Manager's Report

May 10, 2022

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Presentation Overview

- Homelessness Initiatives
  - 2022 Point-in-Time Count results
  - AHOPE updates
  - Food Sharing
- Community Cleanliness Update

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2022 Point-in-Time Count Results

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Key Takeaways

- Homelessness has increased 21% since 2021
- COVID has significantly impacted community homeless services
  - Volume and complexity of needs increased
  - Shelter inventory decreased due to protocols
  - Infusion of federal rental assistance and temporary non-congregate shelter helped offset COVID's impact on homelessness, but didn't fully close the gap
- Consultant will assist with deeper data analysis to better understand implications and opportunities.

2022 Point-in-Time Count

- Annual count of all people experiencing literal homelessness on a single night within the last 10 days of January
    - Follows federal definition of literal homelessness (shelter, transitional housing, unsheltered - excludes people doubled up)
- Federal requirement for all Continua of Care to conduct and report on
- Informs federal resources to address homelessness at the local level
- Has limitations but is conducted similarly year after year and is our only comprehensive dataset on homelessness
- Shelter count is accurate; likely undercounts the number of people who are unsheltered

Process

- Conducted evening of January 25, 2022
  - Methodology change from Wednesday to Tuesday to include Haywood Street's Welcome Table
- 48 volunteers on 16 teams
  - Primarily homeless services staff
  - 7 City staff
- Data collected via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and paper survey forms that are manually entered into HMIS, verified, and deduplicated by City staff
- Survey questions include demographics, history of homelessness, and household composition and characteristics
  - New this year: supplemental questions for people who are unsheltered
- Participation is voluntary

Process

- Results include data from:
  - Shelters: Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Helpmate, Trinity Place, Haywood Street Respite, Ramada, Homeward Bound's veteran non-congregate shelter, Code Purple sites
  - Transitional Housing: ABCCM, Eliada, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry
  - Unsheltered: AHOPE, Haywood Street's Welcome Table, school system liaisons, APD, 16 street count teams
- Report was submitted to HUD April 26th (submission deadline was May 6, 2022)

Overview

- Overall, a 21% increase in the number of people who are homeless
- The sheltered population declined slightly
- The number of unsheltered individuals doubled

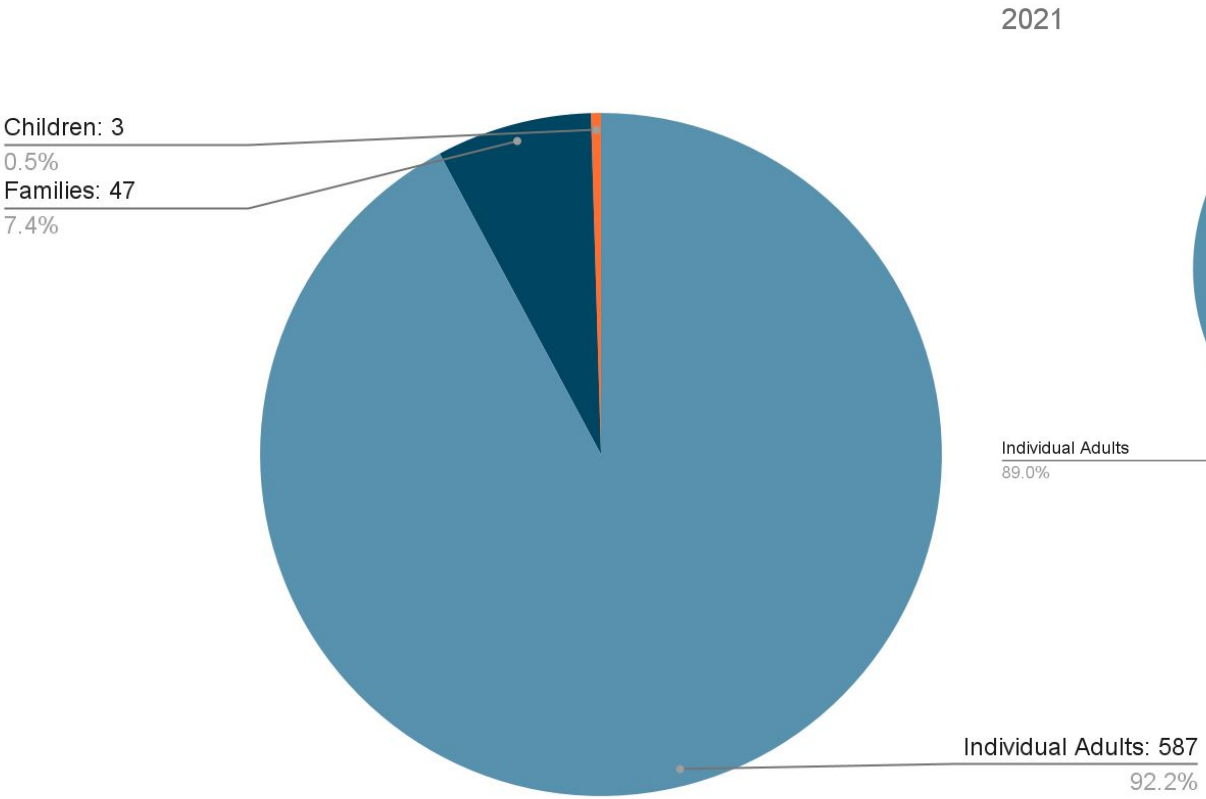
	2020*	2021	2022
Sheltered	482	411	**405**
Unsheltered	65	116	**232**
Total	547	527	**637**

