

U.S.V.I. Point In Time Analysis

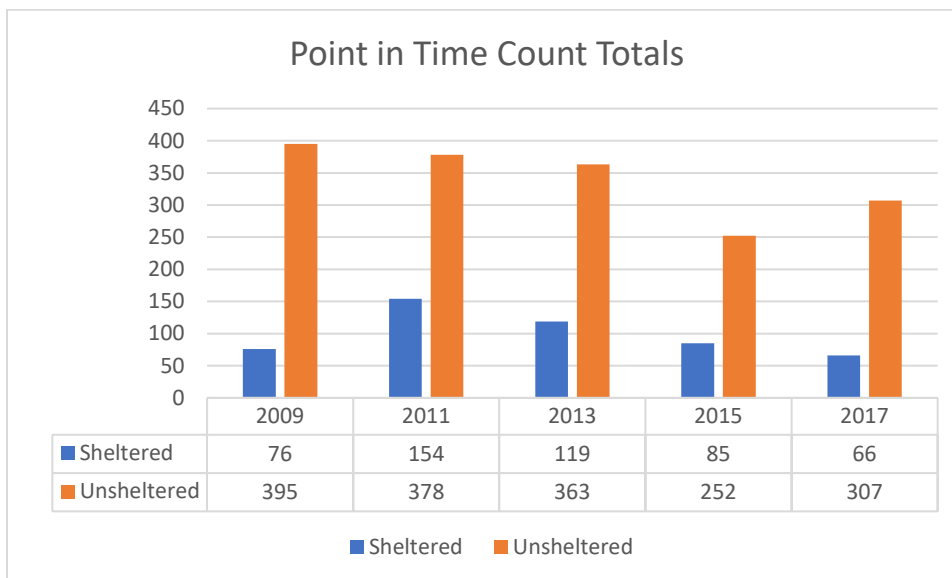
Sheltered & Unsheltered Homeless

HUD requires that Continuums of Care (CoC) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care are also required to conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated and carried out locally by a CoC assigned agency. This year, both the sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons count was conducted on January, 27th, 2017 with the Methodist Training and Outreach Center, Inc. (MTOC) being the assigned agency to lead the effort. Both counts were largely successful due to the collaborate efforts of other CoC agencies and community volunteers. The number of volunteers has great impact on the number of areas that are covered, hence affecting the overall counts obtained.

