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# VIRGINIA'S HARD TO COUNT COMMUNITIES

## HOMELESS

### HOMELESS POPULATION IN VIRGINIA

According to the U.S Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

 **5,975**  
people

experience homelessness on any given day. <sup>(1)</sup>

In 2018

 **18,577**  
students

experienced homelessness. <sup>(1)</sup>

### WHAT ARE THE HARD TO COUNT CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS? <sup>(3)</sup>



#### Transitory Status

- People experiencing homelessness are often temporary members of a household, or lack any form of housing. <sup>(3)</sup>



#### Hard-To-Reach Localities

- In 2016, **68 percent of the homeless population** was in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens. <sup>(3)</sup>
- In 2015, **31 percent lived on the street**, in a car, or in an abandoned building. Furthermore, local ordinances that prohibit begging or sleeping in public force people experiencing homelessness into less conspicuous locations. <sup>(3)</sup>



#### Age

- Young children are traditionally very hard to count and about **22 percent** of people experiencing homelessness are children. <sup>(3)</sup>

### WHO IS AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS <sup>(2)</sup>



Veterans who have proudly served our country



Men and women suffering from severe mental or physical illness or chronic substance abuse



Those fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking



Returning Citizens from jail or prison



Youth who are LGBT, pregnant, or experiencing abuse

### COUNTING HOMELESS POPULATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS <sup>(4)</sup>

- The primary operations for counting people experiencing homelessness in the 2020 Census are the **Service-Based Enumeration (SBE)** and Enumeration at Transitory Location (ETL). <sup>(4)</sup>
- SBE is a **three-day operation from March 30 through April 1, 2020**, that counts people experiencing homelessness at shelters, soup kitchens, regularly-scheduled mobile food vans, and targeted outdoor locations. <sup>(4)</sup>
- ETL operation **counts people in transitory locations** who do not have a stable home elsewhere such as hotels, motels, and campgrounds. <sup>(4)</sup>

#### Sources

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2. "About Homelessness." [www.homewardva.org/about/homelessness](http://www.homewardva.org/about/homelessness).
3. "Will You Count? People Experiencing Homelessness in the 2020 Census." <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/People-Experiencing-Homelessness-HTC.pdf>. Counting People Experiencing Homelessness <http://www.georgetownpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/GCPI-ESOI-Counting-People-Experiencing-Homelessness-20180904.pdf>
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