

HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

Results of the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Regional Homelessness Strategies

Christine Hong, Chief, Services to End & Prevent Homelessness, Montgomery County
Hilary Chapman, COG Regional Housing Program Manager
Sam Kenney, COG Senior Housing and Homelessness Planner

COG Board of Directors
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Roadmap

- 01 Context**
What is the PIT count, what can it tell us, and limitations on interpretation of results.
- 02 Regional results**
Overall trends, jurisdictional variation, and key subpopulation findings.
- 03 Broader regional homelessness response**
Built for Zero, data quality, and committee coordination.
- 04 Regional next steps**
Challenges and looking ahead.

Context: What is the PIT Count?

HUD-required one-day count of people experiencing homelessness.

Includes

- People in shelter, transitional housing, safe havens, and places not meant for habitation.
- Both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness under HUD's definition.

Does not include

- Most people doubled up with family or friends.
- Everyone experiencing housing instability during the year.

Methodology note

- Sheltered counts primarily use administrative data and electronic records.
- Unsheltered counts rely on outreach, surveys, local knowledge, and estimation.
- Methods used are HUD-approved and vary by community type.

Context: What These Numbers Do – and Do Not – Show

The PIT count shows:

- Who was reported on one night – in shelter or unsheltered.
- Where people were counted.
- Household type, shelter status, and key subpopulations.
- Change over time and across jurisdictions.

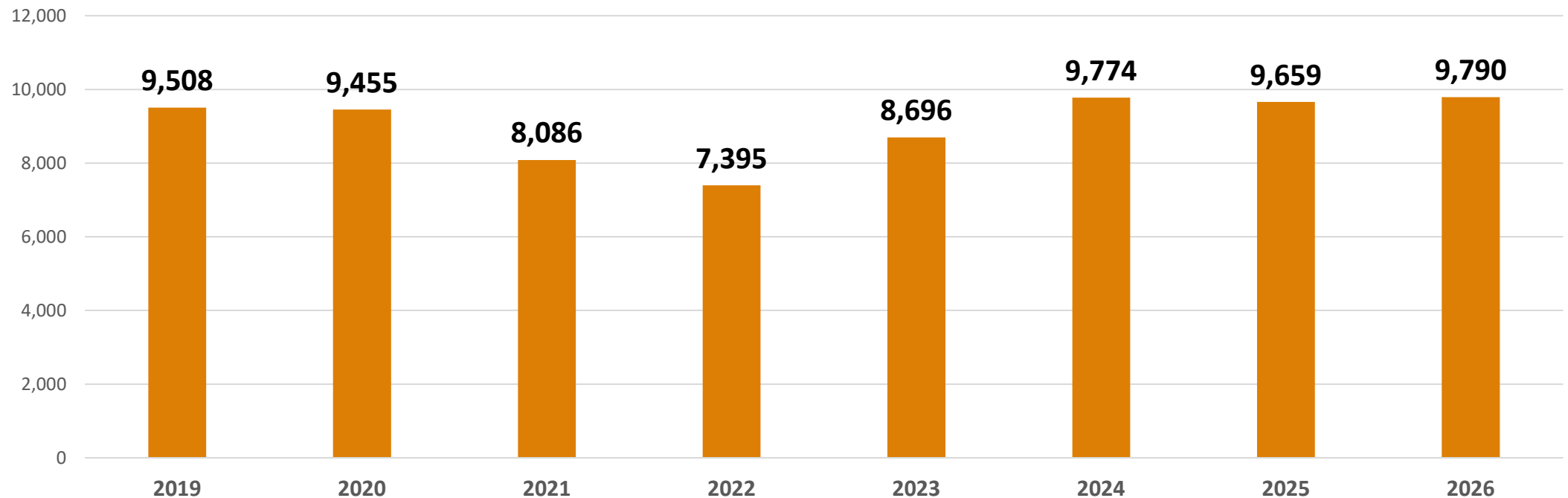
Limitations of PIT data, or what it does NOT show:

- Causation – why is someone experiencing homelessness?
- Limited ability to infer why the numbers change from one year to the next.

