

County of Santa Clara

Office of Supportive Housing

3180 Newberry Dr. Suite 150
San Jose, CA 95118
(408) 793-0550 Main
(408) 266-0124 Fax



March 8, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors
Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee (HLUET)
Committee

FROM: Consuelo Hernandez, Office of Supportive Housing (OSH)

SUBJECT: Supportive Housing System in Santa Clara County

The attached report highlights trends, successes, and challenges of the supportive housing system in Santa Clara County between February 2020 and January 2021. The report's primary function is to communicate how different programs are contributing to an overall reduction in homelessness. The supportive housing system includes housing programs that fall into five main categories: Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and Homelessness Prevention (HP).

Supportive Housing System Trends and Highlights

Appendix A highlights data on four of the five overarching goals detailed in the County's [2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness](#). As shown in Chart 1, the County has housed 3,454 individuals since January 2020, 17% toward the goal of housing 20,000 people by 2025. Chart 2 depicts progress toward the County's goal of reducing new unhoused individuals and families in a given year by 30%. This target was based on annual inflow prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Inflow for calendar year 2019 (4,778 people) is used as a baseline. Inflow for the February 2020 to January 2021 reporting period is atypically low at 3,182 households. While we expect this number to move closer to pre-pandemic inflow levels as the emergency begins to abate, long-term impacts of the pandemic are challenging to predict.

Chart 3 illustrates data related to the County's goal of doubling our temporary housing and

shelter capacity to reduce the number of people sleeping outside. Capacity was temporarily increased by approximately 900 congregate and non-congregate beds over the past year to accommodate the needs of our county residents experiencing homelessness during the pandemic; as the pandemic subsides and emergency COVID-19 funding ends, these temporary bed programs will close as the County works toward providing longer-term shelter and temporary housing solutions. The County plans to continue to operate additional temporary shelters, such as Gateway at the fairgrounds, as long as shelters must operate at reduced capacity to allow for social distancing.

A fourth target in the Community Plan is to expand the HP System and other early interventions to serve 2,500 people per year. Chart 4 in Appendix A shows that while there were 3,255 being served in prevention programs during the reporting period, nearly half (1,519) are being served via temporary COVID-19 emergency programs. These programs are targeted towards providing assistance related to financial challenges as a result of COVID, so funding for these programs is time limited. The County and its partners have also increased the permanent capacity of the homelessness prevention system, expanding from 1,540 to 2,140 since the start of the new community plan last year.

Appendix B provides program capacity and utilization for our five program categories plus the Safe Parking (SP) initiative and, beginning in December, the seasonal Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) programs. As seen in Chart 3, PSH (96%), SP (89%), and HP (89%) are the most utilized programs as it relates to capacity for this reporting period.

Appendix C illustrates key system performance measures, benchmarks for which are determined in coordination with community partners on an annual basis. Notable trends and highlights for the reporting period include the following:

- Chart 1 depicts the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time (system entries) compared to the number of clients enrolled in a housing program during the same period. As shown in chart 1, both inflow and program entries decreased for the February 2020 through January 2021 period. Inflow also decreased as it relates to the total number of housing program enrollments (45%) compared to same period in the prior year (49%). These reductions are likely due at least in part to the shelter-in-place orders that persisted during a significant portion of last year.
- Chart 2 provides data on exits to permanent housing destinations by housing type and period. Exits to permanent housing from RRH programs continued an upward trajectory seen over the past several months, reaching 78% for the current study period. TH exits to permanency have steadied (46%) after falling below 40% in the fall. Overall program exits to permanent housing increased slightly to 35%.

- Chart 3 in Appendix C illustrates that PSH retention remains high at 95.7%, exceeding the system-wide 95% benchmark for the period.

Appendix D shows data on returns to homelessness at six months, one year, and two years post-exit for households that were permanently housed through the supportive housing system. System-wide returns to homelessness for households that exited to permanent housing increased slightly from the 2019 to the 2020 study period; six months (+2%), one year (+2%), and two years (+2%) post-exit. The OSH will continue to monitor these changes and persist in its focus on homelessness prevention efforts.

