Sheltered Homelessness in the Upstate of South Carolina from 2017 to 2020

Upstate Continuum of Care

&

Miracle Hill Ministries

SC Upstate Continuum of Care

It's all housed here

www.upstatecoc.org

Welcome

Natalie Worley, PhD
Director of CoC Planning and Data Management, United Housing Connections, serving the Upstate Continuum of Care

Today's Program

- *Format & Housekeeping*
- *Introduction to the Study*
- *Results & Conclusions*
- *Question & Answer Session*

Housekeeping Notes

Paulette Dunn
Communications & Administrative Director,
United Housing Connections

- Webinar mode - all attendees are muted
- Questions/Comments can be added to Q&A/Chat
- Questions will be addressed at the end
- Presentation is being recorded

Report Introduction

Ryan T. Duerk
President/CEO
Miracle Hill Ministries

Sheltered Homelessness in the Upstate of South Carolina

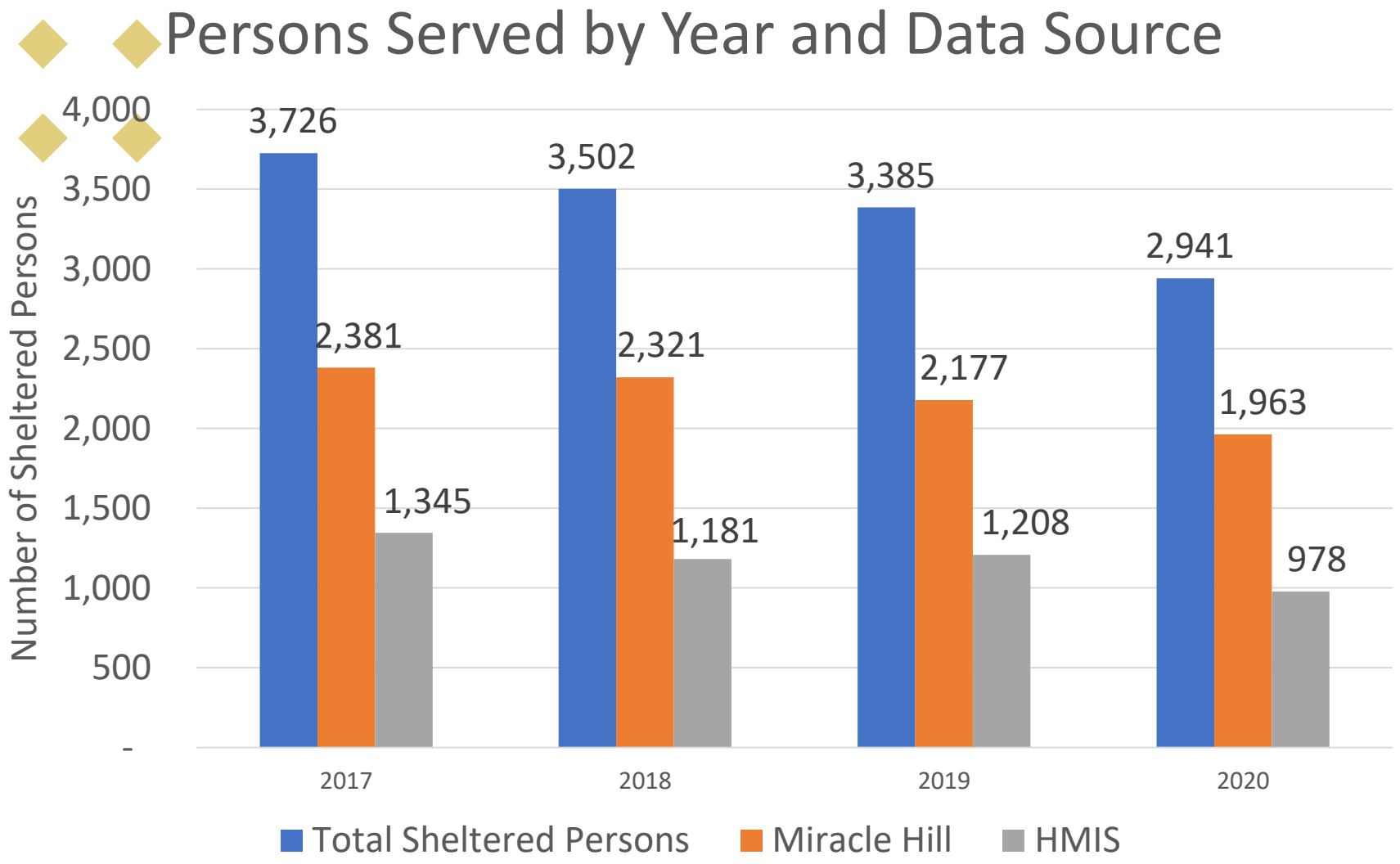
Austin Barrett, PhD
Data Analyst, United Housing Connections
serving the Upstate Continuum of Care

Methodology

- *Multiple Data Extracts*
- *Deduplication*
- *Deidentification*
- *Merger with 2017 & 2018*
- *Analysis & Interpretation*
    - *Focused on trends – all four years analyzed*

Number of Sheltered Persons from 2017-2020

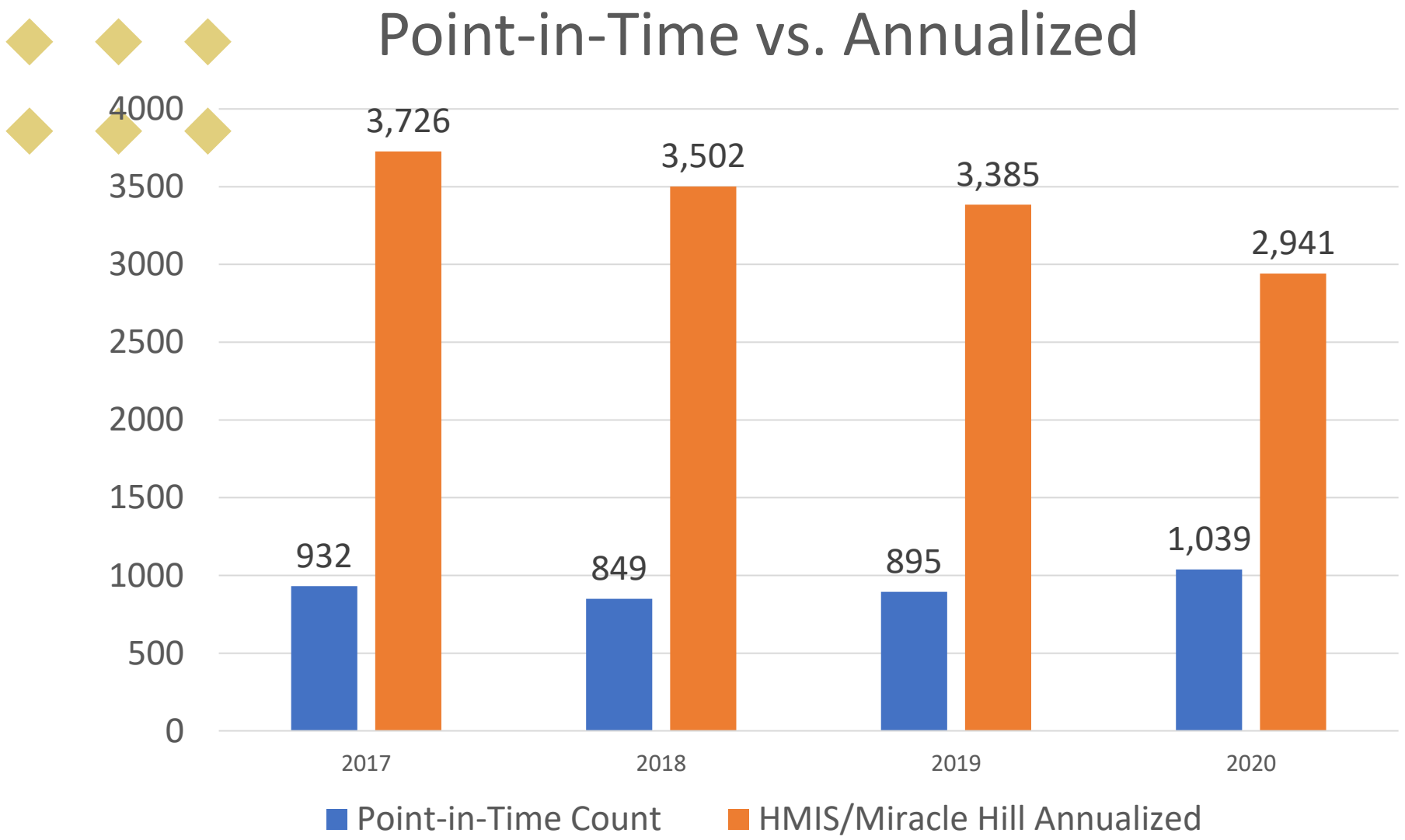
Remains high despite a decrease from 2019 to 2020



Potential Reasons for the Decrease

1. *HMIS-affiliated shelters reduced bed inventory in 2020 (Miracle Hill did not)*
2. *Fear of congregate settings led people to avoid seeking out shelter*
3. *Additional federal funding was made available to stem the flow of persons into shelters*
4. *Slightly longer lengths of stay in shelter, leading to lower turnover of available beds*

