

TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Minutes

May 9, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting held via webinar.

Attendance:

THN Staff and VISTA Members

Caitlin Bayer- Balance of State Programs Coordinator

Kraig Blaize-Fiero- CoC Program Assistant

Sophia Checa- CoC Assistant Director

Kameron Fowler- CoC Director

Mary Rychlik- CoC Manager

Kristin Zakoor- Data Coordinator

CoC General Membership Attendees:

See attached attendance list.

Minutes:

Meeting began at 2:05 PM

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Map

- a. Kameron welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- b. Caitlin led attendees through marking their location on a map of Texas. Kameron noted the large coverage area, and thanked everyone for attending.

II. Spotlight:

- a. Mary introduced Tim Pittman from the Abilene Housing Authority, who will highlight PHA Homeless Preferences. His PHA is participating in local efforts to end homelessness, and presented on establishing a homeless preference in Public Housing Authorities.
- b. Tim introduced the idea of a homeless preference: Every Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is set up based on a waitlist. Most PHAs organize the waitlist by date and time (i.e. is a "first come, first served" model). What preferences do is allow PHAs to send households in certain subpopulations to the front of the waitlist. So while a normal wait for an HCV for most households is 6 months – 2 years, the preference system reduces the wait to approximately 30 days.



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- c. The Abilene PHA decided to implement a homeless preference due to community partners and service providers approaching them to ask for their help to end homelessness. Implementing a homeless preference was a low-cost way to make an impact on homelessness with resources they already had.
- d. The Abilene PHA worked with community partners to develop the homeless preference. They utilized previously existing systems (i.e. Abilene's CE process) in the community to help identify homeless families. The PHA accepts referrals through the CE Planning Entity (CEPE). When service providers identify a homeless neighbor who would benefit from a PHA voucher, they refer them to the CEPE for evaluation. If they are the most vulnerable household in the community, they get referred to the PHA for an HCV.
- e. Community Service Providers signed an MOU with the PHA stating that they would provide case management services to the referred household for up to one year. This agreement is in the best interest of the PHA, service provider, and the homeless family. Services provided by community organizations include housing search and move-in assistance. Partnering with the community allows the PHA to be a key component to end homelessness, increases the PHA's standing with HUD, and helps service providers be able to spread their dollars further.
- f. Mary thanked Tim for presenting and hoped that other communities will also reach out to their PHA to form a homeless preference like this.
- g. Chad Wheeler asked if there was a prioritization standard for receiving voucher assistance. Tim said that the prioritization took place at the CEPE level.
- h. Mary asked if Tim would be able to serve as a resource for other PHAs wanting to establish a preference.
 - i. Tim's contact information and resources: Tim Pittman, tim.pittman@abileneha.org, 325-676-6385 ext. 6389
- i. You can also reach out to Caitlin Bayer at Caitlin@thn.org for more assistance at the CoC level.

III. CoC Current Priority Projects

- a. Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Summary presented by Kristin Zakoor.
 - i. The PIT Count is a count of people experiencing homelessness on one night in the last week of January.



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- ii. The PIT was conducted with a mobile application ("app") this year instead of the paper-based model we've used in past years. Folks seemed to like the app and found it easy to use. They also like that they could see real-time data updates, for those communities that used the Regional Command Center. Thank you for the feedback on how using the app went!
- iii. We provided more training materials this year to the PIT leads and volunteers, which were also positively received. Due to your feedback, we have lots of ideas about how to improve for next year.
- iv. 3 new communities participated in the count this year. The TX BoS CoC had a large increase in volunteers overall. A total of 27 communities participated in the 2018 PIT.
- v. To come up with a TX BoS CoC-wide PIT report, staff used an updated extrapolation format this year for those counties that did not perform a live count. The extrapolation formula is much more accurate this year than in year's past, so our CoC-wide PIT count should be more accurate than ever this year.
- vi. We covered 61% of Texas' population with the geographic area of our count! Well done!
- vii. We did have as much missing data this year, but there is still room for improvement. To get a true accurate picture of who is experiencing homelessness in the community, we need as much information as possible. Having all the data helps us tell the full story, especially for subpopulations. It helps us be able to meet their needs and track if we are helping to end their homelessness. We will work to improve our data collection methods for next year through training and education.
- viii. The PIT Count estimate for 2018 is 7,638 people. Even though there was an increase in the total number of people experiencing homelessness this year, we've seen impressive decreases within our subpopulations. The only subpopulation that did not experience a decrease was unaccompanied youth. We're not alone in seeing our total PIT count rise- it seems to be on trend with the rest of Texas and the nation. We still have much work to do!
- ix. People affected by Hurricane Harvey were accounted for in the survey: 55% of people experiencing homeless for the first time were homeless as a result of Harvey.



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- x. If you want to participate in the 2019 PIT Count, please do! Reach out to Kristin@thn.org for more information!
 - xi. The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time housing inventory of beds/units in the CoC's geography that are available for people experiencing homelessness. We saw a slight increase overall in our stock, to 6,737 beds. The greatest increases were seen in RRH and PSH Beds.
 - xii. Utilization rates look at the number of people who enrolled in a program on the night of the PIT count compared to the total available bed count. Utilization rates can help communities determine where bottlenecks in the system are located and if the supply/capacity meets the need.
 - xiii. In 2019, we want to add new communities to the PIT and HIC, update and improve training and education, increase stakeholder involvement, and collect innovative practices from our communities that are doing cool new things! The 2019 PIT Count will be held January 24, 2019, so mark your calendars! The inclement weather date is January 28th.
 - xiv. Housing Inventory Count and Point in Time Count reports are up on the THN website now. Check them out! <https://www.thn.org/data/point-time-pit-count-reports/> and <https://www.thn.org/data/housing-inventory-reports-hic/>.
- b. CoC Program
- i. The Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) and the CoC Registration for the FY 2018 CoC Program competition have been released and we have submitted them to HUD. Competition has begun!
 - ii. We expect the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to come out any day now. If you are a CoC Program-funded renewal project, please start preparing yourself for competition now. One of the best things that you can do to prepare is to complete your Quarterly Scorecard (due May 14) and to look at last year's materials. We will let you know via the TX BoS CoC mailing list when the NOFA is released.
 - iii. THN will hold a mandatory webinar for renewal and new applicants, so please stay tuned for details! We are especially encouraging new applications for RRH and PSH this year.
- c. Coordinated Entry (CE)
- i. Shout out to Abilene for completing their 100 day challenge. Their goal was 50 households, but they housed 64!



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- ii. Tiffany has been out sick, so please be patient in waiting for responses to your communication as she gets back on her feet. Please leave her a voicemail if you call.
- iii. If you have gone through the HMIS Assessor Training, you have access to the live site. The expectation is that assessments should be started as soon as the assessors have access to the CE work flow.
- iv. For any questions, please reach out to Tiffany Hart at Tiffany@thn.org
- d. HMIS
 - i. The next webinar for HMIS users is May 31 at 1:00 PM. HMIS users will receive an invitation soon. If you use HMIS and you don't get an invitation, please email hmis@thn.org.
 - ii. The HMIS team will send UDQ reports out within the next week or so. You will have 2 weeks to make corrections. PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL WITH THE HMIS TEAM. Thank you ☺
- e. [System Performance Measures](#)
 - i. The SPMs are due to HUD at the end of May. There are still some outstanding corrections the HMIS team is waiting for. If you have received an email from the HMIS team regarding corrections to your project's SPM data, please respond right away! The SPMs affect everyone's funding. They will be featured heavily at the next meeting.

IV. Announcements

- a. CoC Board -- Seat 7 Mental/Behavioral Health – Elaine Brandon appointed.
- b. General Land Office (GLO) recently released its proposed plans for CDBG-DR funds for Hurricane Harvey recovery. Although the plan offers \$5 billion in recovery funding, only \$50 million is reserved for homeless assistance. It also does not provide funding for long term solutions to prevent homelessness due to natural disaster. There are also no explicit references to addressing the recovery needs of individuals with disabilities or households with Extremely Low Income. THN provided these comments on the GLO's plan in hopes to improve the plan's impact on homelessness.
- c. Proposed changes to requirements for federal housing assistance (i.e. work requirements, increased rents, and de facto time limits) have



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been circulating in the news. We don't have many details on these changes, and nothing official has happened yet. There is a webinar from National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) to address the concerns that if these changes were implemented, they would increase homelessness in our country.

- d. The TX BoS CoC will be holding LMHA/LBHA webinars on May 17 and 24. THN has also put together a handy map that overlays LHCs and their local LMHAs/LBHAs so that partners can locate each other to collaborate to end homelessness within their area.
- e. THN staff will be speaking at a Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) webinar, which will be held on May 25. TNOYS will send out the registration link via their mailing list.
- f. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Community Plans will be due to the SSVF Program Office on June 15. Because they are only accepting one plan per CoC, please wait to hear further instructions from THN before moving forward with completing the plan. The CoC point of contact for the community plan is Priority Projects Coordinator, Caitlin Bayer, Caitlin@thn.org.

V. Resources

- a. HUD NOFA for \$100 million available to PHAs for housing vouchers (tenant or project based) for community-based housing for non-elderly persons (households) with disabilities.
 - i. [Supporting Collaborations between Navigators, Connectors, Assistors, and Local Disability Affinity Organizations](#) by the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative
 - ii. [2017 Mainstream Voucher Program Webinar Slides](#) given by TAC and NAEH.
 - iii. [Encouraging Partnerships under PHA Voucher Programs One-Pager](#) by CSH.
 - iv. TAC'S PHA HCV Database: <http://www.tacinc.org/knowledge-resources/vouchers-database/>
- b. HUD NOFA for \$300 million available to PHAs for housing vouchers (tenant or project based) for families with child welfare involvement due to unstable housing and for youth between 18 and 24 years of age who have involvement with the foster care program.
 - i. CSH and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) are jointly hosting a webinar on May 16 from 12:00-1:00 PM ET.



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- c. In May HUD is conducting a study on RRH projects funded by CoC Program and ESG Program. If your RRH project's program director has not received a link to the survey by April 30, please email rrhsurvey@abtassoc.com.
- d. Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Phase One Report, <http://center4si.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-20181.pdf>
 - i. People of color are much more likely to become homeless than their white counterparts, even when controlling for poverty. This study highlights the impact of racism on homelessness and provides suggestions for how to implement racial equity.
 - ii. The author of this report, Marc Dones, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness in Austin on September 26-28, 2018. Registration information for the conference will be released in the coming weeks.
- e. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and partner organizations invite you to join advocates from across the country to learn about new proposals from the Trump administration and Congress that would cut housing benefits by increasing rents, imposing work requirements, and setting de facto time limits for HUD-assisted households. Panelists will also discuss how advocates can effectively communicate with policymakers and the public about the negative impacts of such reforms and alternative strategies to move families toward economic self-sufficiency. To register for the webinar on May 10th at 1pm EST, please click [here](#).
- f. Registration for the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference and Capitol Hill Day in July is open and filling up fast. <https://endhomelessness.org/events/conferences/naeh18/>

Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 13th, 2:00 p.m., via webinar

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

Link to webinar recording: <https://thn.adobeconnect.com/pd7xiehaltxj/>



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2018 PIT SUMMARY

2018 Point-in-Time Count Highlights

- Counting Us App
 - *Real-time data*
 - *More accurate count*
 - *Allowed communities to be more hands-on*
- New Training Materials
- 27 Communities Participated
 - *Including 3 new communities*
- Increase in Community Volunteers
- Updated Extrapolation Formula

PIT Participating Areas

- 27 LHCs/Communities
 - *47 Counties collected surveys*
- Participating areas make up 61% of total BoS geography
 - *Based on population size*

How do we get a total BoS number?