Appendix E presents data on housing placements and inflow by project type and month. The upper chart indicates the number of households that moved to permanent housing (housing placements), compared to the number of households completing their first assessment (inflow). The inflow is stratified by level of housing intervention – minimal, RRH, or PSH. The lower chart breaks down the housing placements by the type of project from which the household was receiving assistance. After returning briefly to pre-pandemic levels in October, inflow fell in January. This may be a result of the local surge in COVID-19 cases beginning in mid-November and continuing through early January. Inflow, however, continues to outpace the rate of housing placements. For January 2021, inflow exceeded housing placements by 31%.

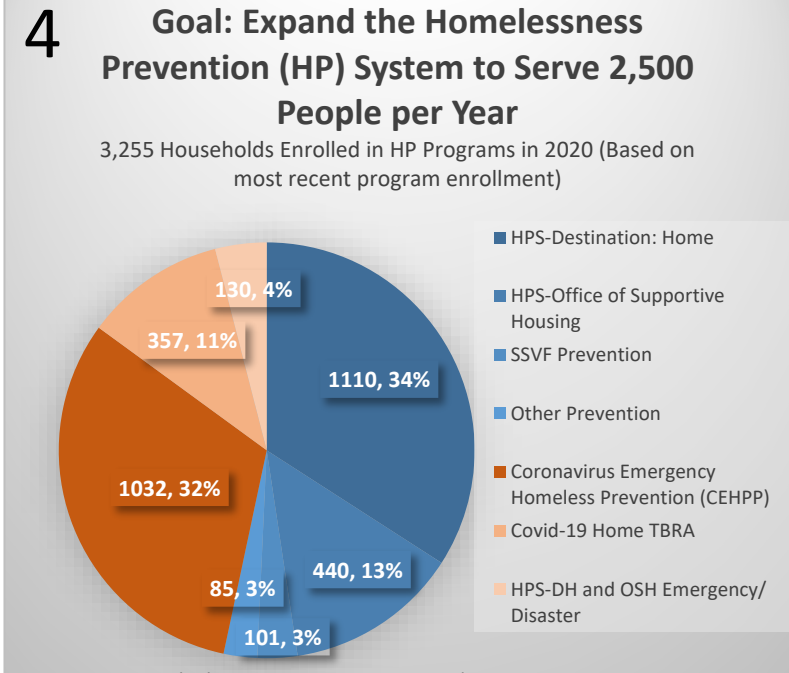
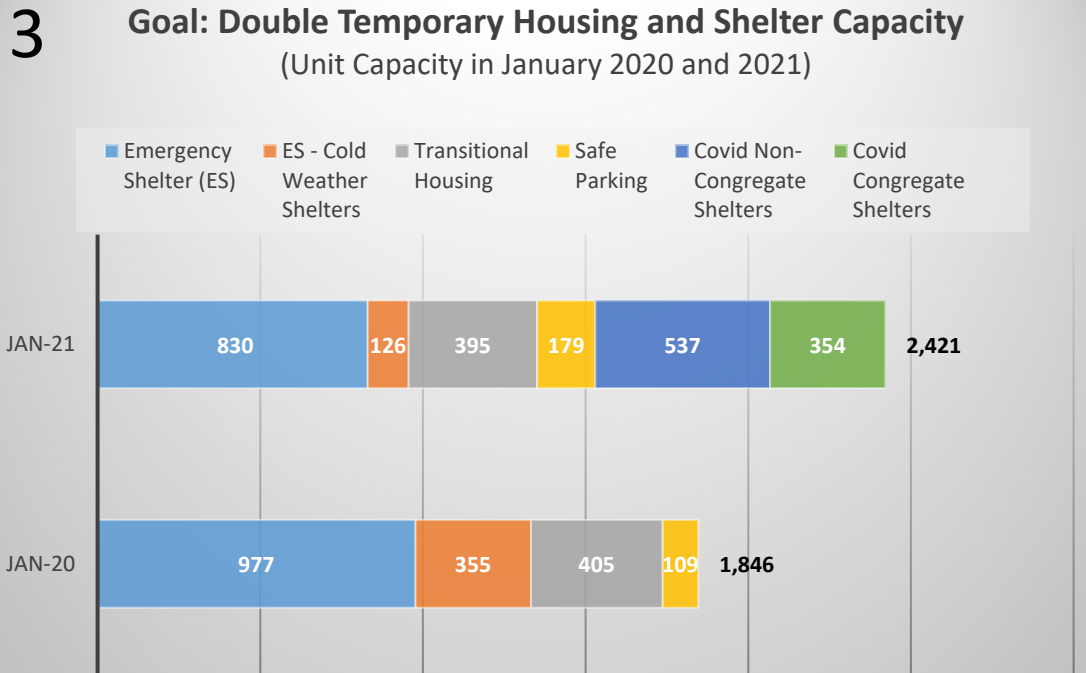
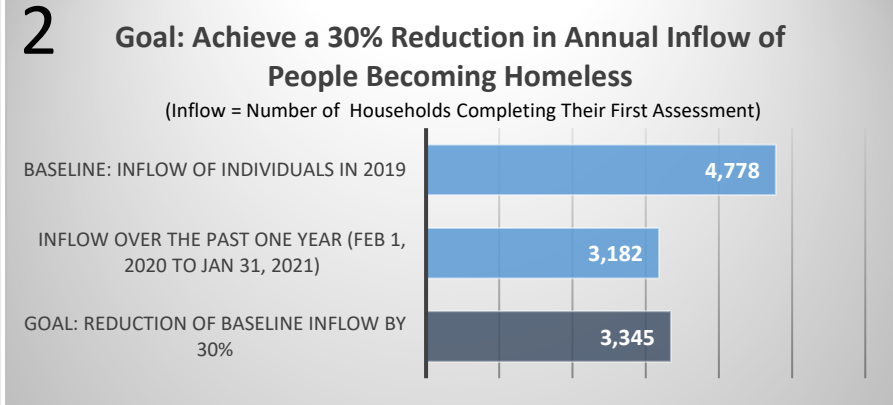
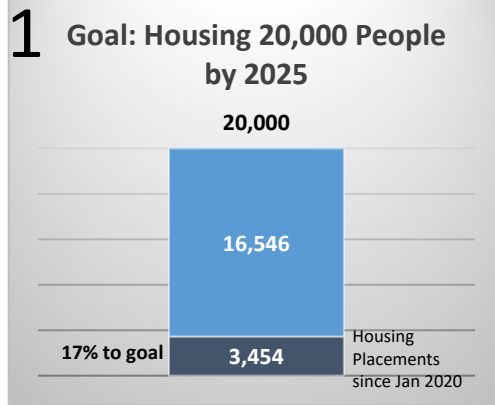


