North Carolina
Balance of State Continuum of Care

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NC Balance of State CoC Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023

Regional Leads Present: Derek Lancour, Emily Lowery, Amber Story, Pamela Hinton, Kristen McAlhaney, Natasha Elliott, Marie Watson, Emily Locklear, James Stroud, LaTasha McNair, Kisha Darden, Tujuanda Sanders, Brian Fike

At-Large Members Present: Rachelle Dugan, Ellen Blackman, Brooks Ann McKinney, Angela Harper King, Beth Branagan

SC Members Absent: Tiffany Askew, Cassandra Rowe, Catherine Kastleman

Interested Parties Present: Hannah Larios, Bonnie Harper, Michele Welsh, Kenett Melgar, Kristine Wiles, Kerry Bashaw, Brenda Marie Forbes, Kit Claude, Tonya Gray Young, Kecia Robinson, Talaika Williams, Laurenn Singleton, Amy Modlin, Jana Elliott, Erin Gaskin, Bre Griffin, Teena Willis, Leah Dyson, Susanne Rodriguez, Dr. Dia Thomas

NCCEH Staff Present: Dr. Latonya Agard, Tim Bender, Laurel Benfield, Allie Card, Andrea Carey, Adrianna Coffee, Adriana Diaz, Alicia Harvey, Elliot Rhodes, Jenny Simmons, Dashia Shanks, Debra Susie, Ashley VonHatten

Approval of Consent Agenda

- The consent agenda was sent out for review prior to the meeting and is posted at: https://www.ncceh.org/bos/steeringcommittee/
- The consent agenda was voted on at the beginning of the meeting. Without changes or objection, the consent agenda was approved by common consent.

FY2023 CoC Program Competition Update

CoC staff shared the following project application information:

- New CoC Project Applicant Webinar recording and slides posted at https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/
  - New Project: Intent to Apply Form at https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dd
    - Due 2 weeks after release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
    - Mandatory for new projects
    - Accepted on a rolling basis, non-binding

- Renewal CoC Project Applicant Webinar recording and slides posted at https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/
  - Renewal Project: Pre-competition scoring and standards review is underway
    - Project submission materials are being reviewed.
      - Projects that meet all standards will be certified for 3 years (until FY2026 competition unless changes in policies and procedures are made) and informed of that status by June 2nd.
      - Projects that did not meet all standards were informed. These projects have the opportunity to re-submit documentation addressing unmet standards by 6 PM on June 8th to achieve 3-year certification starting in FY2024, or they can submit all the information again in the FY2024 Pre-Competition Scoring and Standards Review.
- Upcoming Phases of the Competition
  - Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) – imminent release expected
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – early to mid-summer?

For more information, visit https://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/.

CY2024 Emergency Solutions Grant Competition

The CY2024 ESG Request For Application (RFA) was released today, June 6th. NCCEH staff hosted a webinar for Regional Committee members on June 1st to cover the competition process and timeline. A webinar for all Project Applicants will be held on June 22nd from 2 to 3:30 P.M. Event details and registration at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1616/. Staff encouraged all interested agencies to attend. Login information: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85311572136?pw; meeting ID: 853 1157 2136.

Recorded webinars and competition materials are available at www.ncceh.org/bos/esg. Project Applications are due to NCCEH by 5 PM on July 12th.

The total amount available for the NC BoS CoC in the CY2024 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) competition is $2,525,734. CoC staff shared the Regional Fair Share:

NC BoS CoC Region	NC ESG Fair Share	Emergency Services (60% max)	Housing Stability (40% Min)
BoS Region 01	$126,766	$76,059	$50,707
BoS Region 02	$118,532	$71,119	$47,413
BoS Region 03	$192,152	$115,291	$76,861
BoS Region 04	$169,683	$101,810	$67,873
BoS Region 05	$304,427	$182,656	$121,771
BoS Region 06	$199,659	$119,795	$79,864
BoS Region 07	$366,671	$220,002	$146,669
BoS Region 08	$169,481	$101,689	$67,792
BoS Region 09	$231,348	$138,809	$92,539
BoS Region 10	$236,136	$141,682	$94,454
BoS Region 11	$109,380	$65,628	$43,752
BoS Region 12	$152,211	$91,327	$60,884
BoS Region 13	$149,288	$89,573	$59,715

The ESG competition timeline is as follows:

Activity	Due Date
NC BoS CoC Instructions Released	Thursday, June 01
RFA released	Tuesday, June 06
NC Balance of State Webinar for all applicants	Thursday, June 22
NC ESG Office RFA webinar	June 13, 15, and 20
Project Apps due to NCCEH	Wednesday, July 12
Project Apps Review	July 13 - 28
Project Review Committee Selection Meeting	Thursday, August 03
Steering Committee Project Application Recommendation Approval	Tuesday, August 08
Appeals Due	Friday, August 11
Steering Committee appeals meeting (tentative)	Tuesday, August 15
Project and Regional Applications Due to NC DHHS	Monday, August 21

The application deadline to NCCEH is July 12, 2023. The deadline is on a Wednesday this year. All project applications will need to be submitted to Smartsheet; the link will be provided in the project applicant instructions. Any applications received after 5:00 PM on July 12, 2023 are not guaranteed to be reviewed. Regional Leads must share this deadline with their networks.