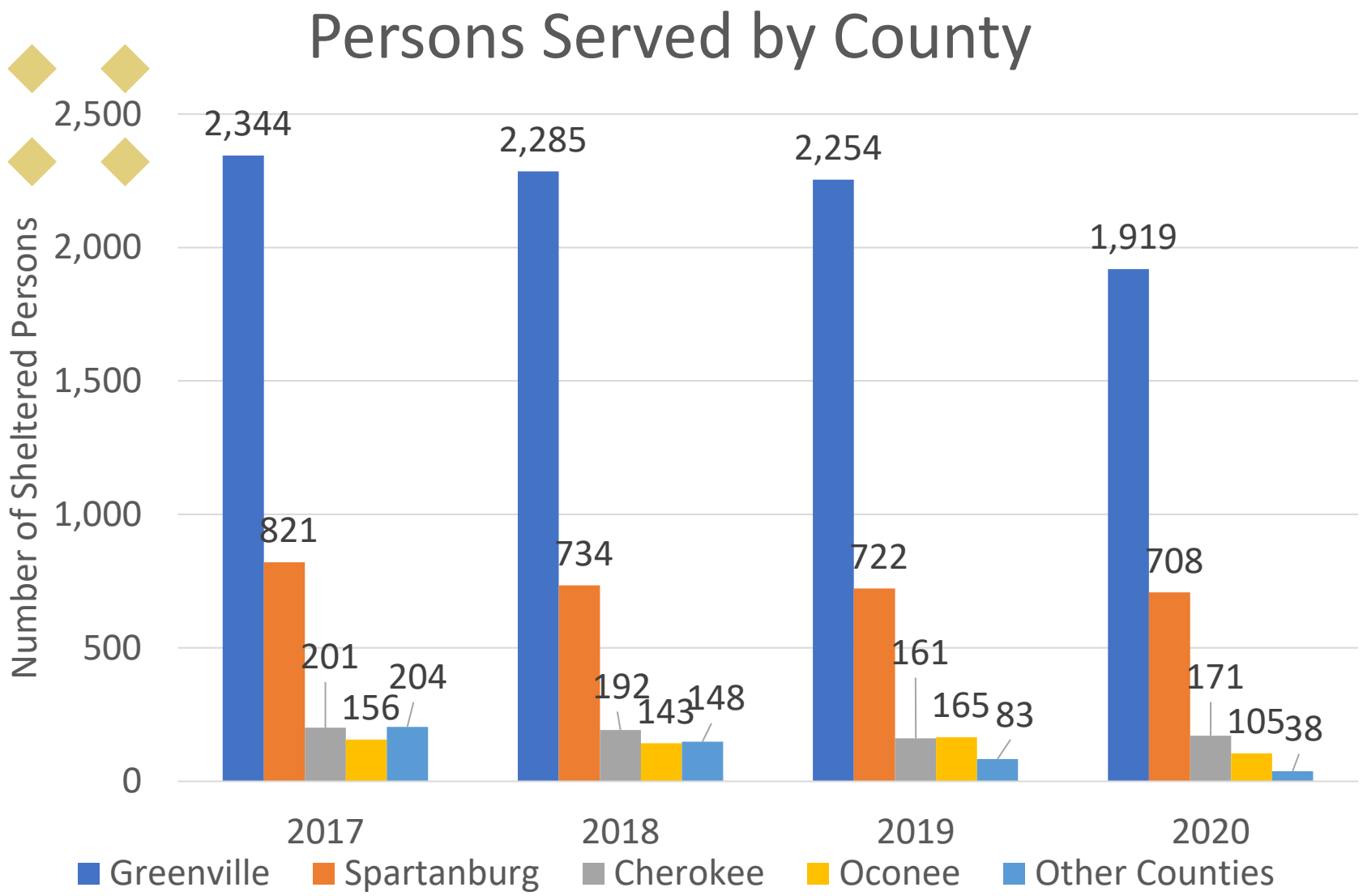
This annualized count is still nearly three to four times larger than the sheltered Point-in-Time Count

