



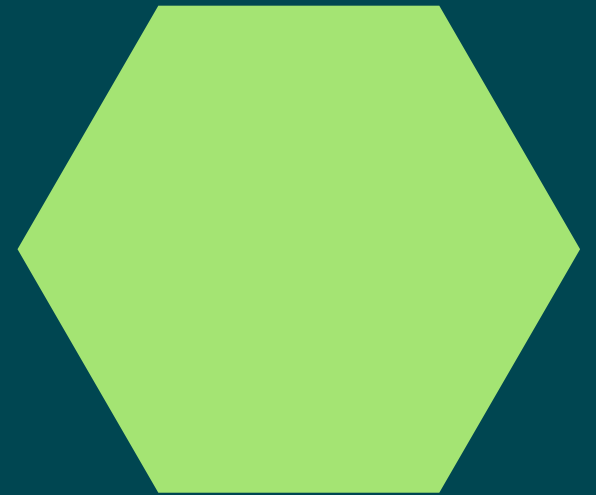
# Community Navigation Forum

June 20, 2023

The Universities at Shady Grove



# Homelessness & Prevention





## Christine Hong

- Chief, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH)
- Christine has a Masters in Social Work and worked as a non-profit provider of homeless services for 17 years in Montgomery County before being recruited to head SEPH.
- [christine.hong@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:christine.hong@montgomerycountymd.gov)

# Causes of Homelessness

- **Lack of Affordable Housing**
- **Inadequate Access to Healthcare**
- **Racial Disparities Across  
Multiple Systems**
- **Domestic Violence**



