance with possible financial assistance and support services.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) combines affordable, long-term rental assistance with voluntary, individual support services for individuals with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or mental health challenges. Operating on a "Housing First" model, it aims to end homelessness by providing stable housing without preconditions and a "street to housing" approach.

A **Continuum of Care (CoC)** is a regional or local planning body designed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate housing and services funding for homeless individuals and families. It promotes community-wide commitment to ending homelessness through coordinated, data-driven, and evidence-based approaches like rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. A local partnership of community agencies in action, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, healthcare, local government, and schools.

Virginia Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC): a vast regional network of 73 rural and non-metro localities managed by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to coordinate homeless services, secure federal HUD funding, and operate through 12 Local Planning Groups. DHCD oversees regulatory alignment, performance measurement, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Local Planning Groups (LPGs): Divided into 12 regional groups covering over 500 miles-from the Eastern Shore to Southwest Virginia-to target localized housing and emergency shelter needs.

Core Programs of the Balance of State: Coordinates the Coordinated Entry System, Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP), and strategic grants to reduce rural homelessness.

Area Median Income

Area Median Income (AMI): the **MIDPOINT** household income for a specific region, calculated yearly by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), *where half of families earn more and half earn less*. It adjusts by household size only, and sets limits for affordable housing.

Income Tiers of AMI:

Low-Income: At or below 80% of AMI **Very Low-Income:** At or below 50% of AMI *** **Extremely Low-Income:** At or below 30% of AMI

Acutely Low-Income: Earning 0% to 15% of AMI (the lowest of the income tiers)

Planning Region Nine AMI for one-person household **(The Middle) Household Income & 30% of AMI** one-person household:

Culpeper: **\$100,049** 30% \$30,014 Fauquier: **\$130,189** 30% \$39,056 Orange: **\$94,008** 30% \$28,202

Madison: **\$84,323** 30% \$25,296 Rappahannock: **\$83,380** 30% \$25,014

***Most Commonly Served by Foothills Housing Network

2026 PIT Count Highlights

HUD Total Individuals: 219

Adults: 140

Children: 79

Adults: Observed individuals
(adults + kids) experiencing
homelessness 58

Other than HUD Definition (and the Hidden Homeless):

Observation Only, McKinney-Vento, Couch surfing, staying with friends/family, paying for own hotel room

Homelessness may not look the way many imagine it, particularly in a changing rural Virginia. Nationally, rural areas saw a 16.6% increase in people experiencing homelessness between 2023 and 2025, according to Virginia Housing data. During that same period, urban areas saw a 9.4% increase. These figures do not tell the full story – homelessness in rural areas is more complex and often harder to see.

Who are the adults in the region experiencing homelessness?

9.9% of PEH were 18-24 years old

30.7% were 35-44 years old

32.8% were 55 and over, with **12.1%** being over 65

37.1% have a mental, developmental, medical, or physical disability

(69% of those with a disability said it limits their ability to work or live alone)

