



FY2022 Data Snapshot



City of Philadelphia
Office of Homeless Services



Executive Summary

The 2022 Data Snapshot

The mission of the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Philadelphia. We fulfill this mission by providing the leadership, planning, coordination, and mobilization of resources to an extensive system of homelessness prevention, emergency, temporary and long-term housing services for those facing imminent or literal homelessness.

Homelessness is caused by the lack of affordable housing. If there were an affordable home for every person who needs one, we would have an end to homelessness. Absent that, homeless services comprise the response system to the affordable housing crisis. Philadelphia's homeless service Continuum of Care (CoC) is committed to Housing First, an approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need a place to live in order to get a job or education, get well and sustain recovery, strengthen family and community. Housing is the foundation.

The work of OHS and the network of homeless services providers is guided by our strategic plan, [The Roadmap to Homes](#), (2018-2023). Our community works in five priorities areas to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. One of these priorities is to *Implement Transparent and Inclusive Quality Improvement Process*. This annual Data Snapshot is a foundational element of fulfilling this priority. It is only with high quality and consistent data that we can identify trends, highlight outcomes, assess gaps, and direct our efforts to best meet the needs of the community. To that end, OHS works tirelessly with its community partners to ensure grantees use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or, when applicable, a comparable database. OHS also helps grantees address data quality concerns, provides training and technical assistance to end-users to ensure that the data collected is comprehensive and accurately reflects those served. It should be noted that this Data Snapshot follows and reflects the requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Among the foundational data that guides the system is the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT). It is a count of people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered on a single night at the end of January. It is complemented by the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), an inventory of programs within the homeless services Continuum of Care (CoC) that are dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness. It is held at the same time as the PIT count.



This year's FY2022 Data Snapshot shows that:

- Philadelphia decreased the number of unsheltered persons by twenty-seven percent in the last 5 years (2018 to 2022) with an overall twenty-two percent decrease in the number of homeless persons (sheltered and unsheltered) for the same period.
- Philadelphia's CoC has increased its Permanent Housing inventory by nine percent (Rapid Re-Housing, Supportive Housing, other long-term housing beds) since FY2019.

Total Served

- The CoC served 17,693 unique persons (13,478 households) in FY22. This number is similar to pre-pandemic levels.
- Over eighty percent of people served were people of color. Ten percent of those served were of Hispanic/Latinx. People of color, specifically those who identify as Black, African American, or African, are over-represented in the homeless population in Philadelphia and other communities. Centering racial equity is a priority for OHS. We use Data Snapshot as well as other quantitative and qualitative data to ensure that homeless services are accessed and delivered equitably and do not further contribute to racial inequities.

Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring

OHS along with our partners have made progress in advancing the goals of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

- *Make homelessness rare:* Seventy percent of persons served entered homelessness for the first time. This is a two percent decrease from FY2019. Prevention and diversion services are key in ensuring that families and individuals at risk of homelessness avoid entering shelters in the first place by helping them find safe alternative arrangements, or stay where they are. More globally, the best homelessness prevention is an adequate supply of affordable housing.
- *Making homelessness brief:* In FY22, participants spent on average eleven percent less time (-18 days) in Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Haven (SH) or Transitional Housing (TH) than they did in FY19. Average length of time for participants in ES/SH/TH in FY22 was 143 days.
- *Make Homelessness Non-Recurring:* Eighty-one percent of participants who exited to permanent housing did not return to homelessness. This is a four percent decrease compared to FY19. It is noteworthy that the highest rate of recidivism was for people who exited to family and friends. For those who exited to Supportive Housing comprised of a rental subsidy and wrap-around services, the retention rate was ninety-six percent.

Conclusion

Philadelphia's CoC provides lifesaving services to thousands of Philadelphians each year with a focus on housing first. We have made progress toward making homelessness rare, brief, and non-



recurring. We have leveraged new resources to help families and individuals and proved to be resilient in adapting to new challenges both throughout COVID and as the pandemic winds down.