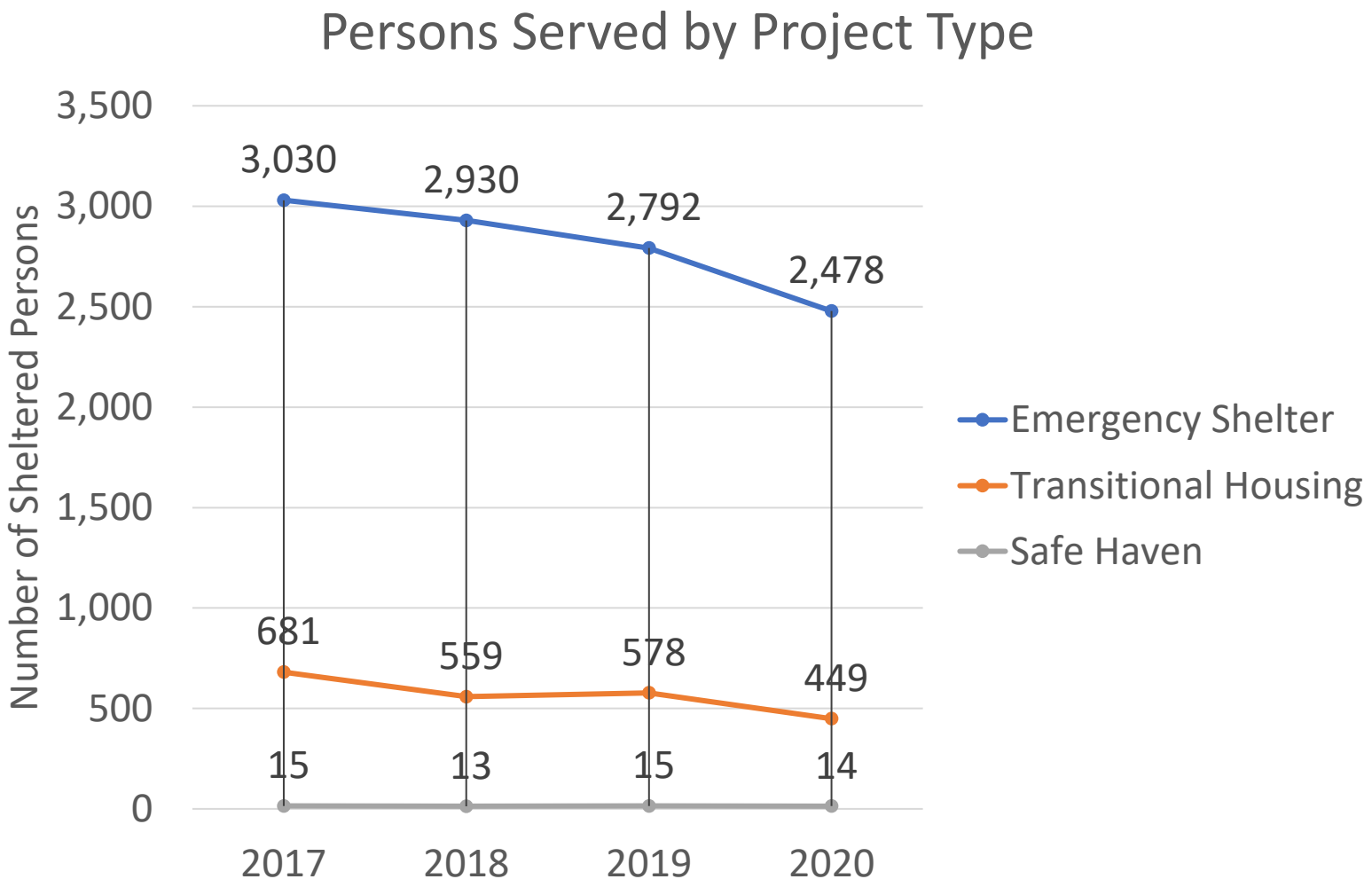


Persons Served by County

Providers in Greenville County served around 2/3rds of all sheltered clients…

…in every year

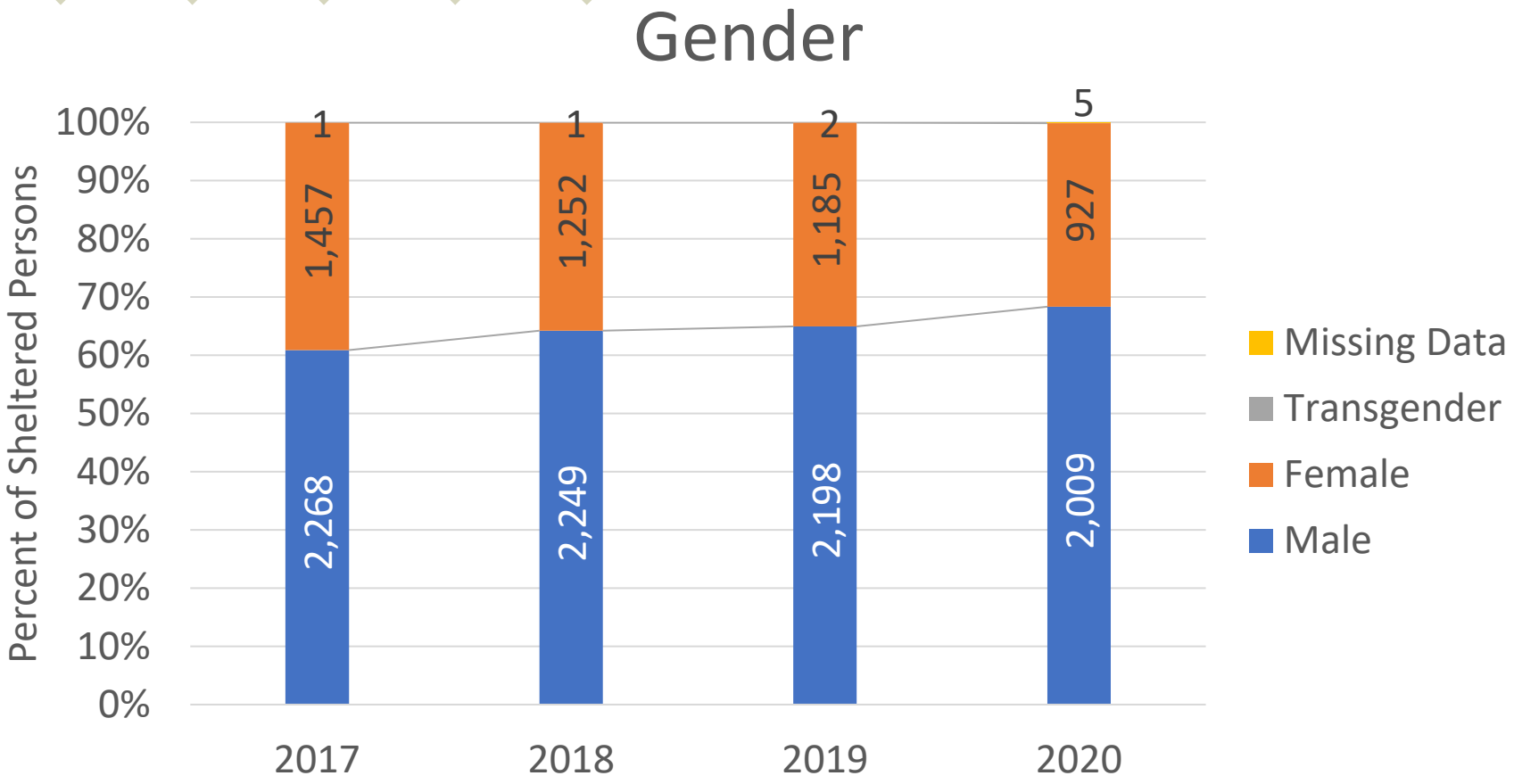




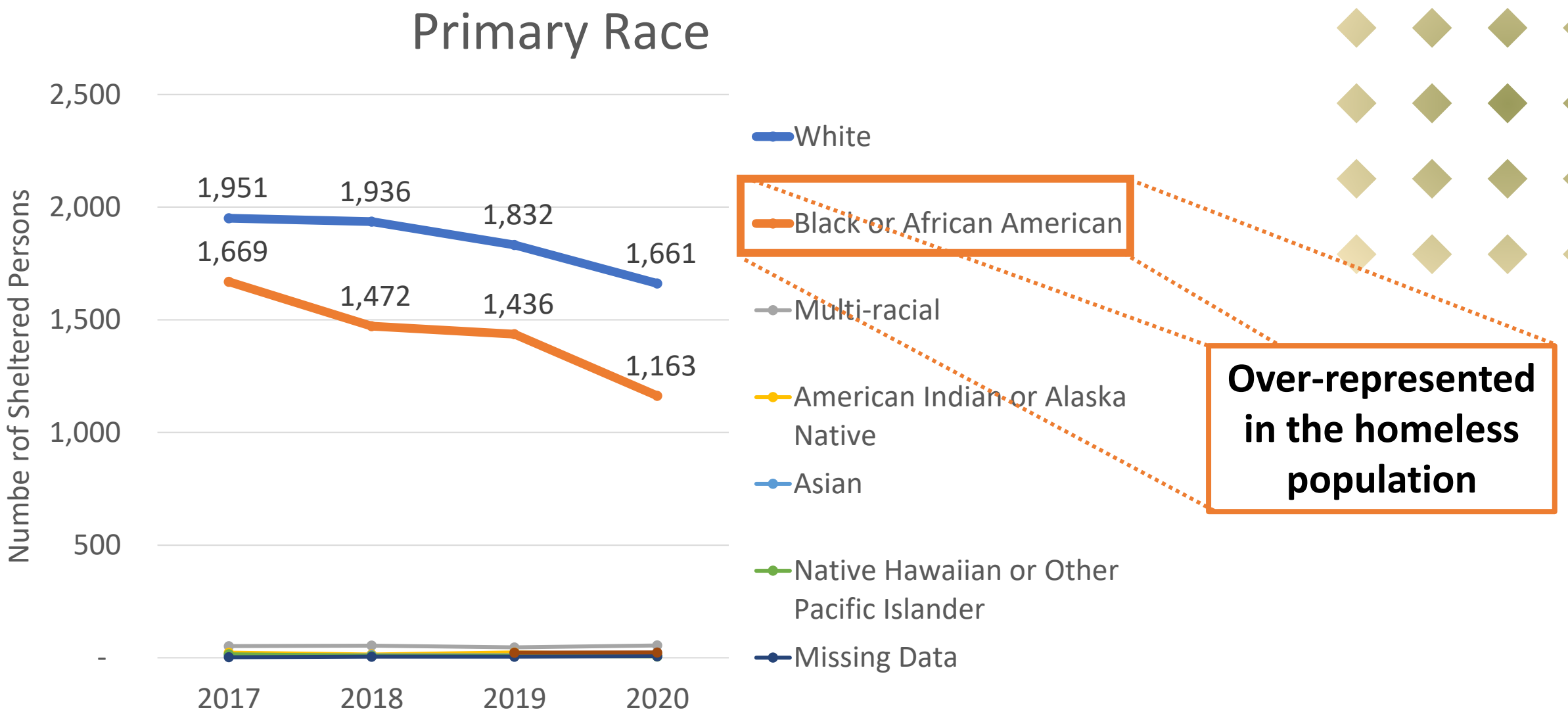
Persons Served by Project Type

A Large Majority were Served in Emergency Shelter

Gender of Persons Served



Males accounted for nearly 2 out of 3 persons served and their proportion is growing…

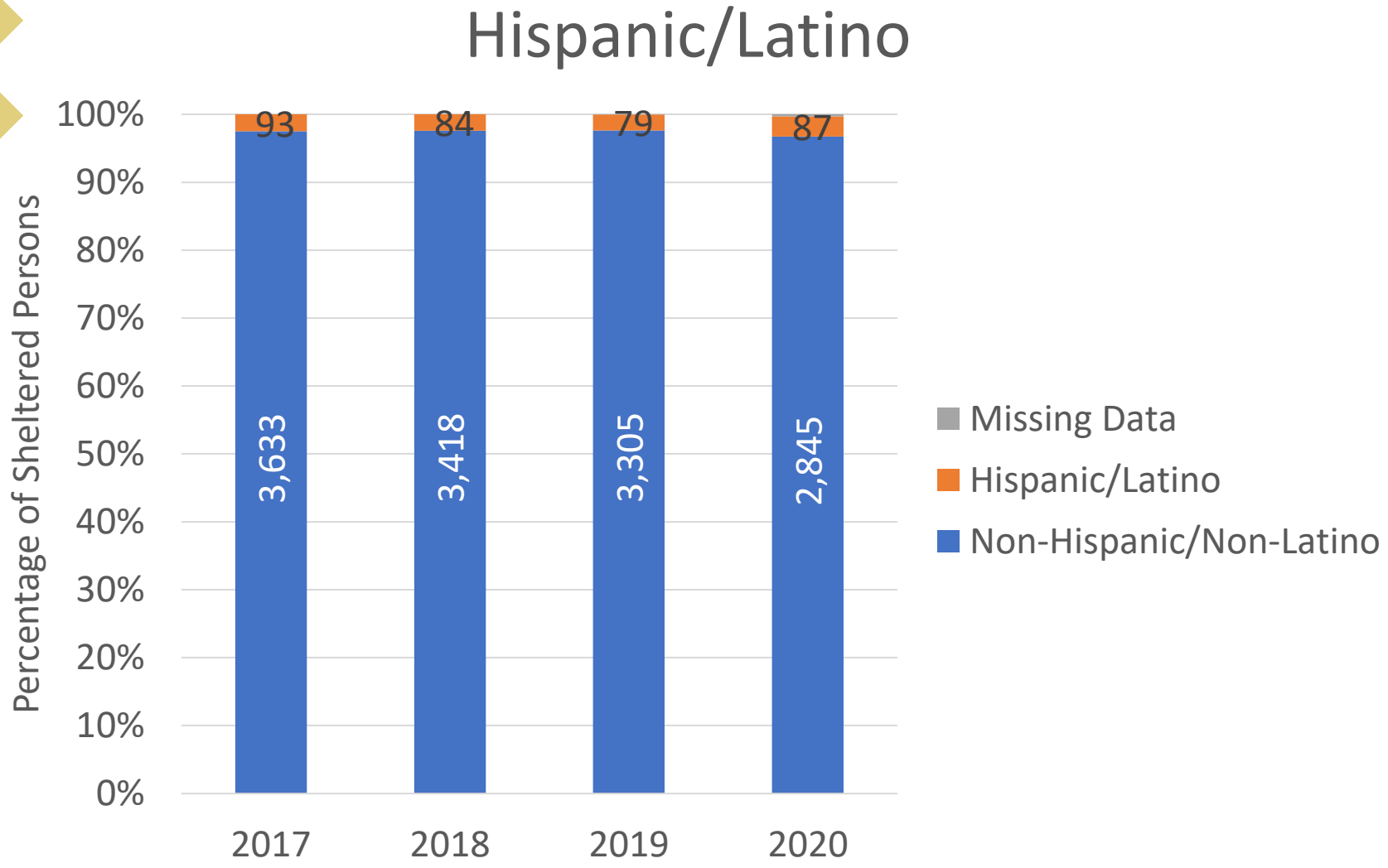


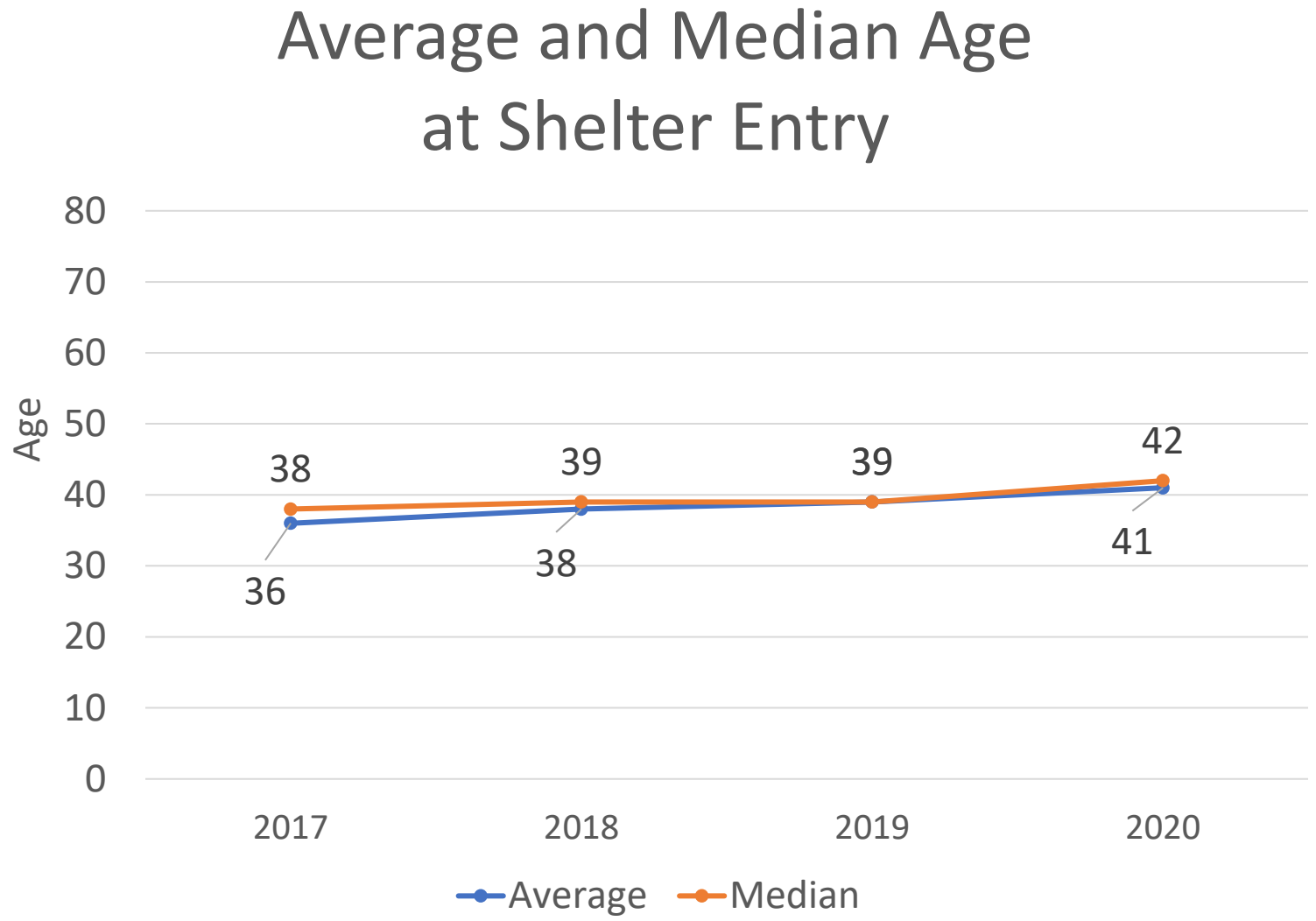
Primary Race:

Largest Percentages White & Black/African American

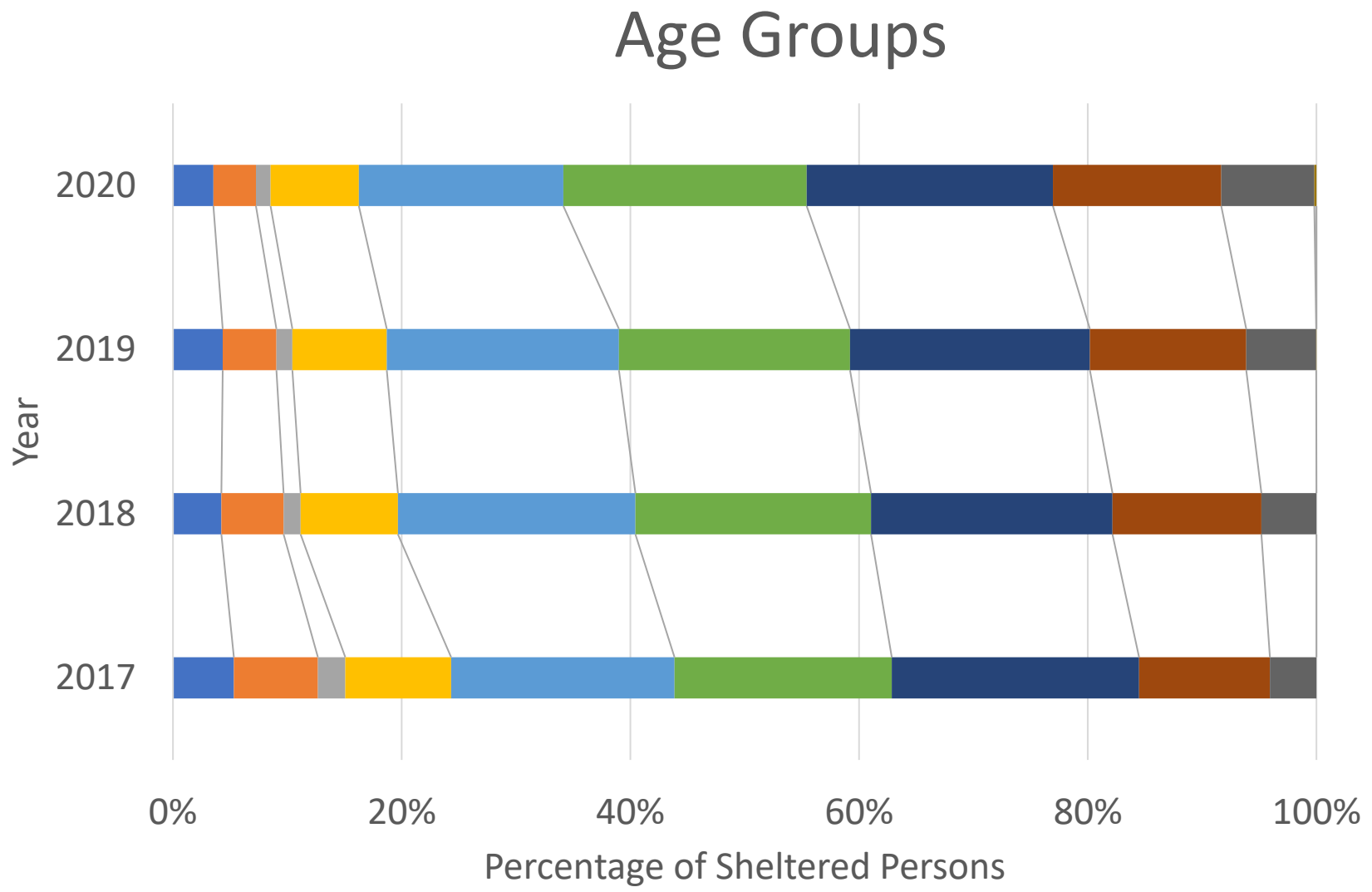
Hispanic/ Latino Ethnicity

A small percentage identified as Hispanic/ Latino





Age: *Average & Median is Increasing Year-Over-Year*



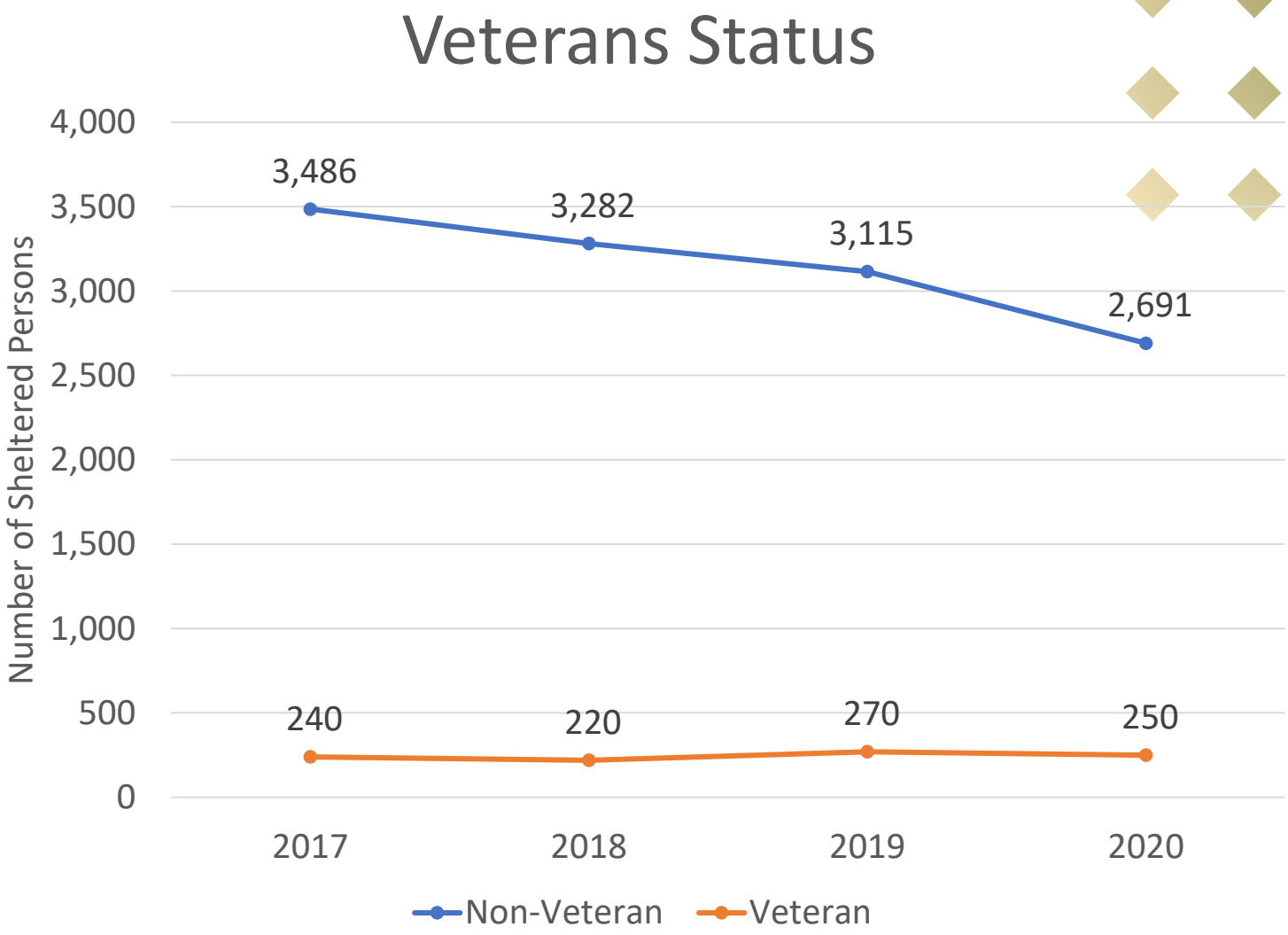
Age Groups:

Young Adults to Middle Age - Largest; Older Groups Increasing

Self-Reported Veterans Status

Between 6-9% of shelter clients reported they were Veterans

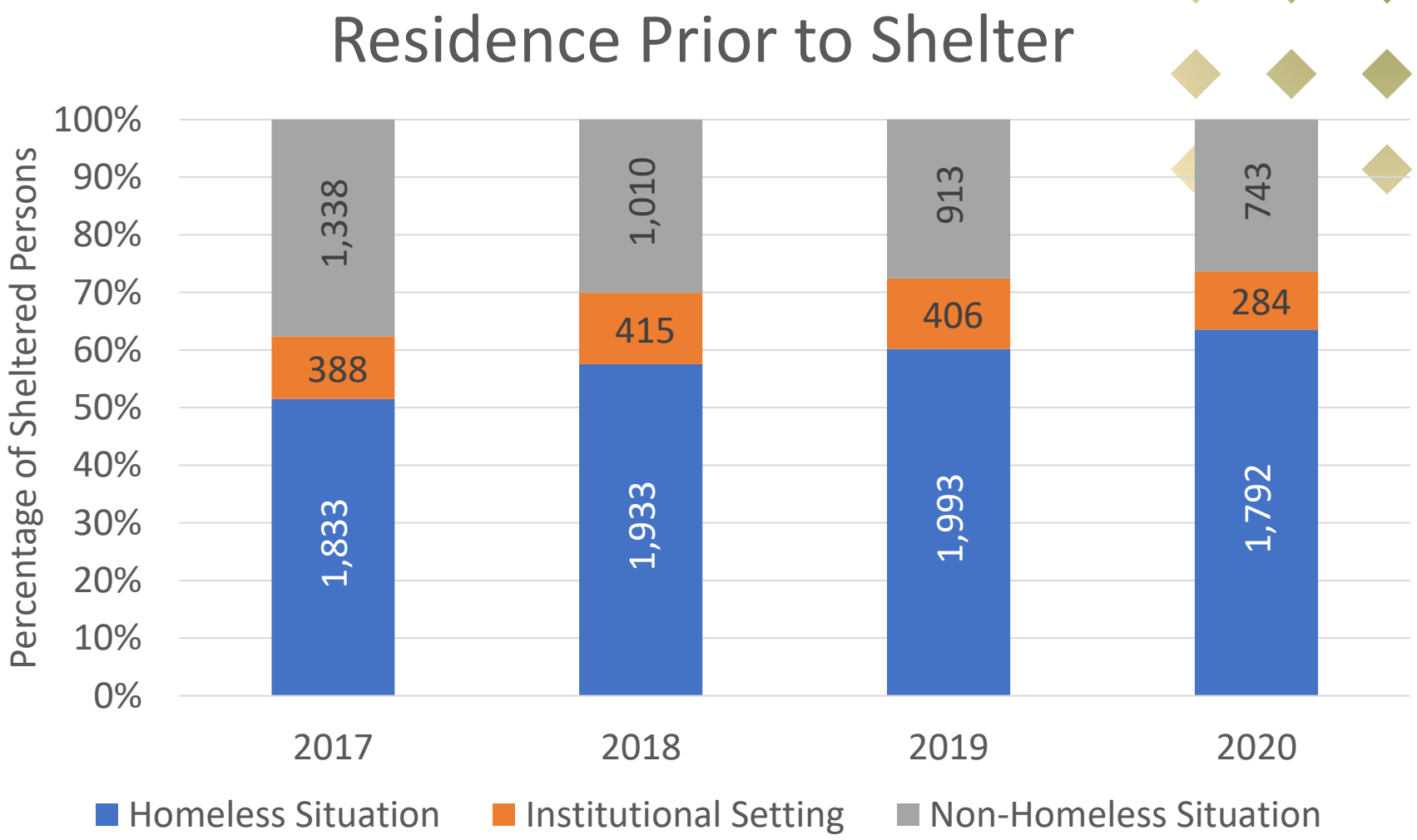
Increase in 2019/2020 is because of the addition of transitional housing beds for Veterans