NC BoS CoC ESG Program Funding Priorities

The CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities document has a clearly stated purpose & sets the following goals:

- Help the CoC target ESG Program funding to specific local needs: these priorities provide guidance to help make decisions about how to use ESG to improve the homeless & housing system, rather than simply continuing ESG Program funding for previous grantees.
- Coordinate goals & ESG Program funding across the whole CoC: these funding priorities aim to coordinate ESG Program funding to move the whole CoC toward common goals.
- Improve ESG-funded programs: these priorities aim to ensure publicly-funded agencies implement best practices by lowering barriers to entry, incorporating Housing First approaches, & following the CoC's Written Standards. These priorities help grantees & communities take steps toward expanding access to emergency shelter & permanent housing.
- Improve racial equity & decrease disparities in outcomes throughout the CoC.
- Establish precedent to make funding decisions consistently & fairly across the CoC.

Appendix A includes tables that chart the number of ESG-funded providers in each region, by project type, & the number of counties within the region covered by that project type. The tables identify regions with coverage needs & prioritize applicants who can fill them.

Example:

Emergency Shelter and DV Shelter Projects Receiving ESG Funding			
Region	# of ES providers	# of Counties covered by ES	# of Counties without access to ES
01	4	7	1 (Madison)

The Funding & Performance Subcommittee recommends CY2024 ESG Funding Priorities.

- Each year, the Funding & Performance Subcommittee reviews the Funding Priorities document & recommends an updated document for Steering Committee consideration.
- The Funding & Performance Subcommittee did not make significant changes this year. It recommends a draft CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities document with two additions & minor language changes for clarity. Staff reviewed the changes for CY2024:
  - Persons with lived experience:

Previous document included a new Equity Section prioritizing agencies that were:	
In compliance with the NC BoS CoC Anti-Discrimination Policy	Committed to advancing racial equity

The Lived Expertise Advisory Council (LEAC) has drafted new questions for the ESG Scorecard focusing on inclusion of persons with lived experience of homelessness (PLE)

Proposed addition to equity section will prioritize agencies that hire & seek feedback from PLE.

  - Attendance benchmark:

Previous document emphasized "full participation" in the CE system &"regular" attendance at case conferencing meetings.

The FY2023 CoC Program Funding Priorities established an attendance benchmark of 85% at case conferencing meetings annually.

The ESG Program Funding Priorities document was updated to include the same 85% attendance benchmark.

Staff entertained a motion to approve the CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities as recommended by the NC BoS CoC Funding & Performance Subcommittee. Emily Lowery motioned to approve the CY2024 ESG Program Funding Priorities as recommended by the NC BoS CoC Funding & Performance Subcommittee. Marie Watson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Unsheltered Access Coordinator (UAC) Update

Staff reminded Steering Committee members that Unsheltered Access Coordination is essential in all geographic areas of the CoC, and the regions' goal is to ensure all people living unsheltered connect to services.

- Build trusting relationships
- Collect contact info for follow-up
- Assess & refer to coordinated entry
- Connect to services and permanent housing
- Refer to emergency shelter, when possible

The elected term is May – April. Please submit Regional UAC information through Smartsheet: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9aaf968626484ca690eef30c9e62eaf3. Currently Region 6 and 8 are missing UACs.

NCCEH will facilitate an in-person, regional leadership/UAC planning workshop to support regions on June 15. Please join the NC BoS CoC for the in-person workshop training for regional leadership! Although the focus of the workshop will be on year-round unsheltered access, all regional leadership should be present to ensure a robust discussion & positive outcome. The agenda on June 15 will include:

- An overview of roles & responsibilities
- Regional information from 2023 Point-In-Time, Housing Inventory Count, & current By Name List data for persons living unsheltered
- Breakout groups to create system mapping for each region
- Breakout groups to deep-dive into county-by-county support for connecting persons living unsheltered to services, shelter, coordinated entry, & permanent housing
- Report-outs from each region (to learn from our peers!)

Ashley noted that some people asked for a hybrid option but given the structure and agenda for the meeting that wouldn't work. Ashley added that for anyone that can't come, others from their region who are attending are expected to relay information to them and work together on materials they'll be bringing back from the meeting.

Marie Watson asked what time the meeting ran until. Ashley responded at either 4 or 4:30. Marie noted she would have to leave early. Ashley said that as long as anyone comes for as much as possible and others from their region are attending, they can catch up on what they missed.

Brian Fike asked if it would be in Burlington, NC. Adriana responded either in Burlington or near it. Adriana is in the works of confirming the venue and will let attendees know by this Thursday, June 8th.