- Need for extrapolation to achieve an estimate for TX BoS CoC
- New formula allows for more accurate comparison of participating communities vs. non-participating communities

$$\frac{\text{Population of non-reporting county}}{\text{Population of similar reporting county}} = \text{Variance in population} \times \text{Number reported homeless in reporting county} = \text{NUMBER TO REPORT IN NON-REPORTING COUNTY}$$

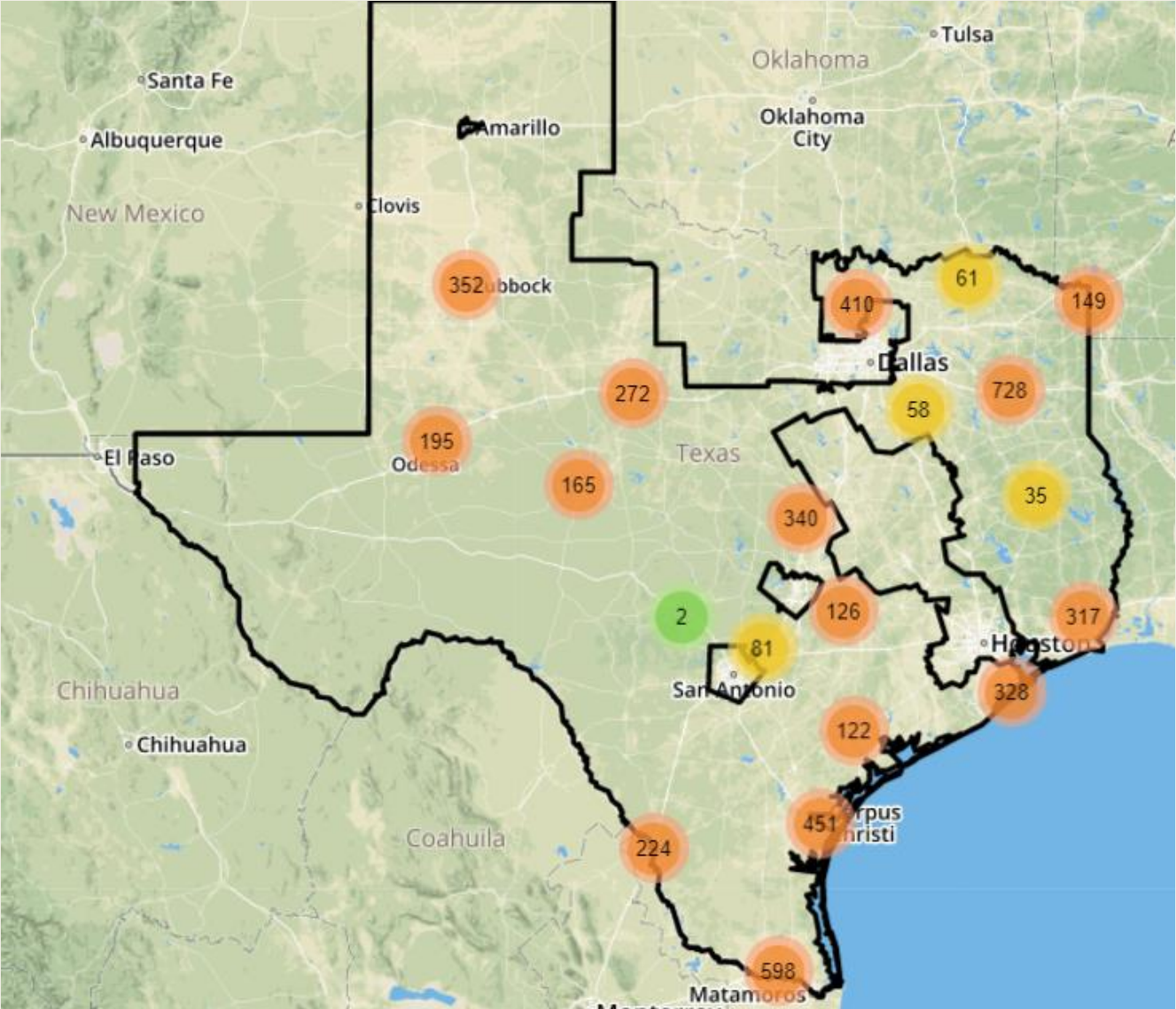
Methodology Example

County	Population	PIT Reported #	Non-reporting PIT #
Titus County	32,592	69	
Bee County	32,750		69
Bastrop County	82,733	98	
Orange County	84,964		101
Bowie County	93,860	147	
Rockwall County	93,978		147
Tom Green County	118,386	165	
Potter County	120,832		168

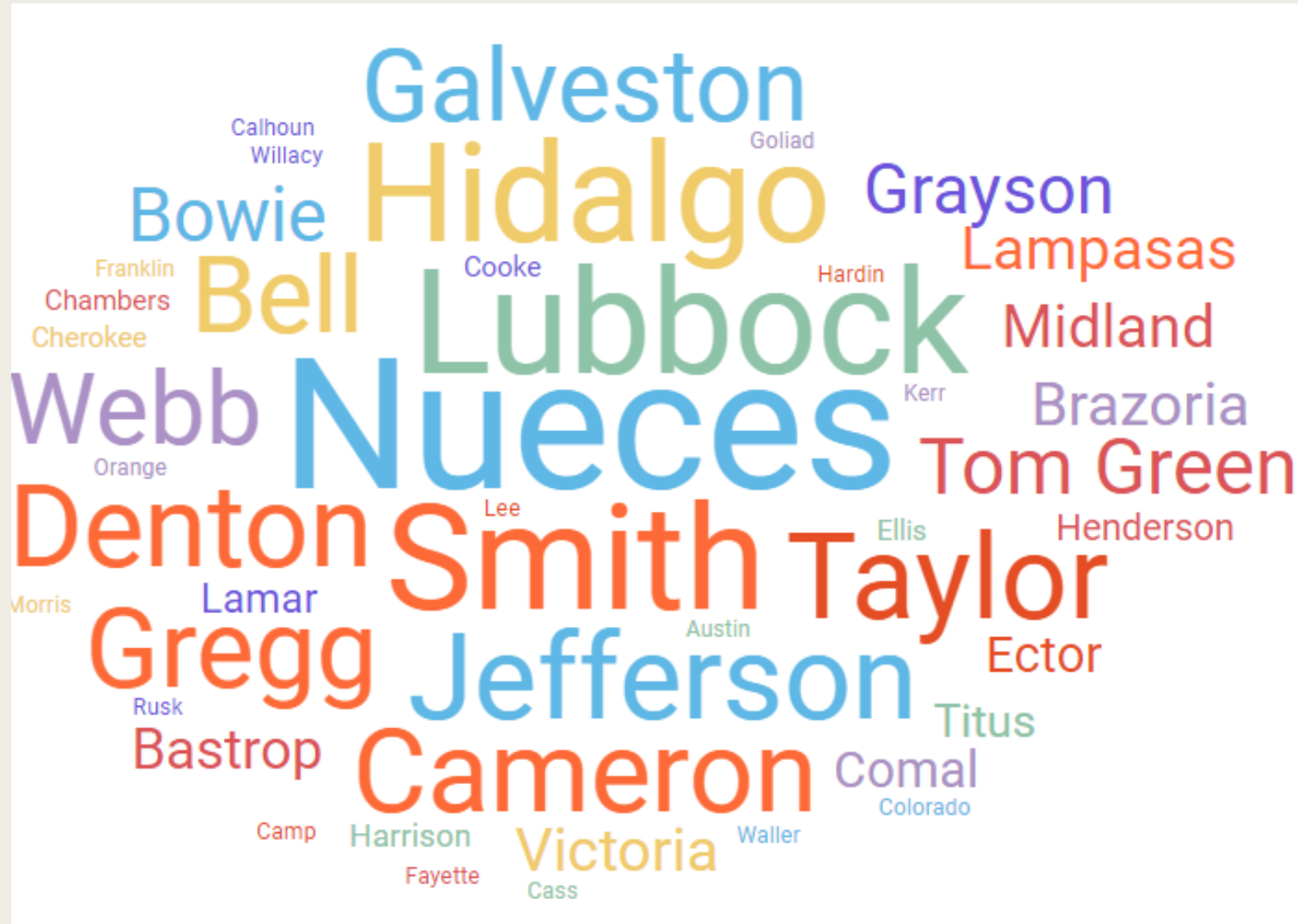
Missing/Incomplete Data

ID	Survey	Type	Age	Disability?	Months Homeless	Times homeless past 3 yrs	Sleeping Location	Notes
1	Sheltered	IND					Sheltered	Missing details- can't determine any information about this record and would not be considered
2	Sheltered	IND	1/6/1948	Yes			Sheltered	Missing time homeless- can't determine length of time homeless and if CH
3	Unsheltered	IND		No		3	1 Vehicle	Missing Age- can't determine with HH composition belongs to, if adult or youth
4	Unsheltered	HH	5/19/1965	Yes		1	Fewer than 4	
5	Unsheltered	HH	1/19/1999	No		1	Fewer than 4	Missing sleeping location- can't determine if literally homeless, should be a shelter survey, or if not homeless at all

Map of Surveys



Surveys collected by County

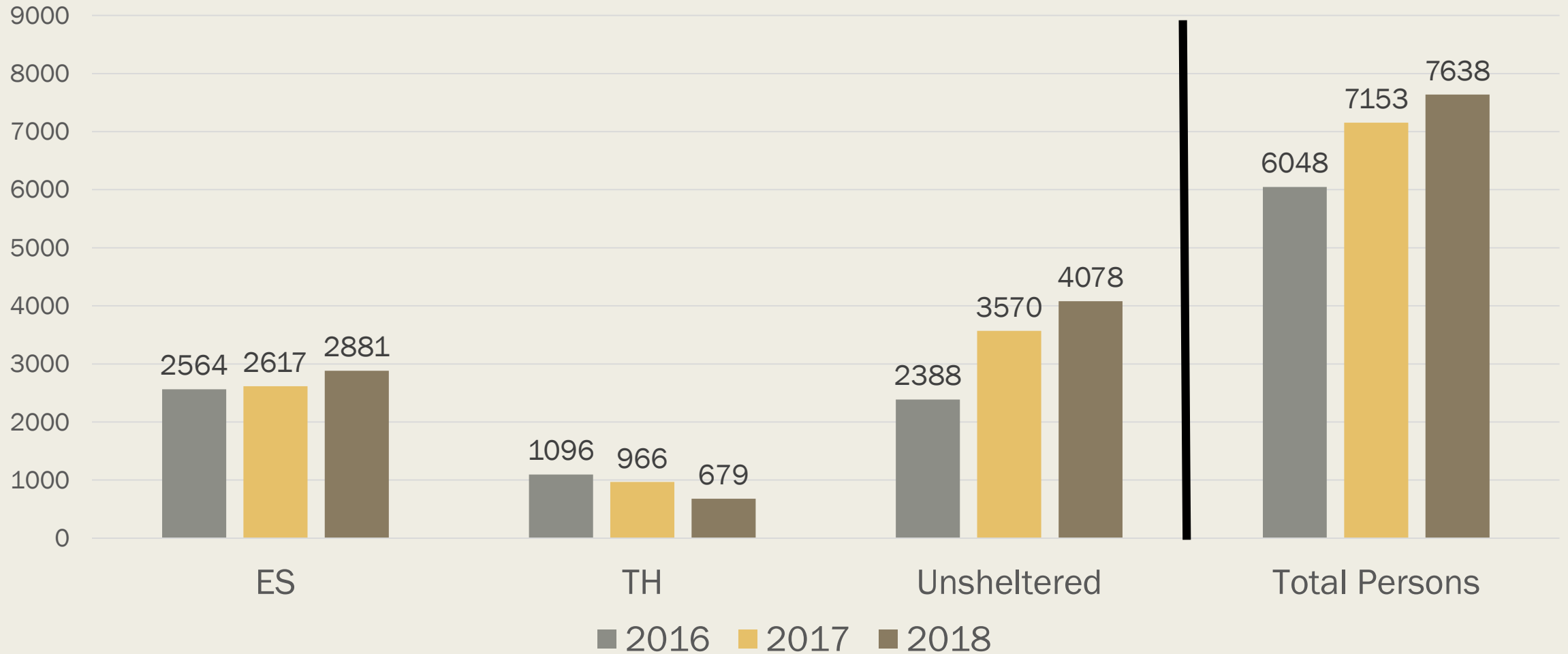


Insights

- Increase in total number of Households and People
 - *Better volunteer recruitment, canvassing, trainings, easier survey tool, and increase across TX*
- Decrease in Chronic Homeless number
 - *Dedicated PSH programs, 100 day challenges, CE prioritization*
- Decrease in Veterans
 - *Targeted community efforts and increase in bed capacity*
- Decrease in Parenting Youth
 - *Targeted community efforts and increase in bed capacity*