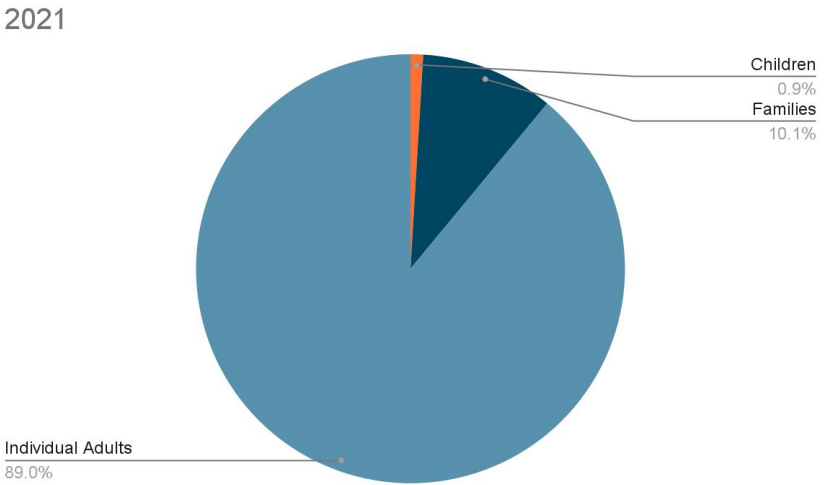
*Pre-pandemic baseline

Population Characteristics

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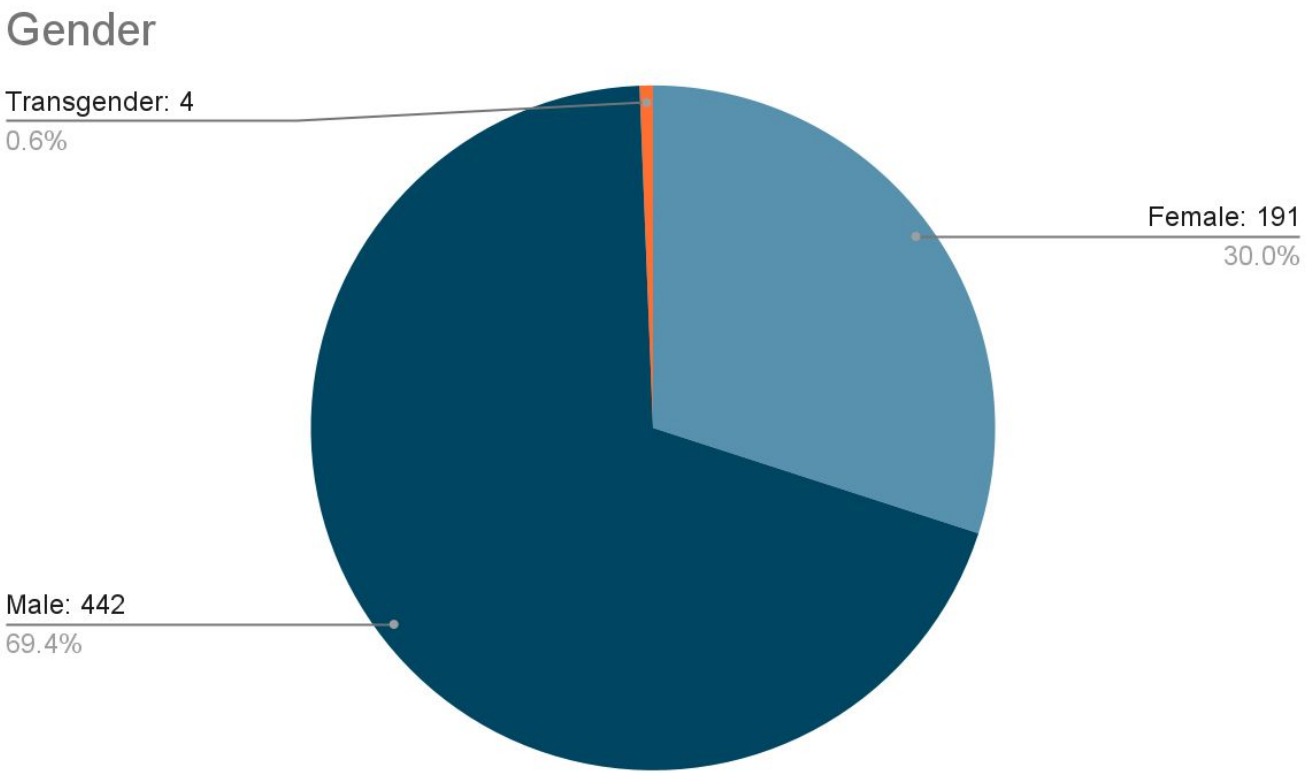
Household Composition





