HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

Results of the Annual Point-in-Time County and Regional Homelessness Strategies

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COG Board of Directors
May 14, 2025

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Agenda Item #9

How Many People Are Experiencing Homelessness in our Region?

People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2021-2025*							
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change in Number of Persons 2021 - 2025	Percent Change 2021 - 2025
City of Alexandria	106	120	152	187	166	60	57%
Arlington County	171	182	213	243	271	100	58%
District of Columbia	5,111	4,410	4,922	5,616	5,138	27	1%
Fairfax County	1,222	1,191	1,310	1,278	1,322	100	8%
Loudoun County	80	99	220	303	252	172	215%
Montgomery County	577	581	894	1,144	1,510	933	162%
Prince George's County	537	571	659	658	608	71	13%
Prince William County	282	241	326	345	392	110	39%
TOTAL	8,086	7,395	8,696	9,774	9,659	1,573	19%

Source: COG   * Totals for 2021-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

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Increase in Families and Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness
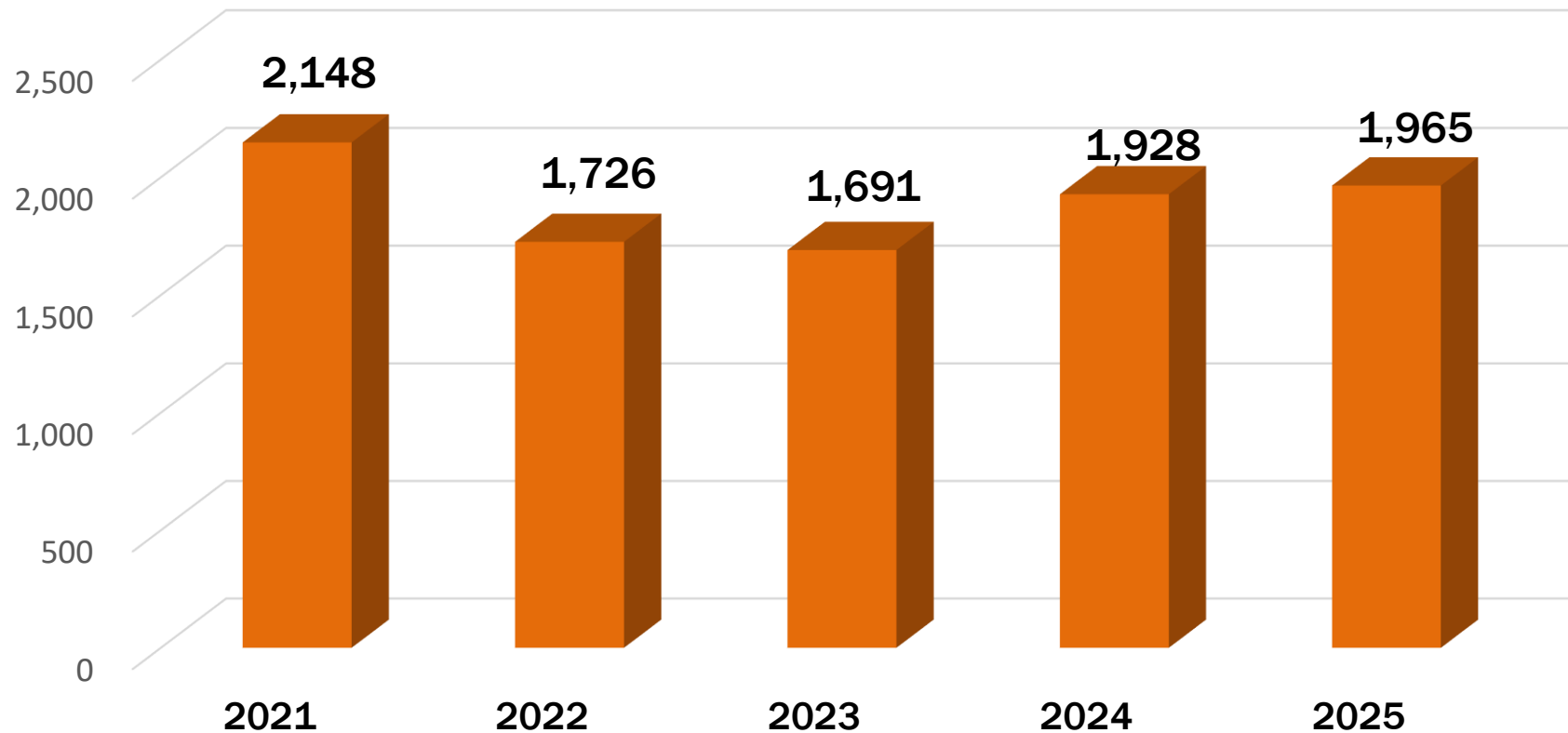
Household Composition				
		Total Persons in Households without Children	Total Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Total Persons in Households with ONLY Minor Children* (Unaccompanied Minors)	Regional Total
COG REGION**	**2025**	**6,132**	**3,517**	**10**	**9,659**
	2024	6,259	3,499	16	**9,774**
	2023	5,755	2,917	24	**8,696**
	2022	5,120	2,265	10	**7,395**
	2021	5,752	2,318	16	**8,086**
2021 - 2025 Percent Change		**7%**	**52%**	**-6**	**19%**