37.9% were Men

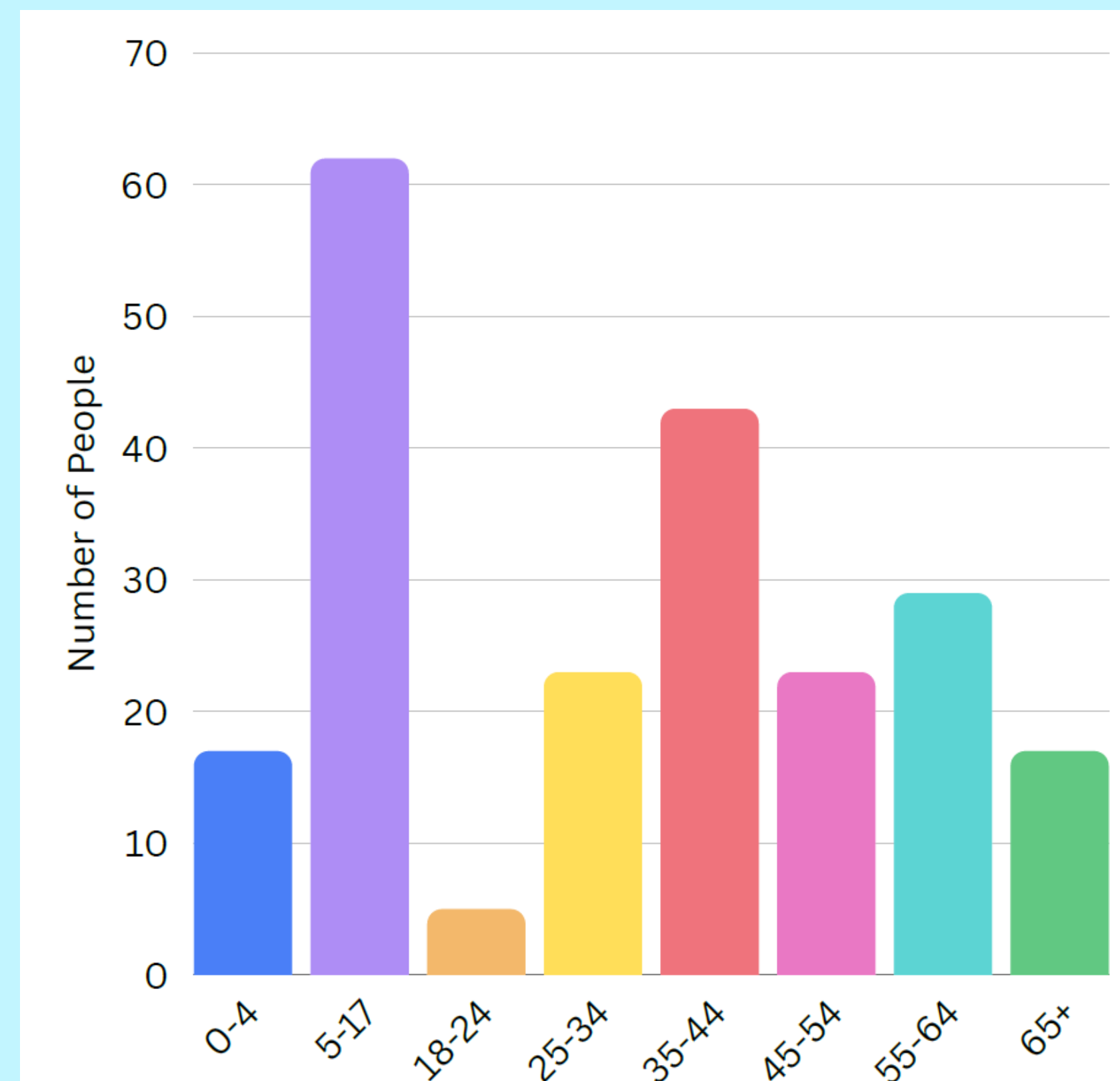
