Halfway There

A look at where Portsmouth stands 5 years into the 10 year plan to end homelessness

The Plan

- Created in 2008, with buy-in from stakeholders, including the city of Portsmouth, non-profits, and private citizens
- 4 Goals adopted, with a work plan assigning tasks and deadlines to stakeholders
- 8 strategies identified

Goal 1
PLAN FOR OUTCOMES: COLLECT AND UTILIZE BETTER DATA

- The 7 lead nonprofits servicing/preventing homelessness in Portsmouth are licensed HMIS contributors
- Portsmouth's HMIS consistently achieves percentages of completion and accuracy in the 90's
- APRs are generated for application to HUD funding on time each year
- Outcome measures are generated by HUD; annual evaluation conducted for Exhibit 1 of the HUD grant application process

Goal 1 In Progress

- Funding stream evaluation
- Researching best practices

Goal 1 Outstanding

- Gap analysis to determine housing need
- Best practices need dissemination to PHAC and city agencies

Goal 2
CLOSE THE FRONT DOOR: FOCUS ON PREVENTION

- Homeless Prevention Plan operated by PARC and the HER Shelter
- Central Intake operated by PARC; also HMIS inputs track people presenting for services
- Housing Broker, first at The Planning Council, and currently at the HER Shelter/PARC
- VHDA operates an affordable housing database
- Re-entry Council facilitates re-entry case plan and counselor for persons exiting the justice system
- VSH and OOC are also involved in the restoration of rights process

Goal 2

- Housing First with case management
  - Shelter+Care Program
    - 2 case managers refer for services
    - Scattered site housing for community integration
    - Liaison between tenants and landlords when needed
    - Need-based placement, not who is next on the list
  - "No Wrong Door" policy embraced by DBHS

Goal 2 Outstanding

- Public education and outreach campaign

Goal 3
OPEN THE BACK DOOR: EXPAND CAPACITY FOR PERMANANCY & SUPPORT

- Initial outreach conducted by VSH to decrease congregation in business corridors
- DBHS operates the PATH, Safe Haven, & Shelter+Care programs
- 2 DBHS recovery houses for women with substance abuse/mental illness

Goal 3

- Portsmouth participates in the following SRO's:
  - Gosnold Apartments, Norfolk (6 units)
  - Clover Leaf Apartments, VA Beach (2 units)
  - South Bay Apartments, Portsmouth (42 units)
  - Heron's Landing Apartments, Chesapeake (10 units)
- CoC Housing Inventory consistently experiences high utilization rates
- CoC participated in the 1,000 Homes campaign:
  - Identified the most vulnerable homeless citizens, who are now being systematically housed

Goal 3

- City zoning regulations updated:
  - Homeowners may take up to 2 boarders
  - Increase density by allowing smaller lot sizes and smaller apartment sizes
  - Green initiatives used to incentivize increased density
  - Large projects utilized a neighborhood overlay
  - Guidelines set by the Planning Commission to allow waivers for smaller lot size, as well
- Vacancy Rate: 5.3% (06/12)

Goal 3 In Progress

- Participate in the establishment of a residential treatment facility for substance abusers who are homeless.
  - The Healing Place

Goal 4
BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE: MAXIMIZE MAINSTREAM RESOURCES

- Portsmouth participates with the Regional Task Force to End Homelessness
- Hampton Roads Community Heath Center
  - Operating beyond funding to service homeless citizens of Portsmouth

Total Patients

Year	Total Patients
2008	507
2009	528
2010	618
2011	548
2012	440
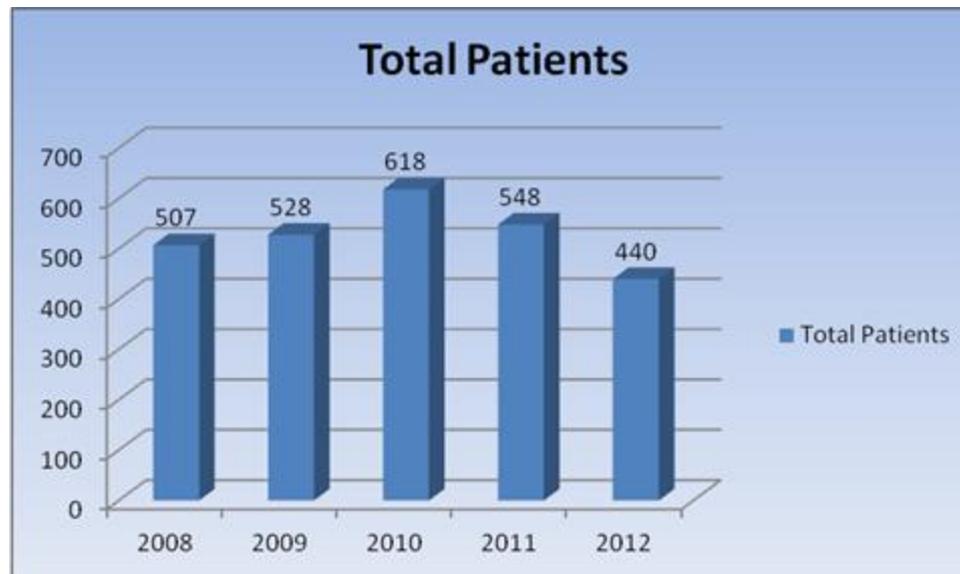
Goal 4