*Unaccompanied youth are shown as a total number, not percentage, due to the small numbers of persons counted. Note: Children represent **60 %** of all people in homeless families.*

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Increasing Chronic Homelessness

Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness
Source: COG 2025

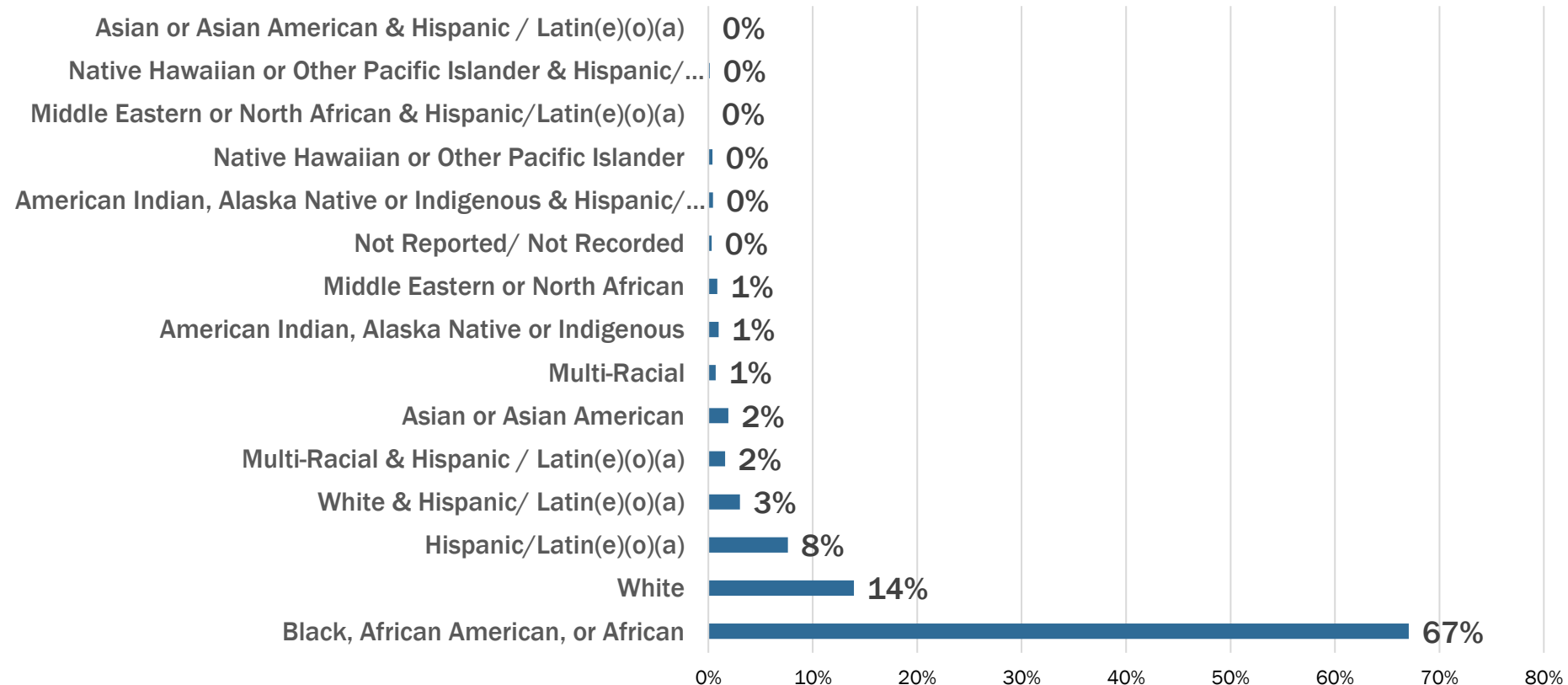| Year	Count
2021	2,148
2022	1,726
2023	1,691
2024	1,928
2025	1,965