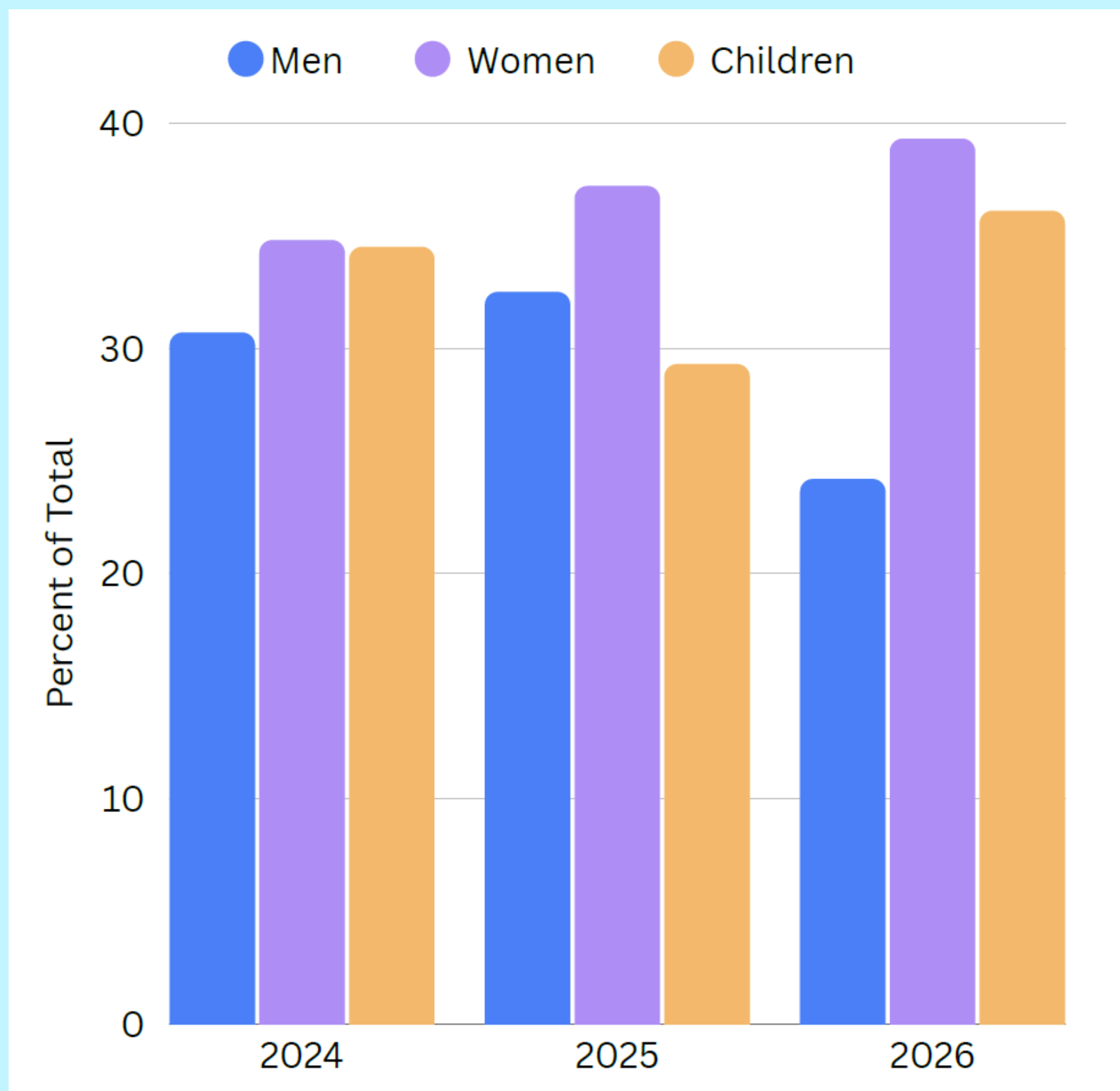
61.4% were Women

