

So Others Might Eat

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. SOME is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.

Please remember SOME, Inc. in your will or estate plan.

POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS & HUNGER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



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In 2019 SOME's Dining Room served 295,642 meals. This was made possible by staff and nearly 8,700 Dining Room volunteers.

Poverty

• Washington, DC has about 700,000 residents. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about **13.5% of the DC population is below the federal poverty level**, which was \$20,244 for a three-person household in 2020. Additionally,

- **9%** are below 50% of the poverty level
- **19.8%** are below 125% of the poverty level
- About **25.6%** of African-American residents, **12%** residents of Hispanic or Latino origin, and **30.5%** of persons with a disability, are at 100% of the poverty level.

• **The child poverty rate in DC is 24%, contrasted with 18.5% nationally** (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).

- Since 2000, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in DC has more than doubled (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data 2001-2018). Although the DC minimum wage is **\$15** an hour, a worker would need to earn **\$32.83** an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in DC (www.nlihc.org/oor/district-columbia).

• Approximately **40,000 households** in DC are on official waiting lists for housing assistance. Their estimated wait time is more than 20 years. (2019 Five-Year Plan to End Homelessness in the District of Columbia).



Homelessness



- The total number of homeless persons counted in DC on one winter night in 2021 was **5,111**, including **752 children**. **187 were veterans**. **88% of the total counted were Black**, though Black residents are only 46% of the District's total population. (The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, 2021).

Homeless adults in DC

- 11.9% of adults in families were employed but could not afford housing
- 44.1% of adults in families reported a domestic violence history
- 5.2% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of substance abuse
- 31.7% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of mental illness
- 11.4% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of both substance abuse and mental illness.
- 23.5% of unaccompanied adults reported a chronic health problem
- 18.3% of unaccompanied adults reported a physical disability
- Permanent housing, such as that provided by SOME, is a crucial intervention. On the night of the 2021 Point in Time count, **6,363 formerly homeless unaccompanied individuals and 3,579 formerly homeless families were in a form of permanent housing**. (The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, 2021).

Hunger

- According to the DC Food Policy Council (2020) **16.7% of DC residents lack consistent access to enough food** for an active, healthy life—an increase from 10.6% in 2018. **Food insecurity spiked 21.1% of District residents in May 2020** when the impact of COVID-19 was the greatest. More than **16.7%** of DC households with children experience food hardship. This figure is one of the highest in the country. (FRAC, Food Hardship in America, 2020).
- Food insecurity exacerbated by COVID-19 is likely to disproportionately affect Black, senior, undocumented, and unhoused populations (DC Food Policy Council, 2020).
- The disproportionality of food insecurity is worsened by the fact that **only 3 of the District's 79 full-service grocery stores are in Wards 7 and 8** (DC Hunger Solutions, 2020). Wards 7 and 8 have the highest percentage of Black residents and the **highest percentage of individuals below the poverty line**. **Wards 7 and 8 residents have limited transportation options for accessing other grocery stores and worse health outcomes, including higher per capita rates of death from COVID-19.**