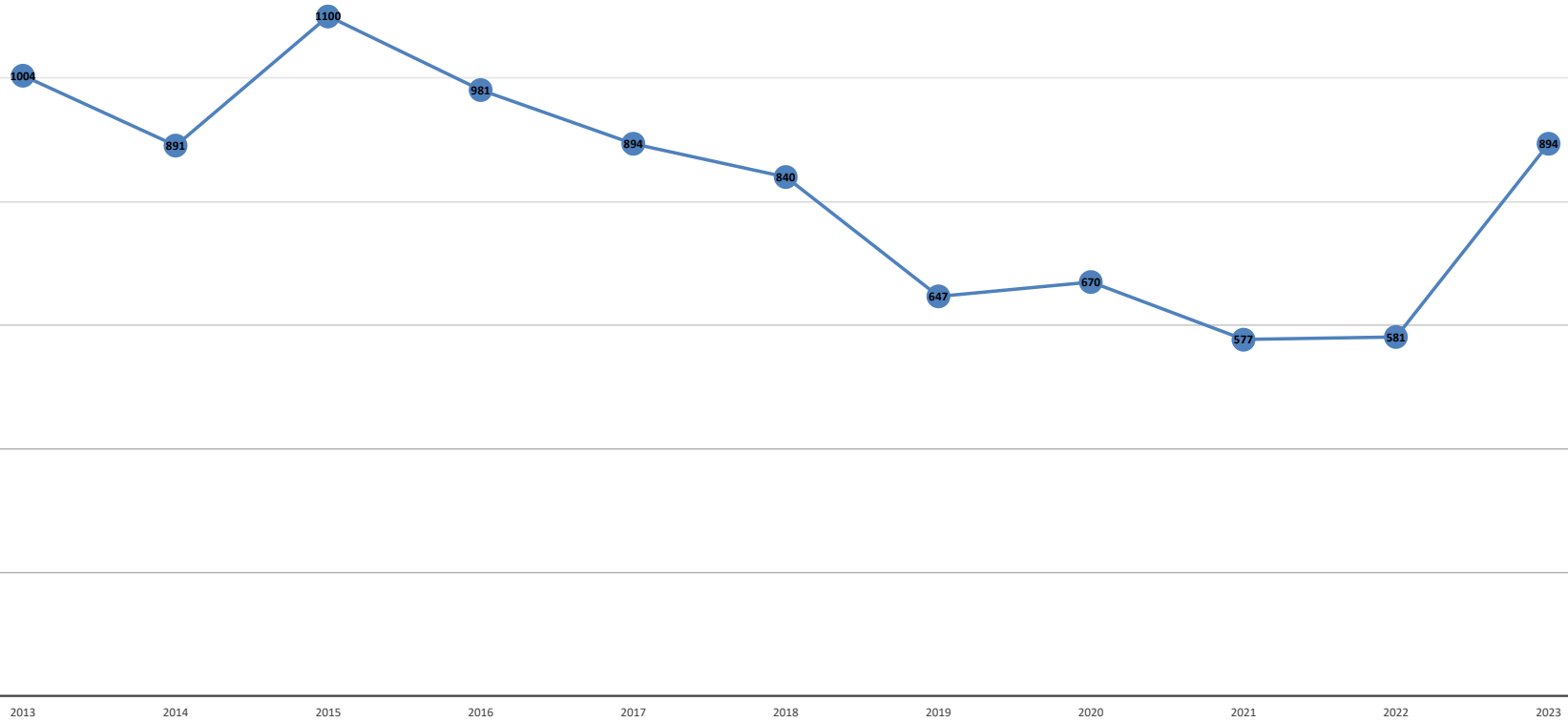
# Regional Homelessness

## People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2022 - 2023

Jurisdiction	2022	2023	# Persons	% Change
City of Alexandria, VA	120	152	32	27%
Arlington County, VA	182	213	31	17%
District of Columbia	4,410	4,922	512	12%
Fairfax County, VA	1,191	1,310	119	10%
Frederick County, MD	210	248	38	18%
Loudoun County, VA	99	220	121	122%
Montgomery Cty, MD	581	894	313	54%
PG County, MD	571	659	88	15%
Prince William Cty, VA	241	326	85	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,605</b>	<b>8,944</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>18%</b>



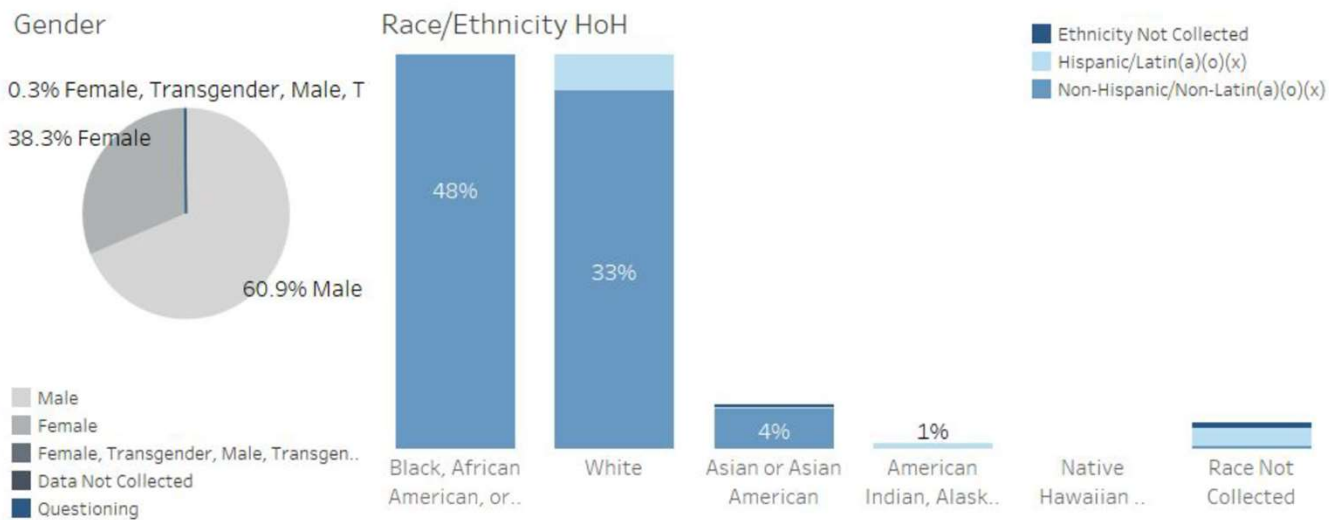
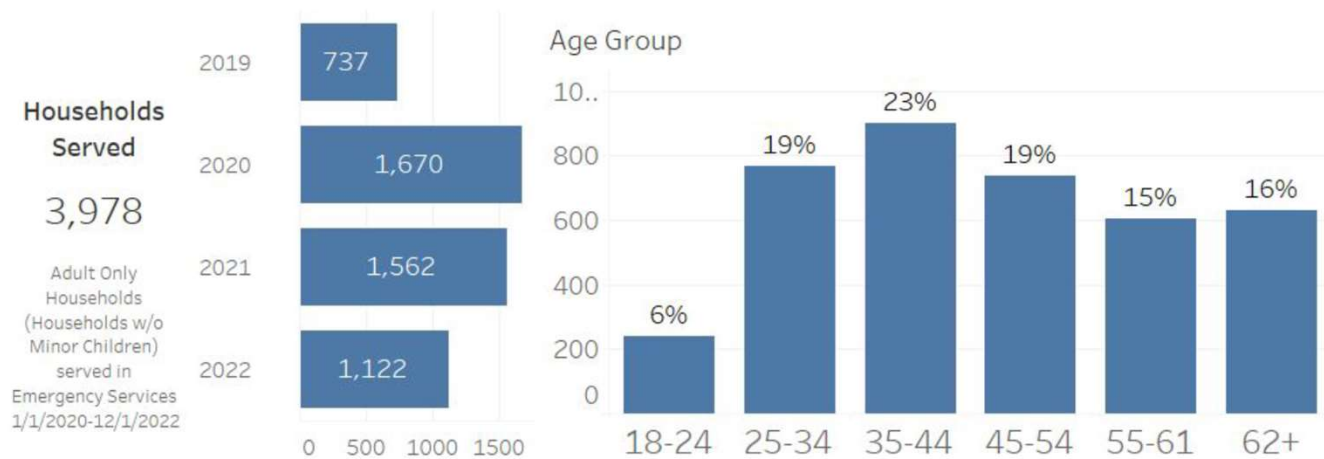
## Point-in-Time Count: Total People Literally Homeless



