

# Data for Hope 2023 Homelessness



*“Each and every Atlanta deserves a place to call home,”  
Andre Dickens, Atlanta mayor, 8/2/2023*

*Visit presentation recording:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRLkaEr\\_Xuc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRLkaEr_Xuc)

# The Team

Hi Everyone!

We are a group of four  
Analytics Professionals and  
Students located in Georgia  
and Illinois.



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# Problem Statement



1. How was homelessness in Atlanta impacted by the pandemic?
2. How has homelessness changed overtime for different demographic groups in Atlanta?

# The Data

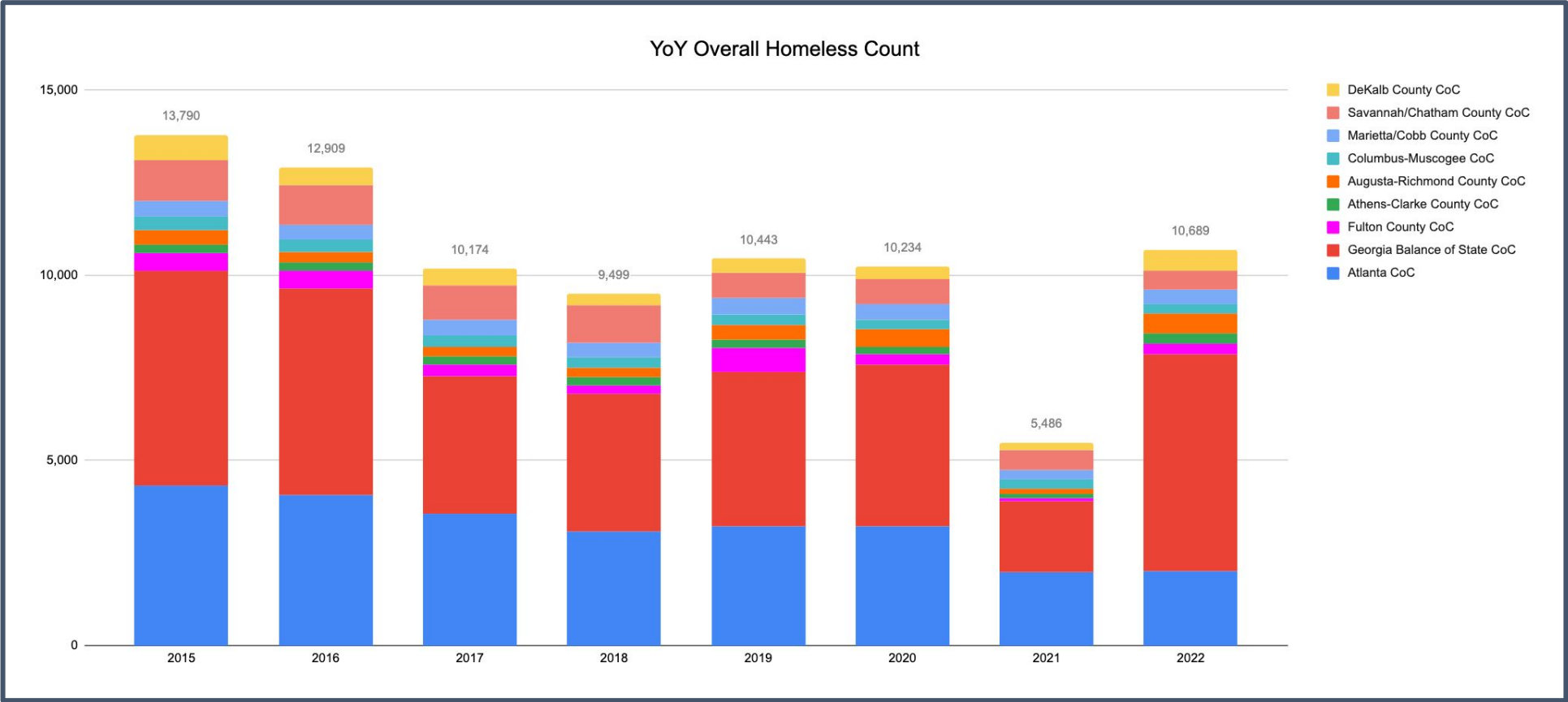
- [The Point-in-Time Count \(PIT\)](#) - count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelters transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct account of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.
- [The Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\)](#) - is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness (and, for permanent housing projects, where homeless at entry, per the HUD homeless definition), categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/>

# Findings

Homelessness is a complicated issue. While homelessness in Atlanta is lower than it was in 2015, it has remained about the same for the years from 2017 to 2020. It dropped significantly from 2020 to 2021 in Atlanta, -37%, but even more so in the state of Georgia -50%. The reason for these significant declines are unclear: perhaps due to special funding for the homeless during the pandemic, checks being sent to individuals, rent controls and eviction prevention laws, & possibly getting service jobs others did not want to do during the pandemic. There may have been a decrease in staff assisting with the count for fear of covid.