Laurel asked if anyone else other than Coordinated Entry leads, Regional leads, Regional alternates, and UACs should attend. Ashley said anyone who helps support unsheltered access coordination efforts; the UAC needs a support system so whoever is identified as part of that should come.

NCCEH Emergency Shelter Technical Assistance Initiative

NCCEH staff have been providing in-depth technical assistance (TA) to emergency shelters in the NC BoS CoC.

In 2018, NCCEH began working to address an identified gap in support for emergency shelters to operate in a coordinated system with Housing First principles.

NCCEH launched the Emergency Shelter Technical Assistance Initiative.

| 2018 | 2020 | 2021–2023 |

In 2020, NCCEH contracted with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) to host an Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative.
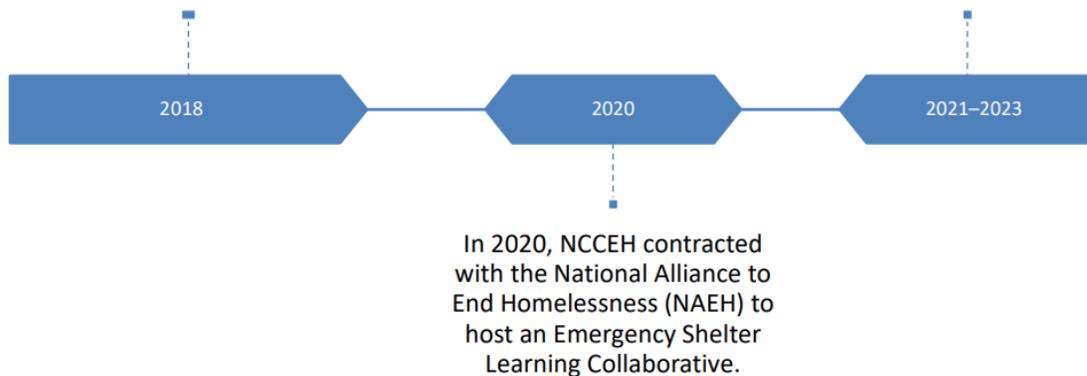
ES TA curriculum combines national best practices & local priorities:

- Shelters work in cohorts to assess their policies, shelter practices, data entry, & program evaluation practices.
- Shelters focus on lowering barriers to shelter entry & establishing housing-focused practices, in line with the NC BoS CoC Written Standards.

HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

SAFE & APPROPRIATE DIVERSION

IMMEDIATE & LOW-BARRIER ACCESS

HOUSING-FOCUSED, RAPID EXIT SERVICES

DATA TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE

All shelters completing an ES TA cohort reduced or eliminated at least one barrier to shelter, implemented a more housing-focused practice, & set goals to improve CAPER data!

- 25 emergency & DV shelter programs completed TA between 2020-2023.
- Examples of barriers that were eliminated include:
    o Requiring drug testing for shelter entry
    o Collecting money from shelter clients for continued stays
    o Mandating participation in services (treatment, workshops, etc.)

A three-part listening session was held in 2023. The goal was to, "To better understand the challenges agencies are experiencing on the ground & refine a curriculum that meets needs to improve housing outcomes for shelter residents." An average of 6 programs attended each session. NCCEH staff asked for feedback on 4 questions:

- In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges your shelter residents are currently facing?
- What are the main challenges your client-facing staff are experiencing?
- What do you need to improve your housing outcomes?
- How can NCCEH support you?

Listening Session Themes:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Navigating the existing system
- Staff turnover, training
- Mental health resources
- NIMBYism, lack of support from local leaders
- Principles of good case management
- Aftercare supportive services are essential.
- Intentional space for ongoing feedback to NCCEH & collaboration with providers

Beginning in Q3, 2023 NCCEH will offer quarterly forums for shelters in the NC BoS CoC with a mix of presentations & interactive discussions. Forums will include:

- A specific theme (ex. Navigating shared housing)
- A presentation
- Time for discussion & peer sharing

More information to come this summer.

2023 Point-In-Time Count

Data Center staff shared the following data from the 2023 Point-In-Time Count with the Steering Committee:

- Total People Counted Experiencing Homelessness on January 25, 2023
  - Data submitted to HUD for entire NC Balance of State CoC
    - Total Count
    - Regional Sheltered and Unsheltered Count
   - Regional Veterans
    - Methodology

Point-in-Time (by region and county) will be posted at: www.ncceh.org/datacenter/pitdata. Specific requests for data go to the Data Center at hmis@ncceh.org.