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Racial Disparities in Who Experiences Homelessness

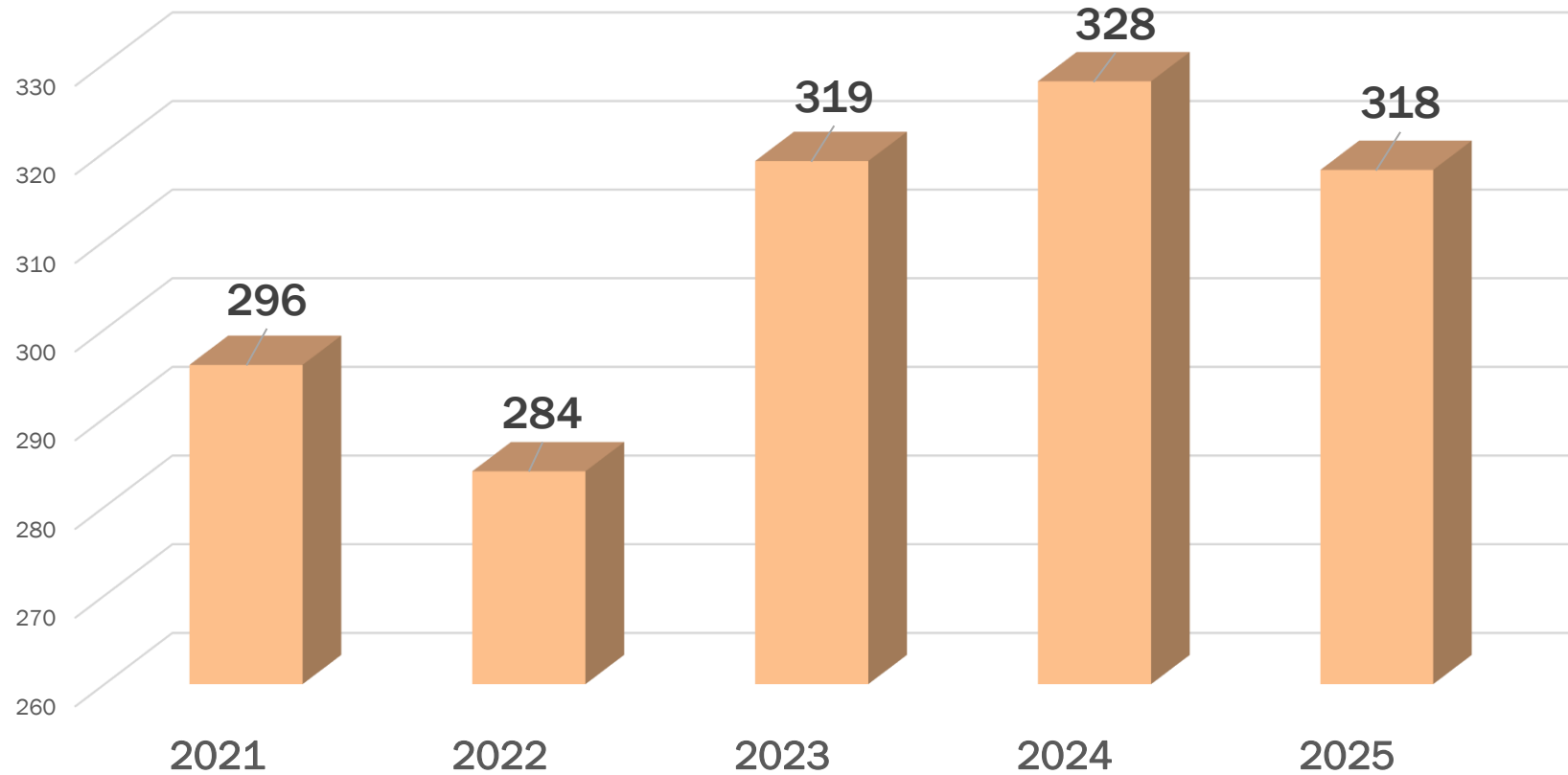**Regional Homeless Single Adults Demographic Profile (Race and Ethnicity)**