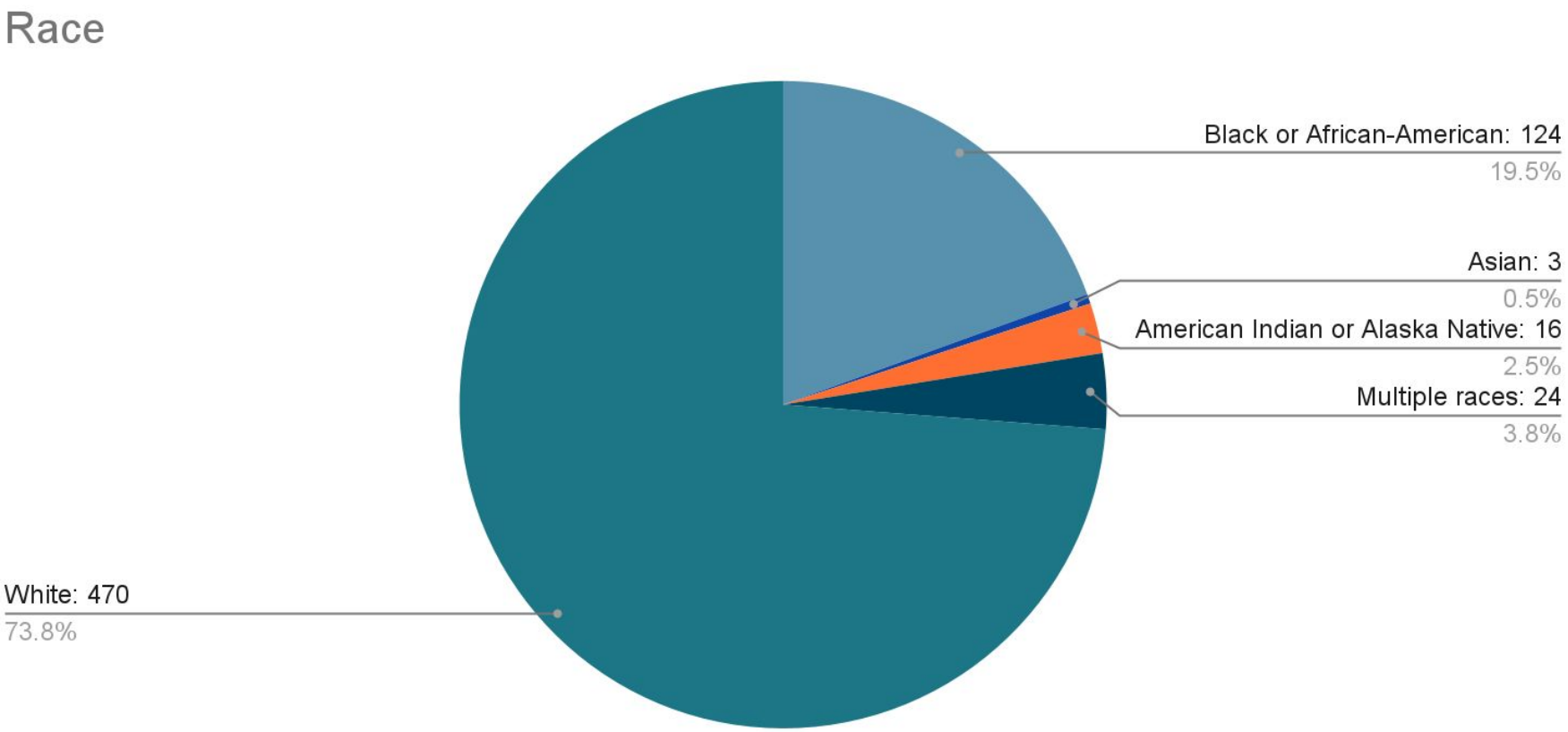
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Demographic characteristics