- PDBHS and DSS refer clients to Maryview Foundation, as well
- The VA Medical Center conducts discharge planning for Portsmouth veterans
- The Lions Club continues in partnership with Oasis Opportunity Center to provide dental care
- Some vision and dental care also provided at the annual Portsmouth Homeless Assist Day
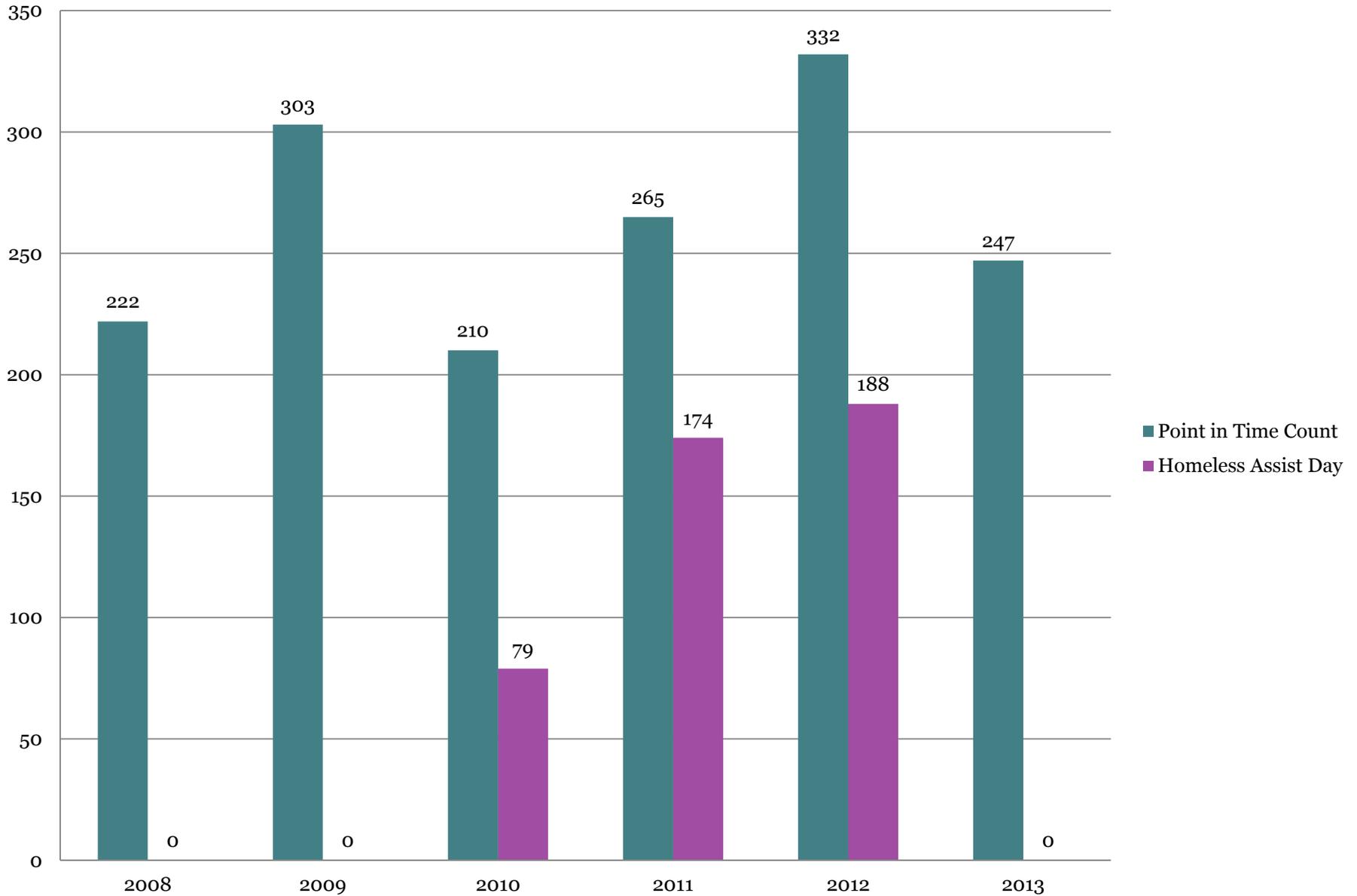 - Annual outreach to connect homeless citizens with services, toiletries, and some clothing items