Source: COG 2025

Category	Percent
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic / Latin(e)(o)(a)	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander & Hispanic/...	0%
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latin(e)(o)(a)	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/...	0%
Not Reported/ Not Recorded	0%
Middle Eastern or North African	1%
American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous	1%
Multi-Racial	1%
Asian or Asian American	2%
Multi-Racial & Hispanic / Latin(e)(o)(a)	2%
White & Hispanic/ Latin(e)(o)(a)	3%
Hispanic/Latin(e)(o)(a)	8%
White	14%
Black, African American, or African	67%

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Veteran Homelessness

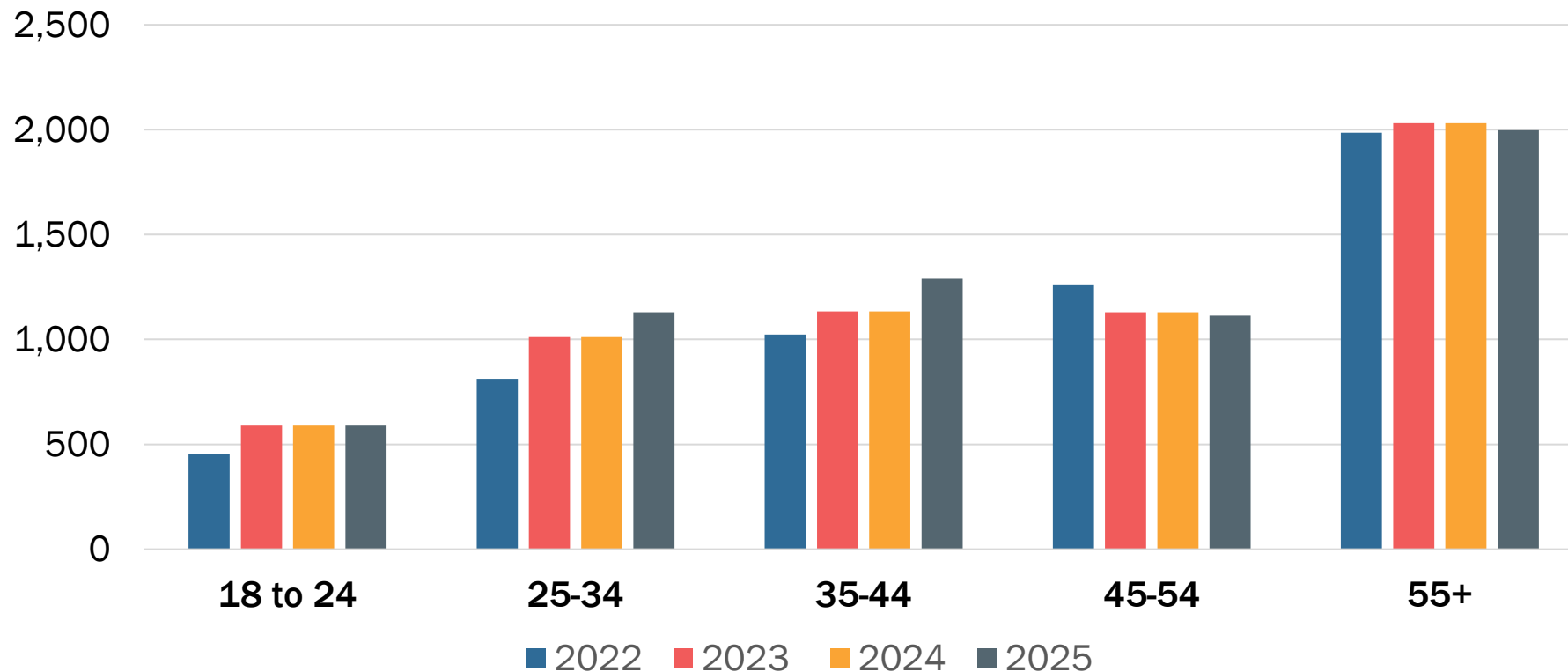**Regional Total Number of Homeless Veterans**
Source: COG 2025