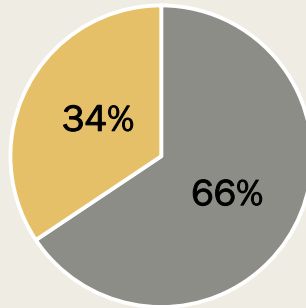
PIT Summary

TX BoS PIT Count



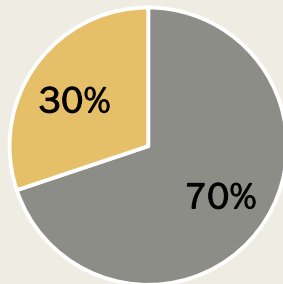
Where Became Homeless vs Where Surveyed

Abilene



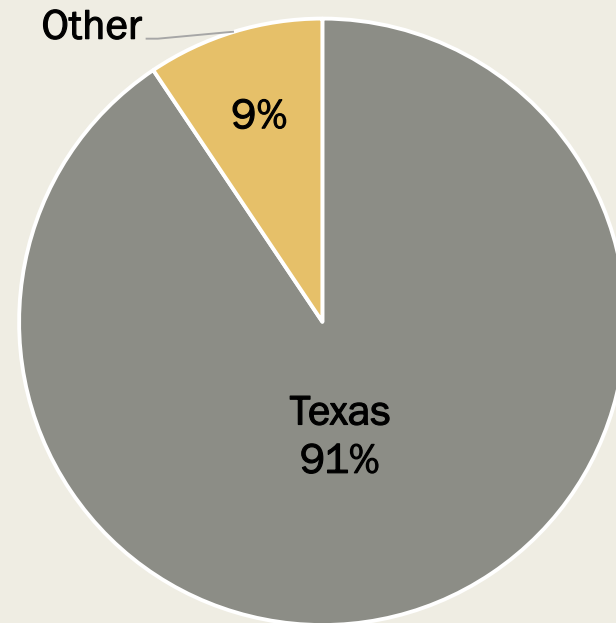
■ Same location ■ Different Location

Beaumont



■ Same location ■ Different Location

Total BoS
Texas Location vs Other



■ Texas ■ Other

Hurricane Harvey Victims

Question	Number
YES-Homeless Due to Harvey	251
YES-First Time homeless	137

55%

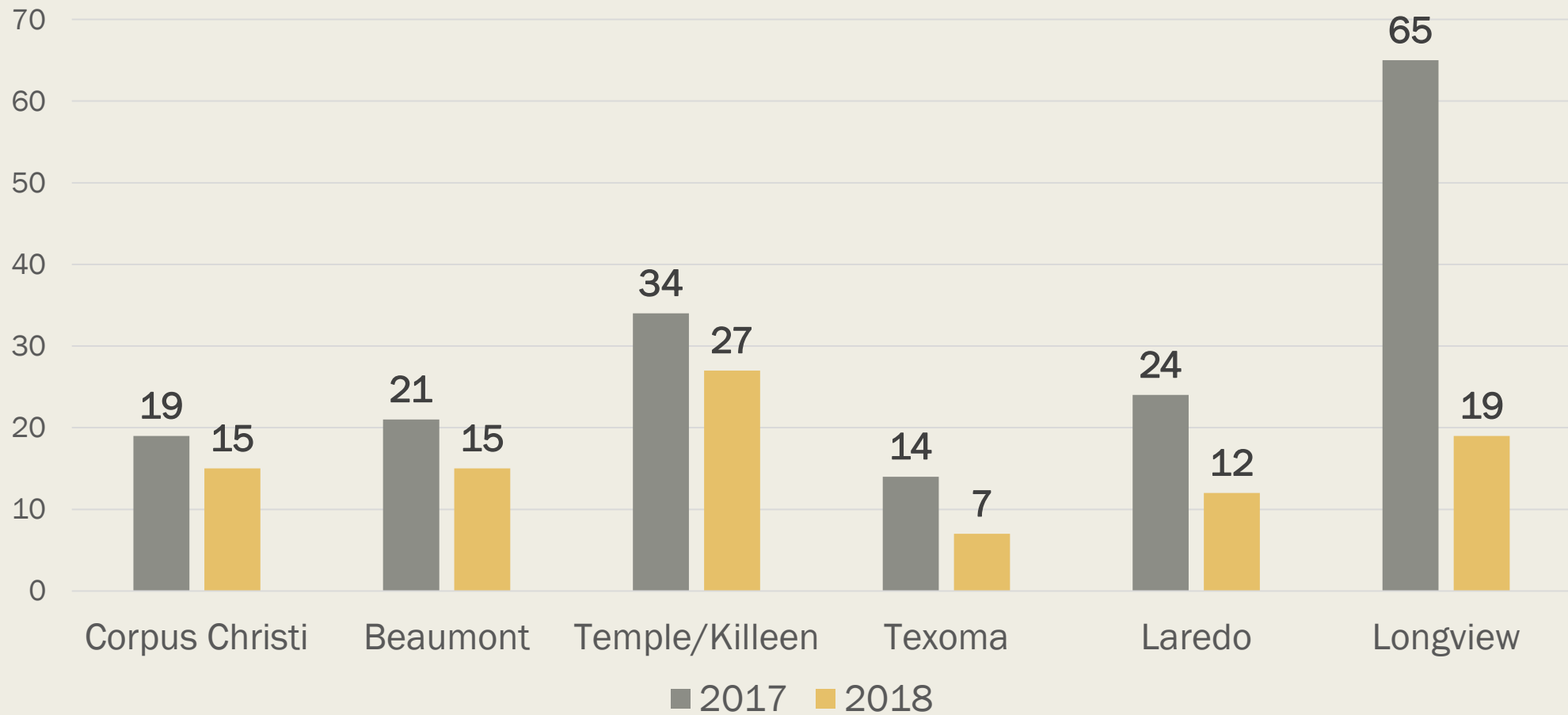


**COMMUNITY
HIGHLIGHTS**



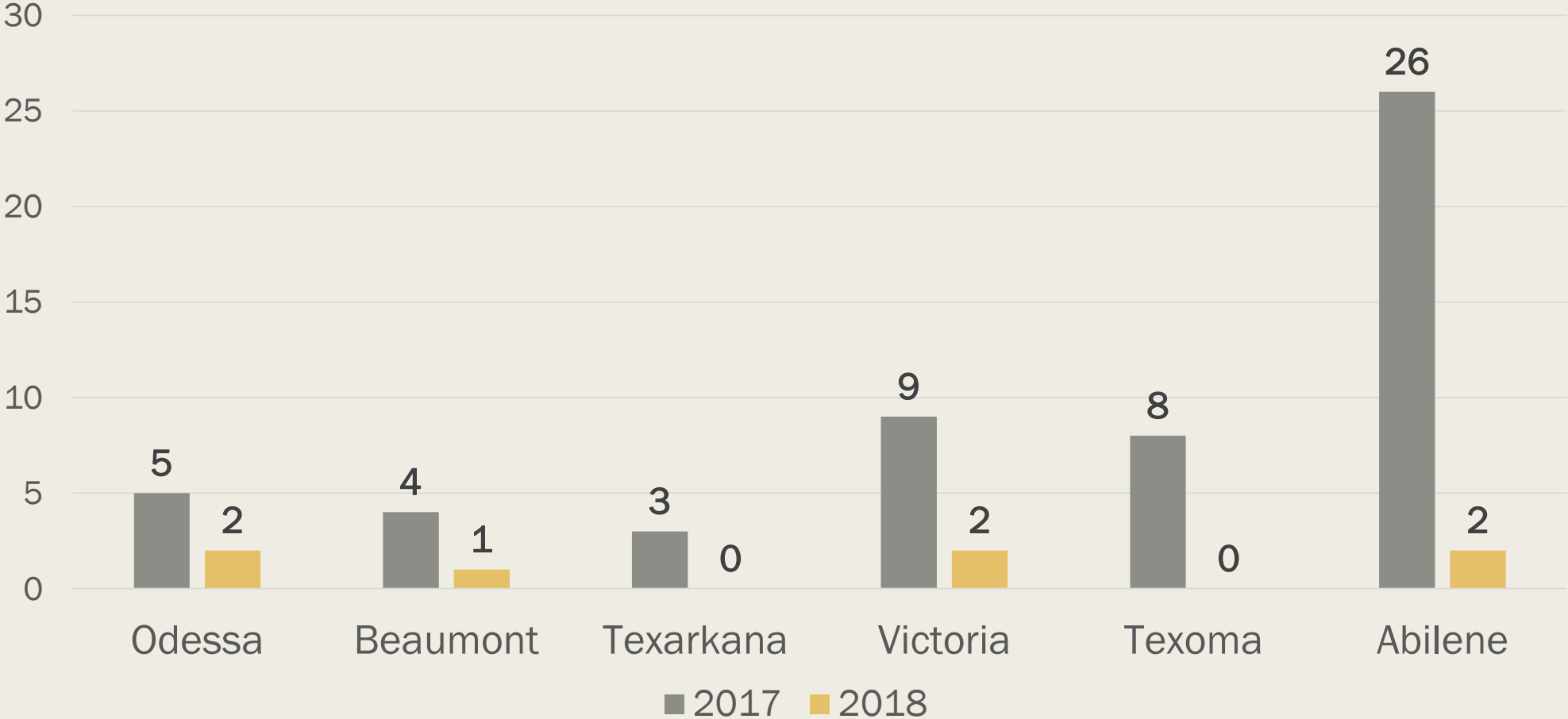
Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied Youth Decreases by Community