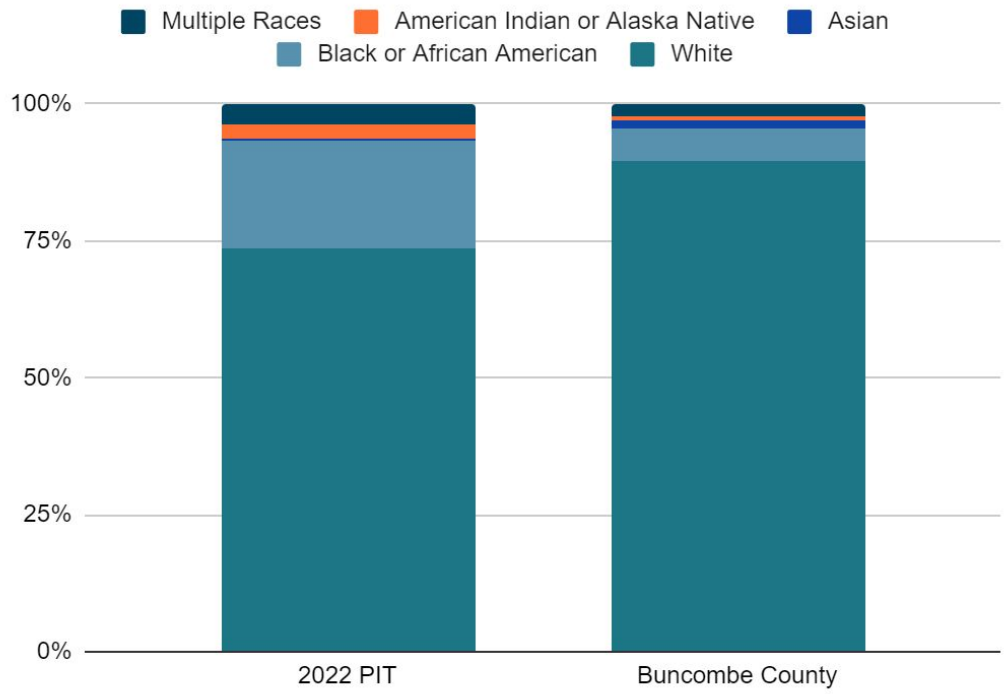


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Demographic characteristics



Demographic characteristics

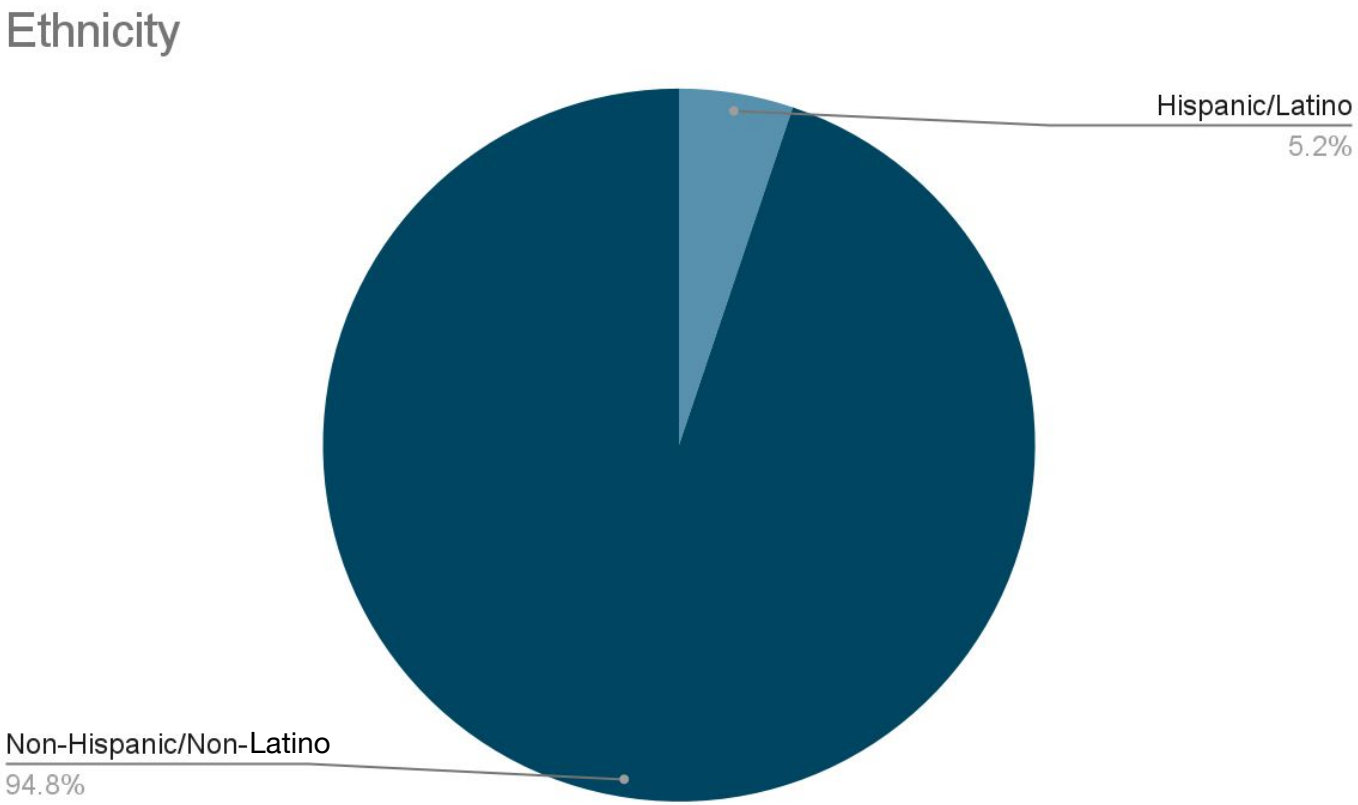


Comparison with general population in Buncombe County:

- 6.3% of the population is Black or African American but represent 19.5% of the PIT
- 0.07% of the population is American Indian but represent 2.5% of the PIT

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Demographic characteristics



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Additional characteristics

People are often represented in multiple subpopulations (e.g. can be both a veteran and chronically homeless)

Subpopulations	2021	2022
Chronic (12 months homeless + disability)	154	**211**
Veterans	188	**150**
Youth (under 25)	25	**29**
Adult survivors of domestic violence	46	**68**
Adults with mental illness	110	**134**
Adults with substance use disorders	84	**100**