More Seniors Are Experiencing Homelessness

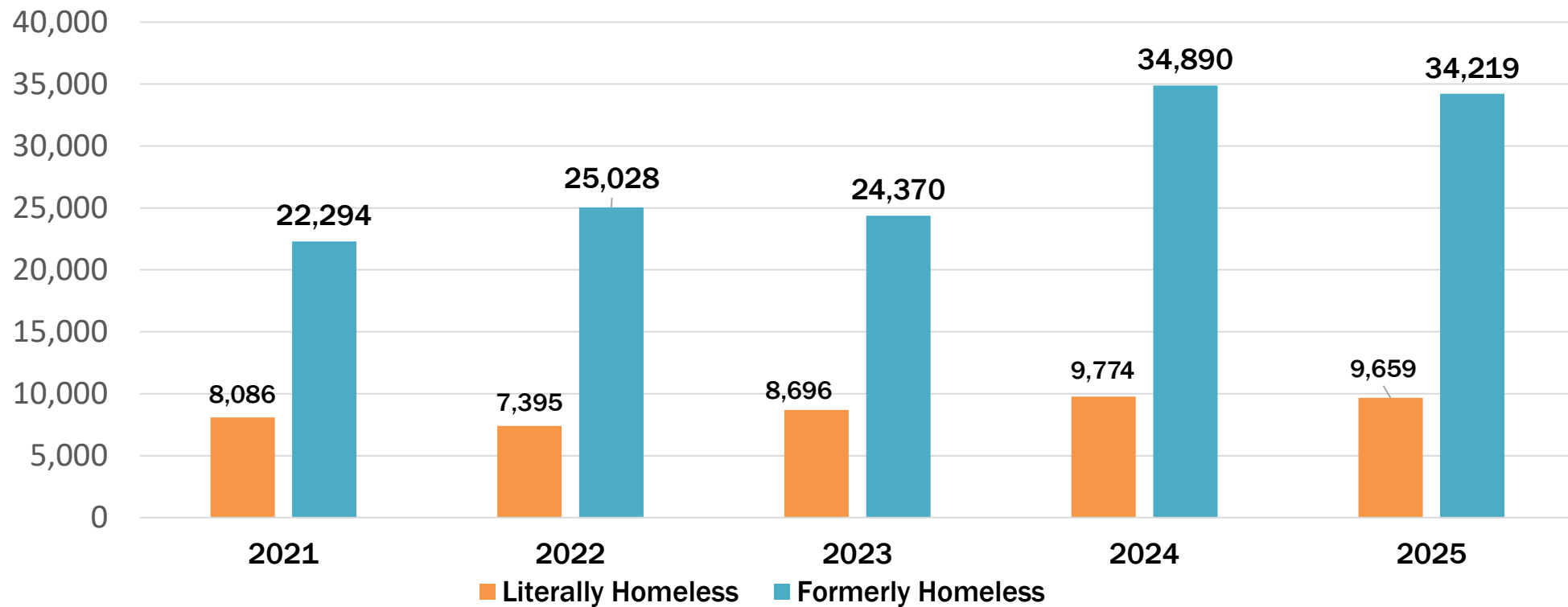Age Distribution of Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness
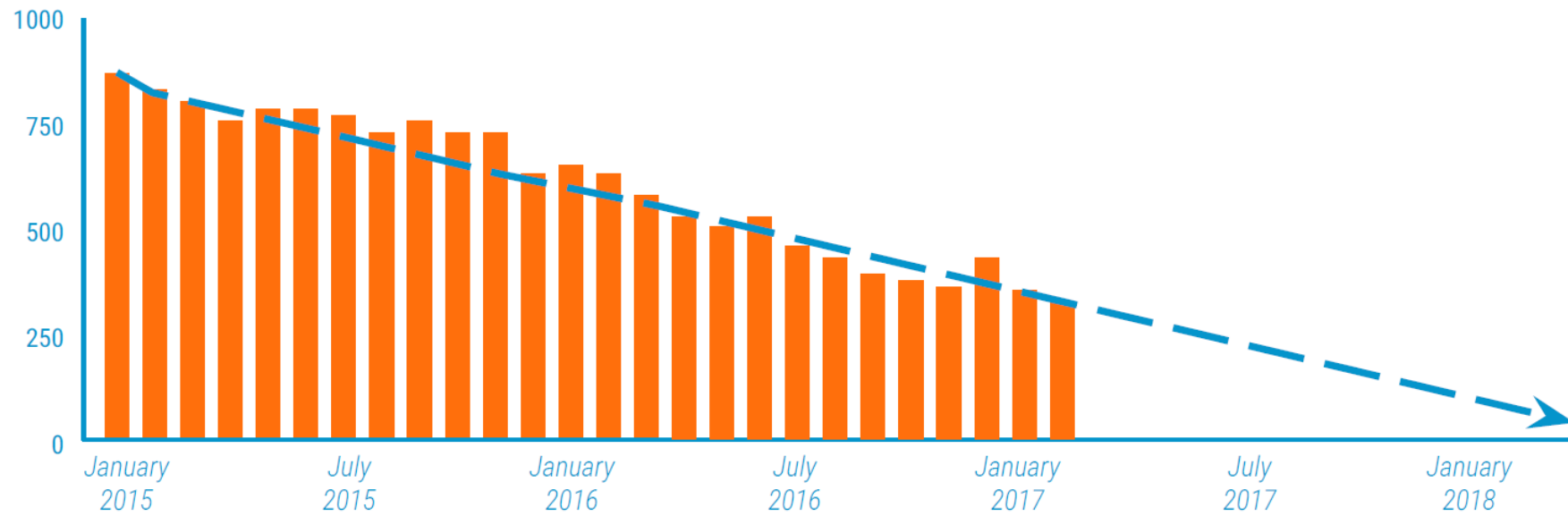*Source: COG 2025*