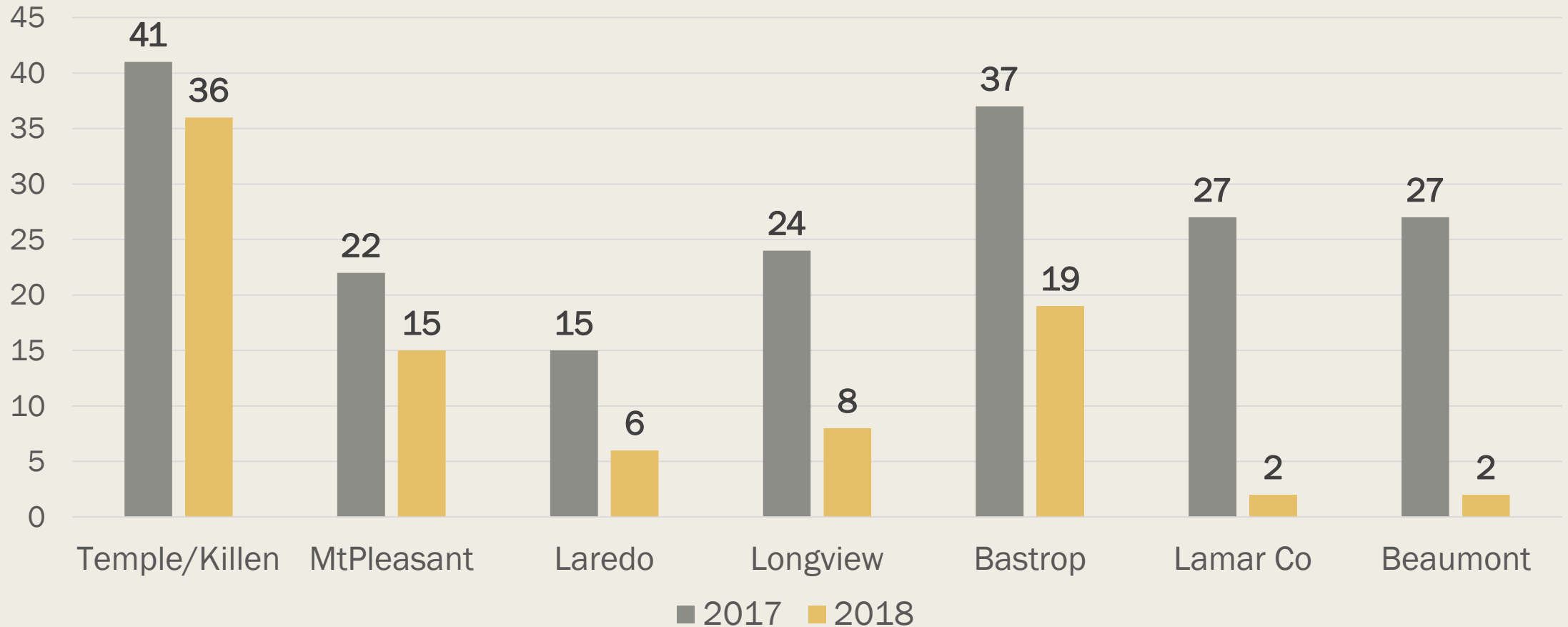
Parenting Youth

Parenting Youth Decreases by Community



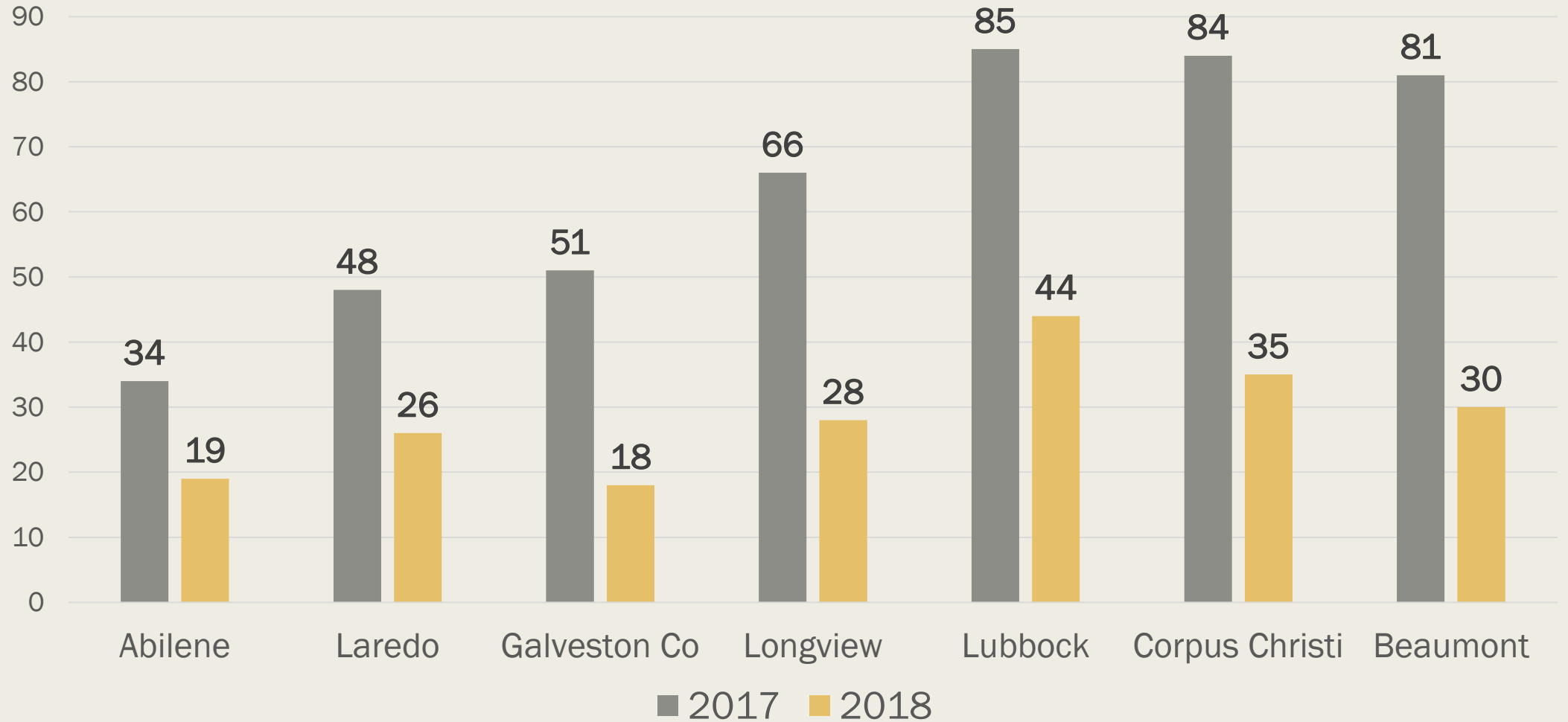
Families

Family Decreases by Community



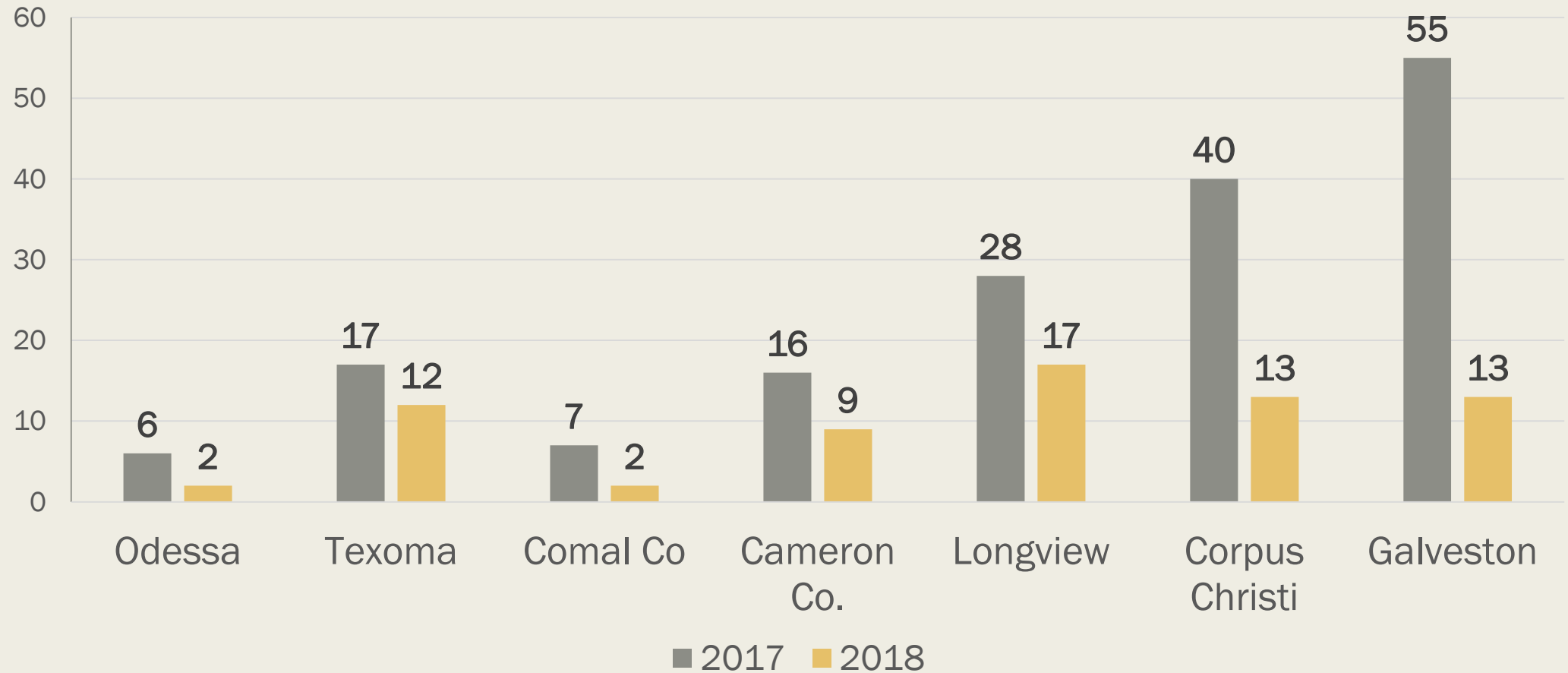
Chronically Homeless

CH Decrease by Community



Veterans

Veteran Decreases by Community

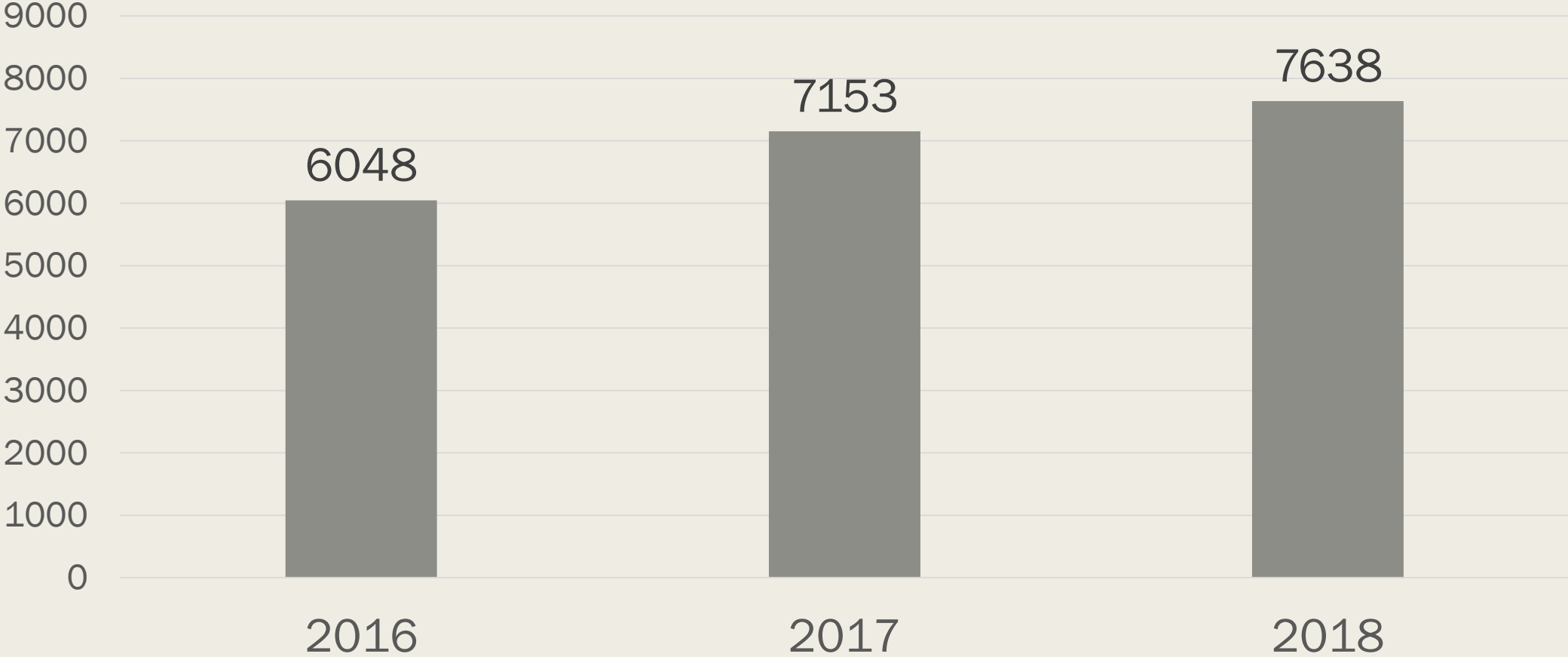


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YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISONS

PIT Summary 16-18

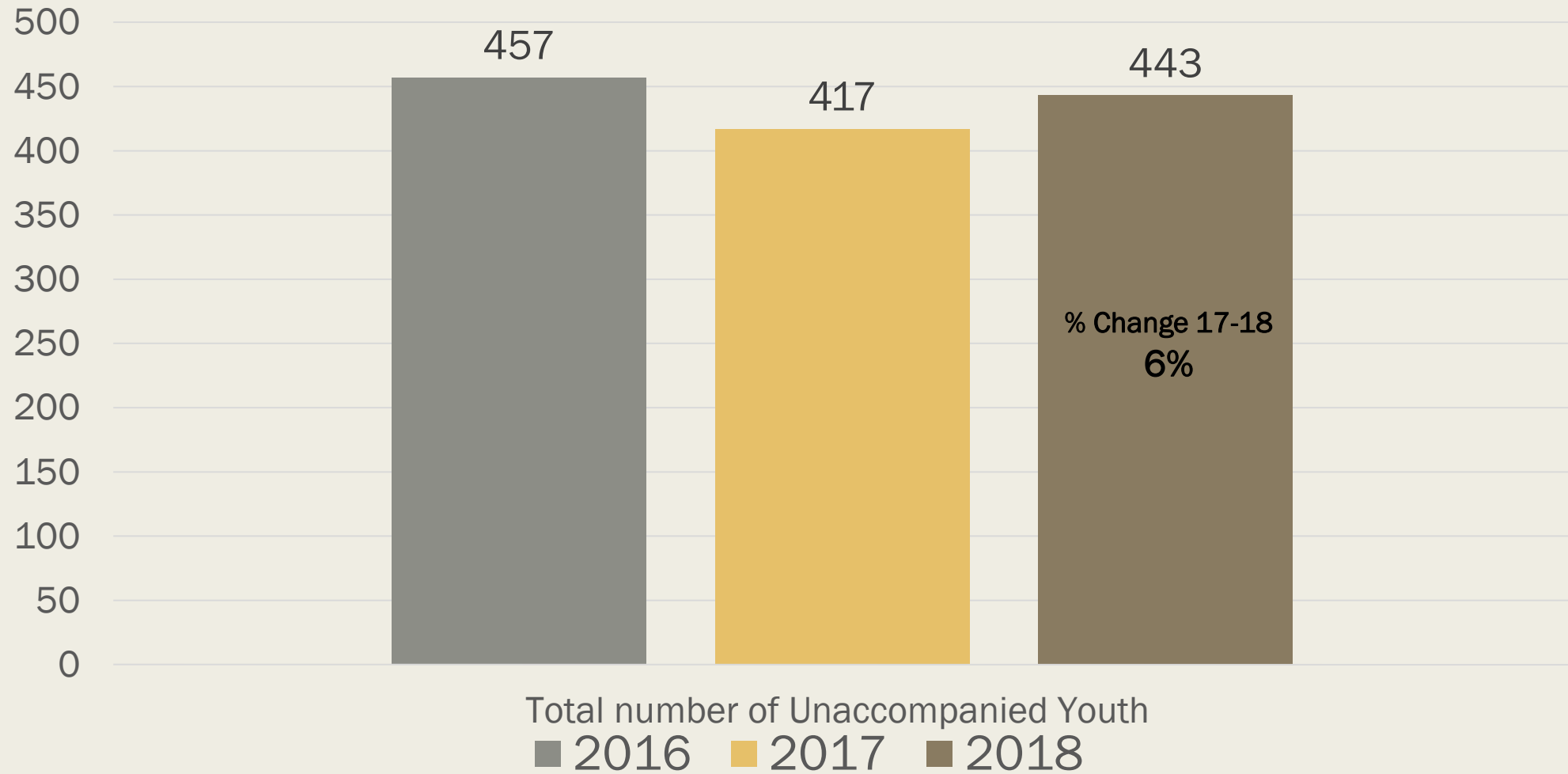
Total Persons



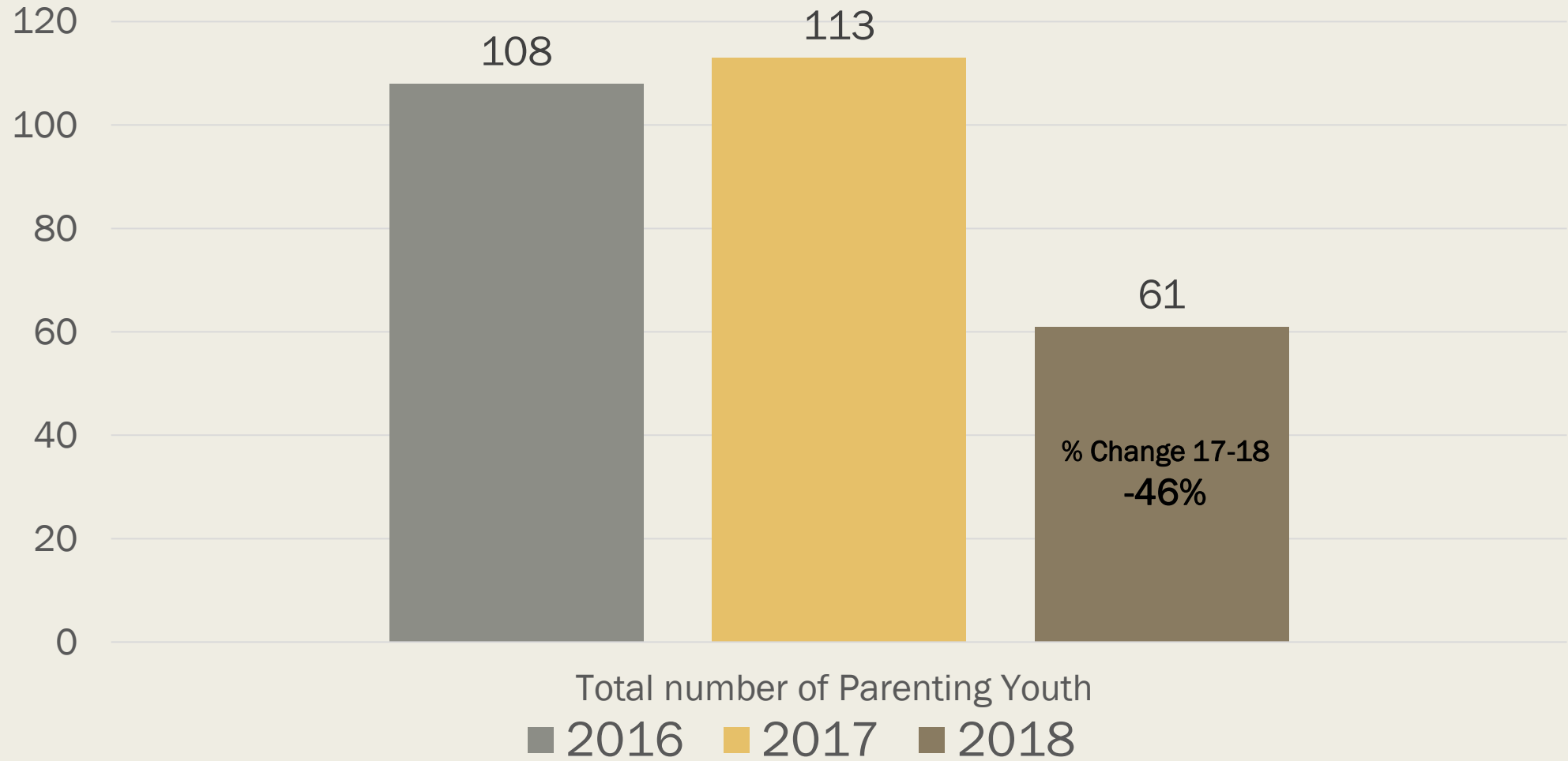
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SUBPOPULATIONS