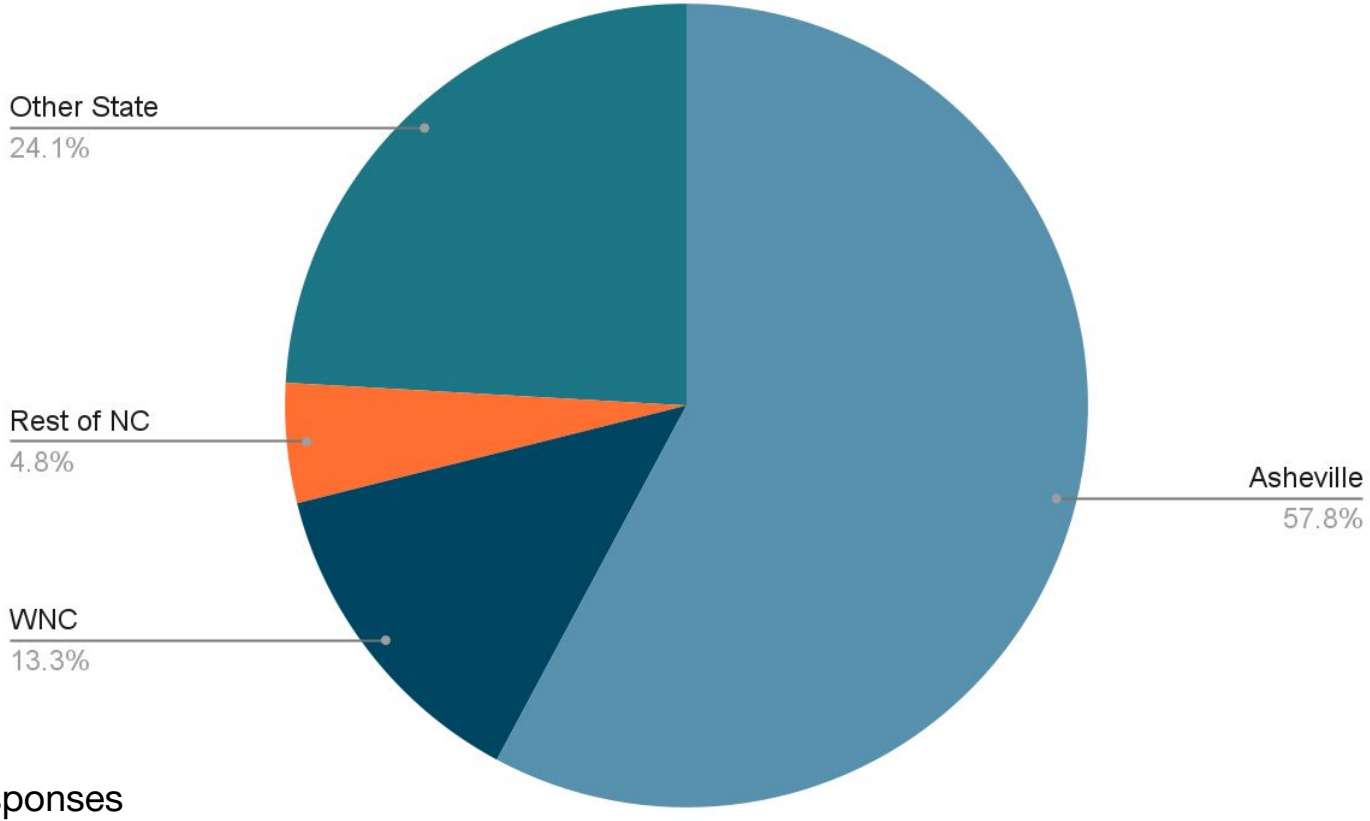
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Supplemental Questions:

Unsheltered Surveys

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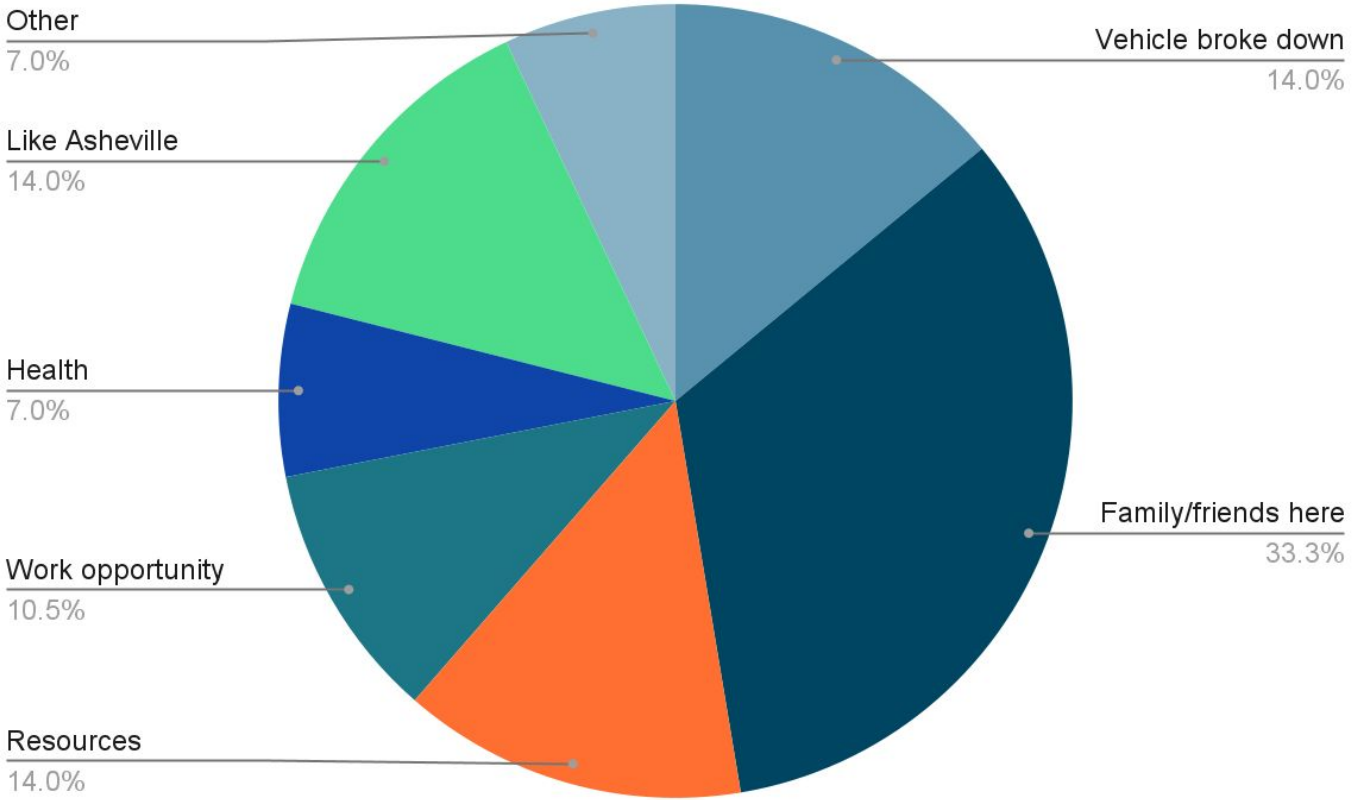
When you last had housing, where was it?