Broader context: The full report discusses factors that may influence homelessness trends, including housing costs, deeply affordable housing supply, income, federal supports, shelter capacity, weather, methodology, and data quality.

How Many People Are Experiencing Homelessness in our Region?

Persons Experiencing Literal Homelessness in the Metropolitan Washington Region, 2019–2026*



Source: COG 2026

*Totals for 2022-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

How Many People Are Experiencing Homelessness In Each Jurisdiction?

People Experiencing Literal Homelessness by Jurisdiction, 2025 - 2026				
Jurisdiction	2025	2026	Change in Number of Persons 2025-2026	Percent Change 2025 - 2026
City of Alexandria, VA	166	189	23	14%
Arlington County, VA	271	268	-3	-1%
District of Columbia	5,138	5,363	225	4%
Fairfax County, VA	1,322	1,365	43	3%
Loudoun County, VA	252	315	63	25%
Montgomery County, MD	1,510	1,120	-390	-26%
Prince George's County, MD	608	783	175	29%
Prince William County, VA	392	387	-5	-1%
TOTAL	9,659	9,790	131	1%

Source: COG 2026

*Totals for 2022-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick.

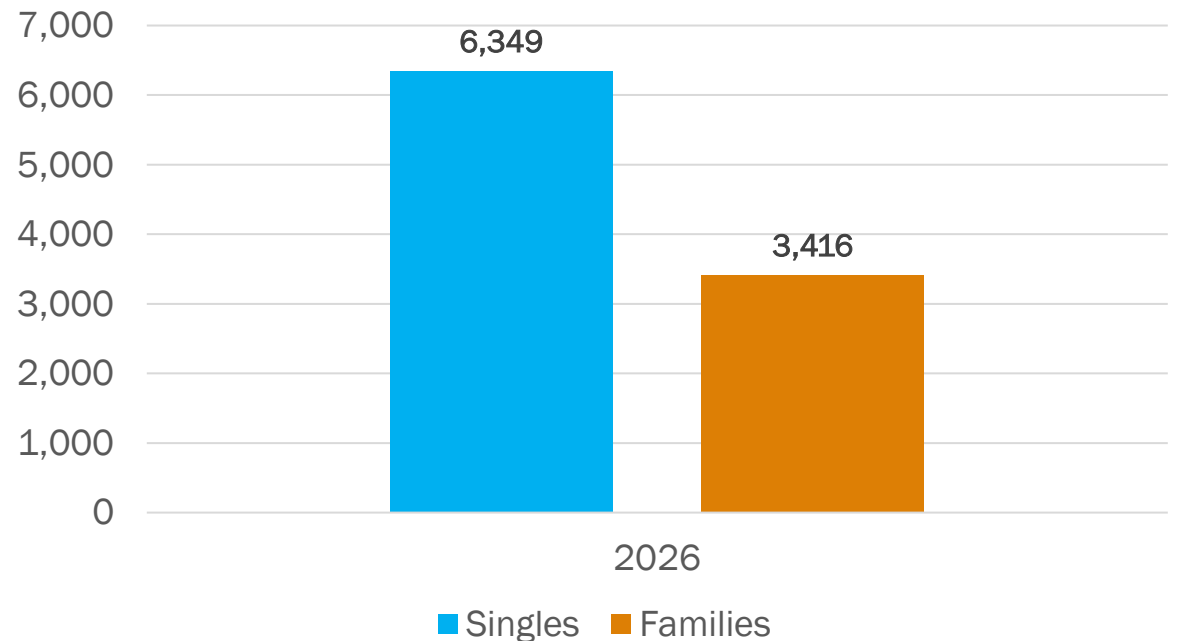
Note: The District of Columbia's 2026 unsheltered total was estimated and included in the regional total.