Analysis

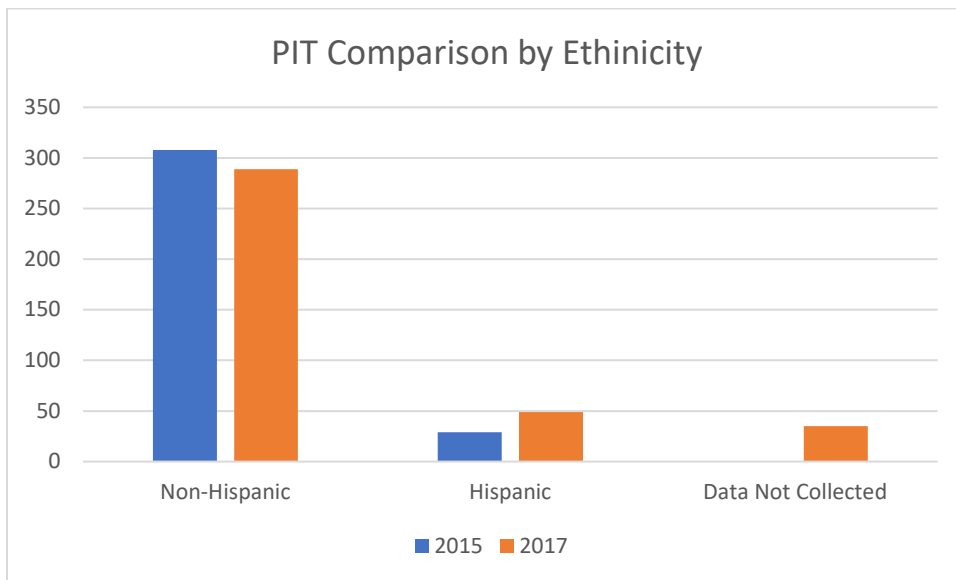
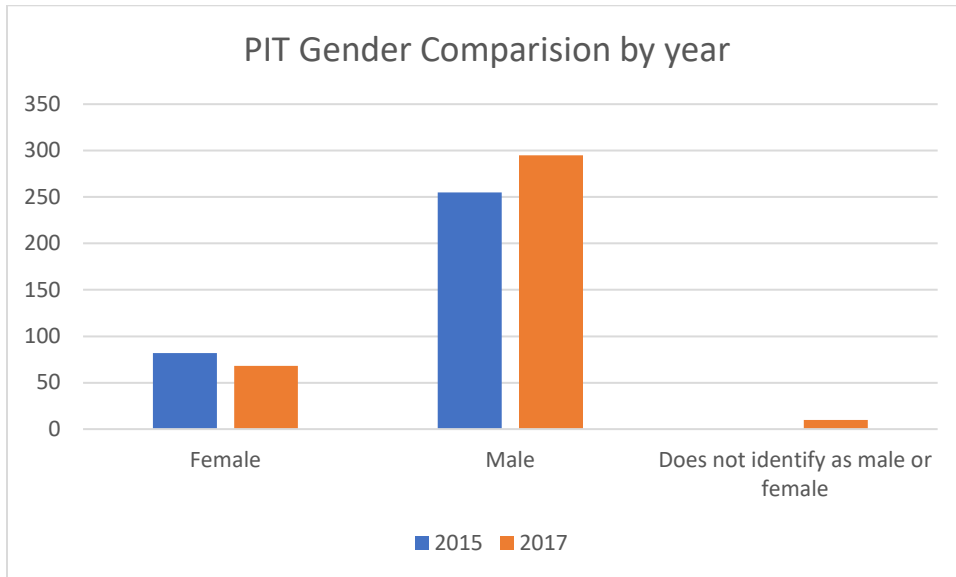
In January, 2015 the Unsheltered count total was 252 homeless, while the January, 2017 count totaled 307, an increase of approximately 22%. The three main islands, St. Croix 112 homeless persons made up 36% of the territory homeless population; St. John 57 homeless persons made up 19% and St. Thomas 138 made up 45% of the territory's homeless population.

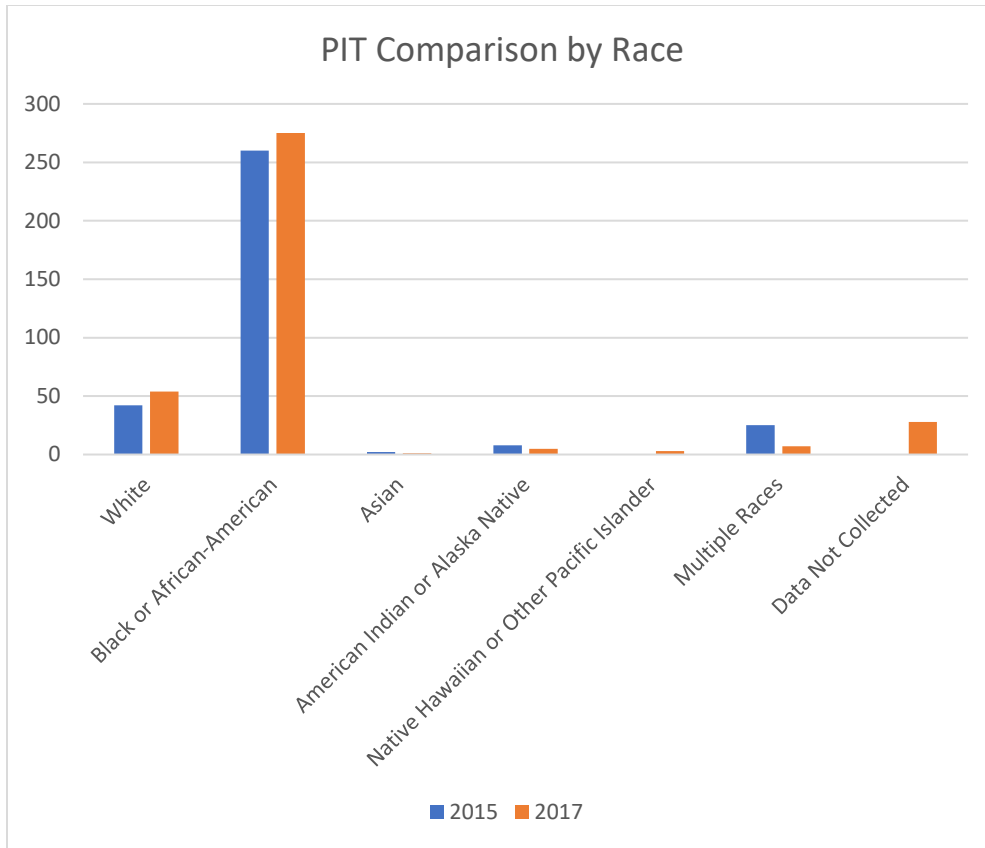
The Sheltered count on the other hand had a slight decrease from 2015 to 2017. The 2015 sheltered which counts only emergency shelters and transitional shelters had a total 85 homeless persons and in 2017 shows 66 total homeless persons.