Goal 4 Outstanding/Future

- Pursue partnerships for vision care
- Continue efforts, through advocacy, public education and regional/local partnerships to improve the availability of mental health and substance abuse services.
- Pursue opportunities to expand "non-mandated" services
  - Enhance programming for domestic violence victims
  - Develop services for ex-offenders (Already implemented with Restoration of Rights Campaign & The Re-Entry Council)
  - Expand services to young adults "aging out" of the foster care system (Already implemented with the Independent Living Program)
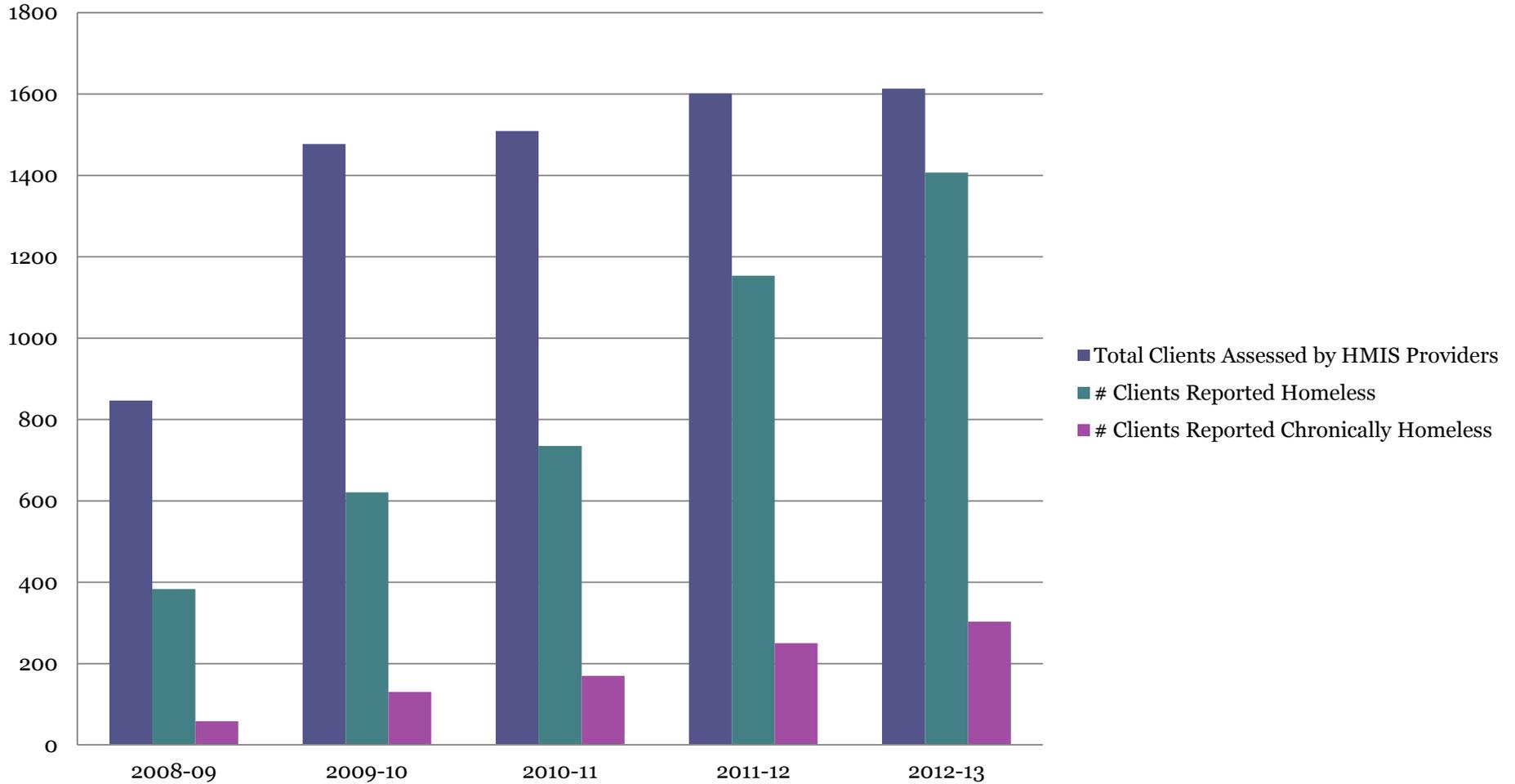
Impact: Are we working toward ending homelessness in Portsmouth?