PIT data from 2010 to 2023:

People Counted in PIT, 2010-2023

Legend: Everyone Experiencing Homelessness / Everyone Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness / People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness
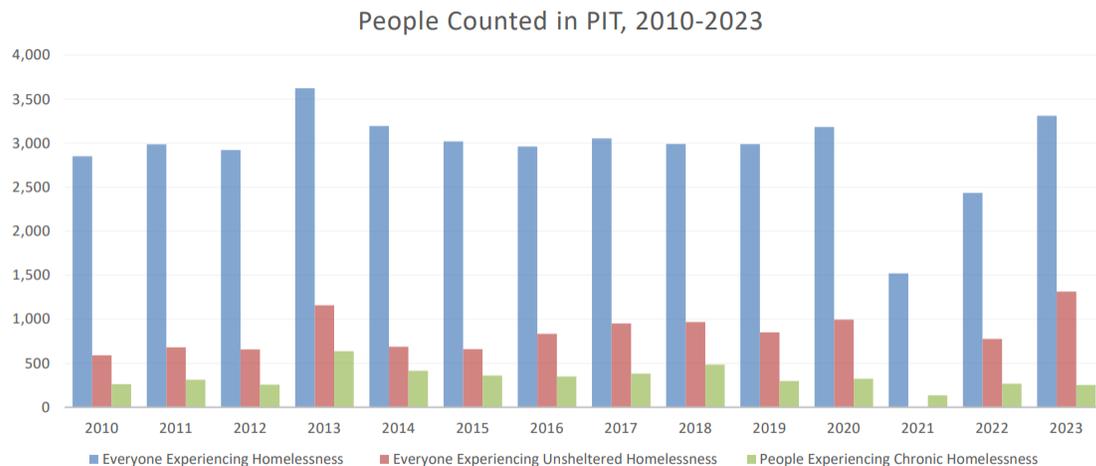
*Unsheltered data was not collected in 2021 due to the pandemic

PIT data from 2023:
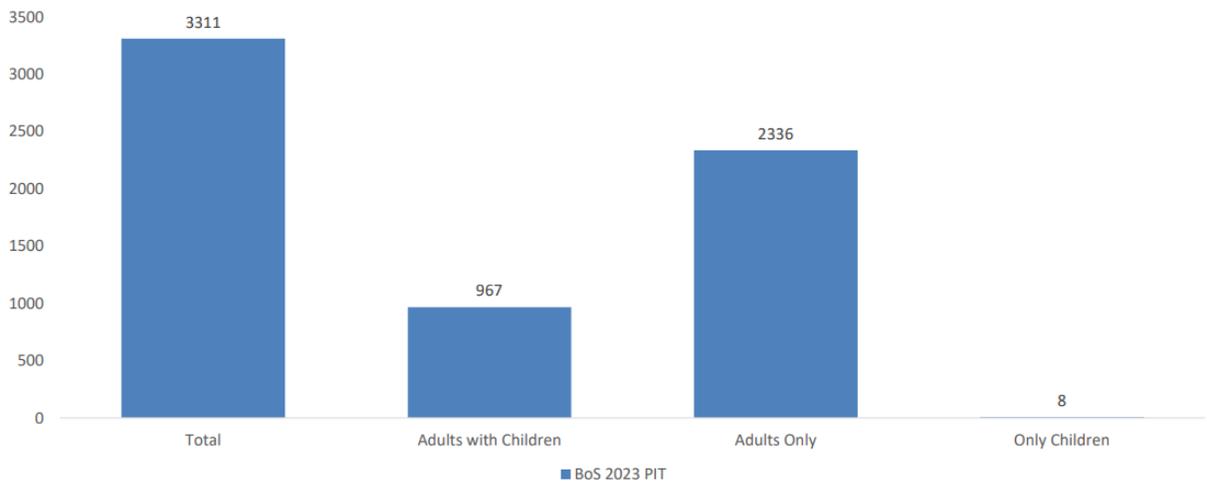
*Unsheltered, ES, & TH

PIT data from 2023 by region:
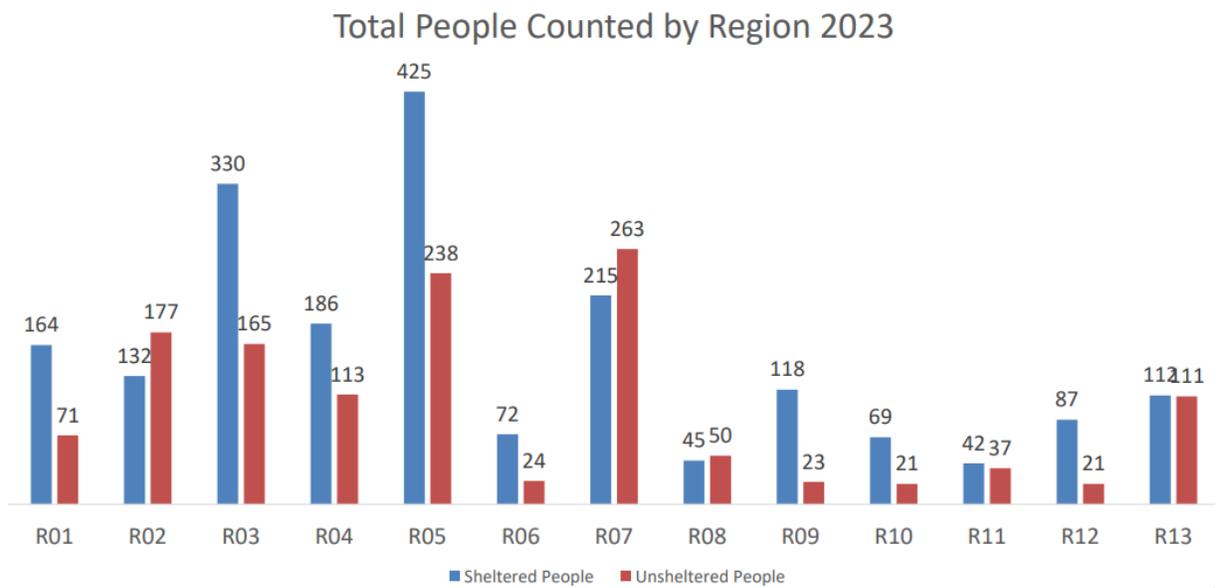
PIT data for veterans from 2023 by region