# Demographics



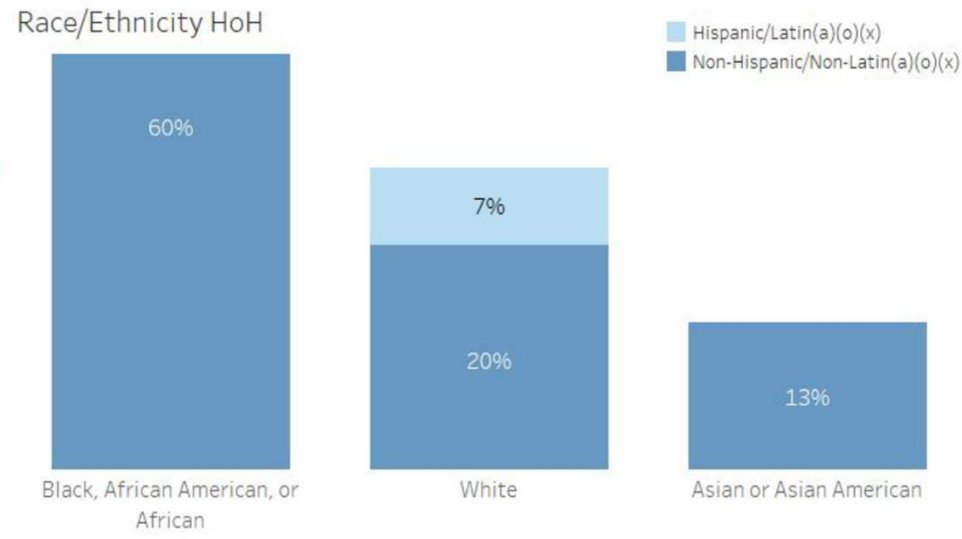
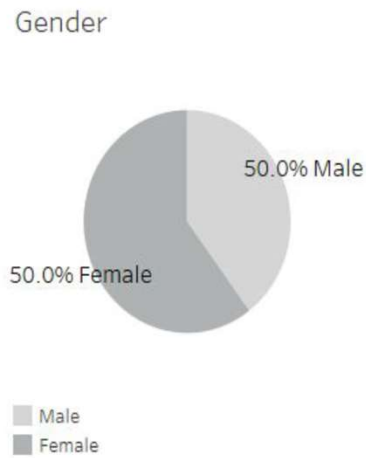
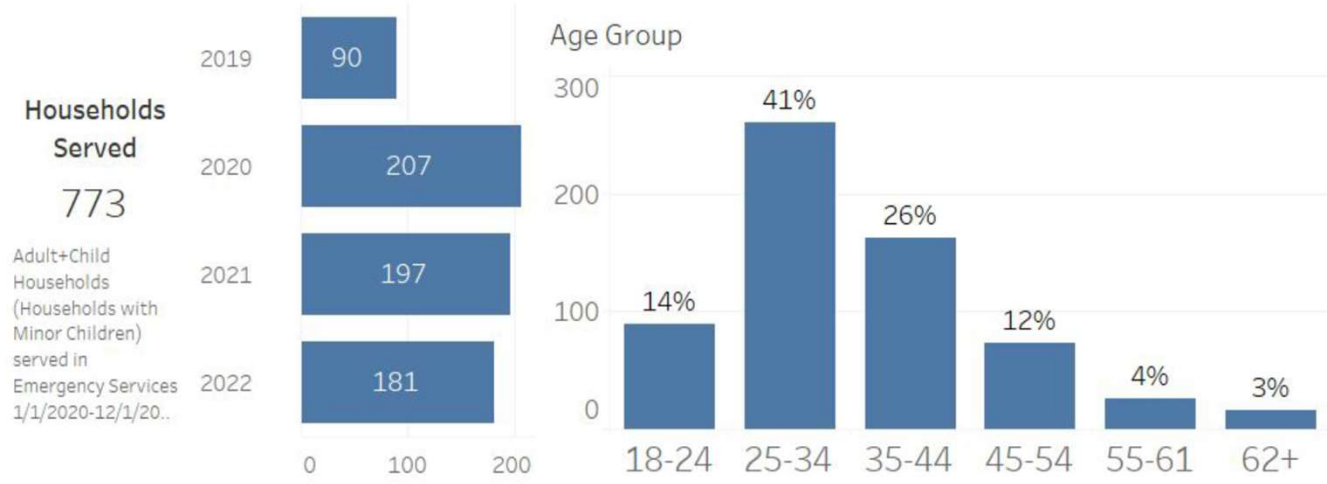
Program Demographic Profile - Adult Only Households (Households w/o Minor Children)