Office of Supportive Housing
 Supportive Housing System
 Dashboard
 February 1, 2020 –
 January 31, 2021

The 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness

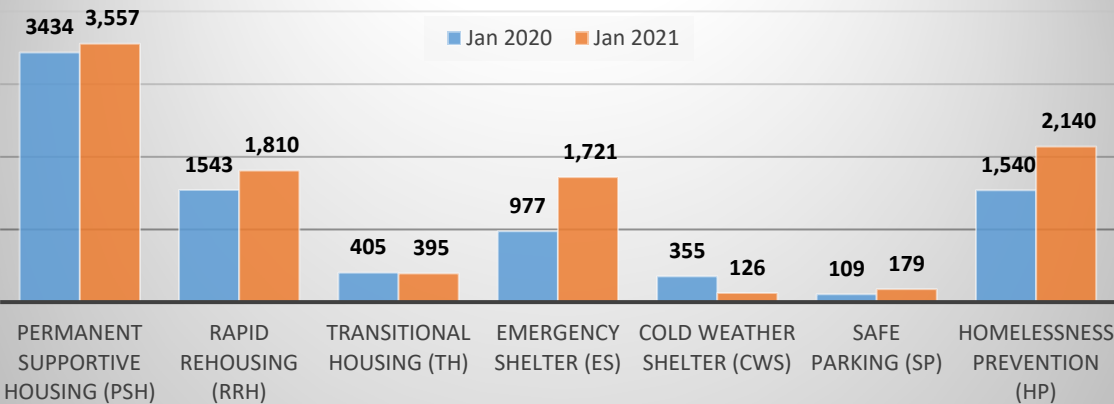
The county-wide plan is our roadmap for ending homelessness in Santa Clara County. The 2020-2025 plan sets aggressive targets designed to reverse the current growth in homelessness and bring us one step closer to our collective goal of eliminating homelessness in our community. Appendix A will highlight specific goals related to this plan.

Appendix A: Community Plan Goals



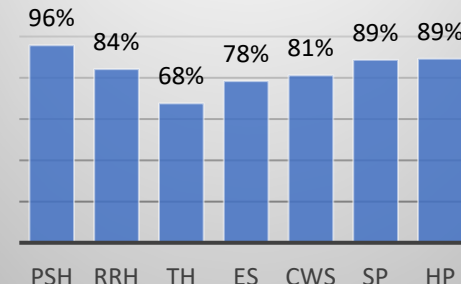
Appendix B: Capacity and Utilization as of 1/31/2021

Program Capacity (Units or Households)



1,215 PSH Units and 81 RRH Units are Under Construction or in the Pipeline

Program Utilization, January 2021



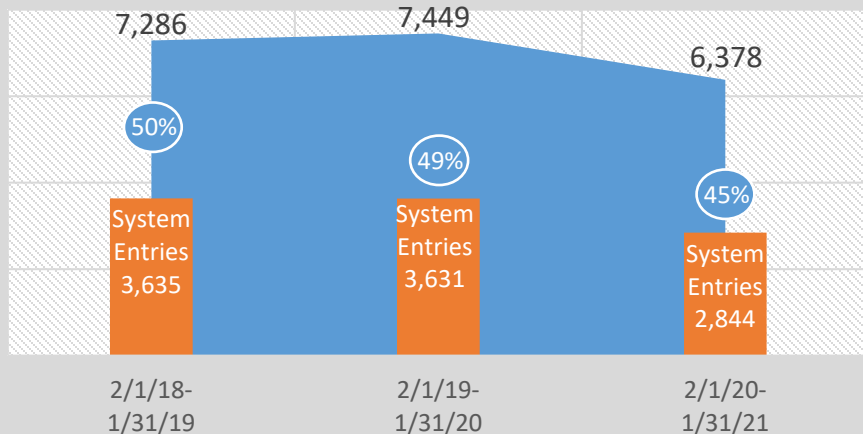
- Utilization: PSH, RRH are point-in-time utilization on January 31, 2021. TH, ES, and SP utilization are based on the month of January, and HP utilization is based on the last 12 months
- Program utilization is based on households enrolled in programs that are tracked in HMIS.
- PSH programs that are not tracked in HMIS include HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), consisting of 1,222 units, and other programs which comprise 81 units. PSH capacity includes 33 units which are Permanent Housing with services (no disability required).
- For Safe Parking programs, one parking space is the equivalent of one unit of capacity with an estimated 2.5 individuals per vehicle.