# Have we reduced incidence of Homelessness?

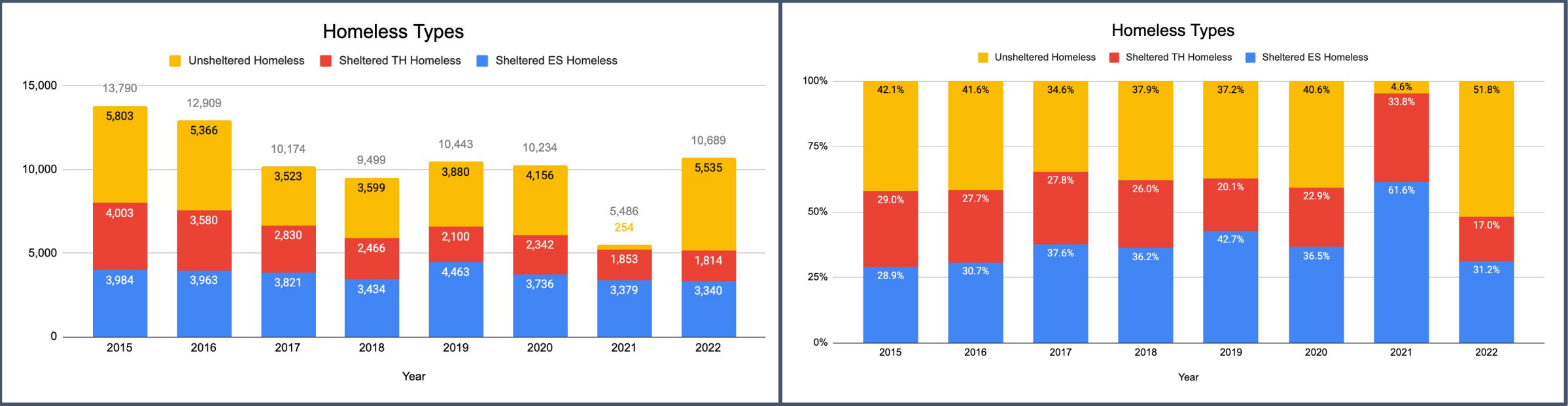


The statistic of a ~37% decrease in Homelessness in Atlanta is misleading!

The overall number of Homeless people from 2020 to 2022 for the State of Georgia has remained roughly the same. It just so happens that more homeless people are being tagged to another CoC.

*Looking at the State of Georgia as a whole will avoid missing individuals who counted under other CoCs.*

# Are Homeless Individuals receiving proper help?(1)



The proportion of Homeless individuals Overall who are Unsheltered is increasing!