# Demographics



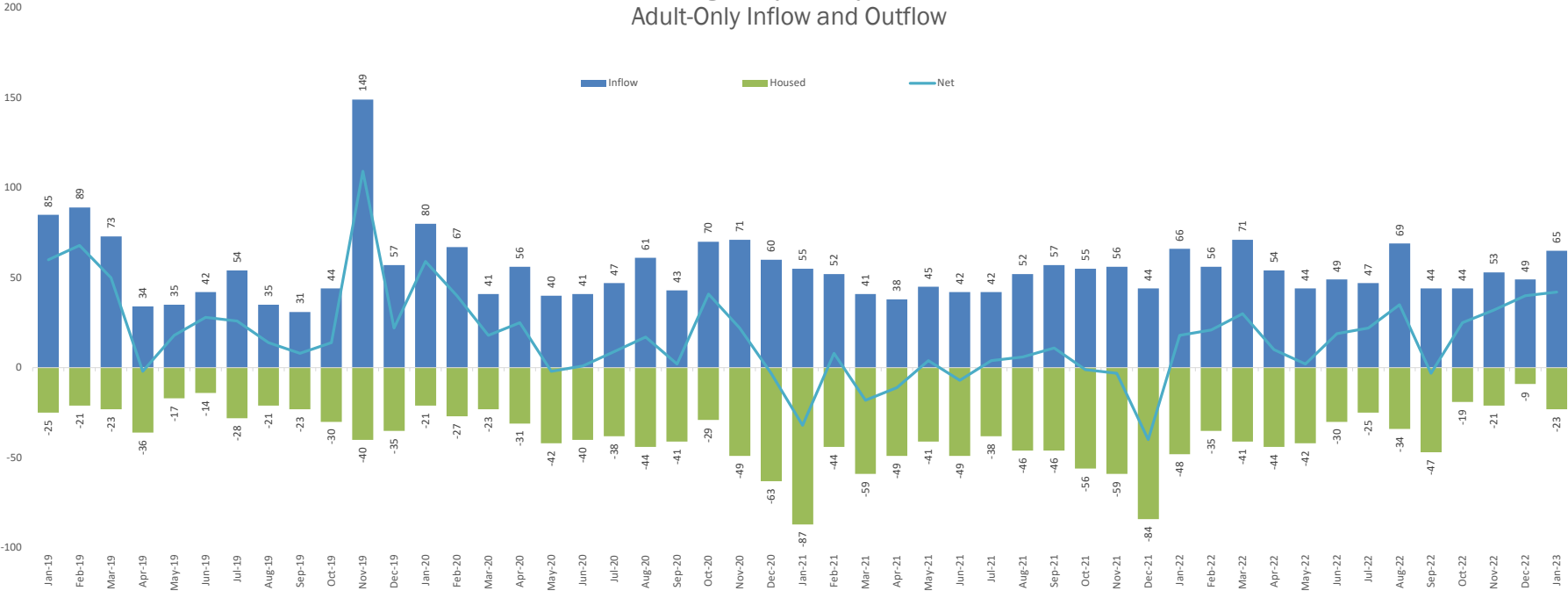
Program Demographic Profile - Adult+Child Households (Households with Minor Children)