Through the recently awarded Youth Homeless Demonstration Programs (YHDP), Philadelphia today has an exciting new opportunity to create a Coordinated Community Plan to address homelessness among Youth and Young Adults (YYA), and then fund priority programs.

The shortage of deeply affordable housing continues to be the main obstacle to getting people housed and ensuring that they do not enter or return to homelessness. The lack of income, essentially poverty, experienced by so many Philadelphians, especially people of color, continues to be true barrier to health, opportunity, and stability. OHS is one remedy to that situation for many.



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COVID-19 Impact and Recovery

In FY22 the homeless service system along with the rest of the world began to recover from COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), OHS implemented COVID-19 testing as part of the shelter process to screen for the infection to prevent those with the virus to enter a congregate site and potentially cause spread. When PDPH closed the Quarantine and Isolation Site in March 2022, OHS established the COVID Recovery Isolation Site (CRIS) which we maintain today with exclusive use by the homeless system. It enables people who have tested positive for COVID, but don't require hospitalization, to isolate safely until they are no longer infected.

OHS and PDPH continue to promote vaccinations to prevent the spread of COVID. Congregate sites continue to use protective protocols like mask-wearing to reduce spread. Bed spacing has been reduced and capacity in the system has been restored to pre-COVID levels. The COVID related funding provided through the CARES Act is set to end by September 30, 2023 and has been fully allocated.

The public can find additional information on OHS's response and COVID-19 Guidance for Homeless Service Community: [Responding to the COVID Pandemic: Fall 2020 Progress Report and COVID-19 Resource Digest for the Homeless Services Community.](#)

Ultimately, these provisions have been largely successful in saving lives and keeping people safe. The shelter system provided emergency housing to over 12,000 people with a total of 616 known COVID-19 cases for the fiscal year (4.9%).ⁱ

Notably, with the end of COVID-era economic stimulus funds to individuals, and the childcare tax credit, homelessness has once again risen to pre-pandemic levels, demonstrating the positive impact of direct financial assistance made available during the pandemic. With the end of the COVID-era eviction moratorium, and Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (ERAP), evictions have once again risen, and eviction related homelessness re-emerged.

COVID – 19 Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (ERAP)

The City's eviction prevention, rental and utilities assistance program was administered by PHLRentAssist, a collaboration between City of Philadelphia and the non-profit Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC). In FY22 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022), this program made \$173,589,302 in direct payments to assist 21,456 households with rent and utilities. It was vital in preventing households from becoming homeless and lessened the impact of the pandemic on families at risk of homelessness. History of program spending, and demographic information is available at: <https://phlrentassist.org/dashboard/>.

Among the lasting positive impacts of the pandemic are the continued operation of five non-congregate programs offering a total of 112 beds for people age 65 or older and aged 60 and



older with an underlying health condition determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as creating high risk for COVID.

Making Homelessness Rare, Brief and Non-recurring

OHS tracks its progress toward making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring by measuring the number of people entering the homeless system for the first time (rare), the length of time someone experiences homelessness (brief), and the number of people who return to homelessness after exiting the system (non-recurring). These measures are described in our [Roadmap to Homes, Philadelphia’s Five Year Strategic Plan for the Homeless Assistance System](#), and align with the national goals for addressing homelessness established by HUD. The chart below shows system results for these measure for the past four years.

GOAL: MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE

METRIC: NUMBER OF PERSONS ENTERING EMERGENCY SHELTER, SAFE HAVEN, TRANSITIONAL OR LONG-TERM HOUSING FOR THE FIRST TIME

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
72%	68%	64%	70%
9,083 (72%) of the 12,651 persons who entered a project in FY19 were entering a housing assistance project for the first time	9,313 (68%) of the 13,632 persons who entered a project in FY20 were entering a housing assistance project for the first time	7,152 (64%) of the 11,221 persons who entered a project in FY21 were entering a housing assistance project for the first time	9,184 (70%) of the 13,115 persons who entered a project in FY22 were entering a housing assistance project for the first time

For the homeless service system, the goal of making homelessness rare starts with assisting households at imminent risk of homelessness by providing prevention and diversion services and building partnerships with a diverse array of organizations to increase access to assistance. Through prevention and diversion, the homeless service system helps households maintain their current housing or identify and create new pathways to housing, it also connects them to services and supports that provide rental assistance. Aligning these efforts helps at-risk households attain housing stability while preserving scarce emergency housing resources for those most in need.