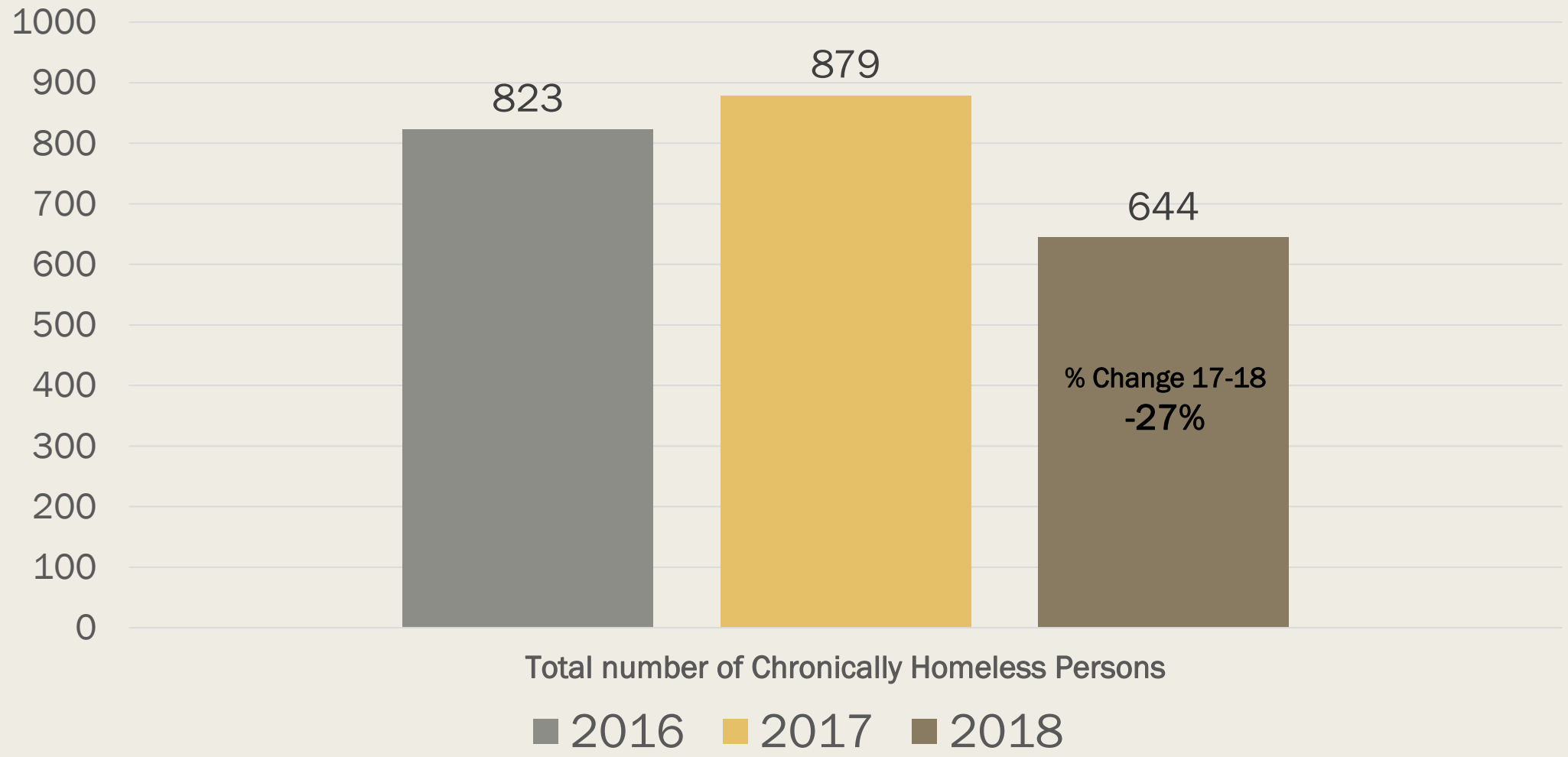
Subpop: Unaccompanied Youth



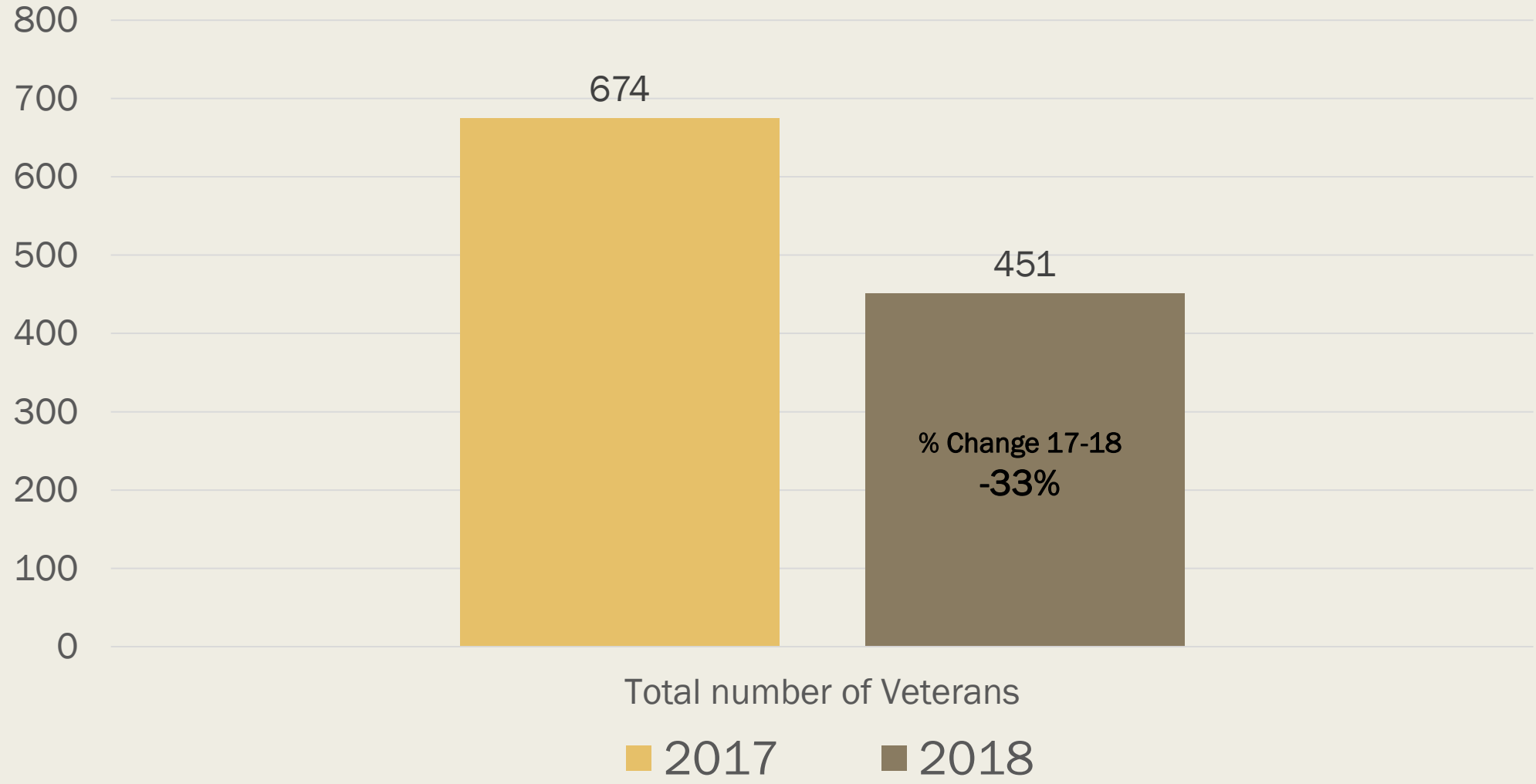
Subpop: Parenting Youth



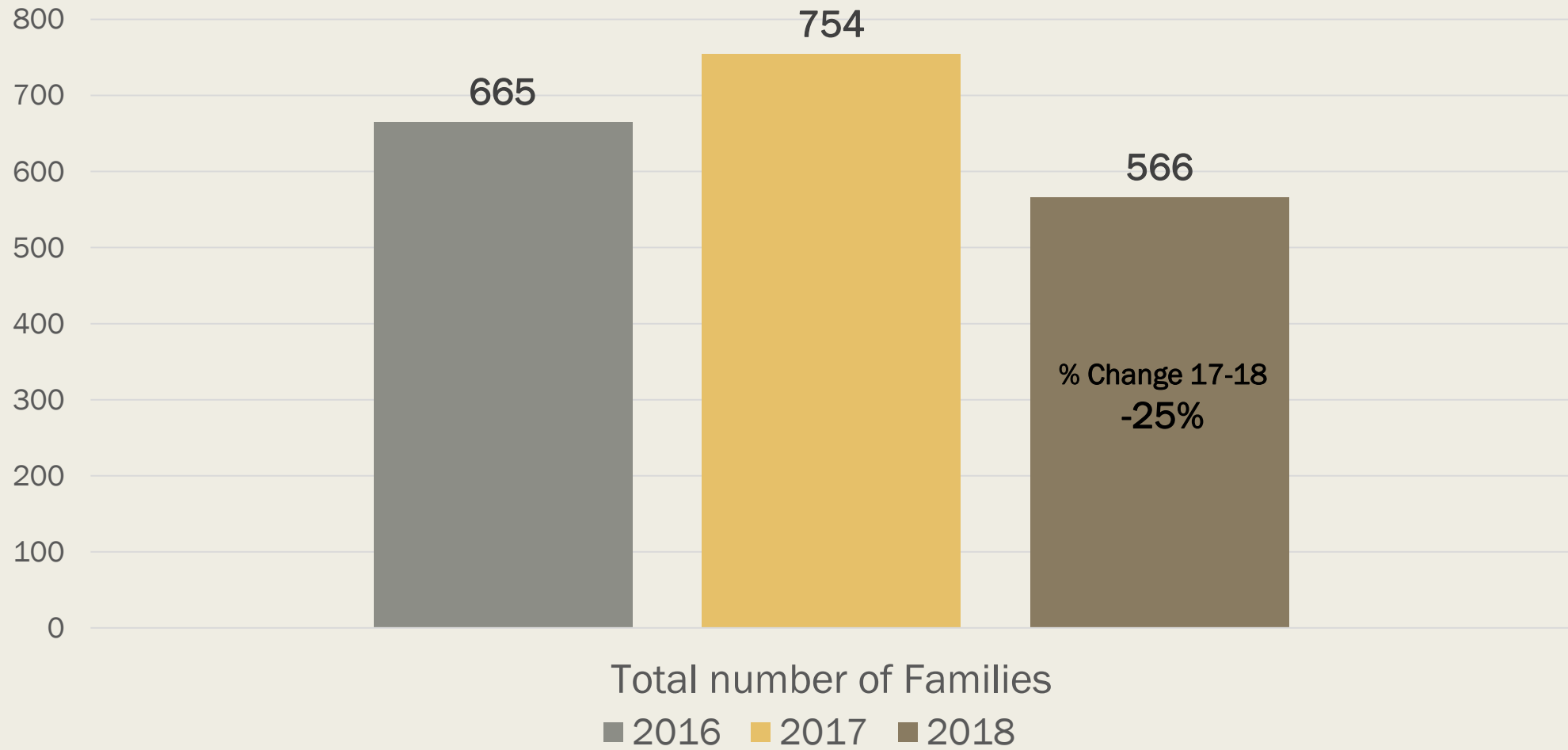
Subpop: Chronically Homeless



Subpop: Veterans



Subpop: Families

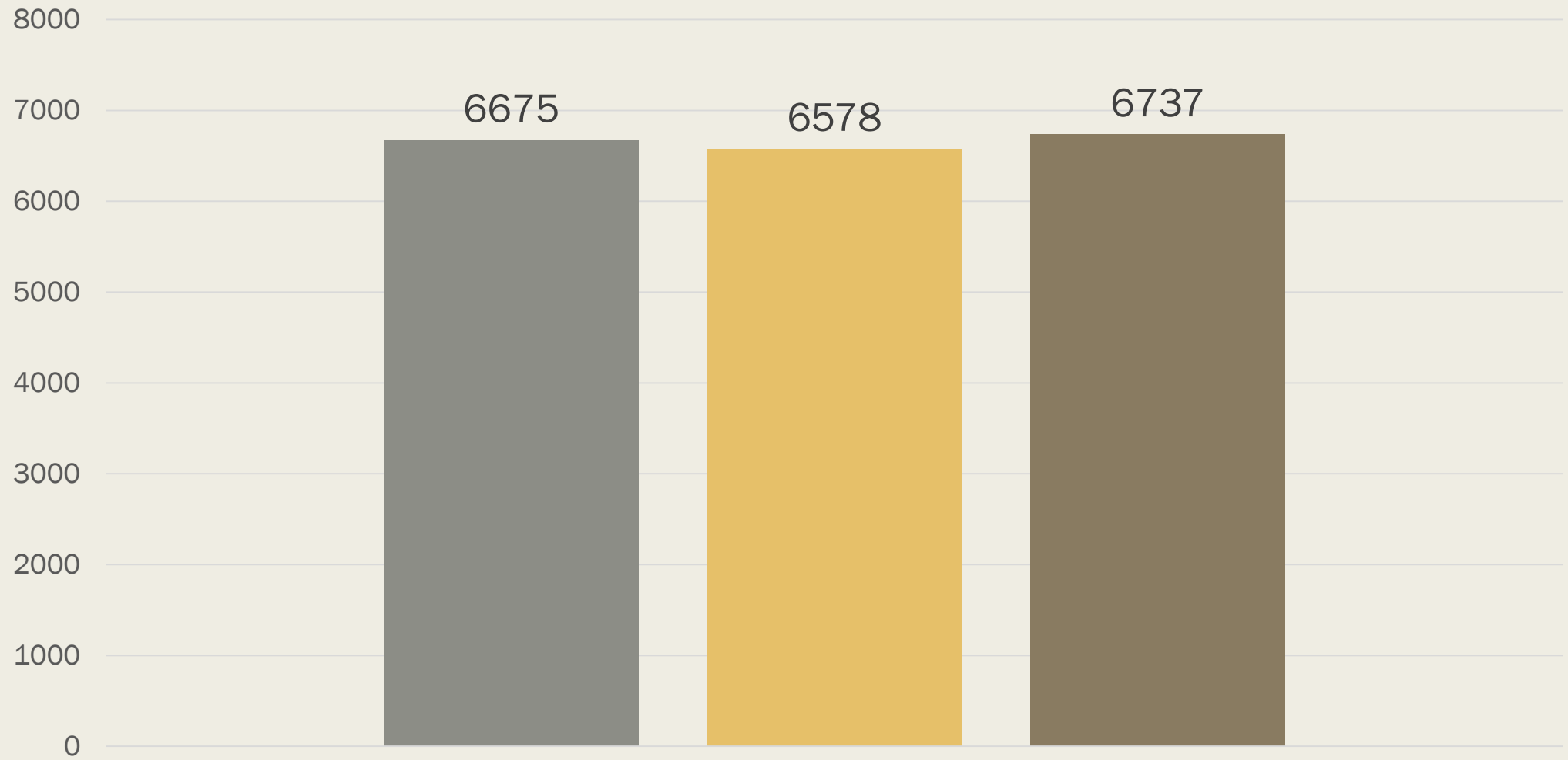




HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT

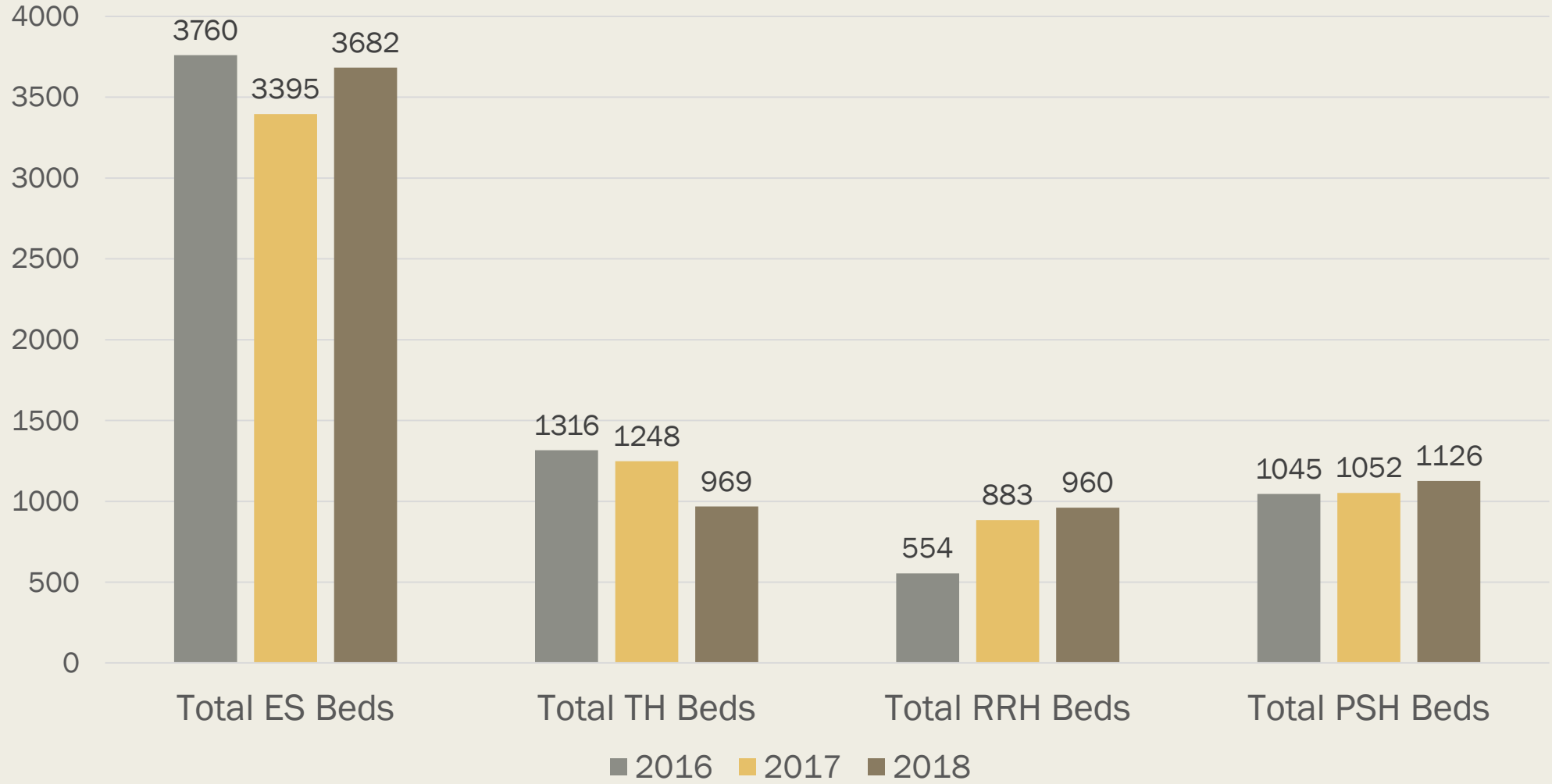


Total Year-Round Beds



Total Year-Round Beds
■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018

Total Year-Round Bed by Project Type



Utilization Rates

Project Type	2016	2017	2018
ES	65%	76%	76%
TH	83%	77%	70%
RRH	100%	100%	100%
PSH	95%	97%	95%

How can we use the data?