Appendix C: System Performance Measures

1 Total System Entries and Homelessness for the First Time

- Enrollments into ES, SH, TH, or PH Programs
- System Entries: People Experiencing Homelessness for the First Time*

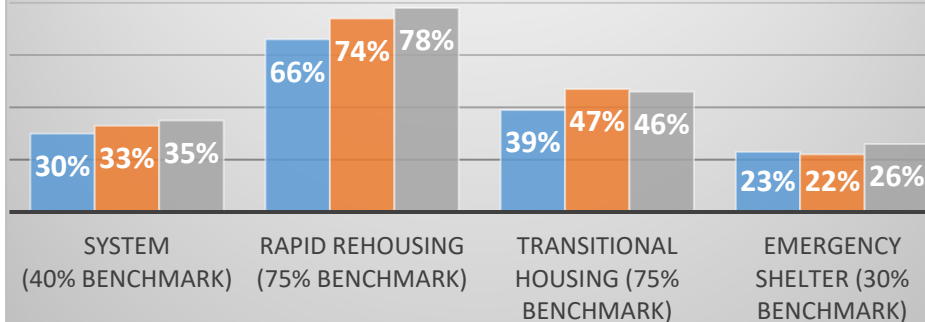
* "First Time" per HUD = no enrollments in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months



2 Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations

Of Persons in ES, TH, and RRH who Exited, the Percentage of Successful Exits to Permanent Housing

- 2/1/18-1/31/19
- 2/1/19-1/31/20
- 2/1/20-1/31/21

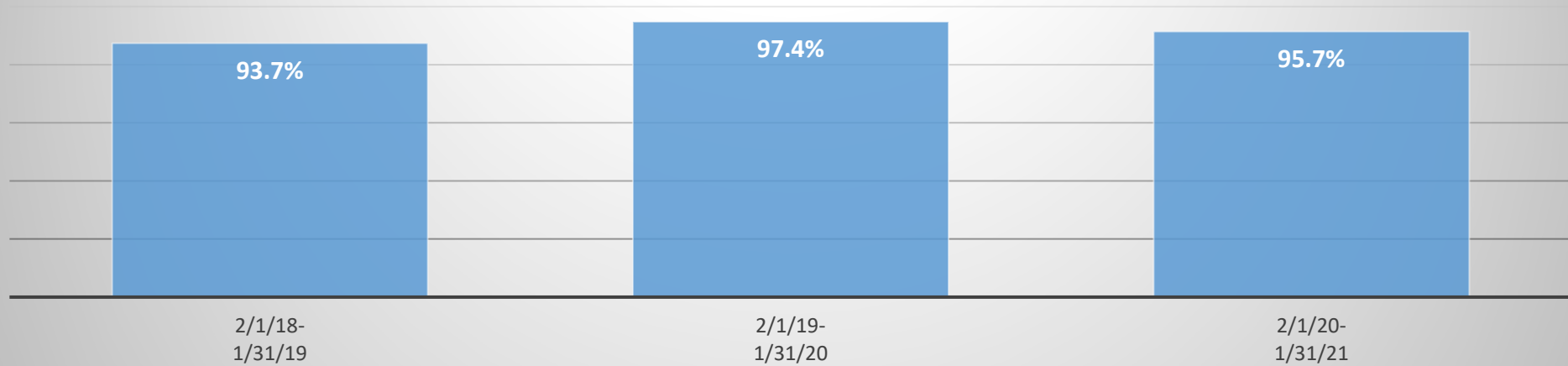


Appendix C : System Performance Measures (continued)

