

Scope of Homelessness and Behavioral Health in Georgia

Georgia Health Policy Center



Mental Health in Georgia

- Diagnosis
 - 8.47% had a major depressive episode
 - 4.7% had thoughts of suicide
 - 1.45% have made suicide plans
- 29.4% of individuals reported symptoms of anxiety or depression
- 28.3% unable to access counseling or therapy
 - Those in rural areas were more likely to reach out to 988 for care

GA Mental Health Information

- Access to care overall is an ongoing issue for all Georgians
 - America Health Rankings list at 47 out of 50 in access to care based on number of mental health providers
 - 185.9 per 100,000 Georgia
 - 324.9 per 100,000 US average
 - Ranks 48 out of 50 for access to care based on the percentage of uninsured folks in GA
 - 11.7% uninsured in GA
 - 8.00% US average
- According to Kaiser Family Foundation 58% of those who have mental illness have private insurance coverage

Mental Health and Homelessness

- People who experience homelessness are at greater risk of experiencing behavioral health disorders
 - 21% of individuals experiencing homelessness report having a serious mental illness*
 - 16% report having a substance use disorder



Homelessness Information

COC- Continuum of Care-

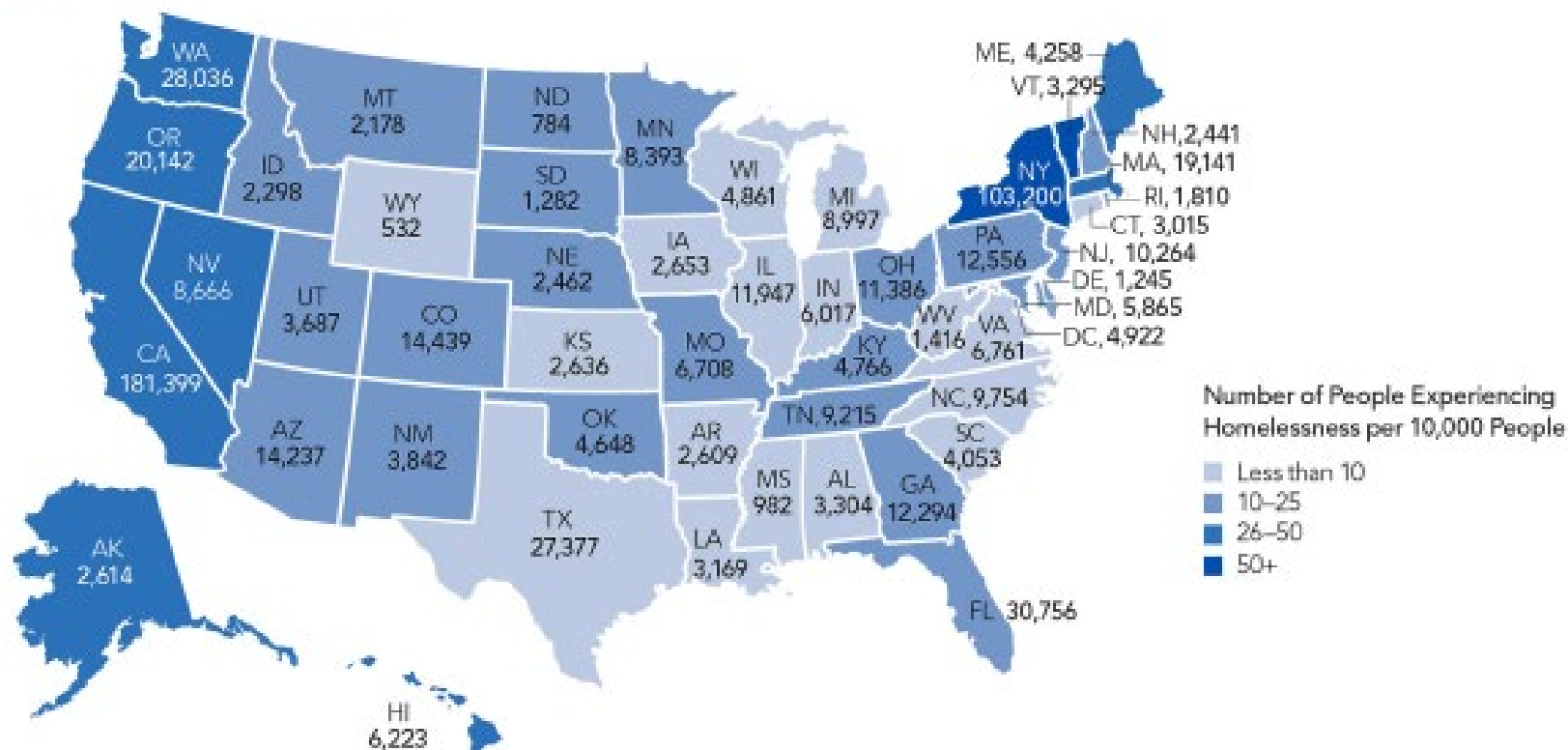
- 9 COCS in Georgia:
 - Atlanta
 - Georgia Balance of State
 - Fulton County
 - Athens-Clarke County
 - Augusta-Richmond County
 - Columbus-Muscogee
 - Marietta/Cobb County
 - Savannah Chatham County
 - DeKalb