Residence before Shelter

The majority of persons entered from literal homeless situations, followed by non-homeless, then institutional settings

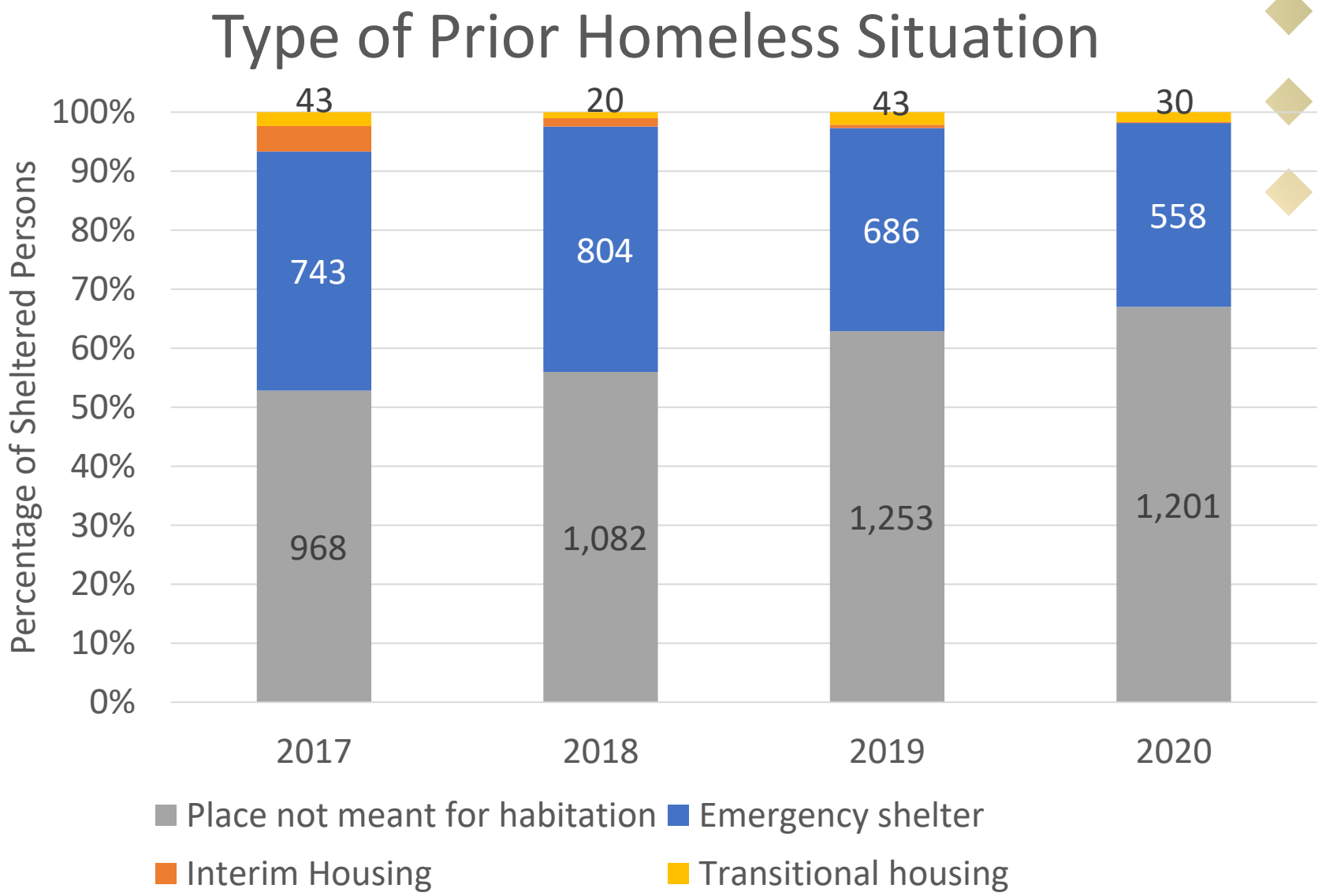
The percentage of persons entering from literal homelessness increased year-over-year



Residence before Shelter – Focus on Literal Homelessness

Residents increasingly entered shelter from places not meant for habitation

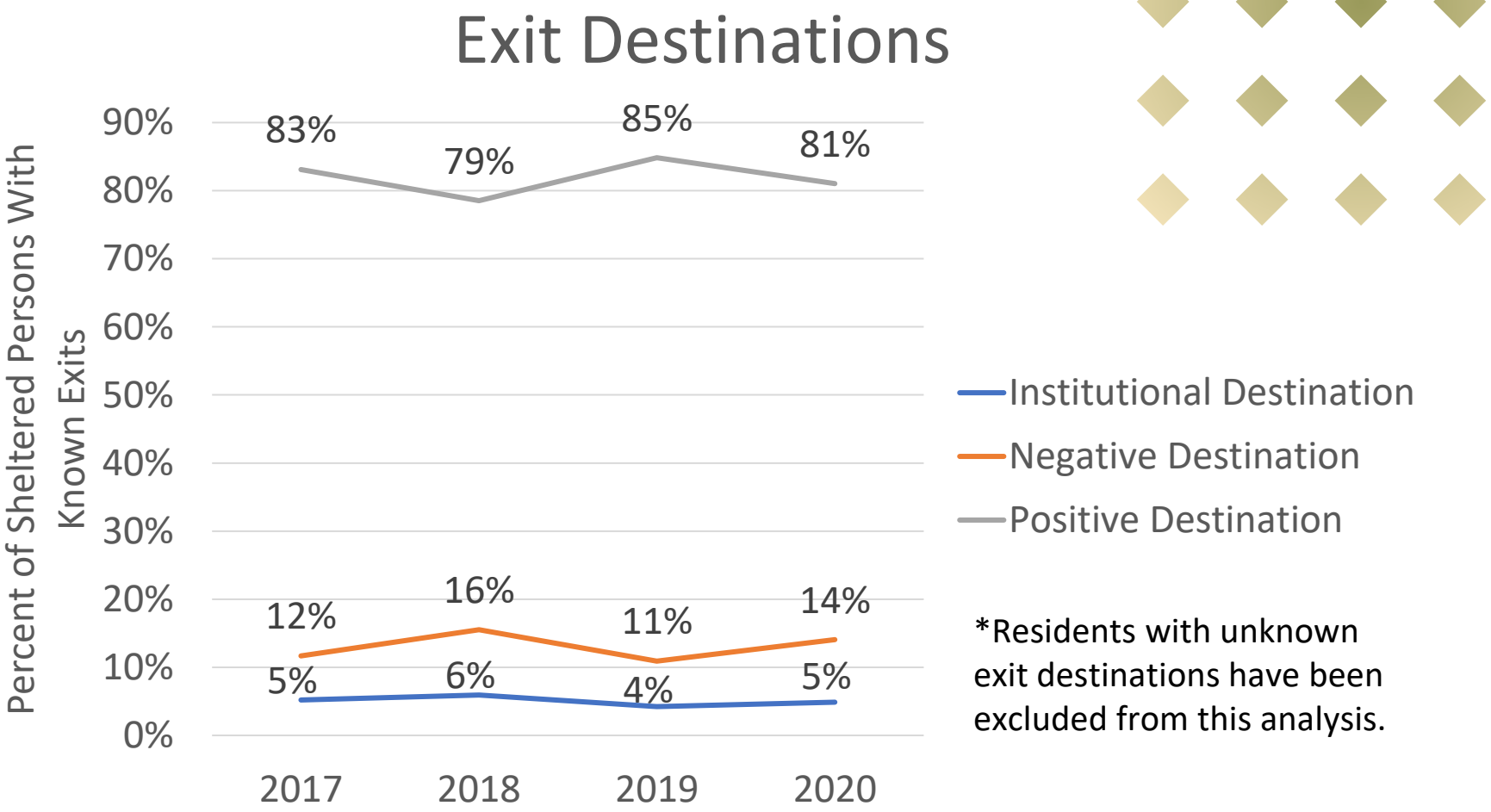
This percentage increased steadily across all four years



Exit Destinations

Residents exiting to "Unknown Destinations" continues to be challenging

When analyzing known exit destinations, residents tended to exit to positive, non-homeless, destinations by a large margin