Demographics

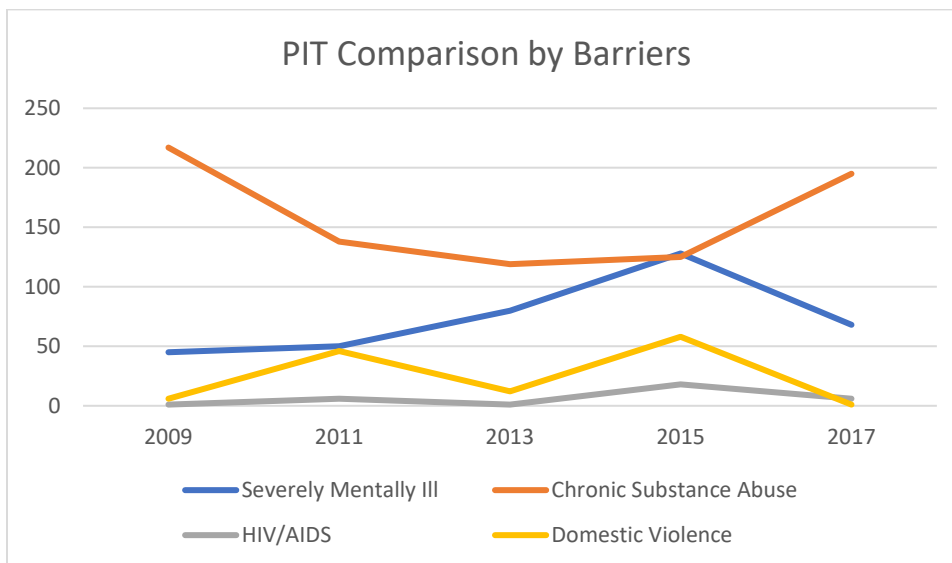
The 2017 demographics of the homeless population has remained relatively consistent with previous counted years; with 90% Blacks/African Americans making up majority of the homeless count, 76% with Non-Hispanic, and 96% comprising of males.