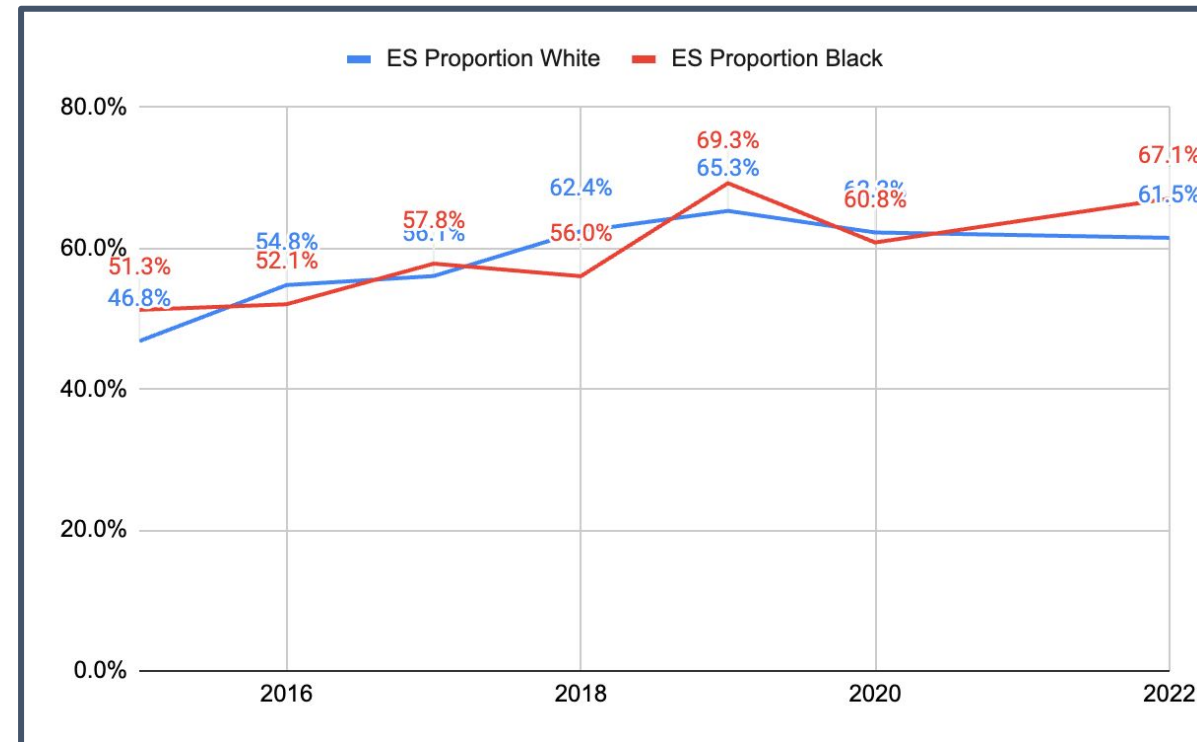
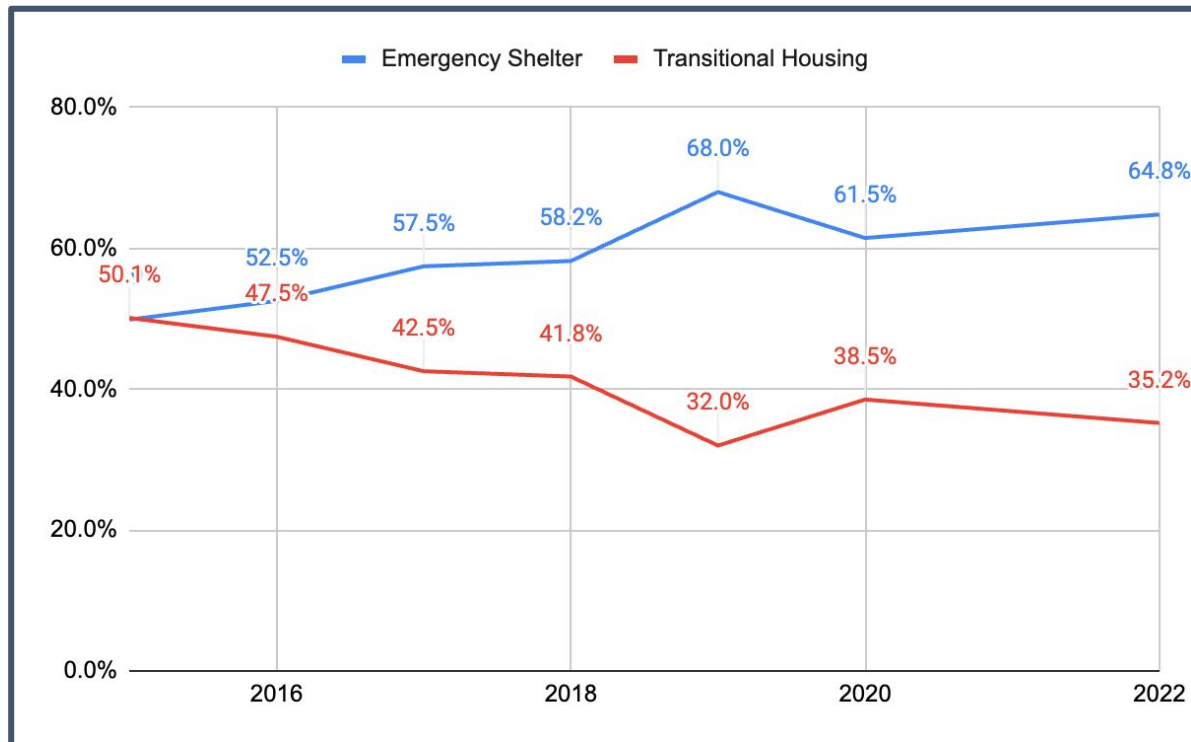
If we ignore 2021, where there seems to be an issue with the data, The overall number of Homeless individuals in the State of Georgia has remained roughly the same.