Vulnerability/ Experience	Households without Children		Households with Minor Children	
	# Self Reporting	% Of Total	# Self Reporting	% Of Total
Substance Use Disorder	63	10%	0	0%
Serious Mental Illness	190	30%	15	15%
Co-Occurring Disorder	31	5%	0	0%
HIV/AIDS	3	0%	0	0%
Domestic Violence History (any time in the past) - DVH	80	13%	24	24%
Domestic Violence (this episode) -DVC	25	4%	24	24%
Physical Disability	130	21%	6	6%
Chronic Health Condition	78	12%	4	4%
Limited English	30	5%	7	7%
Foster Care (5)	16	3%	2	2%
Formerly Institutionalized	22	4%	0	0%

### Montgomery County - CoC Adult-Only Inflow and Outflow



# Prevention Resources

- **Covid Rent Relief Program**
- **Rental Assistance Program**
- **Eviction Prevention**
- **Centralized Diversion**



# Accessing Prevention Resources

- **Call 311**
  - **Midcounty DHHS Building**  
1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
  - **DHHS Silver Spring Center**  
8818 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
  - **Upcounty Regional Services Center**  
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874



# Housing Interventions

- **Exit Bonus**
- **Short-Term Housing & Resolution Program (SHARP)**
- **Rapid Rehousing**
- **Permanent Supportive Housing**



# Accessing Homeless Crisis Response

- **Call 240-777-4000**
  - **Midcounty DHHS Building**  
1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
  - **DHHS Silver Spring Center**  
8818 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
  - **Upcounty Regional Services Center**  
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874





## Olusina Adebayo, MPA

- Executive Director
- Rainbow Place Shelter for Women
- Since 1982, Rainbow Place Shelter has been a seasonal overnight shelter in Rockville serving adult women of all ages who are experiencing homelessness. The current mission of Rainbow Place is to provide women emergency overnight shelter during the hypothermia season and assist them as they transition to a better quality of life
- [director@rainbowplace.org](mailto:director@rainbowplace.org)

- We should care about homelessness because it is a problem that affects us all. First, it is a human rights issue.
- In 2012, Shaun Donovan, the secretary of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) stated that, "...between shelters and emergency rooms and jails, it costs about \$40,000 a year for a homeless person to be on the streets.
- Homelessness isn't someone else's issue. It has a ripple effect throughout the community. It impacts the availability of healthcare resources, crime and safety, the workforce, and the use of tax dollars.
- The causes of homelessness vary and include substance abuse, violence in the home, and loss of income. Homelessness is a problem for individuals and communities alike. Some of the effects of homelessness can include poor health conditions, low self-esteem, and strain on the community.
- Researchers have estimated unemployment rates among people experiencing homelessness ranging from 57% to over 90% compared to 3.6% for the general United States population.



- Rainbow Place Shelter is currently in the exciting process of expanding and shifting Rainbow's mission to focus on young adults 18-24 years of age, including the LGBTQ+ community, with year-round, 24-hour emergency shelter and the support needed to transition out of homelessness.

- Youth Housing Instability is an issue that hides in plain sight. Unlike chronic, transient or episodic homelessness, Housing instability amongst young adults, ages 18-24, can be categorized as "hidden homelessness".

- These individuals are not readily identified because of the stigma associated with this circumstance. Due to this they are often "hidden" from national statistics on homelessness. The "hidden homeless" population tends to skew younger and more specifically toward young adults.

- LGBTQ youth had a 120% higher risk of reporting homelessness. 29% of youth were reported as having substance use problems. 69% of youth indicated having mental health difficulties.

# Remedies



- By providing a safe space for our guests and serving the entirety of the person, we aim to not only restore dignity but promote their agency. Rainbow Place Shelter plans to become an incubator for Montgomery County's leaders tomorrow.
- The shelter will prevent the loss of property value as a result of vagrancy, and the loss of customers and client's patronage at businesses. The shelter will cultivate skills by way of workforce development and education.
- Those experiencing this are often victims of crime and some are incentivized to commit crimes to improve their station. Our services will mitigate law enforcement intervention.
- By decreasing crime, improving health and fostering personal growth, this initiative will save taxpayers money.

## Learn More

To learn more about Rainbow Place Shelter and how you can get involved at this exciting time,

visit [RainbowPlace.org](http://RainbowPlace.org)

or

email Nina Blecher at [development@RainbowPlace.org](mailto:development@RainbowPlace.org).

THANK YOU!