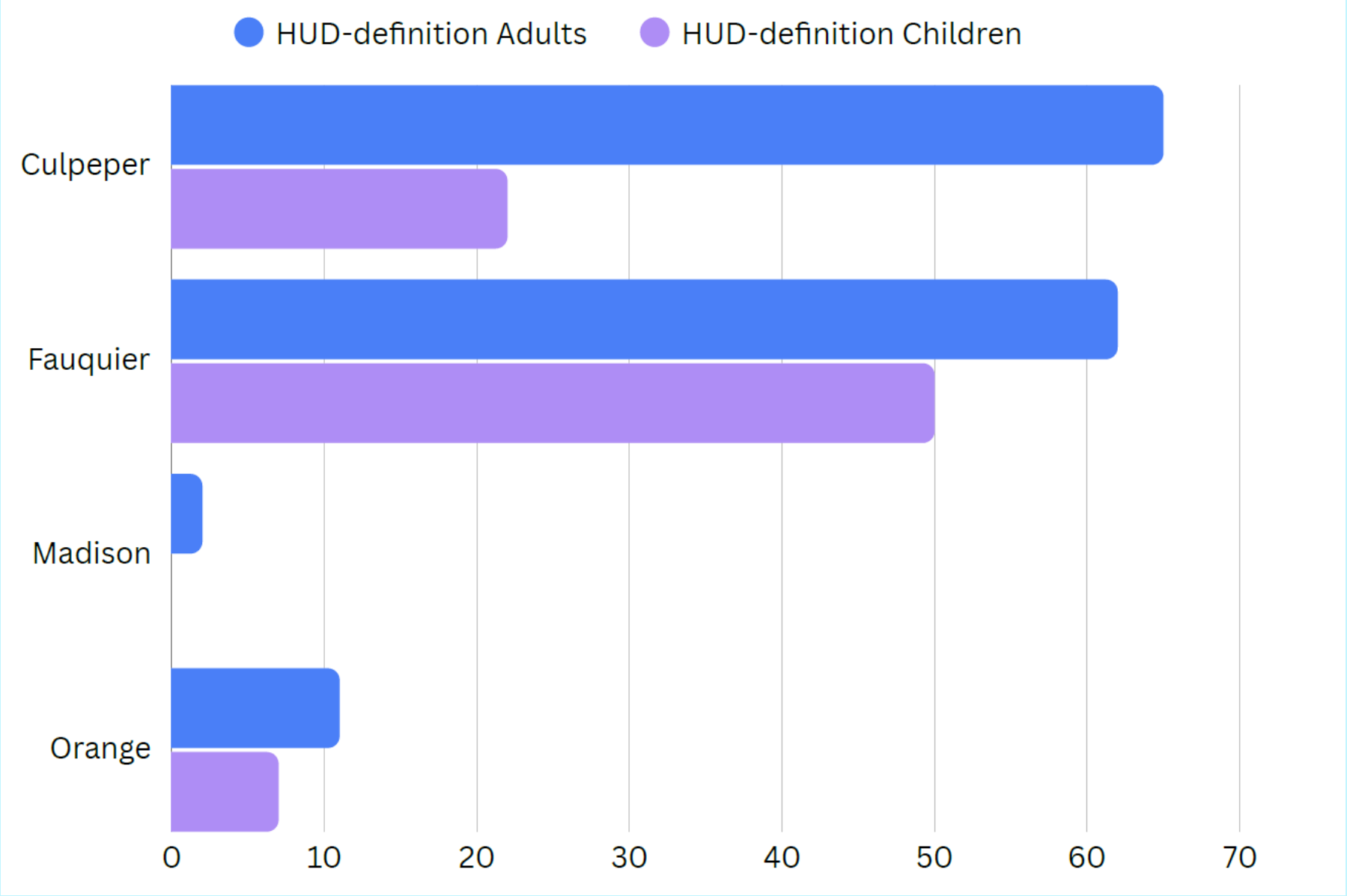
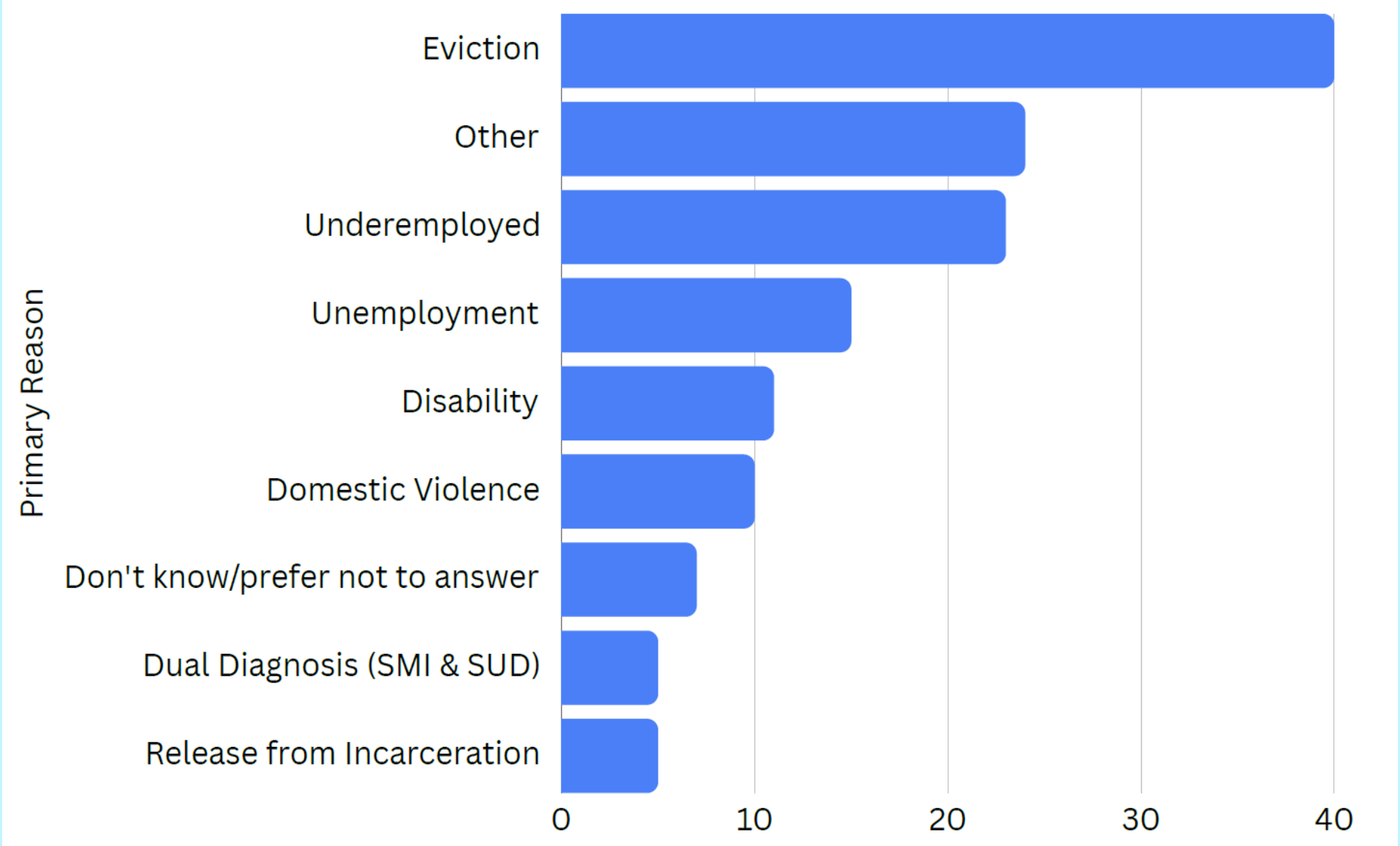
Black/African-American/African (37.9%)