3

Permanent Housing Retention

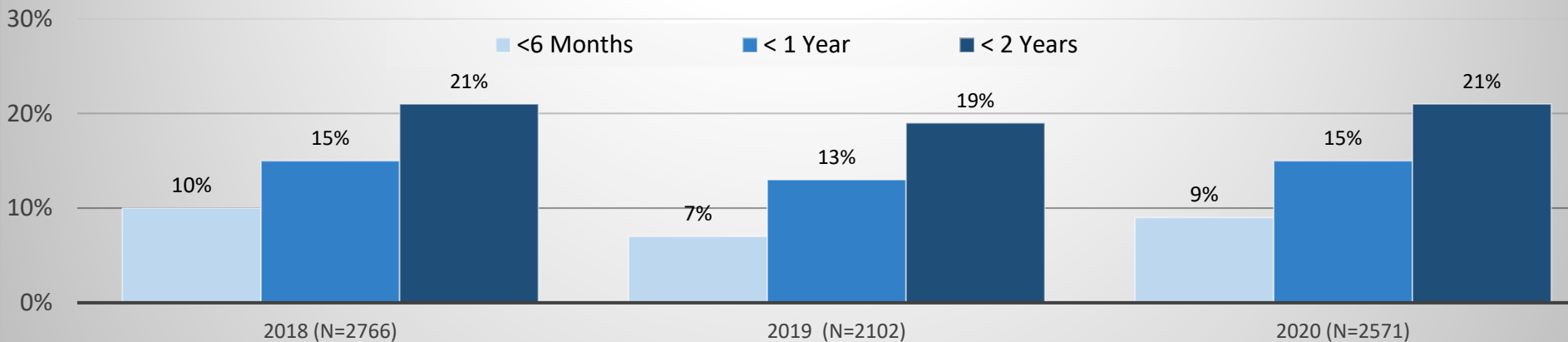
Percentage of People in Permanent Housing Programs (excluding Rapid Rehousing) Retaining Housing during the Reporting Year (Benchmark = 95%)



Appendix D: Returns to Homelessness

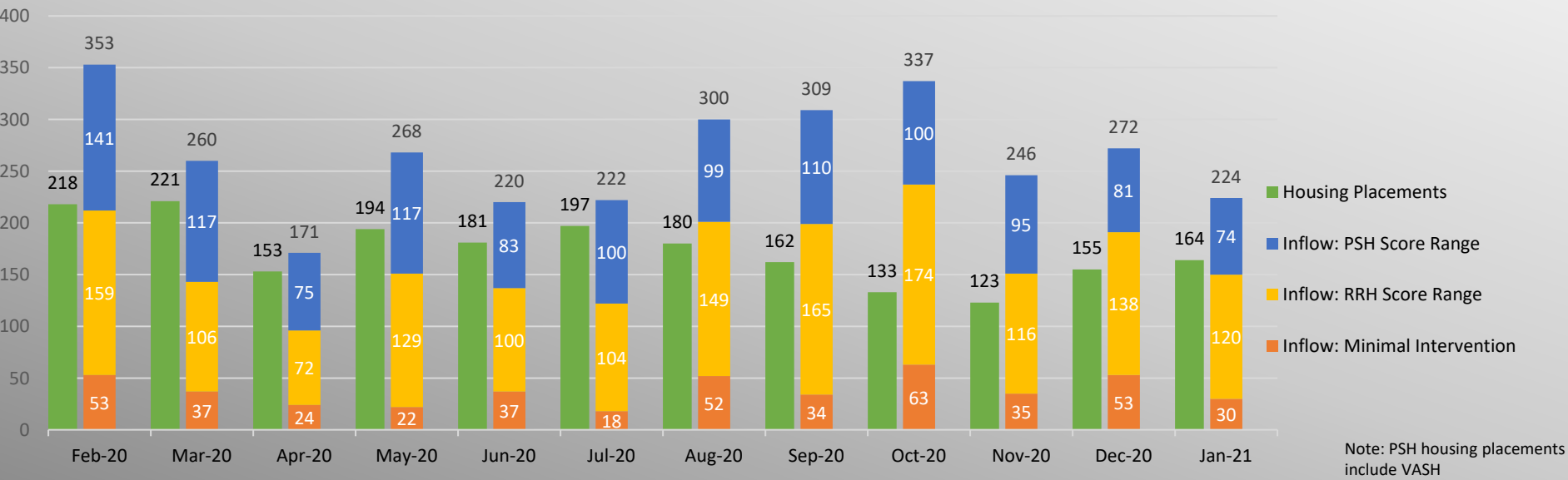
Returns to Homelessness

After exiting to Permanent Housing Destinations, the Percentage of People who Return to Homelessness (N = Exits to PH between 2/2018 to 1/2019)



Appendix E: Housing Placements and Inflow by Month

Monthly Housing Placements vs. Inflow



Monthly Housing Placements by Project Type

