

SHARED SAFETY: HOUSING PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP REPORT

Snapshot of Domestic
Violence Housing
Resources before the
COVID-19 Pandemic



MAY 12, 2021



Introduction

Shared Safety was established in 2015 to coordinate resources and responses to intimate partner violence, sexual violence and human trafficking across the City of Philadelphia's health and human services agencies.

At the end of 2019, Shared Safety's Coordinating Council selected three projects to be developed by working groups during 2020.

The Housing Priorities Working Group had the following goals:

- identify housing resources that were already available to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking,
- identify gaps in housing services, and
- gather consensus around priorities for funding to improve the impact of housing services for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

The working group had representatives from community-based organizations (HIAS, Lutheran Settlement House, Nationalities Service Center, Senior Law Project, The Salvation Army, Women Against Abuse, and Women In Transition) and two City agencies (Office of Homeless Services and Office of Domestic Violence Strategies). The group met three times between January and March of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on City and community-based organizations' services and staff, the Housing Priorities Working Group had to end its work sooner than expected.

This report summarizes the findings of the working group related to the identification of housing resources that were available to survivors of domestic violence prior to the pandemic.

Information presented in this document was gathered by contacting service providers directly and from reports from the Office of Homeless Services (reports available were for FY19: July 1st, 2018 to June 30th, 2019). This report provides a snapshot of the types of housing programs, the number of beds or units available, and the number of head of households (HHs) served until March 2020.

The Homeless System

GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS: HOUSING TYPES

Safe Haven: Housing that serves hard-to-serve persons with mental illness, experiencing homelessness, who came from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services. The housing must provide 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period, have an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons, and provide low-demand services and referrals for the residents.

Emergency Shelter/Housing (ES or EH): A facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness

Transitional Housing (TH): Supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months.

Permanent Housing (PH): Community-based housing without a designated length of stay and includes:

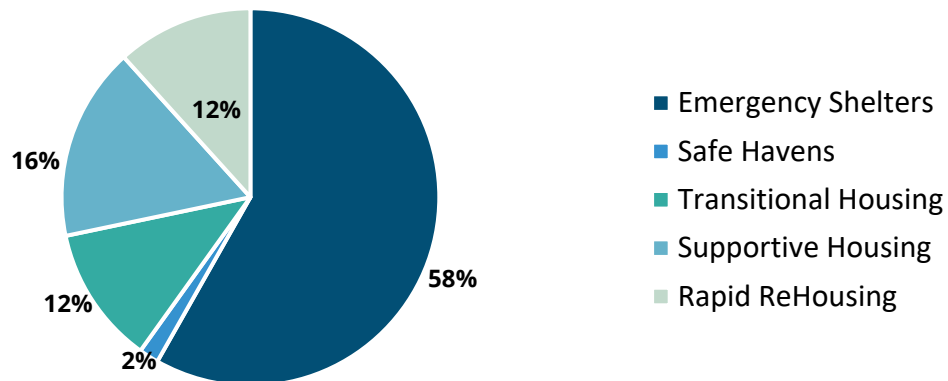
- a. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently
- b. **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH):** An intervention that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and case management and services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN THE PHILADELPHIA HOMELESS SYSTEM

Number of Residents Who Disclosed DV in FY19 (DV-specific agencies not included)

	ES	Safe Haven	TH	PSH	RRH	TOTAL	%
No to DV	7,217	236	512	2,296	905	11,166	75.6
Yes to DV	1,000	29	203	285	201	1,718	11.6
Client doesn't know/refused	48	6	0	11	2	67	0.5
Data not collected	1,471	290	4.8	15	15	1,796	12.2
Total	9,736	561	751	2,607	1,123	14,747	99.9

Yes to Domestic Violence FY19 (1,718 HHs)



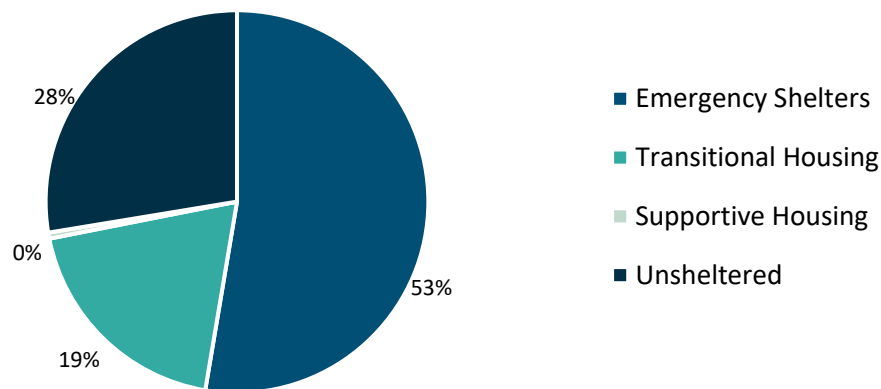
- During Fiscal Year 2019 in Philadelphia, 1,718 participants in the homeless system in Philadelphia had experienced domestic violence at some point in their lifetime (11.6% of total participants or 13.3% of those who answered DV questions).
- Of those, 726 (43%) were fleeing the domestic violence situation.
- Most participants who disclosed domestic violence were staying at emergency shelters.
- These numbers did not include participants in housing programs managed by domestic violence organizations.

POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT) AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE

The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count is a one-night statistically reliable unduplicated count, during the last week of January, of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness in an area.

Point in Time Count 2019	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Supportive Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Total Adults	2,703	532	247	967	4,449
Adults Survivors of Domestic Violence	208 (7.7%)	76 (14.3%)	2 (0.8%)	109 (11.3%)	395 (8.9%)

DV Survivors - PIT Count 2019 (395)



- The 2019 PIT Count identified 395 adult survivors of domestic violence.
- Out of the 395 adult survivors, 109 (28%) were unsheltered.
- The 2020 PIT Count identified 373 adult survivors of domestic violence. This was 8.4% of all adults counted (4,465).¹
- Out of the 373 adult survivors, 91 (24.4%) were unsheltered.

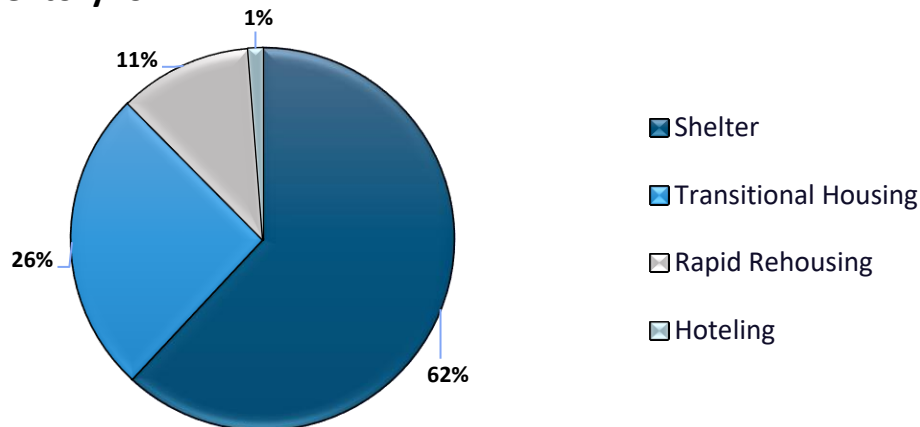
¹ The 2020 PIT Count information was not yet available when the Housing Priorities Working Group was functional. This information has been added to the report because the PIT Count occurred in January 2020.

Housing Inventory for Domestic Violence

As of March 2020, Philadelphia had the following types of housing programs specifically for survivors of domestic violence: emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and hoteling or emergency placement.

Type of Program	Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Hoteling	TOTAL
Maximum capacity	200	83	36	4	323

Housing Inventory for DV

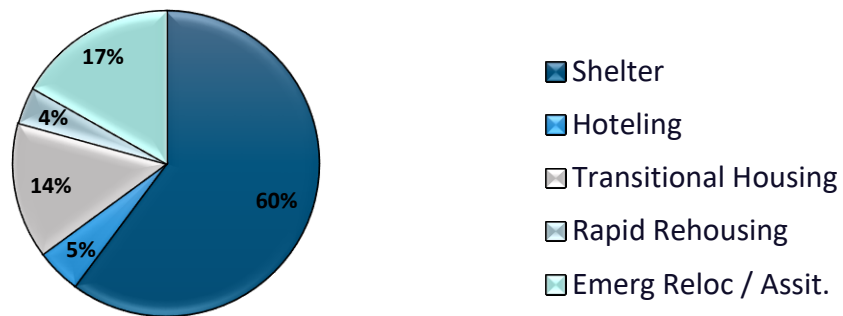


- At any given time, the DV-specific housing programs could provide services to a maximum of 323 head of households.
- Length of stay at programs varied from a few nights (hoteling) to up to 18 months (transitional housing).
- All programs accepted single adults and adults with children.
- All programs provided supporting services such as case management, childcare, and DV-specific counseling.
- Some organizations also had emergency funds that were used to provide one-time support to DV survivors to relocate to a safer location (move out expenses) or to be able to stay safely housed (repairs, utilities).

- Combined, all DV-specific housing programs (including emergency relocation) provided services to approximately 911 head of households every year.

	Shelter	Hoteling	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Emergency Relocation	TOTAL
DV HHs served per year	548	43	131	36	153	911

DV HHs served annually



- Domestic violence emergency shelter beds were 62% of the DV housing inventory in Philadelphia and housed 60% of survivors using DV-specific housing services.
- DV-specific shelters have a confidential location and all staff are trained on providing trauma-informed services to DV survivors and their children.