However, the proportion of these unsheltered individuals has increased by approximately 15%(absolute).

*The overall number of homeless individuals in the State of Georgia has remained virtually unchanged from 2017 to 2022; however, the quality of care has worsened over the period, with a reduction in Individuals in Transitional Housing.*



# Are Homeless Individuals receiving proper help?(2)

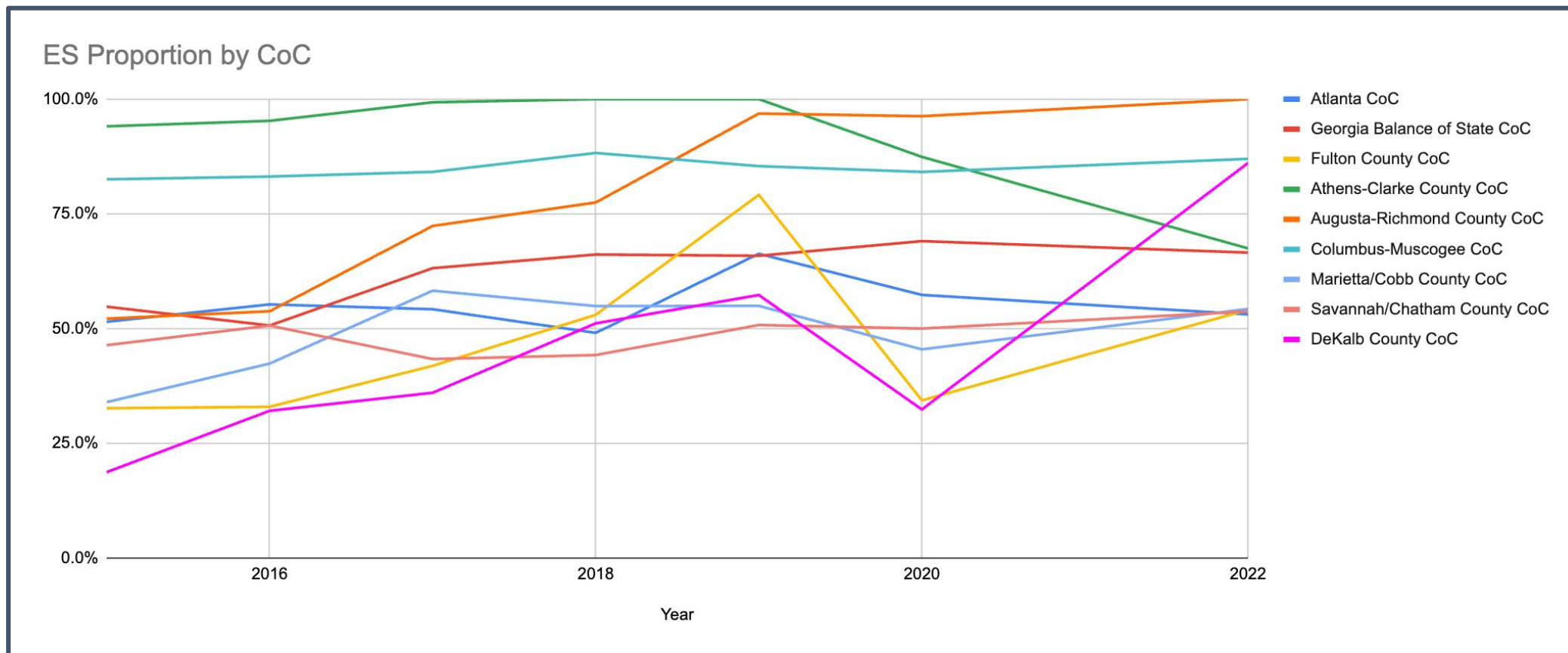


The proportion of Sheltered Homeless people in Emergency Shelters(ES), which are temporary overnight shelters, when compared to Transitional Housing(TH), which are longer-term solutions while receiving help, has increased.