Families and Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness

In 2026:

- **65%** are single adults
- **35%** are people in families
- **61%** of persons in families are children

Persons Experiencing Homelessness by Household Type, 2026

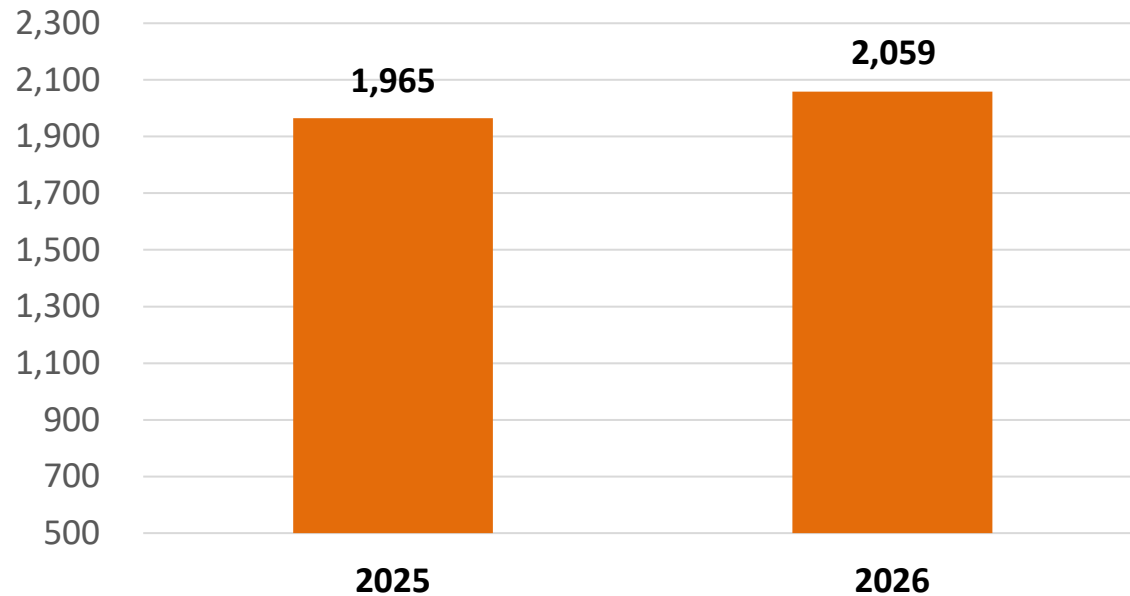


Source: COG 2026 PIT Count.

Note: Chart excludes Households with ONLY Minor Children due to the small number of unaccompanied minors counted.

Chronic Homelessness

Change in Single Adults Experiencing Chronic Homelessness, 2025 to 2026*



Source: COG 2026

*Totals for 2022-2023 have been revised to reflect the regional number without the City and County of Frederick

Note: The District of Columbia's 2026 unsheltered single-adult total was estimated and included in the regional total

HUD Definition:

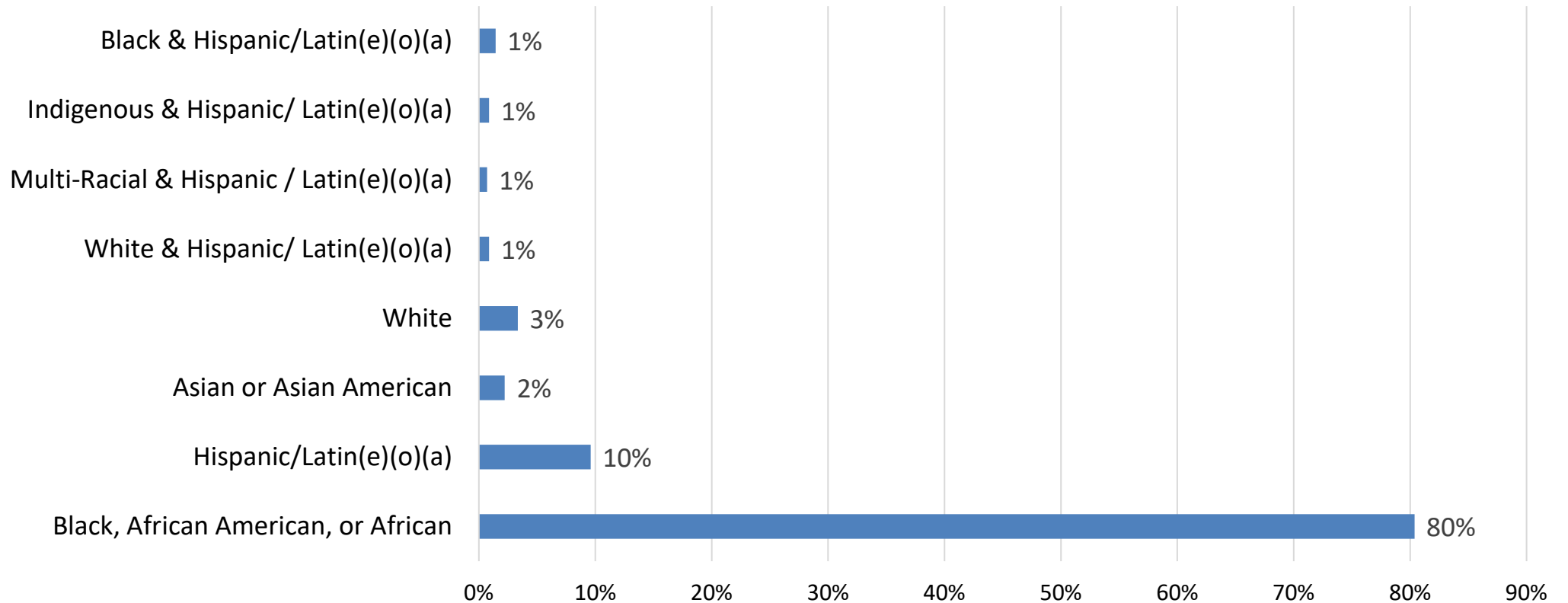
- One year continuously homeless, or;
- Multiple episodes totaling 12 months over three years, and;
- A disabling condition.

Why it matters:

- Longer shelter stays;
- Repeated episodes of homelessness and increased individual trauma, and;
- External research shows that PSH can cut public costs associated with chronic homelessness by reducing reliance on emergency medical, judicial, shelter, and crisis services.

Racial Disparities in Who Experiences Homelessness

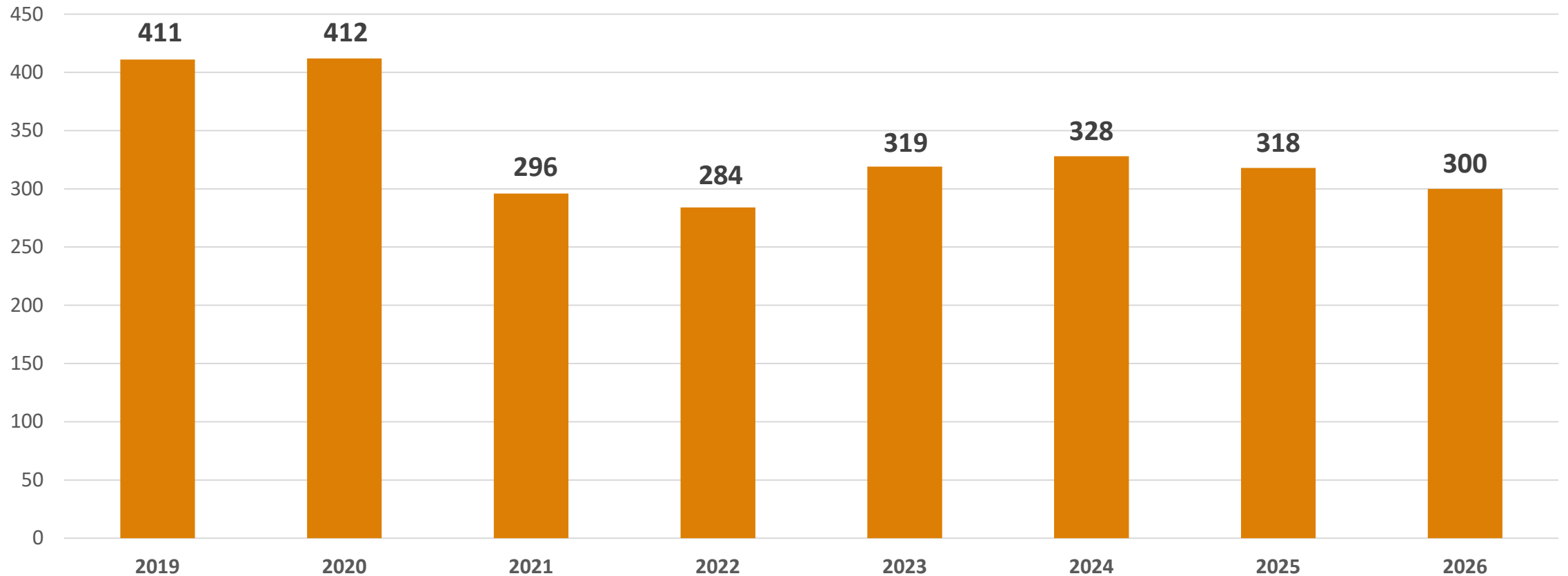
Regional Homeless Adults in Families Demographic Profile (Race & Ethnicity), 2026