Total Veterans Counted by Region 2023

Region	Total Vets
R01	11
R02	10
R03	15
R04	18
R05	46
R06	4
R07	11
R08	4
R09	8
R10	3
R11	0
R12	13
R13	33
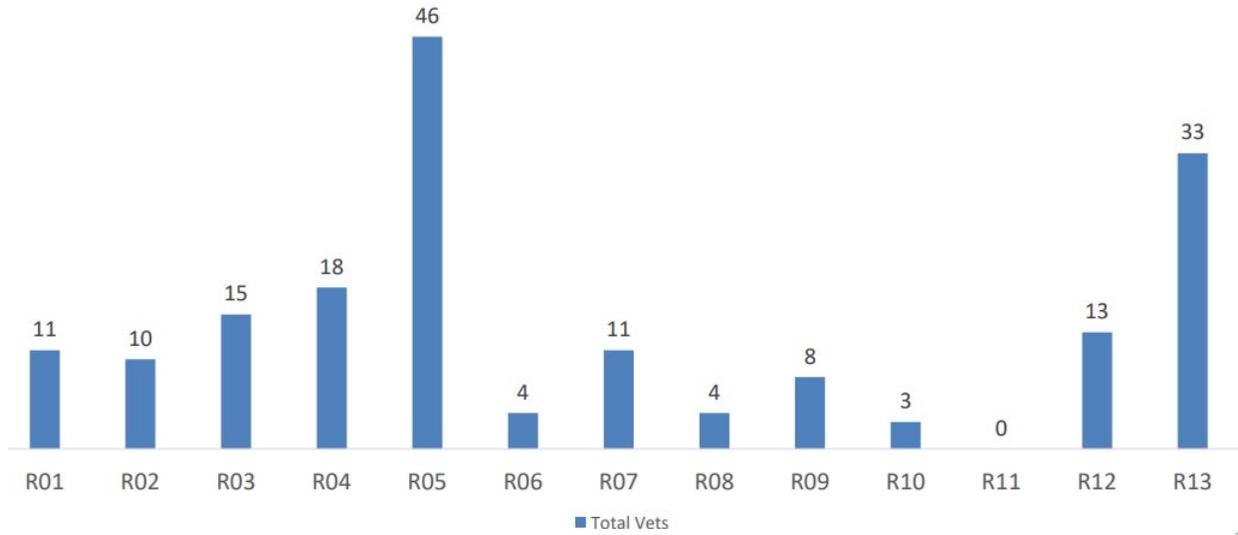
PIT data for people experiencing chronic homelessness from 2023 by region

Total Experiencing Chronic Homelessness by Region 2021

| Region	Total CH
R01	16
R02	37
R03	74
R04	20
R05	53
R06	5
R07	11
R08	1
R09	5
R10	1
R11	10
R12	4
R13	16
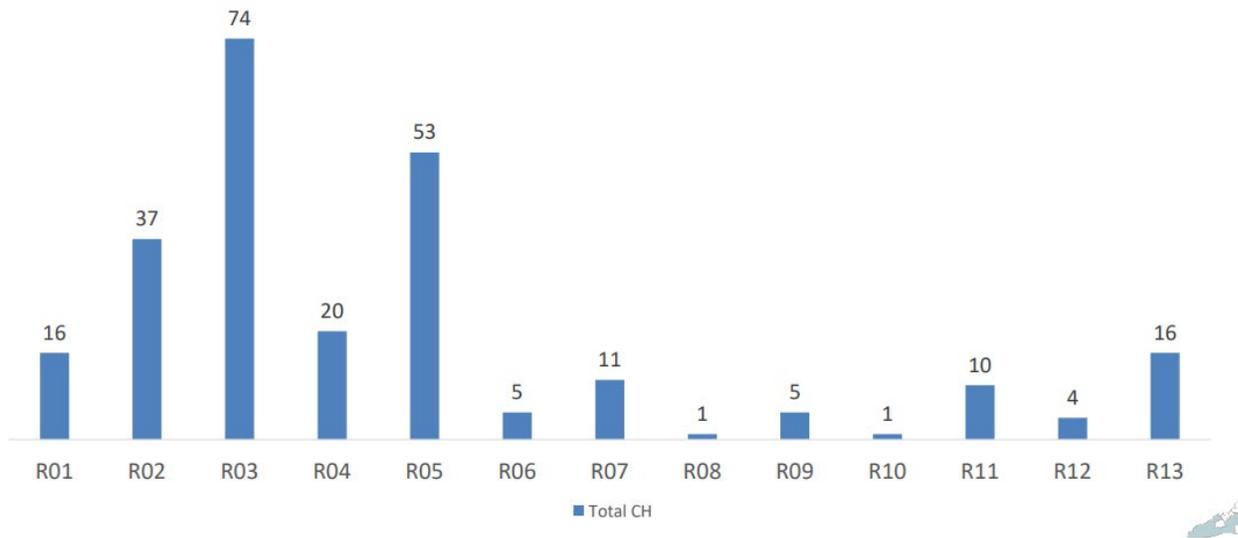
Methodology – how were people counted?

People Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness

Methodology

	2020 Percentage	2021 Percentage	2022 Percentage	2023 Percentage
HMIS	49.75%	46.45%	51.43%	57.48%
Phone Survey	26.72%	28.03%	20.99%	3.62%
App Sheltered	23.53%	25.53%	27.58%	38.90%
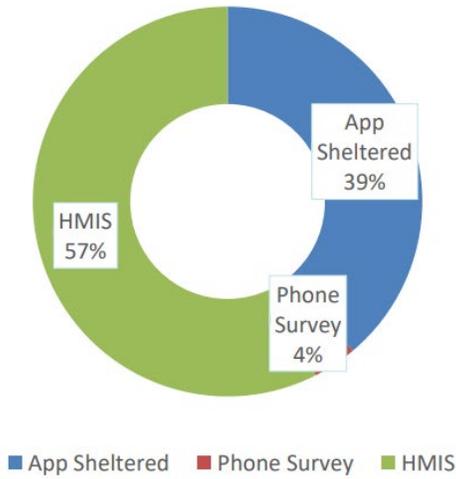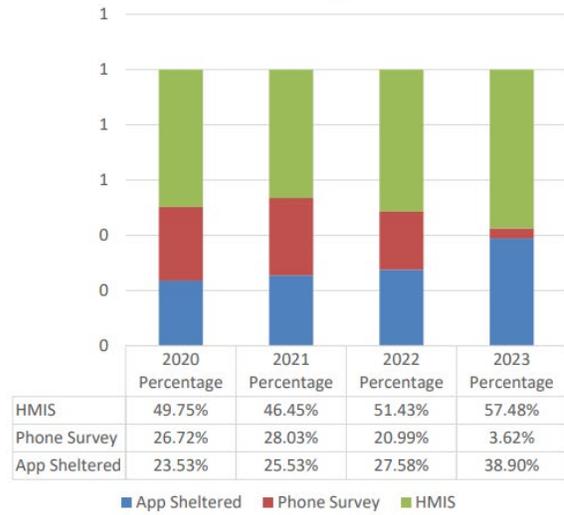
2023 Housing Inventory Count

HMIS Bed Coverage – total beds

Total Beds
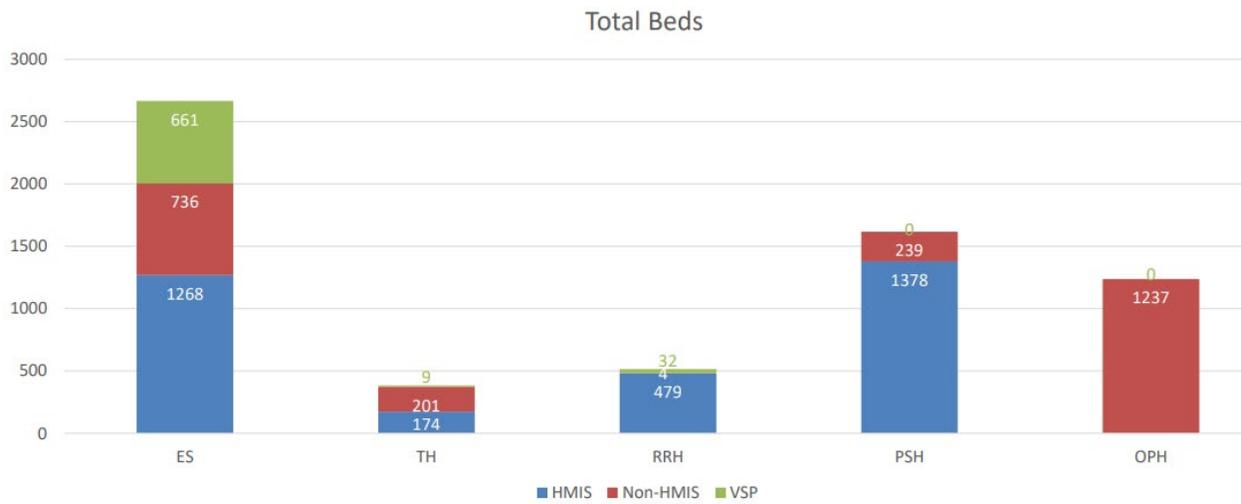
HMIS Bed Coverage – total % on HMIS