This means more homeless people are being served by temporary solutions, which will hamper long-term permanent interventions. This increase is prevalent across both White and Black Individuals.

***Fewer people experiencing homelessness are in long-term care, which has a higher chance of breaking the cycle, which could indicate a larger number of chronically homeless individuals in the future.***

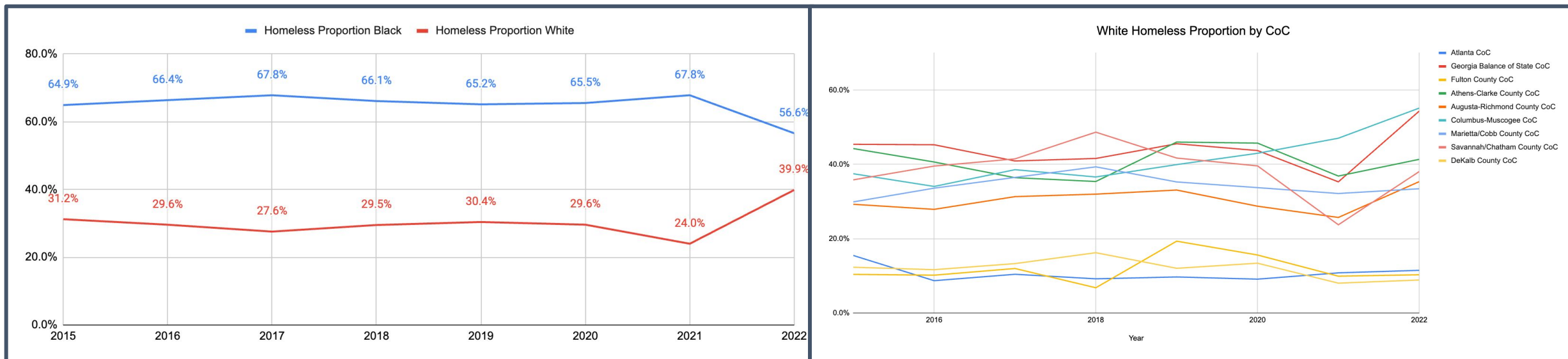
# Are Homeless Individuals receiving proper help?(3)



This increase is due to a few counties in Georgia whose Proportion of Homeless in Emergency Shelters among Overall Sheltered Homeless has spiked.

*There must be a deeper investigation to see why there has been a significant jump in the Proportion of Sheltered Homeless in Emergency Shelters. There might be specific local issues that need state support.*