Formerly Homeless: Regional Progress

Region's Literally and Formerly Homeless in Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Other Permanent Housing

Source: COG 2025

Year	Literally Homeless	Formerly Homeless
2021	8,086	22,294
2022	7,395	25,028
2023	8,696	24,370
2024	9,774	34,890
2025	9,659	34,219

■ Literally Homeless   ■ Formerly Homeless

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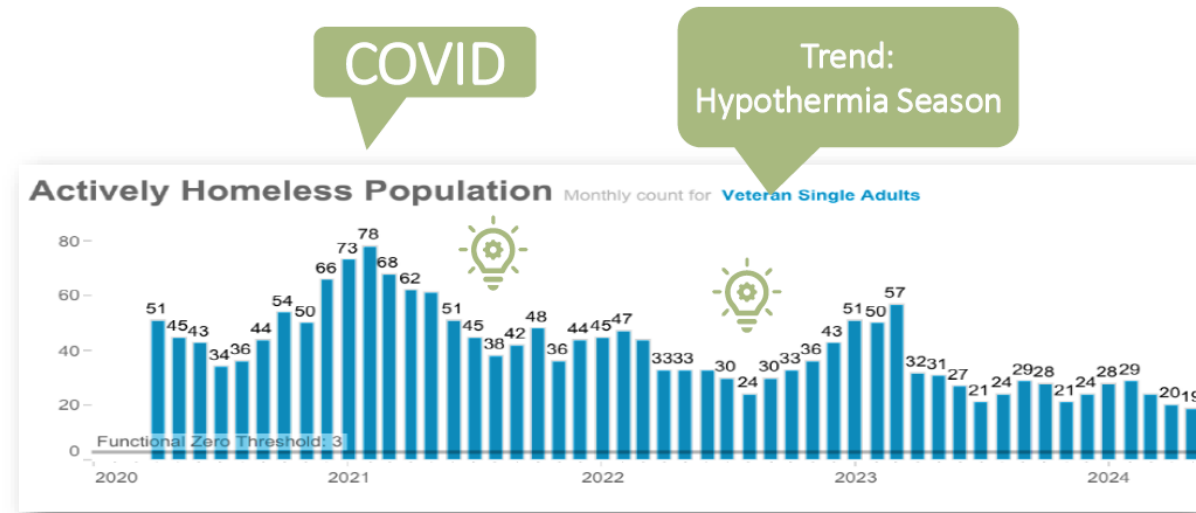# Beyond Point-in-Time: Community Solutions & Built for Zero

Built for Zero is a **methodology and framework** that supports **coordinated, data-driven decision-making** and fosters **ongoing system improvement** across homelessness response efforts.