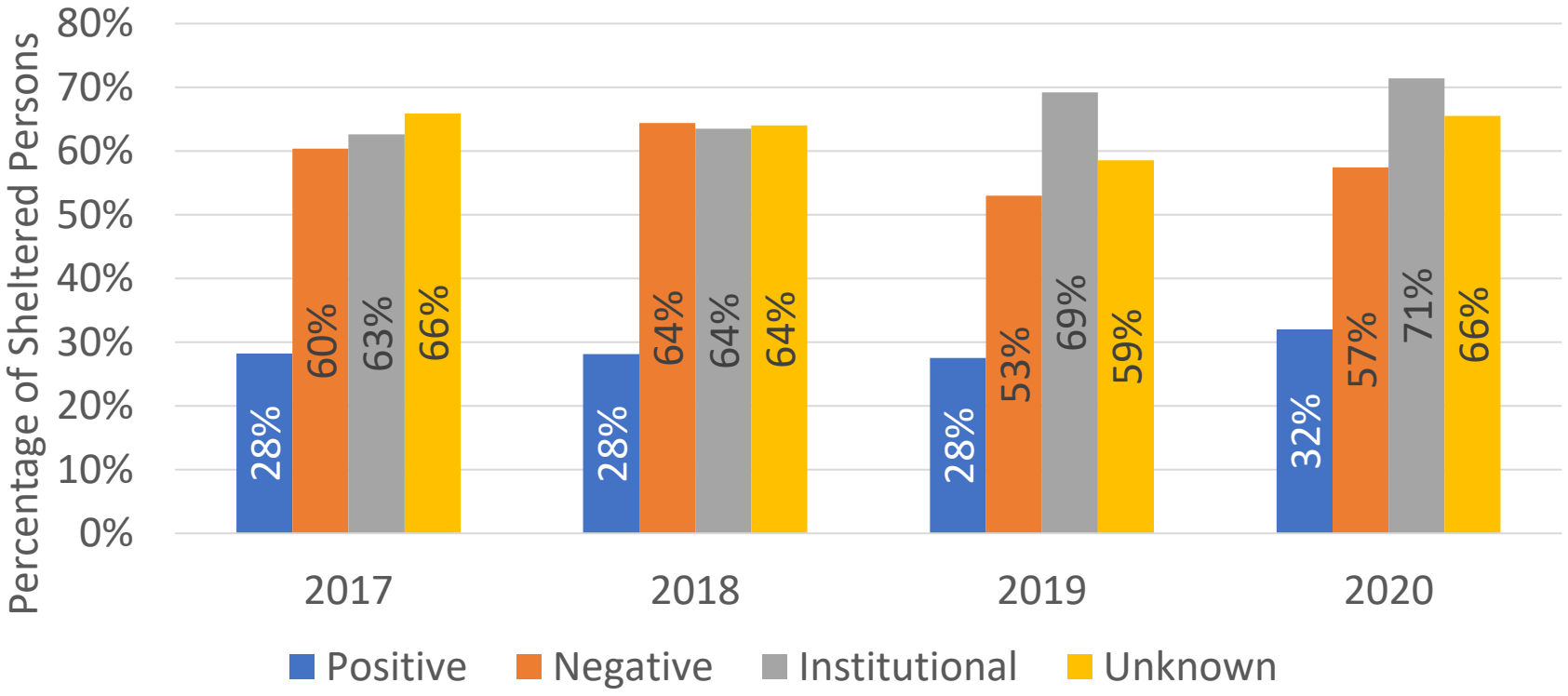
*Residents with unknown exit destinations have been excluded from this analysis.

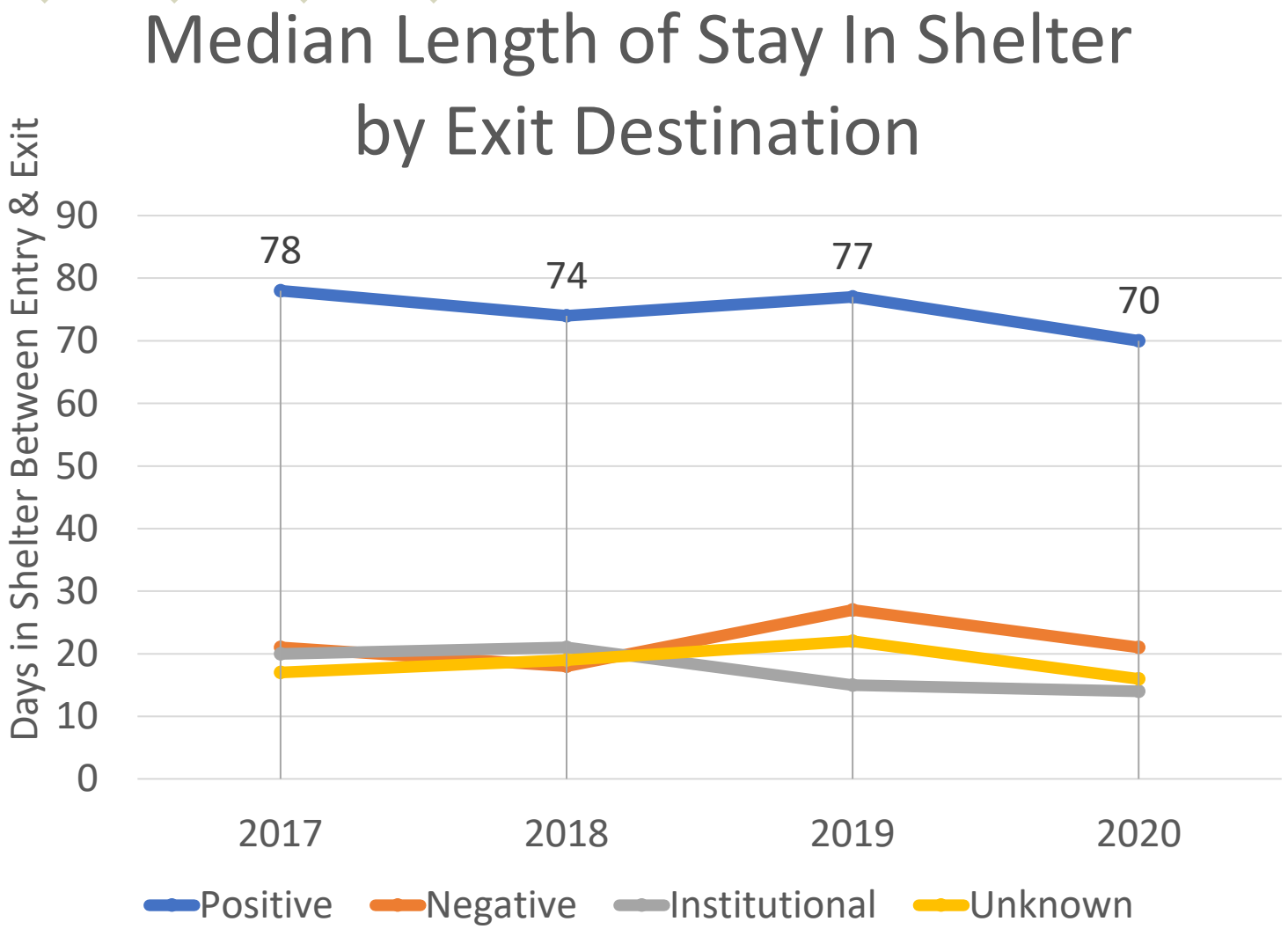
Exit Destinations by Length of Enrollment

A relationship appears to exist between the length of time a resident stays in shelter and their eventual exit destination

Residents who stayed in shelter longer tended to be more likely to exit to a positive destination

Percent of Residents Who Exited Within the First Month by Exit Destination





Exit Destinations by Length of Enrollment

Residents exiting to positive destinations spent between 70-78 days engaged with shelter

Residents exiting to negative, institutional, and unknown destinations spent less than one month in shelter