# Are there racial disparities or concerning trends?

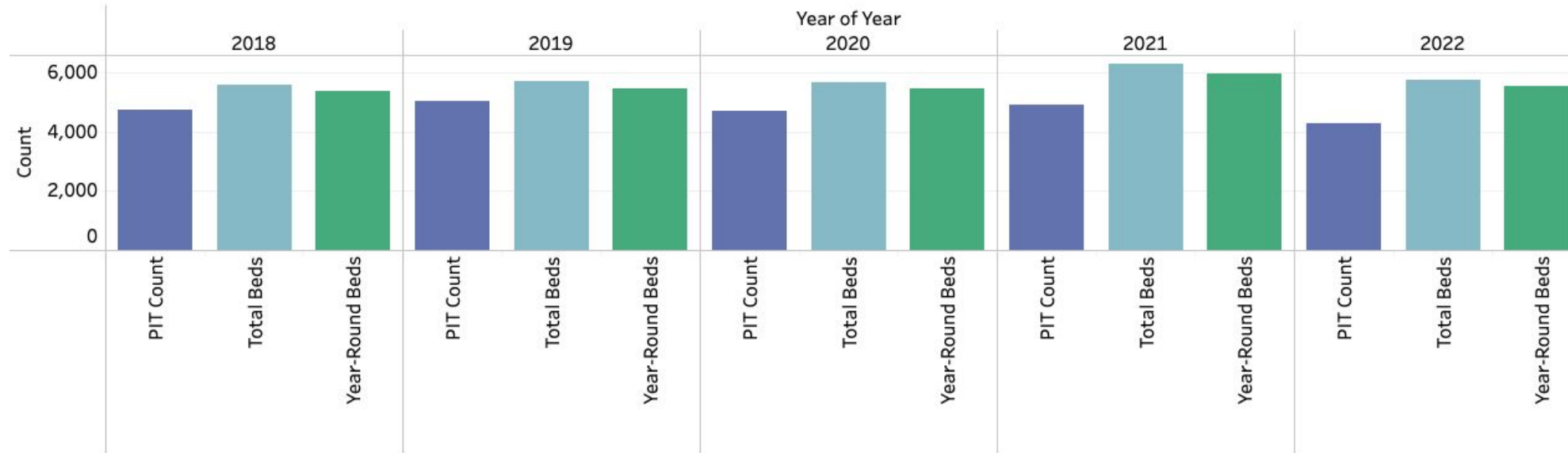


There is also a sharp increase in the proportion of White Homeless individuals among the Overall Homeless individuals in 2022.

This increase is visible in most CoCs.

*There seems to be a concerning shift in the racial makeup of homeless individuals that warrants further deep dives to check if this is an anomaly or the unexpected result of any intervention.*

# Atlanta COC Homeless Metrics



**Net change between 2020 - 2022 for**  
**PIT Count: -8.6%, Total Beds: + 2.1%, & Year-Round Beds: +1.7%.**

	2020	2021	2022
PIT Count	4,704	4,942	4,298
% Difference in PIT Count. from the Previous Year		5.06%	-13.03%
Total Beds	5,665	6,292	5,784
% Difference in Total Beds. from the Previous Year		11.07%	-8.07%
Year-Round Beds	5,450	5,989	5,545
% Difference in Year-Round Beds. from the Previous Year		9.89%	-7.41%

hic\_18\_22\_raw.csv, Source: '2018-Housing-Inventory-County-RawFile.xlsx', '2019-Housing-Inventory-County-RawFile.xlsx', '2020-HIC-Raw-File.xlsx', '2021-HIC-Counts-by-State.csv', '2022-HIC-Counts-by-State.csv'

# Hope



Homelessness in Atlanta, and everywhere, is a complex problem. While the city of Atlanta has taken many efforts to address the issue over the years, & particularly during the pandemic, there is no quick fix.

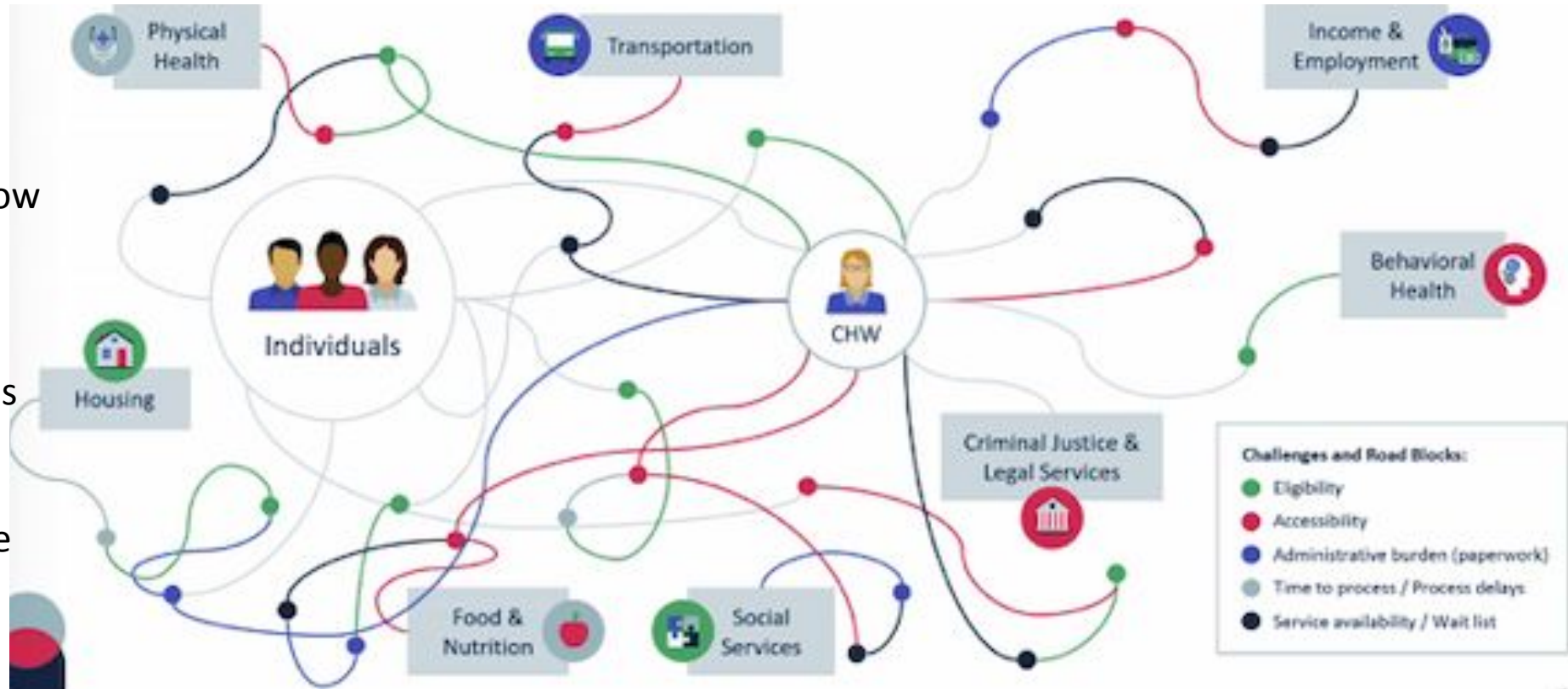
The good news is there is hope going forward. There are numerous nonprofit and private corporations working in partnership with Federal & local government to create innovative solutions for homelessness in Atlanta.