Point-in-time counts conducted by COCs

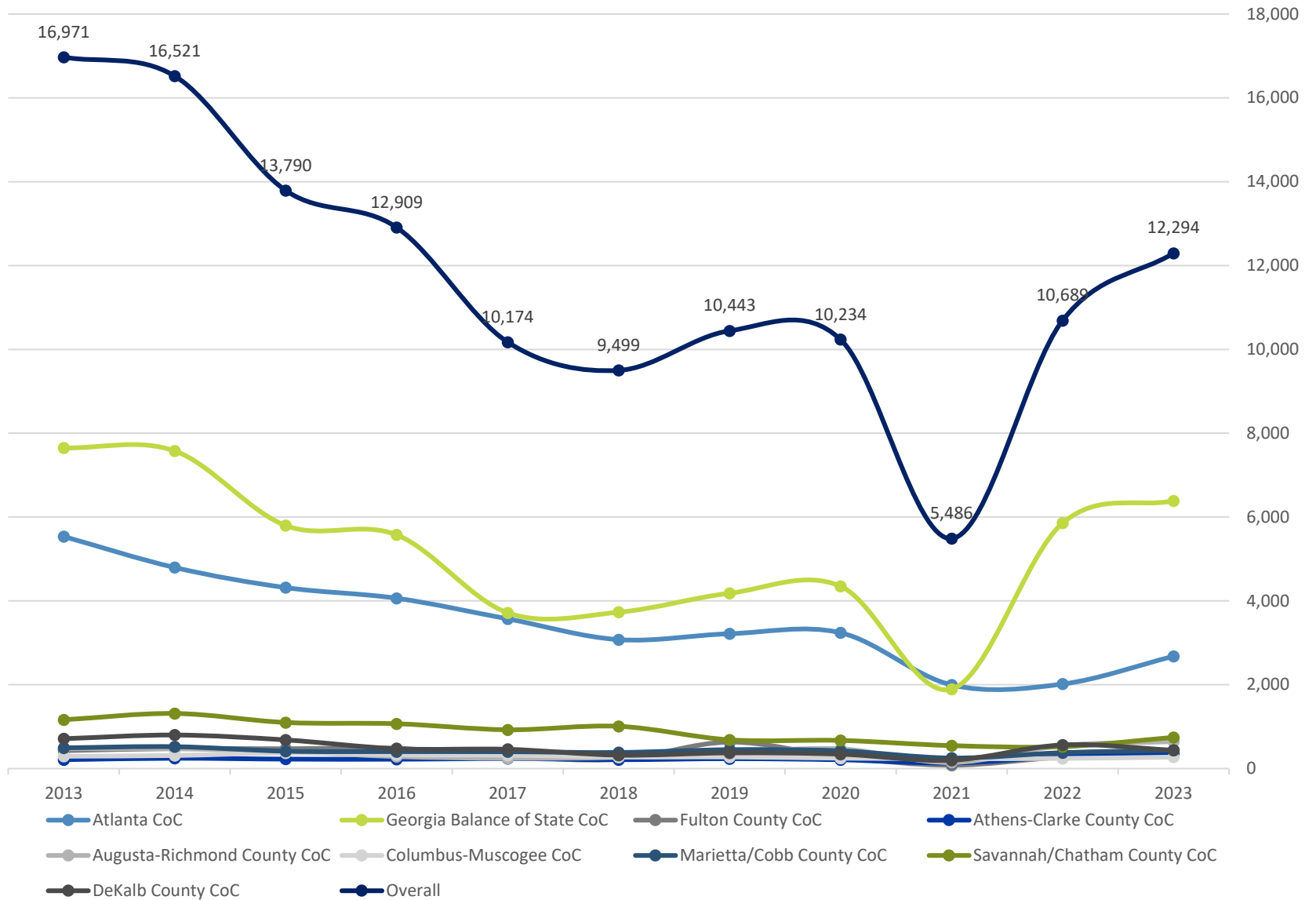
- Biannual counts of individuals who experience homelessness per 24 CFR 578.7(c)(2)
- Includes Sheltered and Unsheltered
 - Does not include individuals in more permanent residence, such as Permanent Supportive Housing

Scope of Problem Georgia

EXHIBIT 1.6: Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness
By State, 2023