- Look at HIC/PIT data and compare your need vs what you have available in the community
- Community X Example
 - *Had 48 people experiencing homelessness*
 - *Shelter capacity of 51 beds*
 - *Utilization Rate of only 63% (only 32/51 beds were filled)*

Community Example

Reason(s) why you are experiencing homelessness:	
Unemployment	82
Domestic Violence	77
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	73
Evicted	60
Other	60
Substance abuse	45
Physical health reasons	36
Mental illness	36
Divorce or parenting	33
Criminal record	29
Left jail, prison, or detention center	21
Family illness	17
Loss of public aid	6
Ran away from home	3
Aged out of or ran away from foster care	2
Natural disaster	1

South Plains Homeless Consortium
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These are the reasons people in Lubbock said they are experiencing homelessness.

Drac Smith, Bev Baldwin Salazar and 2 others like this.
2 Shares

South Plains Homeless Consortium
HUD Point-in-Time Count for Lubbock County
Conducted on January 25, 2018

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. Each year in Lubbock County, volunteers coordinated by the South Plains Homeless Consortium conduct the count, collecting information that provides a snapshot of homelessness at any given time within our community. Data quality checks are conducted by Texas Homeless Network, the lead agency of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, and submitted to The Department of Housing and Urban Development. This report provides a comparison of the 2018 and 2017 data.

	2018	2017
Total Persons	333	434
Adults (18+)	307	382
Children (Under 18)	26	52
Young Adults (18-24)	20	25
Female	121 (37%)	156 (36%)
Male	208 (63%)	273 (63%)
Transgender	2 (0.6%)	2 (0.5%)
Chronically Homeless	44	85
Veterans	27	26
Total Sheltered Persons	196 (59%)	108 (25%)
Total Unsheltered Persons	137 (41%)	326 (75%)
Persons reporting (optional) Serious Mental Illness	48	74
Persons reporting (optional) Substance Use Disorder	24	73
Adults reporting (optional) HIV/AIDS	3	2
Adults reporting (optional)	70	59

Looking forward

- Add new communities
 - *Want to increase coverage of the CoC geography*
- Enhance training and materials
- Get more key stakeholders involved AND individuals with lived experience
- If PIT lead, become familiar with all shelter agencies in your area
- If your community is doing something innovative please let us know!

2019 PIT COUNT!!!

- Thursday- January 24th, 2019
- Back-up date Monday- January 28th, 2019
- THN will begin planning and prep in July
 - *put your planning caps on!*

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Local Mental Health Authorities/Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LMHAs/LBHAs)

Fact Sheet for Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

What are LMHAs/LBHAs?

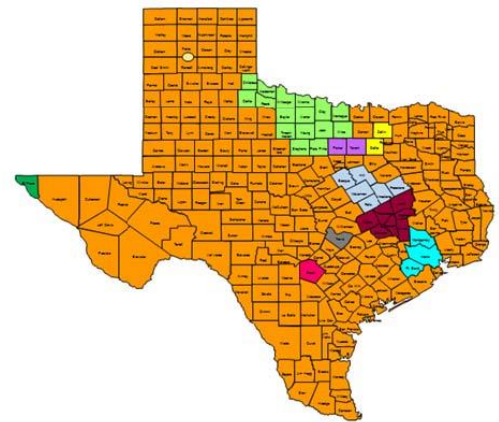
Community mental health centers, also referred to as Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) provide services to a specific geographic area of the state, called the local service area. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requires each authority to plan, develop policy, coordinate and allocate and develop resources for mental health services in the local service area. DSHS contracts with Community Mental Health Centers to deliver mental health services in communities across Texas.

Each LMHA is also required to consider public input, the ultimate cost-benefit, and client care issues to:

- Ensure consumer choice and the best use of public money in assembling a network of service providers and determining whether to become a provider of service or to contract that service to another organization, and
- In making recommendations relating to the most appropriate and available treatment alternatives for individuals in need of mental health or mental retardation services.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

The TX BoS CoC consists of all the counties in Texas that are not included in other CoCs, or the "balance" of counties (seen in orange in the map at right). The TX BoS CoC encompasses 215 of Texas' 254 counties. Texas Homeless Network (THN) is its lead agency.



THN's Role as the TX BoS CoC Lead Agency

THN assists the CoC Board, LHCs, communities, and other stakeholders within the BoS CoC to fulfill the CoC's responsibilities.

Role of Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

LHCs are smaller planning groups that cover one county or multiple counties within the larger TX BoS CoC. They work on a local level to address homelessness in their communities. LHCs are comprised of homeless service providers, other social services, the faith community, local leaders, healthcare, businesses, and other individuals and organizations interested in ending homelessness in their area. They carry out a Point-in-Time count and Housing Inventory Count, as well as create and operate a housing crisis response system. Some LHCs engage in special initiatives such as ending Veteran homelessness or creating a Coordinated Entry process.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Role of LMHAs and LBHAs

To ensure that the behavioral health needs of homeless individuals and families are met, it is imperative to have the support and knowledge of LMHAs/LBHAs incorporated into the community planning process lead by THN and the LHCs. LMHAs/LBHAs have varying levels of knowledge and expertise providing outreach/engagement, case management, psychosocial rehabilitative services, tenancy supports, permanent supportive housing services, and managing housing programs.

Partnering with the CoC and LHCs can help LMHAs/LBHAs form connections with other service agencies and housing providers in their area to support homeless individuals and families. Other benefits to LMHAs/LBHAs include:

- Representing the behavioral health and housing needs of homeless individuals and families
- Learning about housing and other community service provider resources in the area
- Participating in needs assessments, service gaps identification, and service planning
- Participating in collaborations for grants or other funding to bring needed services to the community
- Understanding how other federal, state, and local programs serving homeless individuals and families are accessed and structured, and about their functions and existing collaborations
- Identifying critical partnerships and building important collaborative relationships with local housing agencies, shelters, and other service providers
- Participating in advocacy activities, such as reasonable accommodation requests

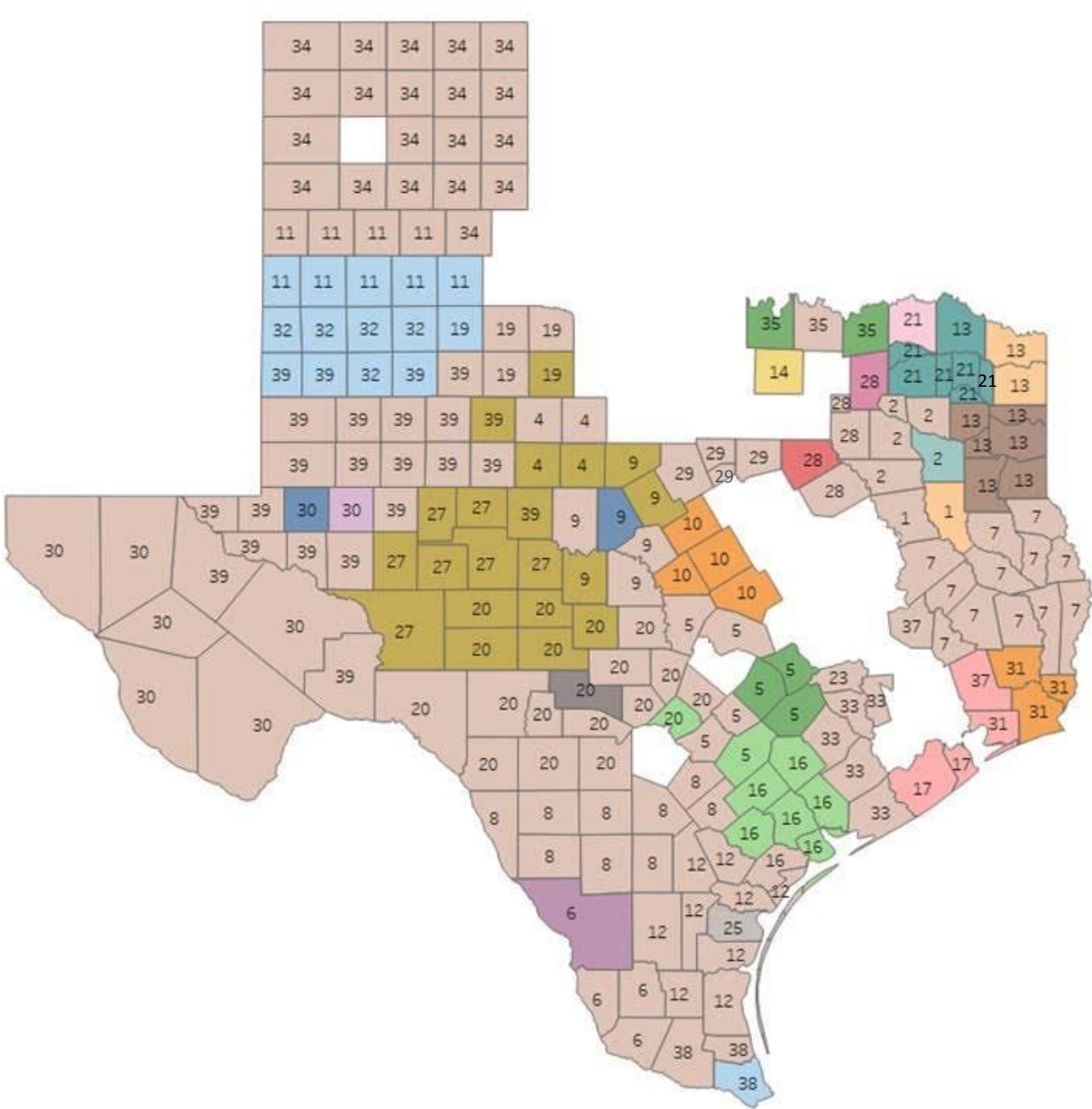
LMHAs/LBHAs and LHCs can work together to prevent and end homelessness in their communities.

To learn more about LMHAs/LBHAs, go to <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mhcommunity/LPND/LMHAs/default.shtm>.

To learn more about LHCs, go to THN's website at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

LHC and LMHA/LBHA Overlay Map



Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Map Key

Coalition

- Brown County Home Solutions, Inc. (BCHS)
- Cameron County Homeless Coalition
- Central Texas Homeless Coalition
- Cherokee County Human Needs Network
- Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition
- Comal County Homeless Coalition
- Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (C..
- Denton County Homeless Coalition (DCHC)
- East Texas Community Coalition (ETCC)
- East Texas Human Needs Network (ETHNN)
- Ellis County Local Housing Coalition
- Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition (GCHC)
- Hill Country Homeless Coalition
- Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc. (HIP)
- Hunt County Coalition for Homelessness
- Lamar County Homelessness Coalition (LCHC)
- Laredo Homeless Coalition
- Midland Homeless Coalition
- North East Texas Homeless Consortium (NET)
- Not Covered by a BoS LHC
- Odessa Coalition for the Homeless
- South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)
- Southeast Texas Coalition for the Homeless
- Texarkana Homeless Coalition
- Texoma Homeless Coalition
- Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)
- West Texas Homeless Network (WTHN)

LMHA/LBHA

- 1 - ACCESS
- 2 - Andrews Center
- 3 - Austin Travis County
- 4 - Betty Hardwick
- 5 - Bluebonnet Trails
- 6 - Border Region
- 7 - Burke Center
- 8 - Camino Real
- 9 - Center for Life Resources
- 10 - Central Counties
- 11 - Central Plains
- 12 - Coastal Plains
- 13 - Community Healthcore
- 14 - Denton County MHMR Center
- 15 - Emergence Health Network
- 16 - Gulf Bend Center
- 18 - Heart of Texas
- 19 - Helen Farabee
- 20 - Hill Country
- 21 - Lakes Regional
- 22 - LifePath Systems
- 23 - Brazos Valley
- 24 - Harris County
- 25 - Nueces County
- 26 - Tarrant County
- 27 - Concho Valley
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- 29 - Pecan Valley
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- 38 - Tropical Texas
- 39 - West Texas Centers

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

What LMHAs/LBHAs Need to Know about the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

A CoC is a group of people, agencies, and other stakeholders organized to prevent and end homelessness in a specific geographic area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to facilitate a planning process through which agencies that are at the forefront of eliminating homelessness work together in strategic and coordinated ways to achieve goals. CoCs carry out responsibilities mandated by HUD's CoC Program and outlined in the CoC Interim Rule, [24 CFR Part 578](#), such as coordinating housing and services; overseeing Coordinated Entry processes so people "can access the crisis response system in a streamlined way, have their strengths and needs assessed, and quickly connect to appropriate, tailored housing and mainstream services within the community or designated region" (Opening Doors, p. 57); and ensuring quality and effectiveness.