- Identify homeless
- Provide services
- Focus on Prevention
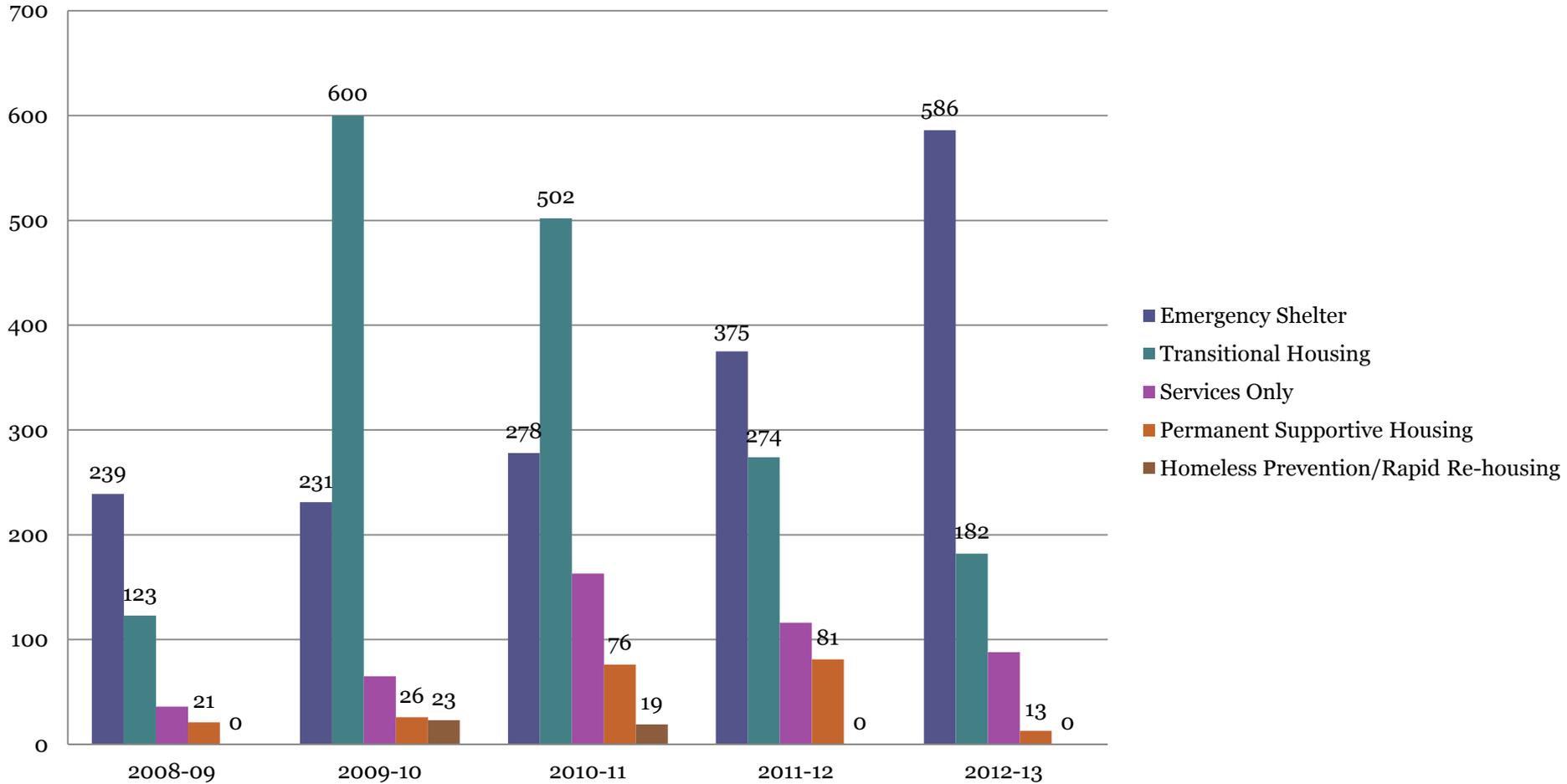- Decrease rate of homelessness