166 responses

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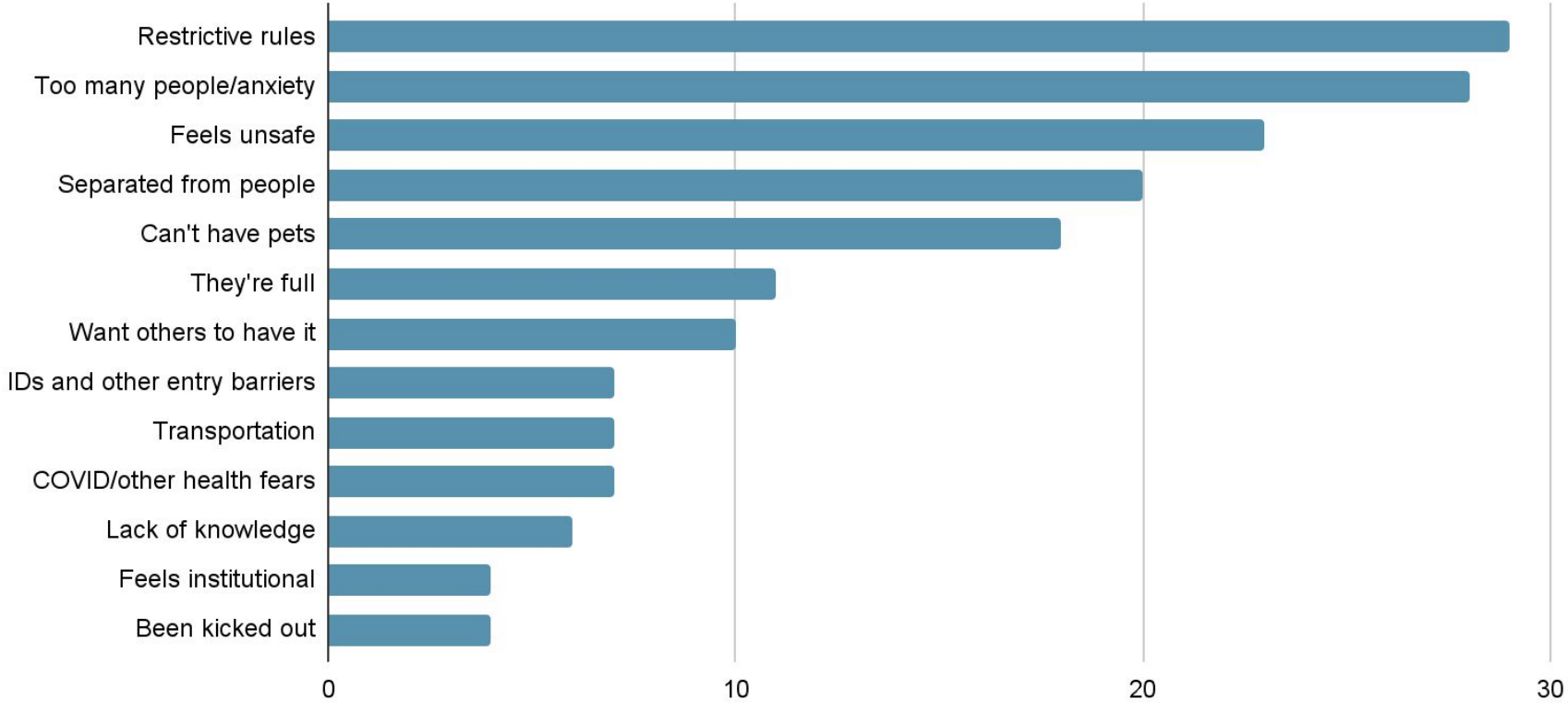
What brought you to Asheville?