Overarching Goals of the CoC (from the HEARTH Act Amendment to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)

- Increase the number of people exiting homelessness
- Reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness
- Reduce the length of time someone is in a homeless situation
- Increase employment and income for persons who are in homeless situations

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

The term "CoC" also has a geographic component. There are 11 CoCs in Texas, each with different leadership. The TX BoS CoC consists of all the counties in Texas that are not included in other CoCs, or the "balance" of counties (seen in orange in the map at right). The TX BoS CoC encompasses 215 of Texas' 254 counties. Texas Homeless Network (THN) is its lead agency.



TX BoS CoC Governance Structure

- The CoC is led by a CoC Board – people from around the CoC with varying expertise. They are selected through an annual election process.
- The CoC is guided by the Chairs of Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) located in the CoC.
- LHCs lead their local communities' or regions' efforts to address homelessness. This is the best group to get involved with to be part of local initiatives and to make connections with providers in your area.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

THN's Role as the TX BoS CoC Lead Agency

THN assists the CoC Board, LHCs, communities, and other stakeholders within the BoS CoC to fulfill the CoC's responsibilities.

Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

LHCs are smaller planning groups that cover one county or multiple counties within the larger TX BoS CoC. They work on a local level to address homelessness in their communities. LHCs are comprised of homeless service providers, other social services, the faith community, local leaders, healthcare, businesses, and other individuals and organizations interested in ending homelessness in their area. They carry out a Point-in-Time count and Housing Inventory Count, as well as create and operate a housing crisis response system. Some LHCs engage in special initiatives such as ending Veteran homelessness or creating a Coordinated Entry process.

Role of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) & Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs)

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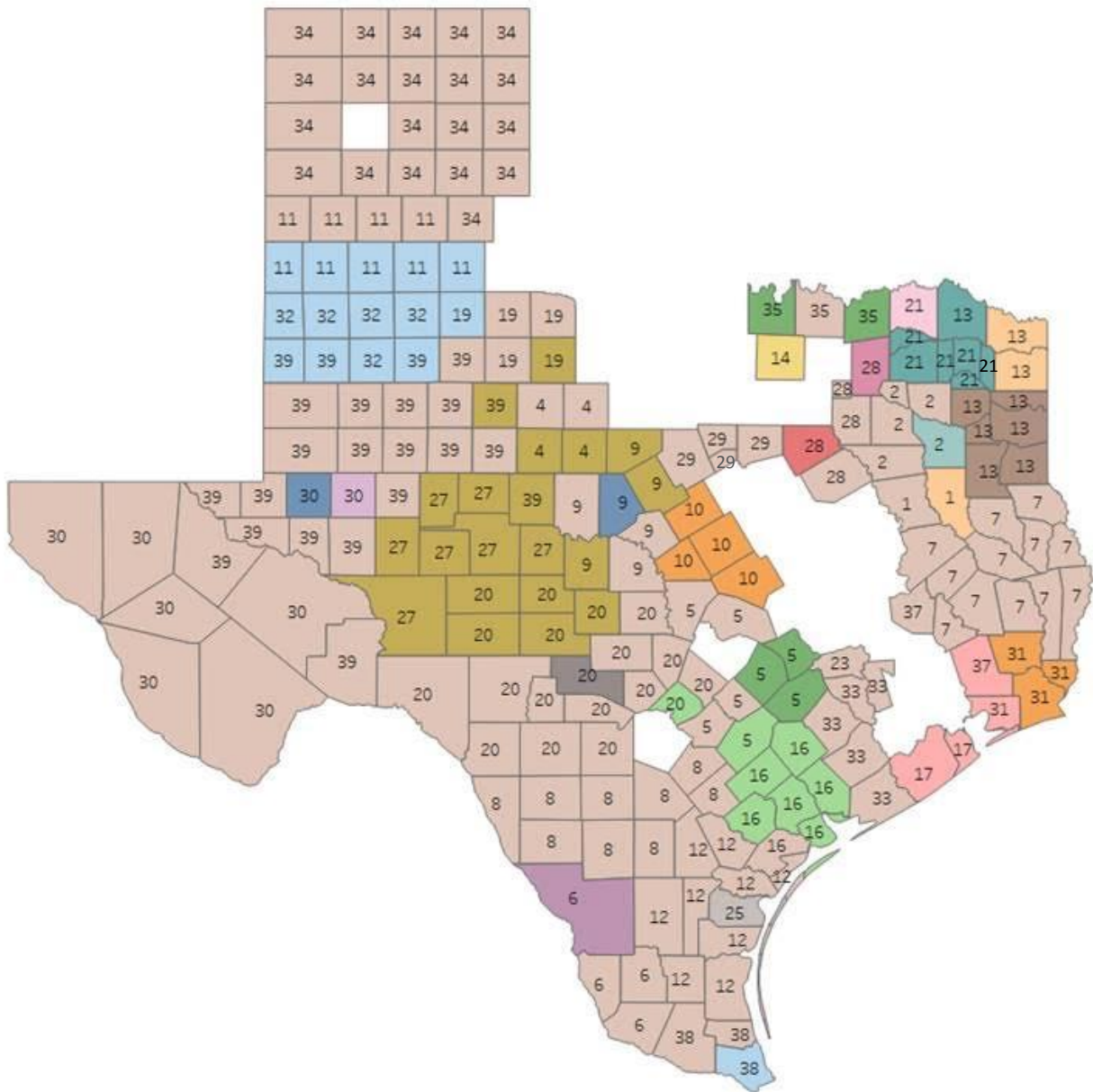
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- Identifying critical partnerships and building important collaborative relationships with local housing agencies, shelters, and other service providers
- Participating in advocacy activities, such as reasonable accommodation requests

LMHAs/LBHAs interested in preventing and ending homelessness can get involved in their Local Homeless Coalitions to participate in community planning. (See page 3 for a map of LHCs and page 4 for LHC contact information.) Learn more about the TX BoS CoC by visiting www.thn.org.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

LHC and LMHA/LBHA Overlay Map



Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

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Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

LHC Contact Information

#	Name	Counties	LHC Contact	E-mail	Phone	Website
1	Brown County Home Solutions, Inc. (BCHS)	Brown	Angella L. Bostick	connect@bchs.org	325-988-2425	www.bchs.org
2	Cameron County Homeless Coalition	Cameron	Daisy Lopez	dovs@tovinc.com	956-544-7412	www.facebook.com/CentexHomelessCoalition
3	Central Texas Homeless Coalition	Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, and Lampasas	Amanda Tindell	centexhomelesscoalition@gmail.com	254-654-1849	www.facebook.com/CentexHomelessCoalition
4	Cherokee County Human Needs Network	Cherokee	Kim Foutz	kim.foutz500@gmail.com		www.ethn.org/Cherokee.html
5	Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition	Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee	David Peters	dpeters@shelteringarmscoalition.com	903-571-1790	
			Beth Rollingson	beth@advocacyoutreach.org	512-321-7760 or	
			Stacey Minor	StaceyMinor@fgnb.org	830-214-0024	
			Emilia Kirther	ekirther@safoodbank.org	210-431-8481	www.comalhomeless.com
6	Comal County Homeless Coalition	Comal	Kristin Butler	Kristin.Butler@comalisd.org	830-221-2178	www.facebook.com/comalhomelesscoalition/
			Jana Grohman	jgrohman@abcsa.org	210-547-3021	
			Jennifer Nieto	jnieto@hillcountry.org	830-792-3300	
7	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green	Robert (Bob) Salas	robert.salas@cosabx.us	325-655-0824	www.cvhpc.org
			Mark Bethune	mbethune@cvcaa.org	325-653-2411	
			Mary Jones	Mary.Jones@unt.edu		
8	Denton County Homeless Coalition (DCHC)	Denton	Jordan McCarty	jordanm@dentonhmr.org	940-381-5000	www.endhomelessnesdenton.com
9	East Texas Community Coalition (ETCC)	Camp, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus	Holly Bates	hollybates@safe-tagency.com	903-572- 0973	
10	East Texas Human Needs Network (ETHNN)	Smith	Indus McDuff	indus.mcduff@uss.salvationarmy.org	903-592-4361	www.ethnn.org
11	Ellis County Local Housing Coalition	Ellis	Melissa Rawlins	elliscountyhomelesscoalition@gmail.com	817-629-3888	
12	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition (GCHC)	Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Liberty	The Rev. Edward Waters	watersrfem@yahoo.com	409-497-2138	
13	Hill Country Homeless Coalition	Kerr	Gary Powers	gpowers@familydeavors.org	830-323-0023	
14	Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc. (HIP)	Nueces	Jesse Elizondo	jesse@hip-cc.org	361-728-4615	www.homelessissuespartnership.com/
15	Hunt County Coalition for Homelessness	Hunt	Carla Nix	carla_nix@ggeusnet.com	903-456-9026	
16	Lamar County Homelessness Coalition (LCHC)	Lamar	April Carl	acar@newhopecenterparis.org	903-783-0353	www.facebook.com/LamarCountyHomelessCoalition
			Ted Henderson	thenderson@citysquare.org	903-227-4412	
			Jenny Wilson	jenny.wilson@lamarcountyuvw.org	903-784-6642	
			Mike Smith	masmith33@yahoo.com	956-718-2070	www.laredohomelesscoalition.org
17	Laredo Homeless Coalition	Webb	Mary Gaona	mary@bethanyhouseoflaredo.org	956-722-4152	
18	Midland Homeless Coalition	Midland	John-Mark Echols	john-mark@thefieldsedge.org	432-559-3222	www.facebook.com/midlandhomelesscoalition
19	North East Texas Homeless Consortium (NET)	Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, and Upshur	Cheteva Marshall	cmarshall@longviewtexas.gov	903-237-1238	www.northeasttexashomelessconsortium.com
20	Odessa Coalition for the Homeless	Ector	Erka Chavez Thomas	homelesslinks@gmail.com	432-582-0099	https://links.communitytvos.org/cms/node/56
			Bailey Cochran, Crosby Dickens, Hale, Hockley, Floyd, Garza, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum			www.spcconsortium.org
21	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)		Chad Wheeler	sphcpres@gmail.com	806-319-5140	
			Pam Lewis	plewis@setrpc.org	409-899-8444 x 7506	
			P.K. Moore	pkmoore1@sbcglobal.net	409-832-7976	www.SETRPC.org
			Bonnie Brooks	bbrooks@setrpc.org	409-924-3391	
22	Southeast Texas Coalition for the Homeless	Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange	Alaina Marcum	amarcum@fcci.org	903-792-1301	www.bkhhc.org
23	Texarkana Homeless Coalition	Bowie, Cass	Bob Rhoden	bob_rhoden@fourivers.org	903-870-4000	www.facebook.com/Texoma-Homeless-Coalition-122278226767468
24	Texoma Homeless Coalition	Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson	Lisa Griffin	endpovertyvhc@gmail.com	361-575-7842	www.facebook.com/vahc
25	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)	Callahan, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria	John Meier	jmeier@westcentraltexas.org	325-864-4791	http://wvthn.communitytvos.org/cms/node/10
26	West Texas Homeless Network (WTHN)	Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Runnels, and Taylor				

<https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>