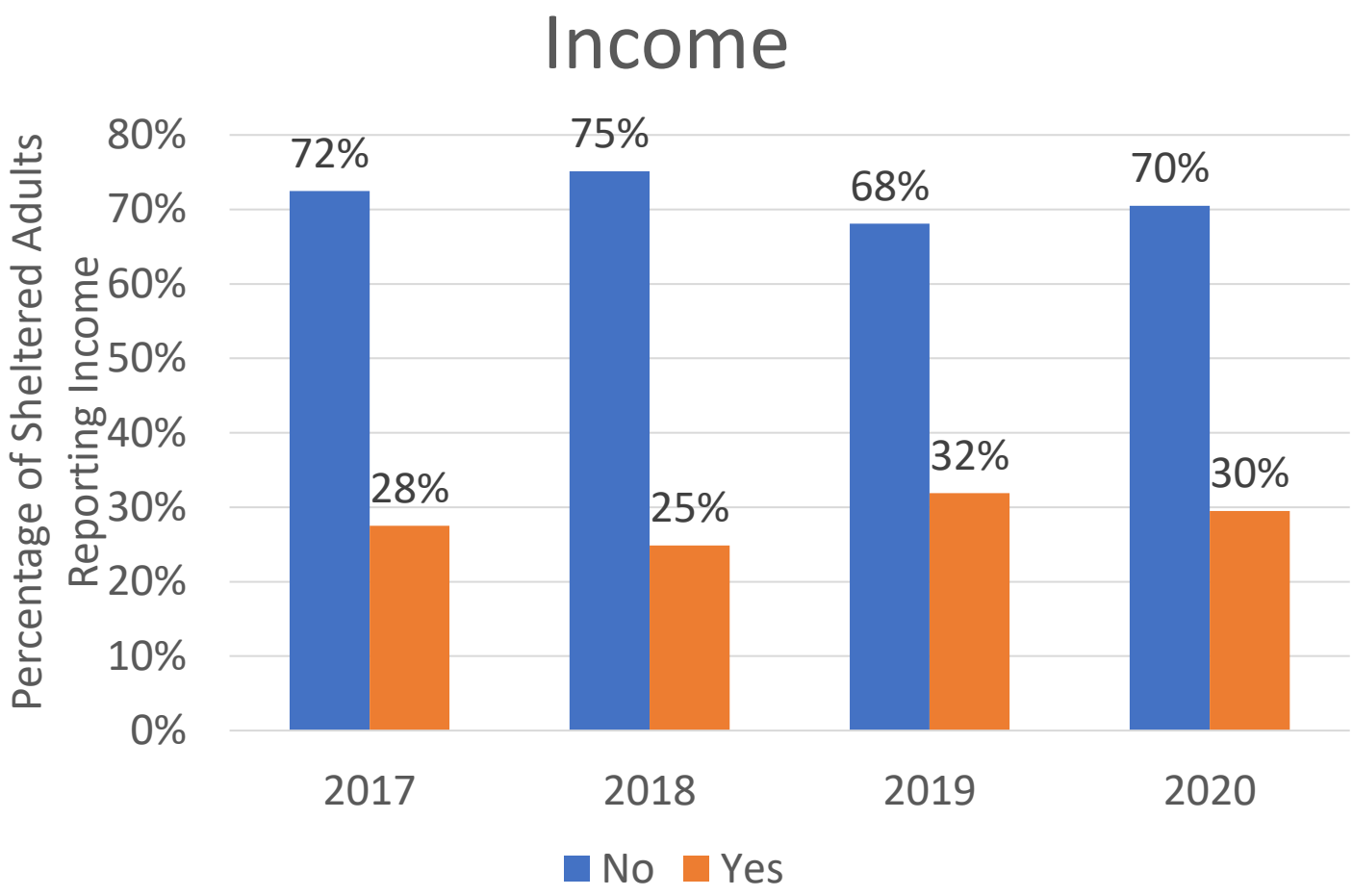
Income

Seven out of ten adults (18+) did not report income at shelter entry

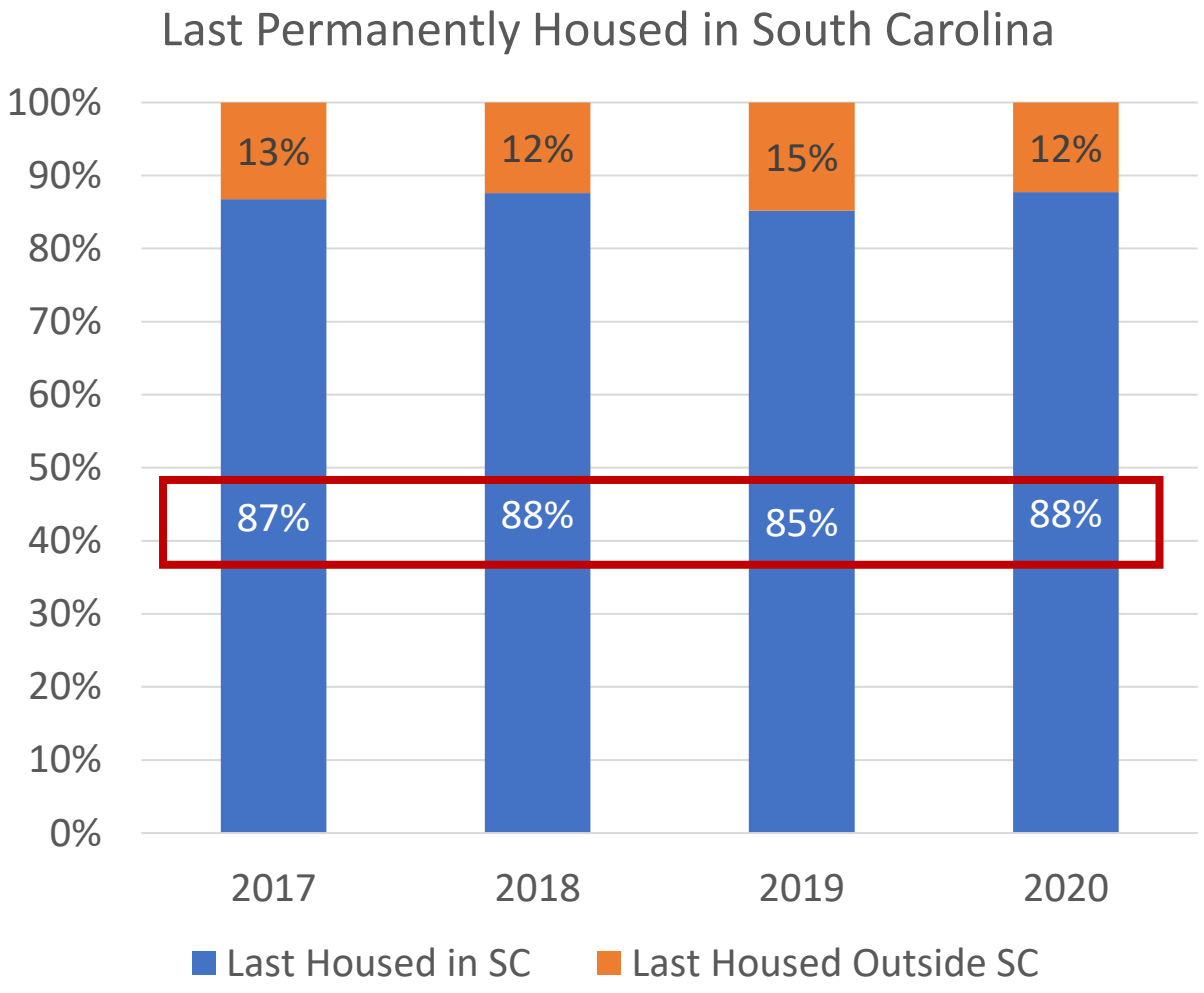
Among those reporting income, the average was

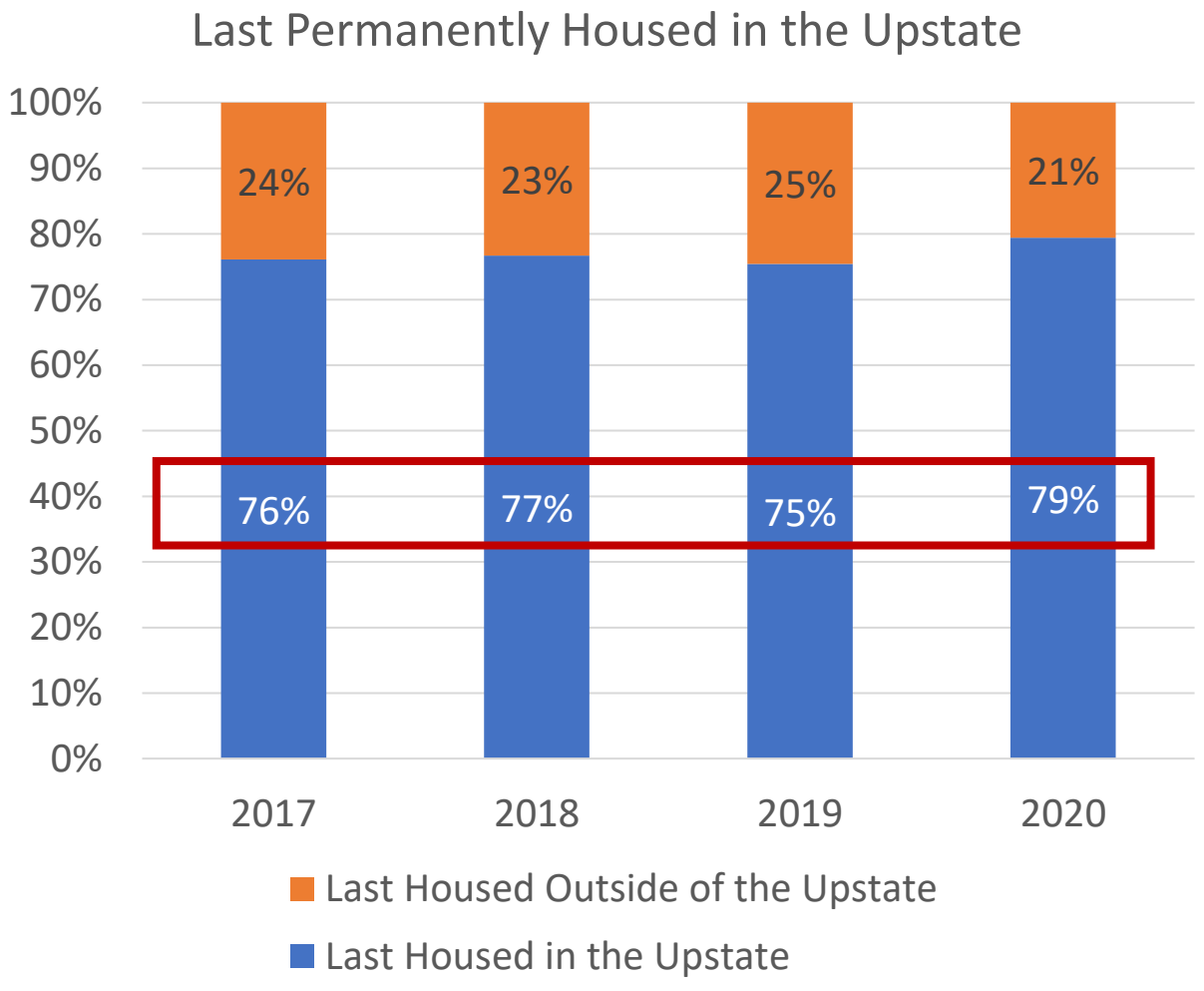
$1,052.77

Not enough monthly income to sustain stable housing



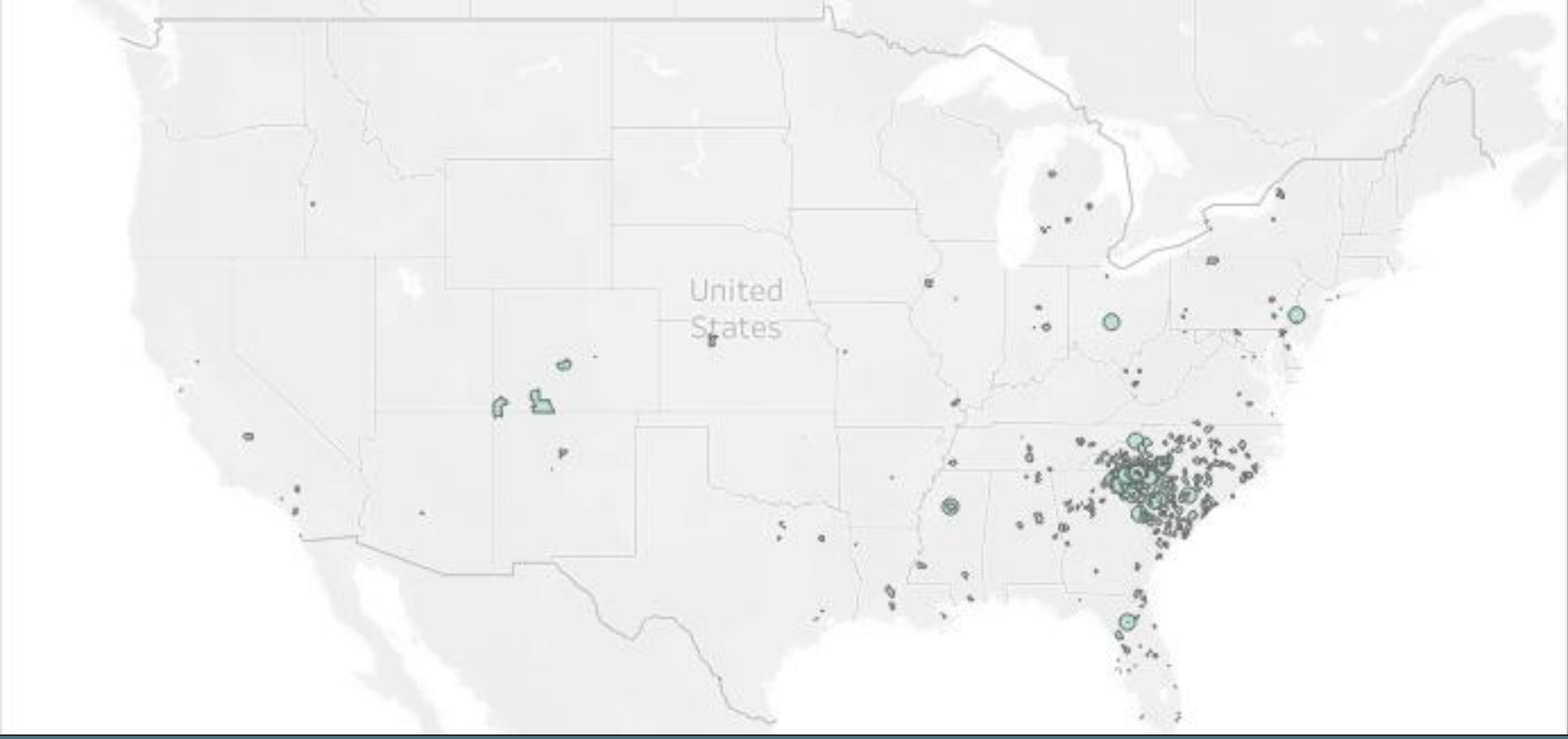
County	2020 Fair Market Rent	% of Average Income Towards Rent
Greenville	$740	70%
Spartanburg	$679	65%