Looking Ahead: Built for Zero

Data, Data, Data!

- New jurisdictions work to achieve *Quality By-Name Data*

- New jurisdictions upload data monthly to Community Solutions' regional tracker

- September: Review progress from first 6 months and draft new 6-month action plan

Credit: Fairfax County Built for Zero Presentation to the COG Homeless Services Committee

Looking Ahead: Data Sharing

EXPAND

- Regional data sharing

ADVANCE

- Secure, privacy-centered data integration to guide regional strategies
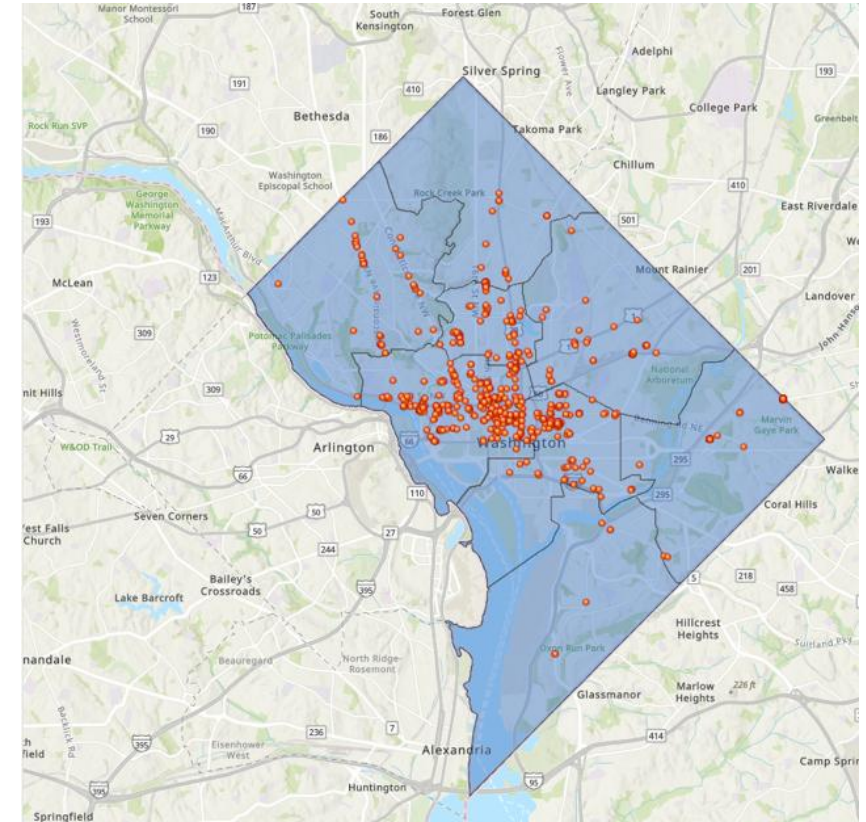
STRENGTHEN

- Cross-system collaboration to connect homelessness data with broader health, behavioral health, and social services systems to address the root causes of homelessness

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Regional Collaboration, Local Action: District of Columbia

- **1,000+ families** exited through a coordinated voucher initiative between DHS and the Housing Authority.

- **Real-time tools** like Project Reconnect and the Front Door Navigation Tool connected 151 households to diversion services.

- **Peer leadership pipeline** launched through the Peer Case Management Institute—35 trained, 20 now employed in the system.

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Regional Collaboration, Local Action: Montgomery County

- **Expanded diversion** to single adults through centralized intake—diverting over 2,000 households from entering the system.

- **Strategic planning** in 2025 with six core strategies, including regional coordination.

- **Flexible housing programs** helped move 110+ families into permanent housing this year.

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Unique Challenges Ahead & Key Takeaways

Challenges

- **Federal changes may slow progress:** Shifts away from Housing First and restrictive grant terms could undercut local momentum.

- **Encampment actions ripple regionally:** Clearances in one area can displace people and overwhelm neighboring systems.

The Way Forward

- **Align regionally, act collectively:** Built for Zero and other shared strategies help jurisdictions coordinate for greater impact.

- **Expand deeply affordable housing:** Long-term housing with supportive services is key to reducing and ending homelessness across the region.

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