Counting the Homeless Population

Year	Point in Time Count	Homeless Assist Day
2008	222	0
2009	303	0
2010	210	79
2011	265	174
2012	332	188
2013	247	0

■ Point in Time Count
■ Homeless Assist Day

HMIS Assessed Population

Chart legend:
- ■ Total Clients Assessed by HMIS Providers
- ■ # Clients Reported Homeless
- ■ # Clients Reported Chronically Homeless

New HMIS Entries by Reported Program Type

2012 Sheltered Point-in-time Count Needs Assessment

- **Housing:**
  - Approximately 105 Transitional Housing beds
  - Over 160 Permanent Supportive Housing beds
- **Services :**
  - Expanded and targeted rapid re-housing program
    - Could fulfill the need of the estimated 105 persons forced to enter shelter
    - Reduce the length of time spent homeless and trauma associated.
  - Intensive case management, housing locators and employment brokers using a Housing First approach
  - 10% of total persons counted experienced domestic violence
    - Continue and expand robust services
- **Mainstream Resources :**
  - Over 14% of the 332 persons counted presented with chronic substance abuse disorders
  - Nearly 8% presented with severe mental illness.
    - Gap in mainstream resources targeted to promote housing stabilization
    - Gap in coordination between service providers specializing in mental health and substance abuse and lack of mainstream housing subsidies.

CoC Achievements

	Create new PH beds for CH.	Increase % of homeless staying in PH over 6 mo. to at least 71%.	Increase % of homeless moving from TH to PH to at least 61.5%.	Increase % of homeless employed at exit to at least 18%.	
2008	2 beds	84%	88%	25%	
	Create new PH beds for CH.	Increase % of homeless staying in PH over 6 mo. to at least 71.5%.	Increase % of homeless moving from TH to PH to at least 63.5%.	Increase % of homeless employed at exit to at least 19%.	Decrease the number of homeless households with children.
2009	3 beds	86%	76%	26%	Goal:18 Actual:36
	Create new PH beds for CH.	Increase % of homeless staying in PH over 6 mo. to at least 77%.	Increase % of homeless moving from TH to PH to at least 65%.	Increase % of homeless employed at exit to at least 20%.	Decrease the number of homeless households with children.
2010	14 beds	91%	70%	28%	Goal:18 Actual:22
	Create new PH beds for CH.	Increase % of homeless staying in PH over 6 mo. to at least 77%.	Increase % of homeless moving from TH to PH to at least 65%.	Increase % of homeless employed at exit to at least 20%.	Decrease the number of homeless households with children.
2011	18 beds	92%	77%	28%	Goal:18 Actual:18
	Create new PH beds for CH.	Increase % of homeless staying in PH over 6 mo. to at least 77%.	Increase % of homeless moving from TH to PH to at least 65%.	Increase % of homeless employed at exit to at least 20%.	Decrease the number of homeless households with children.
2012	38 beds	84%	71%	24%	Goal:20 Actual: 30

Economic Environment

- Challenging economic reality:
  - Budgets are tightening across the board (federal to individual households)
  - Unemployment rate still high
    - Portsmouth: 7.7% (07/13)
    - Virginia: 5.8% (08/13)
    - National: 7.3% (08/13)
- Increasing number of families with children experiencing homelessness
- Increase in new homelessness

Policy Environment

- New guidelines from HUD:
  - HEARTH Act
    - Consolidates Title IV of McKinney-Vento into a single program
    - Federal goal: return to housing within 30 days
  - Rapid re-housing & housing first
  - Decentralization to CoC control

Analysis

- The 10 year plan is in progress
- Portsmouth CoC is doing very well by HUD's standards with limited resources
  - CoC members continue to achieve higher rates of success than required by HUD, in spite of ever-tightening budgets
- CoC members need support from the city in terms of prevention funding, housing vouchers, and supportive housing inventory

Recommendations

- Increase communication between PHAC and city agencies and departments
  - Highlight achievements and focus areas to improve services
- Work to achieve a higher quality of data collection and usage
- Strengthen PHAC
  - Organize CoC around HEARTH Act goals
  - Align bylaws with HEARTH Act
  - Use monthly meetings to measure progress on HUD outcome measures
  - Publicize annual review conducted for Exhibit 1