Two groups in particular are taking innovative steps to address homelessness in our community: Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI) & Stryant Investments.

# Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI)

## Problem:

- ❑ The burden of applying for low income housing is heavy for individuals as well as agency staff.
- ❑ 60% of case managers time is on administrative work.
- ❑ It takes individual 20 hours of work to receive assistance for 1 months rent.



Reprinted from presentation by Avia Birdman of archi to ATLytiCS 8/22/2023



# Solution:

## ARCHI offers:

- Person centered coordinated system of care.
- Streamline is access to rental assistance
- Synthesize the application process & data sharing between clinical & community settings.



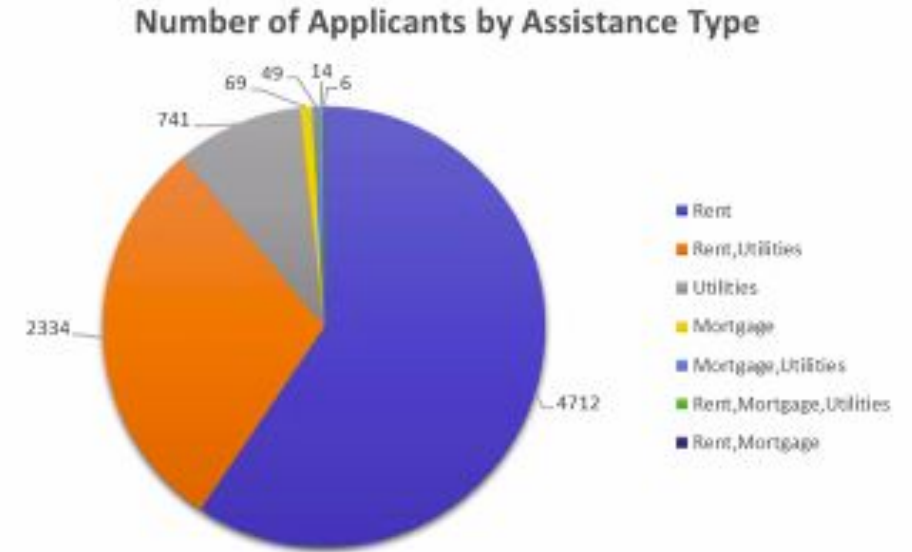
Reprinted from presentation by Avia Birdman of archi to ATLytiCS 8/22/2023

# Results:

- 12,000+ applications since 1/13/2023
- 8% of applicants match to agency
- 13% of matched funded

## APPLICATION BREAKDOWN

12,000+ applications since January 13, 2023



### Commonly declined applicants:

- Dollar amount requested
- Income/ability to pay going forward
- No Crisis
- Missing documentation

### Commonly declined matches:

- Income (too low *and* too high)
- No children <18
- No vets in immediate family
- Received assistance too recently

### Matches:

- 8% of applicants matched to agency
- 13% of matched funded
- 1% of total applicants funded



# Problem:

- ❑ Limited affordable housing.
- ❑ Often buildings are old, dilapidated, lack aesthetically pleasing architecture, & are not up to current code.