Source: COG 2026

Veteran Homelessness

Regional Total Number of Homeless Veterans, 2019 – 2026*



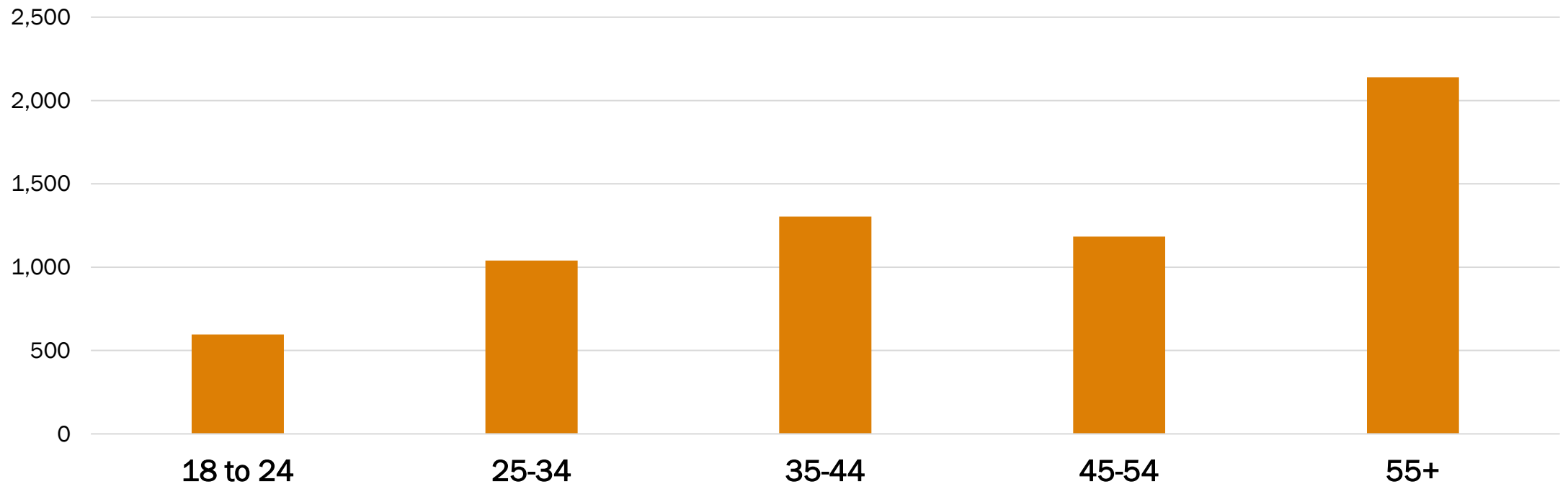
Source: COG 2026

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Note: The District of Columbia's 2026 unsheltered single-adult total was estimated and included in the regional total

Age Distribution of Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness, 2026