-White (42.9%)

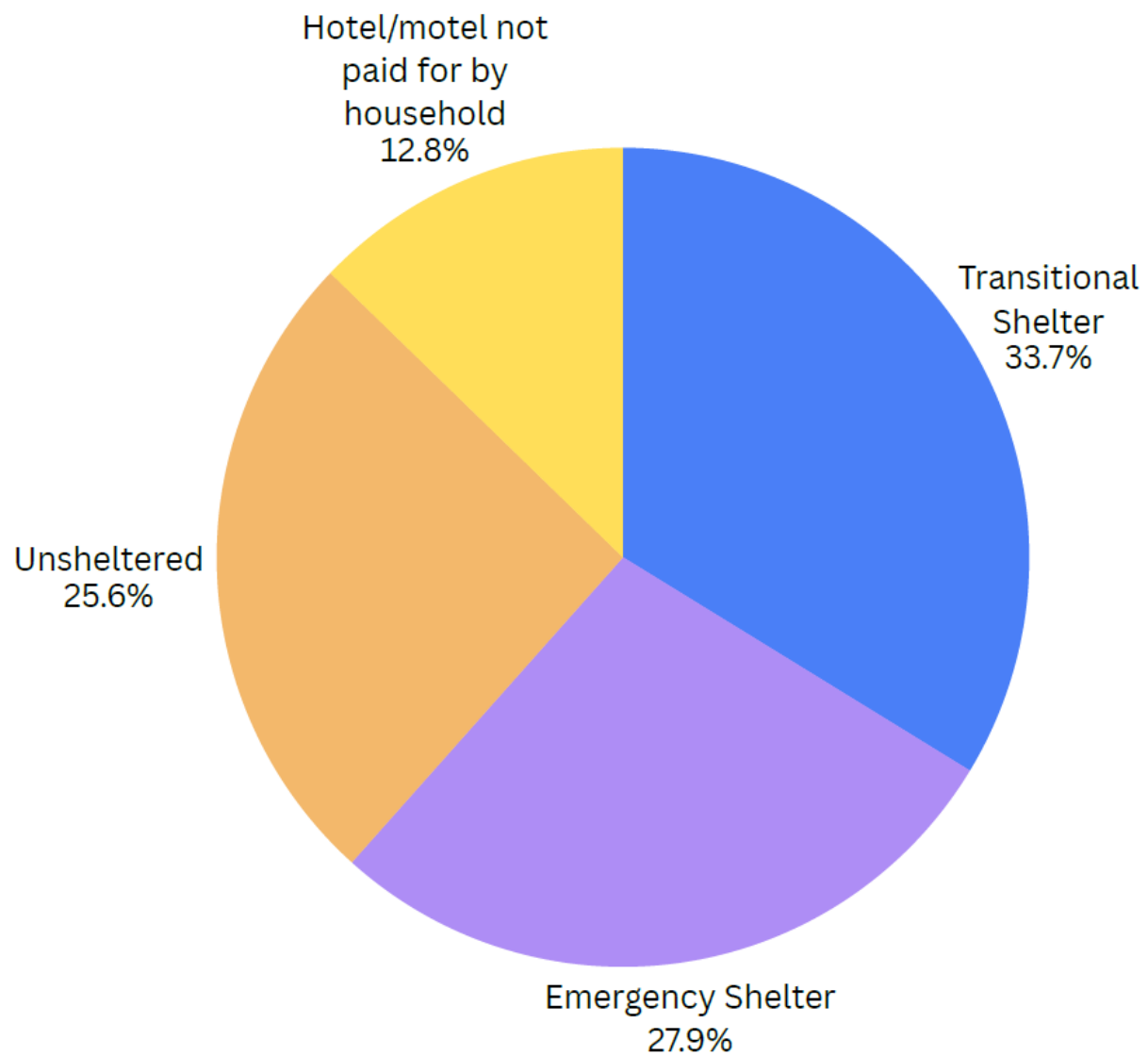
-Hispanic/Latina/e/o (including multi-racial individuals who are also Hispanic or Latina/e/o) (7.8%)