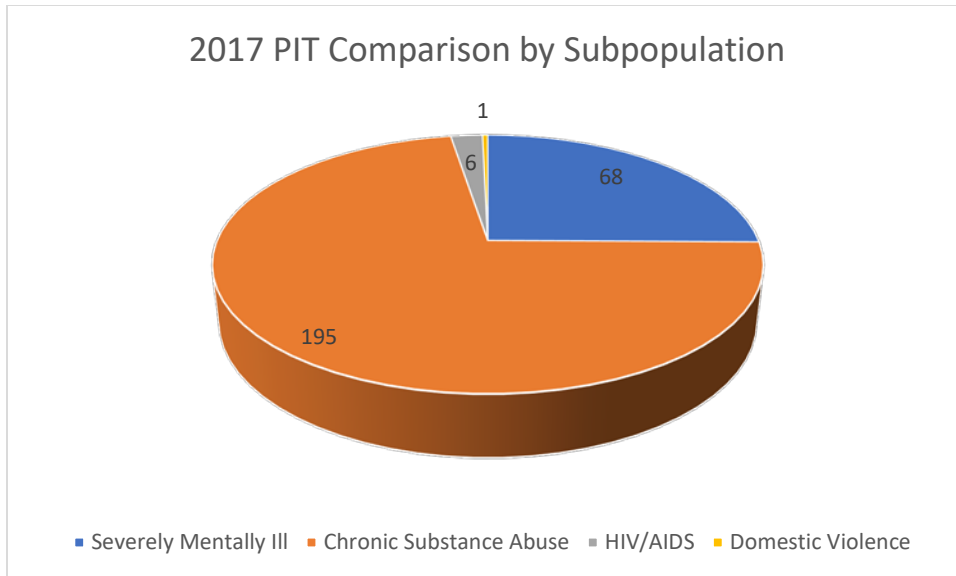




Subpopulations

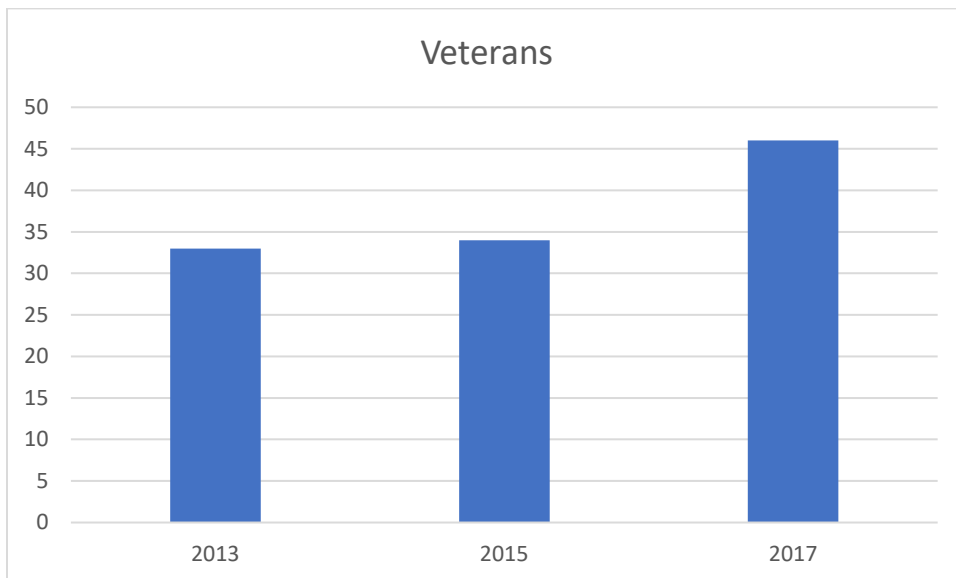
There are several factors that contribute to homelessness some of which were measured and captured such as HIV/AIDS, Domestic Violence, Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. The count data continues to show that mental illness and substance abuse are bigger contributing factors. This year, approximately 52% were listed as substance abuse barriers, an increase from 2015.





Veterans

Though the territory has had increased benefits for the veteran population in the territory with the introduction of the Support Services (SSVF) & HUD/VASH permanent Housing programs for Veterans and Families, there was still an increase from 2015, that showed 34 homeless veterans to 2017, which shows 46 homeless veterans.



Conclusion

The VI community experts in the field of homelessness have analyzed the counts throughout the years and drawn the same conclusion as previous years. –The homelessness population continues to increase in the territory and though the data may show that there was a slight decrease in 2015 numbers, that was largely due to the number of volunteers who showed up to conduct the count.

The territory currently has 83 Emergency Shelter Beds, 33% of which are dedicated solely to Domestic Violence(DV) clients; 50 Transitional Shelter Beds, 1% of which are dedicated to DV clients; 90 Permanent Shelter Beds, 30% of these beds will be closed by summer due to lack of renewed local government funding. That 30% comprised 25 Home At Last Catholic Charities Permanent Beds. The conclusion can be drawn that there is a greater need for Permanent Homeless Shelter Beds for the territory. Currently, our Permanent Shelter beds average 92% occupancy rate, while the occupancy of the Emergency and Transitional shelters are largely filled with over stayers, who cannot afford to go elsewhere.

There's also a great need for more wrap around services dedicated to addressing the barriers identified such as substance abuse and mental illness.