Total % on HMIS
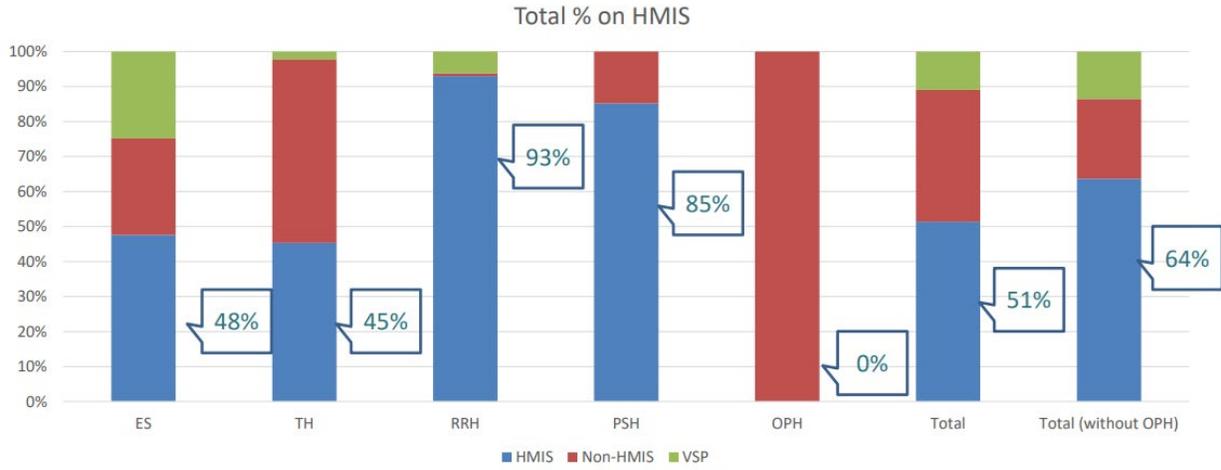
HMIS Bed Coverage – changes since 2020
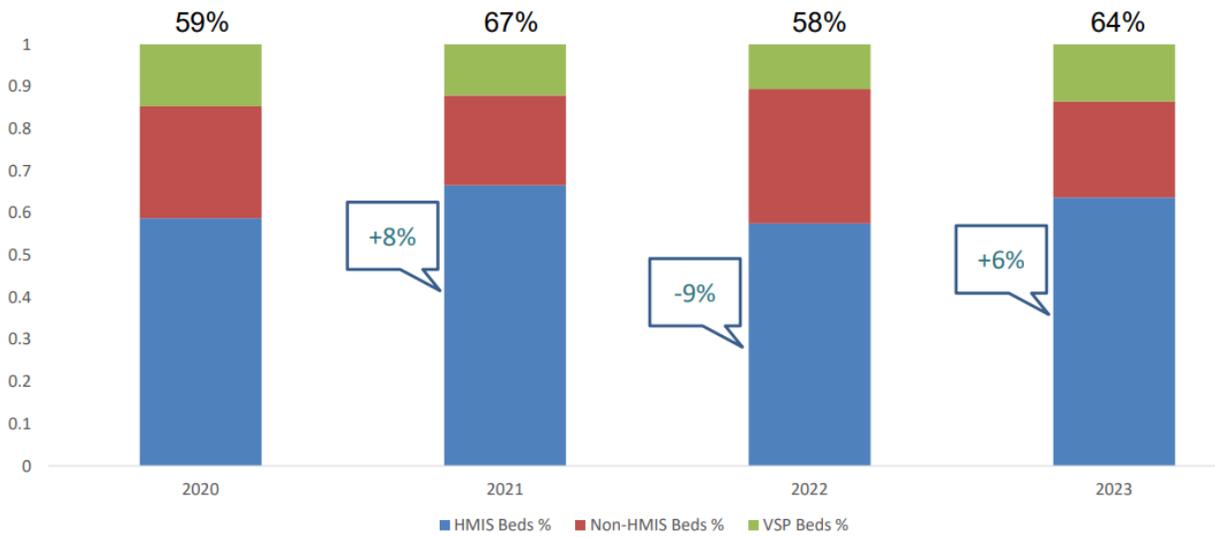
2023 HIC HMIS Participation by Region