-Multi-racial (not Hispanic or Latina/e/o) (6.4%)

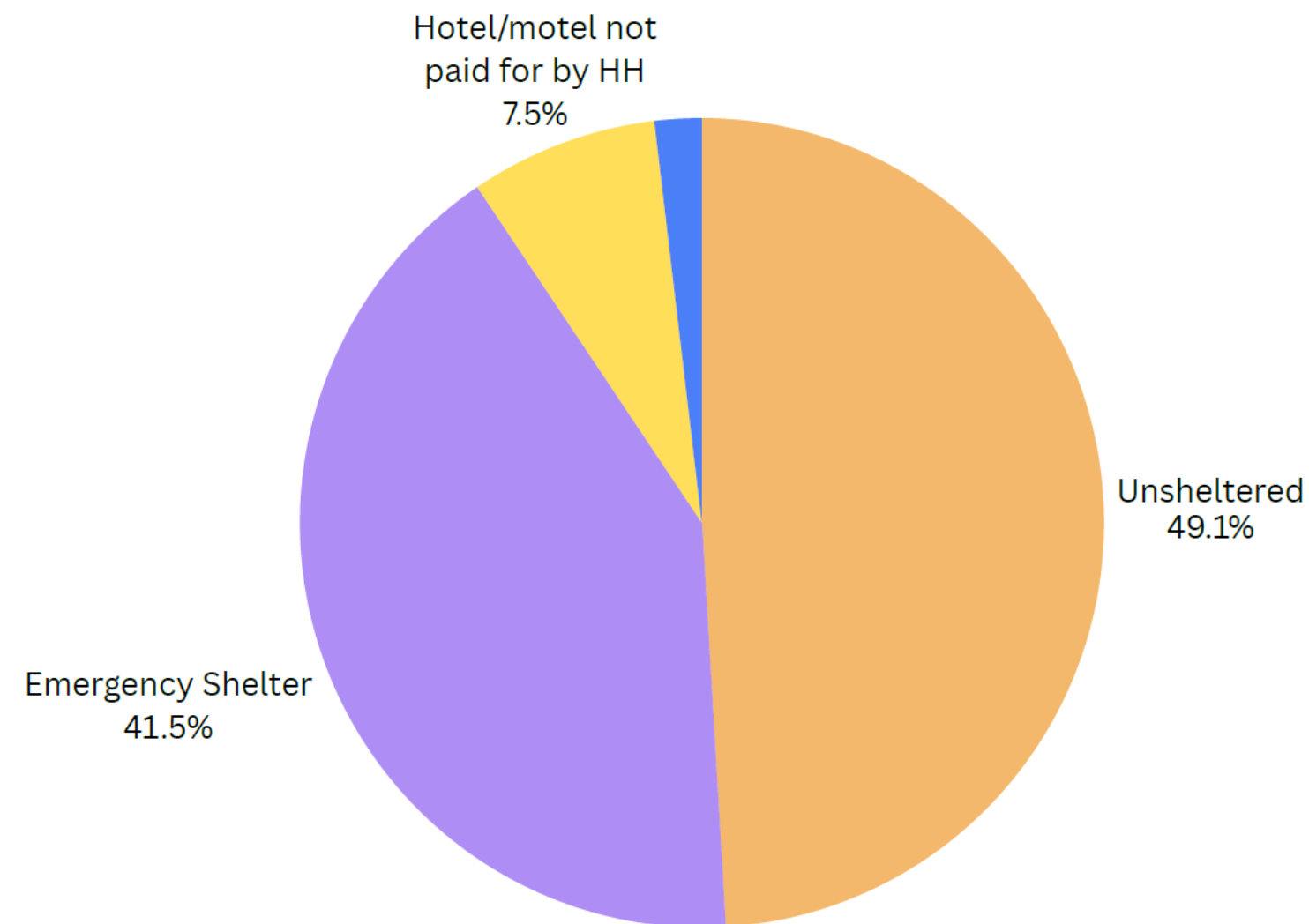




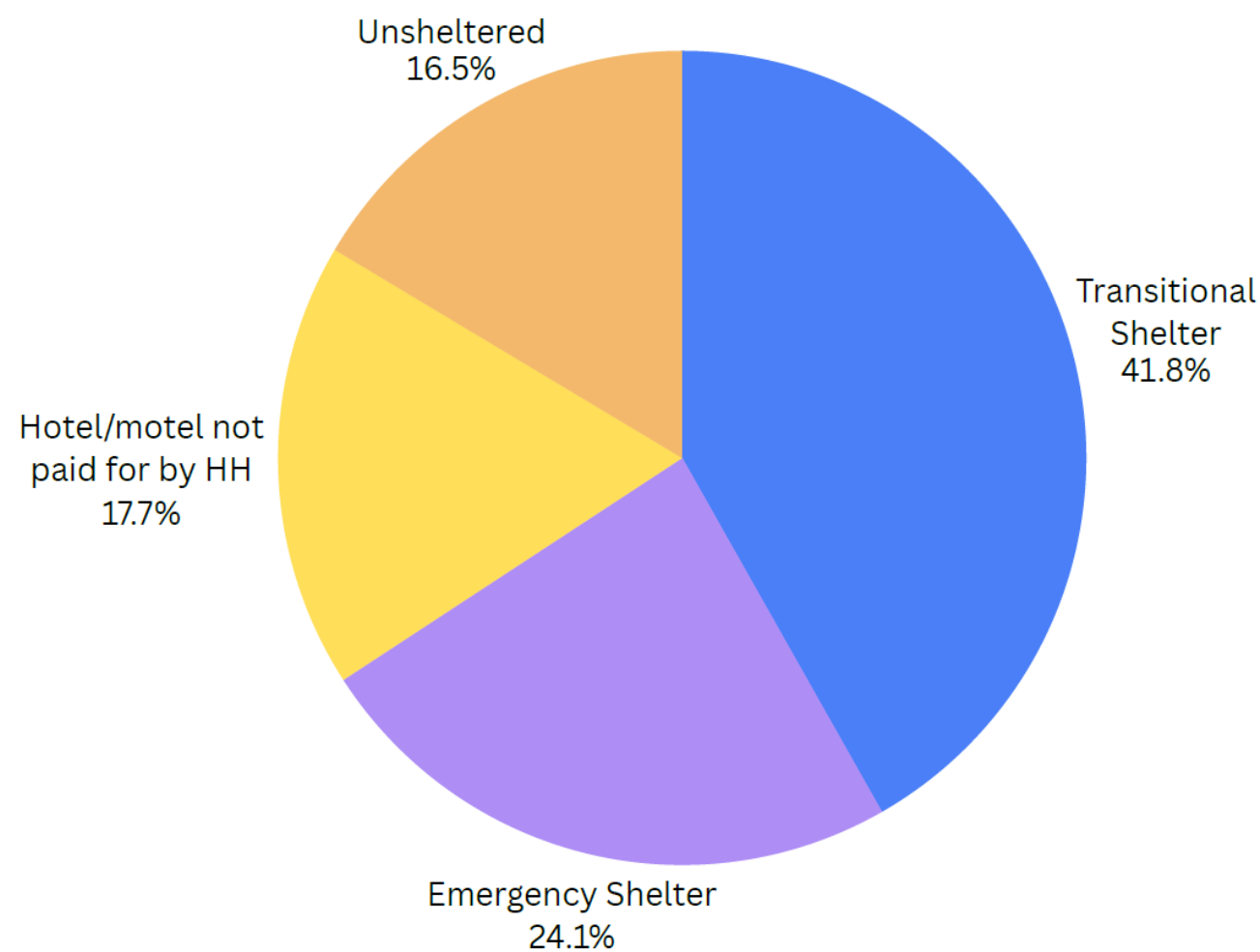
Places Women Slept



Places Men Slept



Places Kids Slept



Race/Ethnicity of HUD-defined Adults
Experiencing Homelessness

JANUARY 2026

White



43%

Black/African
American/African



38%

Hispanic or
Latina/e/o
(including multi-
racial)



8%

Multi-racial (not
Hispanic or
Latina/e/o)



6%

Other and/or
did not disclose



5%

 = 5 percent

Coordinated Entry & Access Point Data:

Calls for
assistance:
1,694

Eligible
Households:
978

249
households
permanently
housed

Households
diverted from
experiencing literal
homelessness:
468

Insights...

**22% of adults & 41% of children were living in time-limited (1-2 years) transitional housing programs
(only in existence in Fauquier County)**

Top 4 Primary reasons given for experiencing homelessness

Eviction	28.6%
Unemployment/Underemployment	27.1%
Disability	7.9%
Domestic Violence	7.2%

3 Increasing Sub-populations in the Region

- Over 65 years old
- 18-24 years old
- Women

Housing Inventory/Stock of the Region

96 beds of emergency shelter in five counties.

66 of these beds are predominantly for women and children

30 of these beds exist only December-March for single adults.