# Federal & local government Initiatives

## Solutions:

- ▣ **Spotlight On:** Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens issued an executive order 8/2/2023, allocating \$4 million to provide “new quick-delivery housing to individuals experiencing homelessness.” Shipping containers and temporary hospitals constructed by GEMA during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic will be used for housing. The first phase of the initiative will begin at 184 Forsyth Street in downtown Atlanta, on sites the City of Atlanta owns, & located near transit and public resources.



Fulton County’s Department of Community Development receives Annual grants (Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) activities on a formula basis to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons in Fulton County, Georgia.

Additionally, the County receives funding as the Collaborative Applicant for Fulton County’s Continuum of Care (CoC), to support countywide homeless initiatives.

### HUD Supported Programs

- Community Development Block Grants to nonprofits and municipalities
  - Community Housing Development Organizations Program
  - Continuum of Care
  - Emergency Shelter Program
- Home Ownership Down payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program
  - Homeownership Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program Homeownership Program
  - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing
  - Tenant Based Rental Assistance

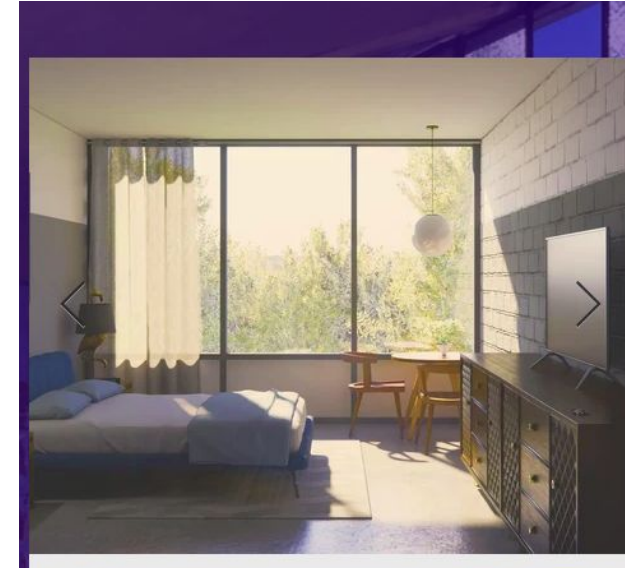
<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/community-development/housing-and-urban-development-funded-programs> Images from <https://www.stryantinvestments.com/about>





## Spotlight On: Neighborhood Stabilization Projects (NSP)

“Stryant has been involved in numerous Neighborhood Stabilization Projects (NSP) since its founding in 2009; putting life back into single-family homes and small multi-family dwellings and providing affordable housing to communities along the I-20 corridor of intown Atlanta. Stryant has also rehabbed 80 single-family homes still currently in operation as affordable rentals to clients of the Atlanta Housing Authority.”



## Results:

NSP projects include these by Stryant:

- A reuse project in a historically preserved elementary school, with affordable housing, subsidized artist housing, office space, coffeehouse & events space.
- A 54 unit reuse of a motel to create affordable housing targeting households making less than 30% average median income.
- 42 unit new construction project of all efficiency supportive housing.



Notes from presentation by Stan Sugarman of Stryant Investments to ATLytiCS 8/22/2023.  
Quote & Images: <https://www.stryantinvestments.com/about>

# Conclusion

The pandemic up-ended many lives, those of Atlanta's homeless being no exception. It is unclear exactly why homelessness in Georgia dropped 50% between 2020 and 2021, and about 37% in the Atlanta COC for that same period. While the homeless did not return to Atlanta in 2022, it appears they resurfaced elsewhere in Georgia. The homeless count for Atlanta remained flat between 2021 and 2022; however it increased slightly for the state of Georgia, exceeding its 2020 level.

Fortunately, there are many organizations working in collaboration with Federal and local government to develop creative approaches to reduce homelessness.

# References

Data Source:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/>

'2018-Housing-Inventory-County-RawFile.xlsx'

'2019-Housing-Inventory-County-RawFile.xlsx'

'2020-HIC-Raw-File.xlsx'

'2021-HIC-Counts-by-State.csv'

'2022-HIC-Counts-by-State.csv'

'2007-2022-PIT-Counts-by-State.xlsx'

'2007-2022-HIC-Counts-by-State.xlsx'

'2011-2022-PIT-Veteran-Counts-by-State.xlsx'