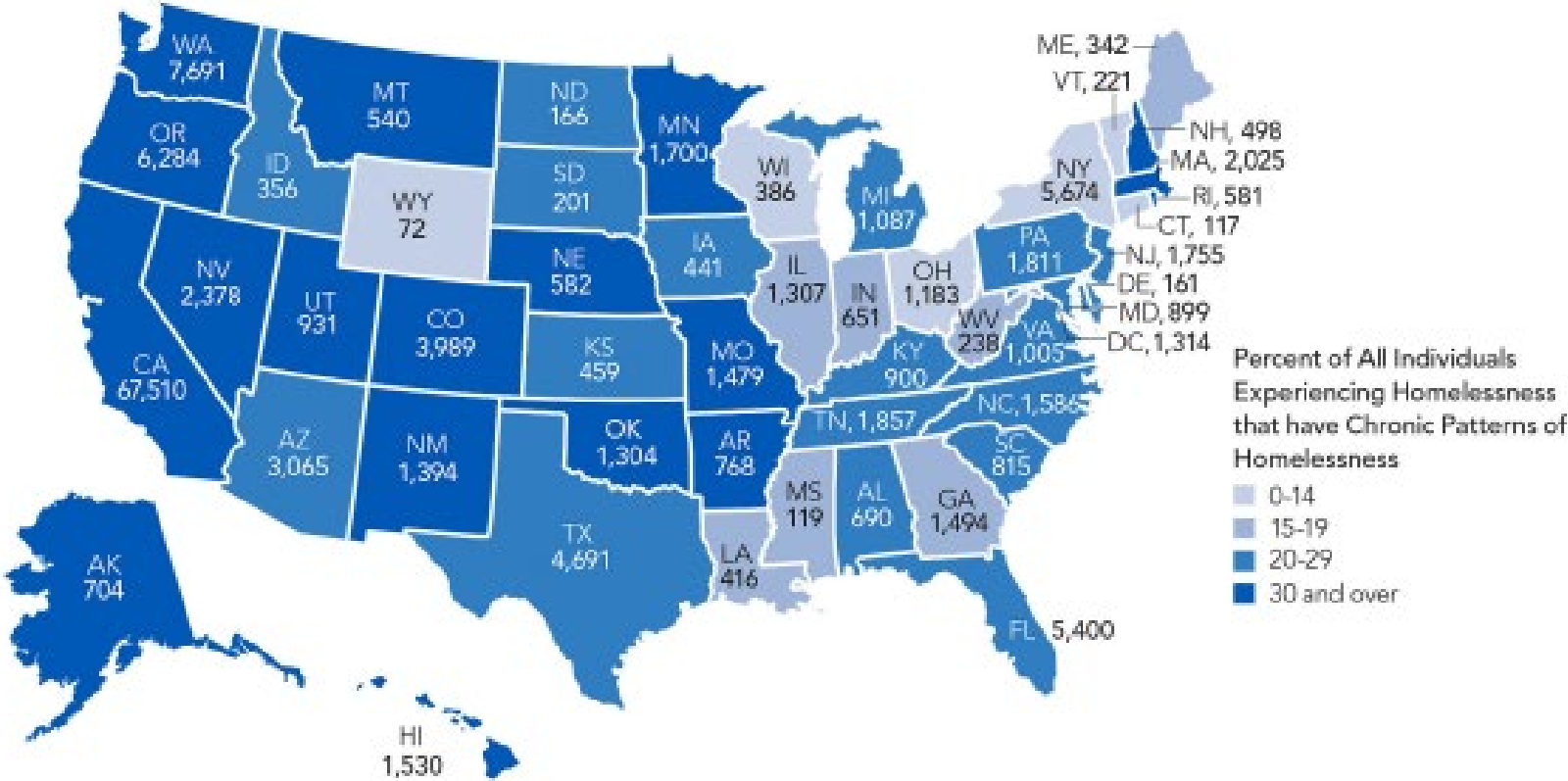


Point In Time Counts for State of Georgia from AHAR Reports 2013-2023



Chronic Homelessness

EXHIBIT 6.3: Estimates of Individuals with Chronic Patterns of Homelessness
By State, 2023



Behavioral Health and Homelessness in Georgia

Athens Clarke
(N=386)

- Mental Illness 62%
- Substance Use 43%

Atlanta
(N=2,867)

- Mental Illness: 48%
- Substance Use: 40%

Cobb County

- Unsheltered (N=315)
 - Severe Mental Illness 4.4%
 - Chronic Substance use 20.6%

Mental Health Housing Services

- *Olmstead* Decision
- DBHDD Office of Supportive Housing
 - Georgia Housing Voucher Program (GHVP)
 - Permanent supportive housing that help individuals with behavioral health needs integrate into the community
 - Bridge Funding
 - Financial support to GHVP recipients to help them transition to permanent housing
 - To qualify for either funding
 - Serious and persistent mental illness AND Served in state hospital OR frequently admitted to state hospital, OR frequently seen in the ER or Chronically homeless OR has history of incarceration or forensic status AND
 - Identified in transitional planning for individual's on the American with Disabilities (ADA) ready to discharge

Thank You

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