One reason there's less affordable housing stock in rural America is the rise of "vacation homes," homes that are unoccupied for seasonal or recreational use.

Approximately 6 million homes, or 20%, are unoccupied in rural America, lower than the nationwide average of 11%.

About 53% of all vacant seasonal or recreational homes nationwide are in rural areas, which account for nearly half of all rural home vacancies. Were someone to attempt to use the vacation home methodology for a month-to-month rental they would be no less affordable.

"There has not been an accounting for the entire Continuum of Housing, in many communities you see only two versions: large single-family homes and multiple-bedroom apartments. The current system for delivering affordable housing is too expensive, inflexible, and slow to meet the needs of rapidly growing communities. The social- impact investment model that we pioneered solves for these challenges in a way that can be replicated by nearly any community."

Dave Foster, Principal and head of Real Estate at Community Solutions

Although more than 80 individuals in our community BNL are identified as needing Supportive Housing and the services it offers, there are no open slots. Encompass Community Supports (SMI) PSH is supporting 68 individuals, and People, Inc. (HUD) PSH is supporting 25.

GAPS

O

Targeted Street Outreach and Health Care Options to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Connection to basic needs & CES.

D

Day centers provide individuals with a place to land during the day. Some offer showers, laundry, employment, and educational program referrals, assistance with benefits issues, clothing, and meals.

F

Flexible Funding!!! Funds from the government do not cover Eviction Prevention or Targeted Diversion. Both are evidence-based solutions to reduce the number of people who fall into literal homelessness on a yearly basis.

L

Landlords and property owners who will commit to Master Leasing agreements. Ask about the Landlord Incentive program!

GAPS

O

Medical Respite Program

Specifically for unsheltered individuals exiting the hospital who should not convalesce on the street.

D

Permanent Supportive Housing

Designed for chronically homeless singles and families with extended assistance and supportive services.

F

Unaccompanied Youth Program

Designed to meet the specific needs of unsheltered youth ages 18-24 years old.

L

Reliable & Expanded forms of Public Transportation

SOLUTIONS

Community Goals Must Be Set. Advocate for safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for all.

Understand that homelessness is a public health crisis

Consider who isn't at the table & invite them

Service Provider(s) must build capacity

Master Leasing

Repurpose Properties

Low barrier Shelter / Wet Shelter

Create Deeply Affordable Housing

Engage people with Lived Experience in Planning

Private, Flexible Funding for Diverting Households from Homelessness

Commitment from local governments to functionally end homelessness NOW

AND... so many more. Join the conversation!

Accessing CoC Programs

Call or text Coordinated Entry

Are you facing a housing crisis?

Call Foothills Housing Network's **Coordinated Entry** hotline if you are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing the place where you are currently staying.

Call or text:

(540) 724-6630

Leave a message with your name, number, and the best day and time to reach you. Your call will be returned within one business day.

Visit, Call, or Text an In-Person Access Point



540-212-3347

CALL OR TEXT

24/7 RAPID

RESPONSE LINE

WALK-INS WELCOME

Are you homeless or facing a housing crisis?

Access to screenings for assistance and much more

 info@newbeginningsoutreachcenter.com

 newbeginningsoutreachcenter.com

 **1002 South Main Street Culpeper, VA**

Serving Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties

Who Is Foothills Housing Network?

- Aetna
- Community Touch, Inc. *
- Culpeper Housing & Shelter Services*
- Culpeper Human Services *
- Encompass Community Supports (Formerly RRCS)*
- Fauquier Department of Social Services*
- Fauquier Habitat*
- Good Samaritan, Inc.*
- Hero's Bridge*
- Madison Department of Social Services *
- NAACP Fauquier County Chapter
- New Beginnings Outreach Center*
- Orange Department of Social Services*
- PATH Foundation *
- People, Inc. *
- Rappahannock Department of Social Services*
- Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC)**
- Services to Abused Families (SAFE)
- Skyline CAP
- Windy Hill Foundation*
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington
- Central Virginia Veterans Health Care System
- Culpeper County Public Schools* (McKinney-Vento Transportation)
- District 26 Probation & Parole Office
- Foothills Housing Corporation
- Free Clinic of Culpeper
- Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services (FAHASS)
- Legal Aid Works
- Offender Aid & Restoration
- The Exchange at Orange Church of the Nazarene
- Town of Culpeper Police Dept
- Virginia Cares

For more information:

Please contact Rebecca Wareham, Continuum of Care Coordinator for Foothills Housing Network, at the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission: rwareham@rrregion.org or (540) 829-7450, ext. 13

www.foothillshousing.org

www.rrregion.org