57 responses

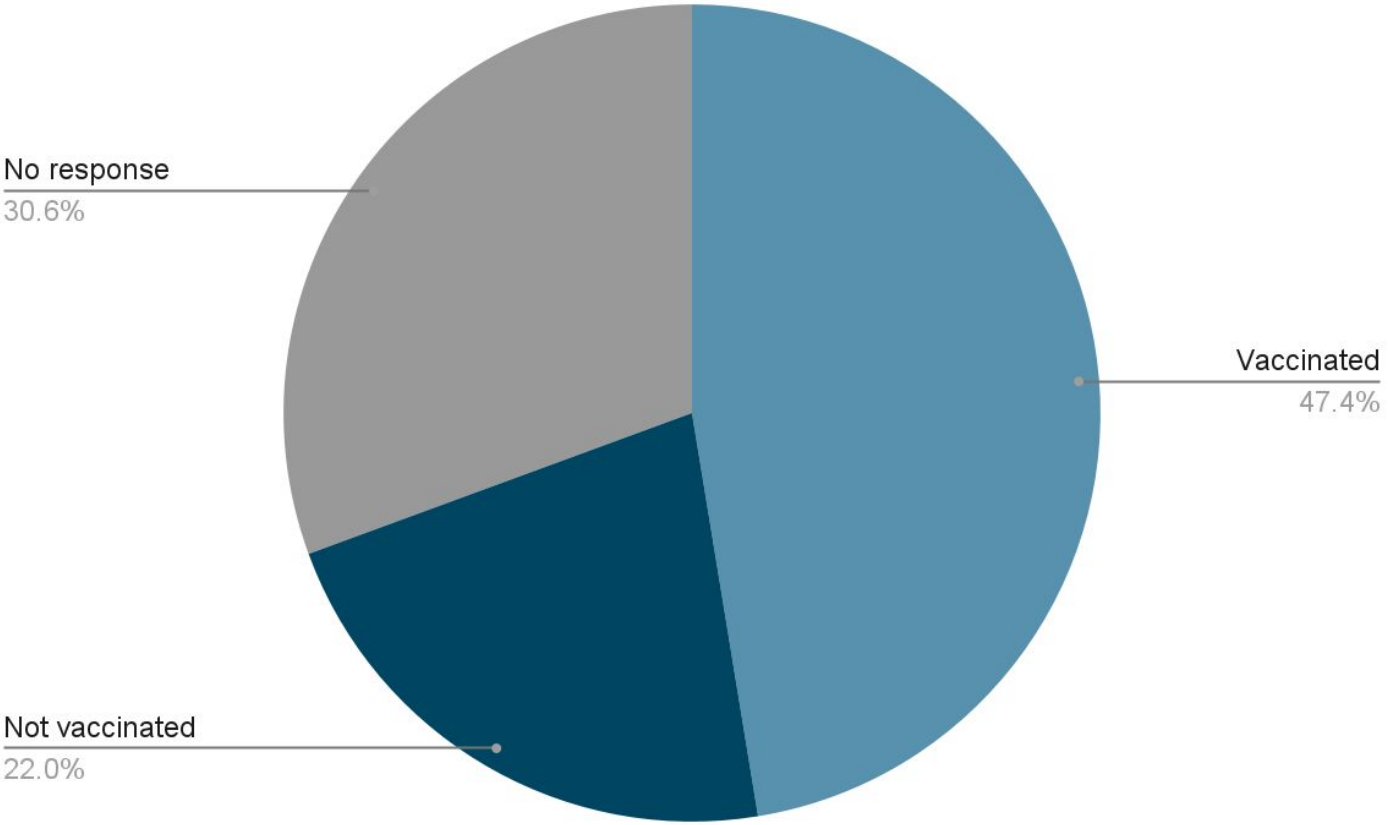
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What's the main reason you aren't staying at a shelter right now?



174 responses

Have you had a COVID vaccine?



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Housing Inventory Count

The Housing Inventory Count is submitted to HUD along with the Point in Time to reflect the number and type of beds available on that same night, and the utilization rate

COVID impact on inventory

- Shelter capacity decreased substantially
  - Some programs closed
  - Some programs decreased beds to allow for distancing
  - COVID screening protocols slowed inflow
- Non-congregate shelters emerged as a new national practice, and created shelter opportunities for people who are traditionally unsheltered
- Acuity of need, particularly behavioral health needs, has increased
- CARES Act resources prevented homelessness and created new capacity in housing programs (CDBG-CV, ESG-CV)

Inventory: Shelter and Transitional Housing

Bed Type	2020	2021	2022
Shelter	285	202	144
Non-congregate	0	106	71
Code Purple	75	50	78
Transitional Housing	264	276	267
Total	**624**	**634**	**560**

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Bed Utilization

Bed Type	2022 Inventory	2022 PIT	Open Beds
Shelter	144	89	55
Non-congregate	71	71	0
Code Purple	78	47	31
Transitional Housing	267	198	69
Total	**560**	**405**	**155**

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Inventory: Permanent Housing

Bed Type	2020	2021	2022
Rapid Rehousing	31	108	168
Permanent Supportive Housing	546	667	695
Total	**577**	**775**	**863**

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Key Takeaways

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  - Volume and severity of needs increased
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AHOPE Updates

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Asheville Homeless Outreach Project for Empowerment

A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money.