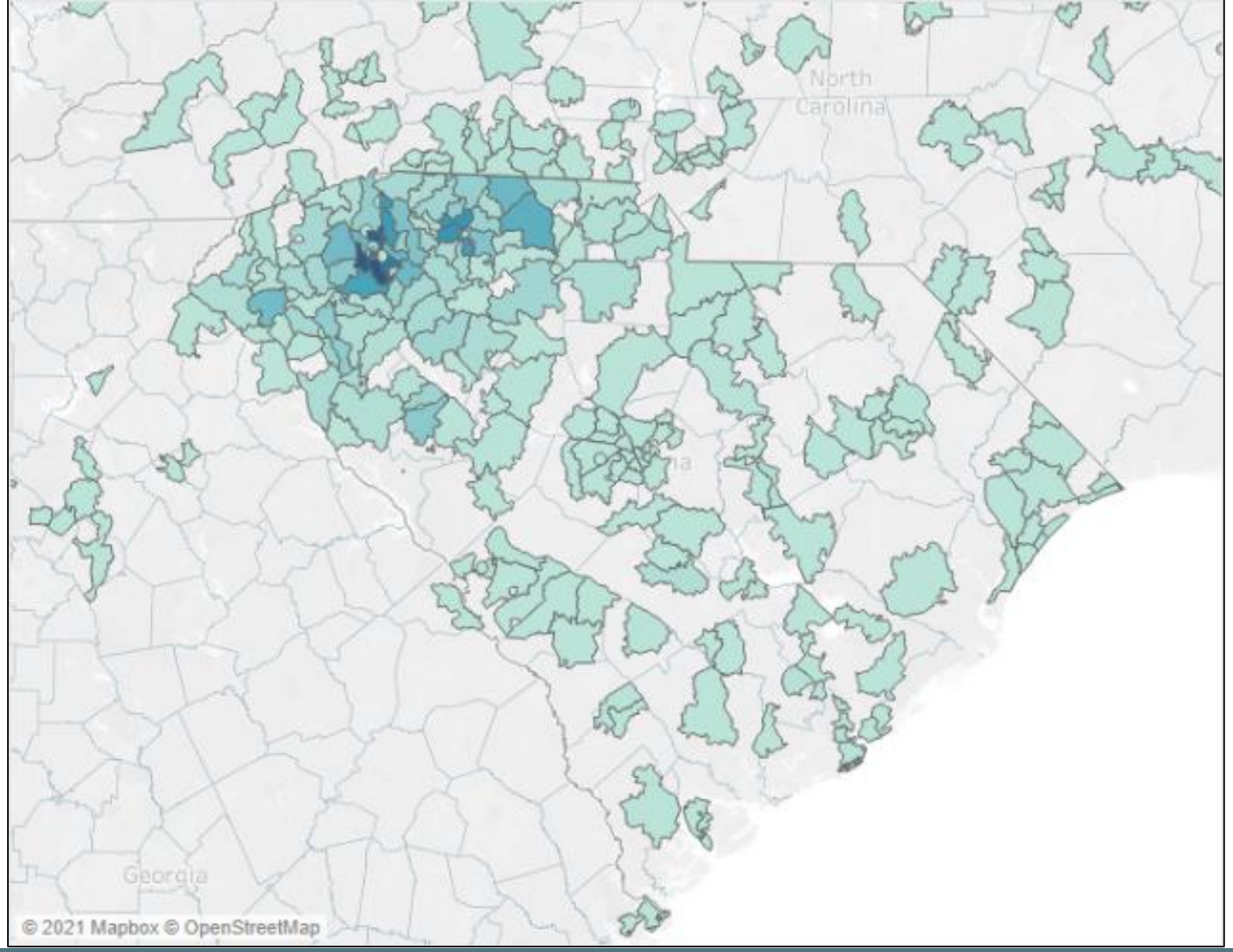


Last Permanent Address:

By a large margin, persons receiving shelter services were last permanently housed not only in South Carolina, but the Upstate



Map of Last Permanent Address (Zip Code) - 2020



Map of Last Permanent Address (Zip Code) - 2020

SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IN THE UPSTATE – KEY FINDINGS

SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS KEY FINDINGS

- Around 3,000 persons experienced sheltered homelessness in the Upstate in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020
- While a decrease from 2019 to 2020 is accounted for by a variety of COVID-related reasons, 2,941 persons is still a large number and more representative of shelter use than other data source
- In each of the four years, 2/3^{rds} were served in Greenville County, with the second highest percentage being served in Spartanburg County

FINDINGS CONTINUED

- Demographically, the majority of residents were male and trending older
- Racially, the majority identify as White, followed closely by Black/African Americans (who are vastly over-represented in the homeless population compared to the general population)
- The length a client remains engaged with shelter appears related to exit destination; across all four years, persons exiting to positive destinations tended to stay longer in shelter than those exiting to homelessness, institutions, or unknown destinations
- Unknown exit destinations remain prevalent, but among those whose exit destination is known, nearly 8 out of 10 exited shelter to a positive destination

FINDINGS CONCLUDED

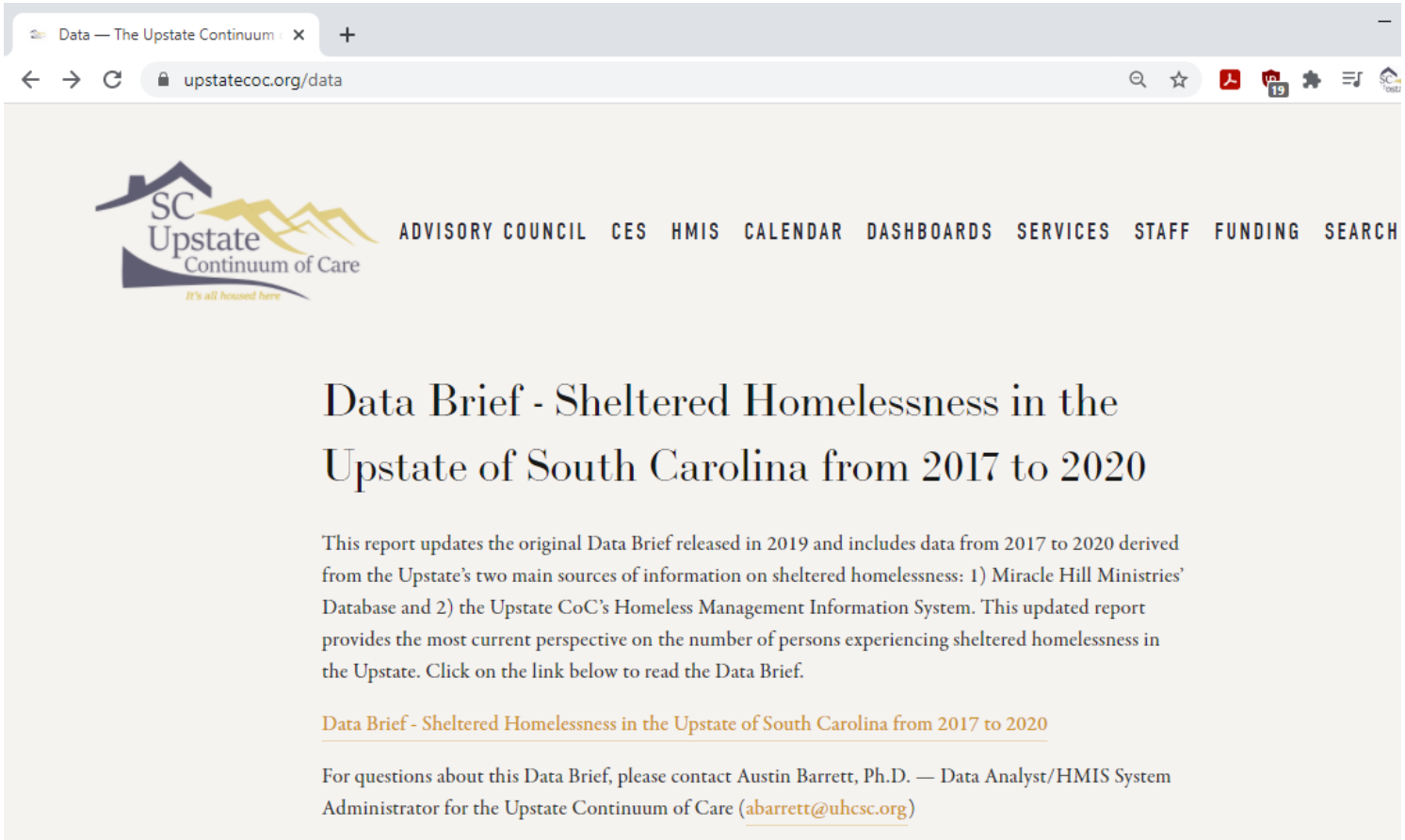
- Financial resources for residents continue to be limited; in 2020, only 30% reported any income at shelter entry with the average monthly income being $1,053 --- an amount that would severely rent-burden even those who are reporting income
- In every year, 85-88% of persons receiving services were last permanently housed in South Carolina; >75% were last housed in the Upstate
- Homelessness is a home-grown problem requiring local solutions:
  - **Growing the inventory of very low-income housing that is near key services (transportation, employment, healthcare, support networks)**
  - Increasing housing-focused case management
  - Preventing the onset of homelessness among at-risk populations

Question & Answer

Online Resources

Report and slides will be posted to:

UpstateCoC.org/data



Acknowledgements

Contact Information

Find Us Online

www.upstatecoc.org

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It's all housed here

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