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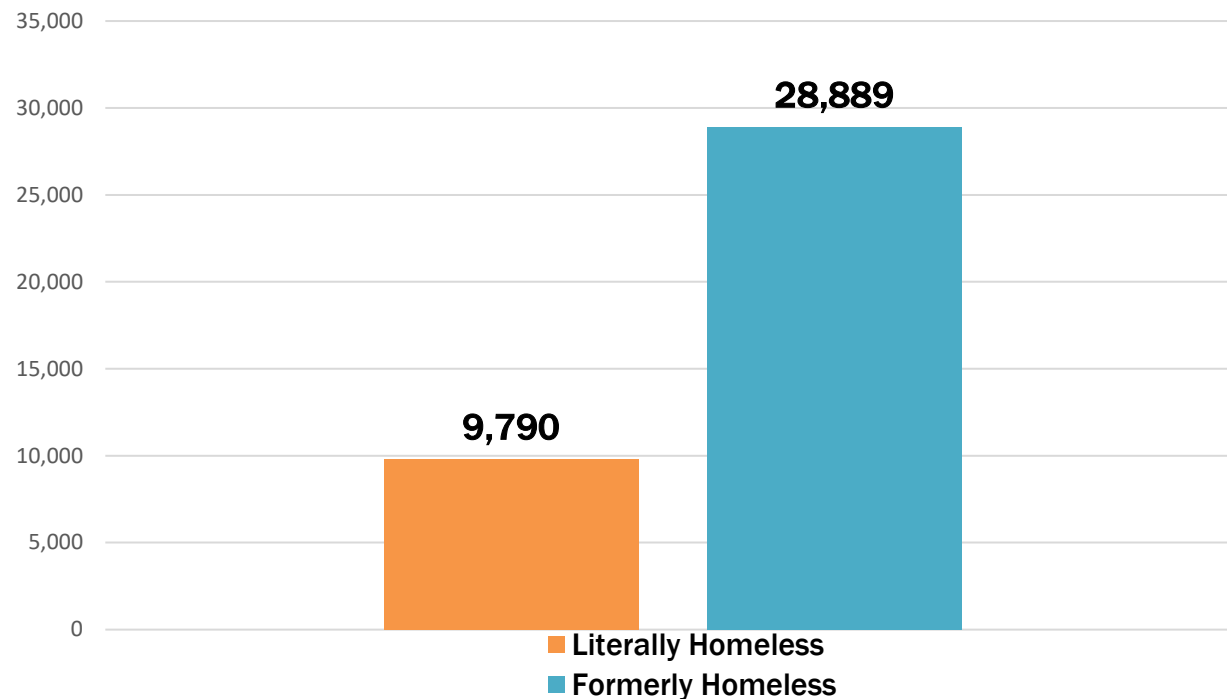


Source: COG 2026

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Formerly Homeless: Regional Progress

Region's Literally and Formerly Homeless in Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Other Permanent Housing, 2026



Source: COG 2026

Permanent housing included:

- 19,357 in permanent supportive housing
- 3,680 in rapid re-housing
- 5,852 in other permanent housing

Permanent housing remains a major part of the regional response. **On PIT night, nearly three times as many formerly homeless residents were in permanent housing as were experiencing homelessness.**