-W. C. Fields

HOMEWARD BOUND
the key to ending homelessness

Who we serve?

Information and Community Resource Hub for a unique array of individuals with unstable housing needs.

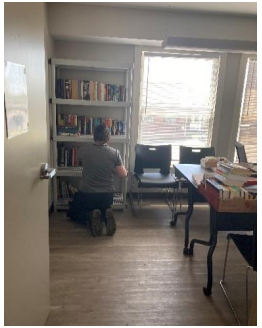
This includes individuals from various backgrounds, with differing ideologies, racial and gender identities and sexual orientations.

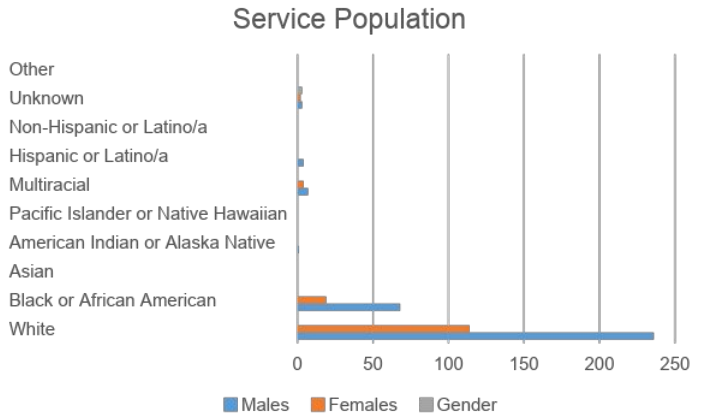
- **Physical Health**
- **Mental Health**
- **Substance Use**

We serve the community.









A+ Services: Present and Future

- AHOPE Day Center: Daily Services for Community Stability
- Outreach/Engagement: Community Service Engagement
- Coordinated Entry: Housing Systems Management & Placement

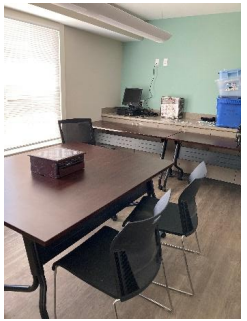
Building Service Capacity: Future A+ Services

- Employment Support Services
- Enrichment Services
- Peer Support Services









Partnership with The City of Asheville



We continue our mission to care for the most vulnerable with assistance of our partners through:

- **Safety Measures**
- **Systems Management**
- **Resource Management**
- **Collaboration**
- **Communication**
- **Participation**

Strategies for Community Stability

We have created and foster a calm, safe and productive environment through:

- **Awareness for Safety**
- **Crisis Management**
- **Reinforcement of Community Expectations**
- **Appeals for violations**
- **Restitution**
- **Overnight security services**
- **Cleanliness**

Community Culture

We are building a community of inclusion with:

- **Community Members**
- **Community Leaders**
- **Community Meetings**
- **Accountability**
- **Partnerships**





A-Hope Calls for Service - APD

- APD calls for service at A-Hope have decreased
  - December 2021 - 98 calls
  - January 2022 - 44 calls
  - February 2022 - 66 calls
  - March 2022 - 42 calls
  - April 2022 - 22 calls

A-Hope Area Crime Stats

- From January 1st to April 25th, there have been 29 crimes reported within 250 ft of 19 N Ann St and 39 within 500ft (the 500 ft radius includes the initial 29 crimes). Below are two tables summarizing the counts by crime type and month.

Within 250ft of 19 N Ann St					
Crime Type	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**Total**
Violent	1	1			2
Property	2	1	3	1	7
Other Criminal	5	7	6	2	20
Total	**8**	**9**	**9**	**3**	**29**

Within 500ft of 19 N Ann St					
Crime Type	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**Total**
Violent	1	1			2
Property	5	2	5	1	13
Other Criminal	6	8	6	4	24
Total	**12**	**11**	**11**	**5**	**39**

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Food Sharing

Food Sharing

- City staff have held 4 meetings with groups that share food with community members
- Conversations are on-going as we work together to identify how the city can work with and support organizations that serve the needs of our community members
- The city currently does not have plans to enact an ordinance around food sharing
- Working with groups to develop meal sharing guidelines

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Community Cleanliness Efforts

Throughout April Asheville GreenWorks and the City of Asheville collaborated with community groups and organizations for community clean ups:

- Downtown Cleanup with ADA and BeLoved
  - 153 volunteers, 60 bags, 700 lbs
- Haywood Road Cleanup with West Asheville Business Association
  - 62 volunteers, 50 bags, 690 lbs
- Neighborhood Cleanups during Earth Week
  - 8 groups reported back - 107 bags of trash + 86 volunteers

Key takeaways

- We are still experiencing the effects of the pandemic, and City staff is responding with an “all hands on deck” approach
- The National Alliance to End Homelessness will help us understand our community’s capacity and identify strategic opportunities to do more in partnership based on what’s working across the country
- Our whole community benefits by ending homelessness, and our greatest impact comes when we work together; we can do more as partners than we can do alone