Total # ES & TH Beds
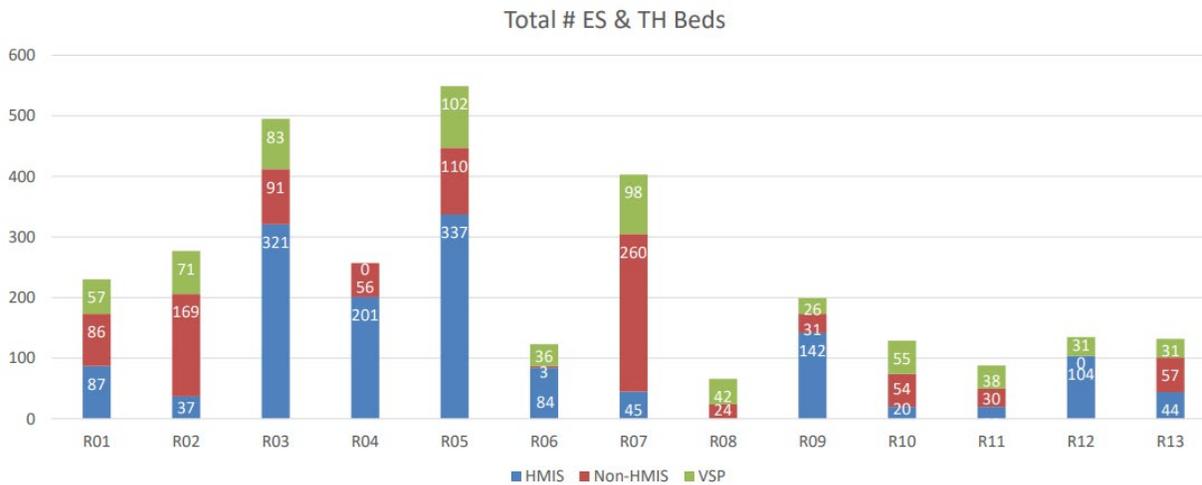
Leila McMichael commented in the chat that the, "PIT Count is not truly accurate for literal number of homeless despite improvements...If we vetted and hired people to do the homeless unsheltered PIT count, the results would be higher."

Brooks Ann McKinney noted that on the hospital/medical side, there's a lot of data to give and it's a matter of getting in contact with a hospital's head social worker. She acknowledged the importance of the intersection of homelessness with healthcare. She offered for anyone to contact her if they want and/or have creative Ideas about working with their health system in getting the data: Brooks.mckinney@conehealth.com. She commented in the chat that "Tracking mortality numbers is another way to work with your hospital."

Amber Story noted that for Region 3 the preparation for the PIT/HIC began happening in the summer before. She added that a big problem isn't the lack of volunteers but having people to input the collected data into HMIS. She suggested coming up with a system where the work isn't left to one person. Andrea acknowledged Amber's feedback and agreed that the work should not be for one person and that is part of the UAC workshop's purpose – to address that issue. She also noted how she wants the UAC workshop to include discussion on how to engage people year-round instead of just around PIT night. Amber added that on top of that, it is also important to think about how people involved in unsheltered homelessness get access to inputting the data and that the numbers don't encompass what they see on a regular basis.

Andrea commented in the chat, "This is project that I am excited to share some initial results from soon! https://codinetworknc.org/."

Leila McMichael commented in the chat, "I still think that overnight polling of the homeless would better be served by a paid incentive. I don't know of any volunteers in Caldwell County that will stay up overnight to do that."

Andrea thanked everyone for their feedback and work on the 2023 PIT/HIC. She encouraged anyone involved in unsheltered work, not just those with an HMIS license, to attend the Unsheltered Access Coordination workshop on July 15th. You can register here: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1619/.

Upcoming meetings & reminders

- **ESG Competition Webinar: Process and Roles for Regional Leads,** June 1, 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.
    - View recording at: https://youtu.be/3gsLTerqVCs
- **Lived Expertise Advisory Council Meeting,** Friday, June 9, 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
    - Presentation: https://zoom.us/j/5799039481?pwd=UFkwNCtLdUszeG94Y2prS0ttRkVmdz09
      Meeting ID: 579 903 9481
      Passcode: qYqVY5
- **HMIS System Updates,** Tuesday, June 13, 10:30 – 11:30 A.M.
    - Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1618/
- **NC BoS CoC Regional Leadership Workshop,** Thursday, June 15, 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

- o Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1619/
- **Monthly HMIS Training: Data Quality Plan Office Hours,** Wednesday, June 21, 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.
    - o Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1592/
- **Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting,** Wednesday, June 21, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
    - o Presentation: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791696621
      United States: +1 (646) 749-3112
      Access Code: 791-696-621
- **Local Leadership Response Sharing Call,** Wednesday, June 21, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.
    - o Presentation: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbKWyZnZ6
  Meeting ID: 837 9246 1651
  Dial by your location: +1 646 931 3860
- **Funding and Performance Subcommittee,** Thursday, June 22, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
    - o Presentation: https://meet.google.com/dep-rjxz-kze
      Or dial: (US) +1 442-272-1109
      PIN: 883 218 555#
- **ESG Competition Webinar: All Project Applicants,** Thursday, June 22, 2:00 – 3:30 P.M.
    - o Register at: https://www.ncceh.org/events/1616/
- **Coordinated Entry Council Meeting,** Monday, June 26, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.
    - o Presentation: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84840397905
      Meeting ID: 848 4039 7905

Next Steering Committee meeting
Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10:30 AM

NOTE: The next Steering Committee meeting will be held one week later than normal due to the July 4th holiday.