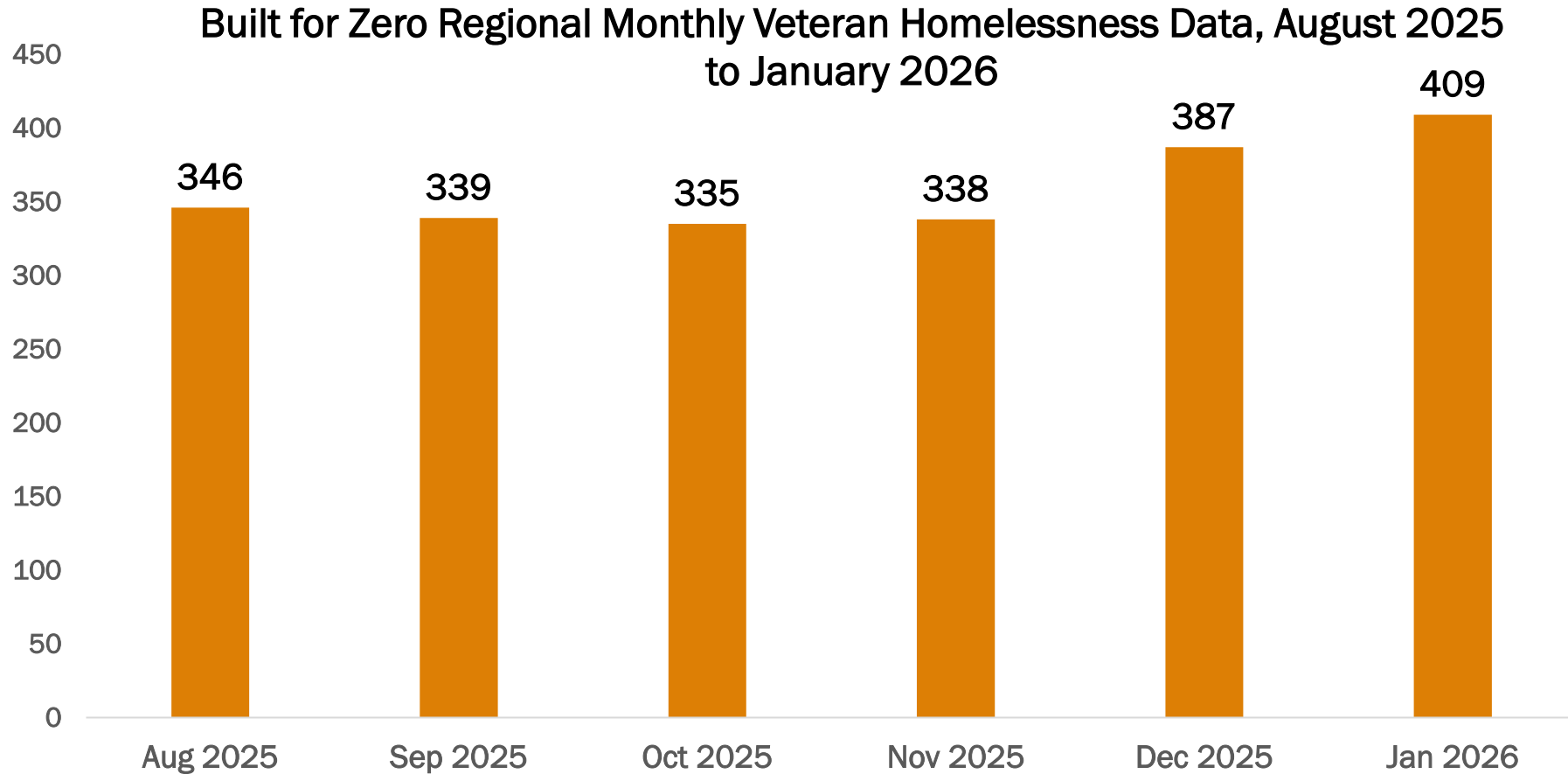
Beyond Point-in-Time: Community Solutions & Built for Zero

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



Members of the Homeless Services Committee participating in an all-day “Learning Session” at COG Headquarters: March 2026

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



Source: COG 2026

Looking Ahead



Improve data quality and visibility: Expand monthly data de-identified uploads, strengthen data quality, and use shared metrics to understand changes between annual PIT counts.

Strengthen system performance: Continue regional coordination through COG, Built for Zero, the Homeless Services Committee, and the Regional Compact to End Homelessness.

Monitor federal policy changes: Track FY2026 CoC funding, renewal protections, grant execution, and policy shifts that could affect local housing and service capacity.

Christine Hong

Chief, Services to End & Prevent Homelessness, Montgomery County

(240) 777-1179

Christine.Hong@montgomerycountymd.gov

Hilary Chapman

COG Housing Program Manager

(202) 962-3346

hchapman@mwcog.org

Sam Kenney

COG Senior Housing and Homelessness Planner

(202) 962-3312

skenney@mwcog.org

mwcog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002