In FY22, the OHS provided 1,558 households with homelessness prevention or diversion assistance. There were fewer homelessness prevention dollars available, and the COVID-era eviction moratorium was lifted. The increase in the number of first-time homeless underscores the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and making available adequate funding as a key strategy in preventing people from becoming homeless.



GOAL: MAKE HOMELESSNESS BRIEF

METRIC: AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME (DAYS) IN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER, SAFE HAVEN OR TRANSITIONAL PROJECT FOR ALL PERSONS

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
161 days Average length of time participants is enrolled in emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing (Median length of stay = 68 days)	157 days Average length of time participants is enrolled in emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing (Median length of stay = 68 days)	170 days Average length of time participants are enrolled in an emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing (Median length of stay = 71 days)	143 days Average length of time participants are enrolled in emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing (Median length of stay = 52 days)

ES
70 days

TH
366 days

SH
231 days

The average length of stay in Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Haven (SH), and Transitional Housing (TH) projects indicates the homeless system’s ability to rapidly move people out of homelessness. It can also measure the system’s ability to embrace the Housing First approach, which strives to move people into housing as quickly as possible by removing barriers for households entering housing assistance projects.

In the last four years, from 2019 to 2022, the average length of stay decreased by 11%. In 2022, we saw a 16% decrease from last year. This reflects both the changes in how the shelter was utilized (more people utilized shelter for occasional stays – see pg.14) but notably due to an expansion of housing opportunities, especially Rapid Rehousing through the Emergency Solutions CARES grants.

GOAL: MAKE HOMELESSNESS NON-RECURRING

METRIC: NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO EXITED TO PERMANENT HOUSING DESTINATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND DID NOT RETURN TO HOMELESSNESS

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
85% of participants who exited a project for a permanent housing destination did not return to homelessness	82% of participants who exited a project for a permanent housing destination did not return to homelessness	80% of participants who exited a project for a permanent housing destination did not return to homelessness	81% of participants who exited a project for a permanent housing destination did not return to homelessness



To track the community's progress towards making homelessness non-recurring, OHS tracks the number of persons who exited to a permanent housing destination and then re-entered a housing assistance project. The goal of this measure is to see to what extent people exit the system and not return, thereby reducing overall homelessness. Essentially, we ask, what percentage of people exit the system and move to long-term housing destination after being homeless, then fall into homelessness again in the next 24 months. HUD-defines long-term housing destinations as a rental or owned property by participant with or without subsidy, living with friends or family on permanent basis, long-term housing for formally homeless persons, or move from one HOPWA funded project to Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA).

In FY22, eighty-one percent of participants did not return to homelessness, on par with national trends. It was a one-percent improvement from previous year. Notably, people who exited to family and friends had the highest rates of returns to homelessness, while those who accessed Supportive Housing had a ninety-six percent retention rate and were extremely unlikely to return to homelessness.

Additional Performance Measures

OHS tracks additional performance measures that relate to and support the community's mission of making homelessness brief, rare and non-recurring and align with the Roadmap to Homes goals. For example, employment and income growth is closely related to a household's ability to remain stably housed and is therefore tracked to better understand the community's progress towards making homelessness non-recurring. The chart below reviews the income reported during a person's exit compared to the income they reported during their enrollment.

Between FY21 and FY22, there was a two percent increase in the number of persons who left a housing project with more income than when they arrived. However, between FY19 and FY22, there was a one percent decline in people who left with employment income. Increase in the overall income but not employment income could have been due to pandemic related unemployment (non-employment) income.

The COVID-19 pandemic followed by high rates of inflation have had a major impact on the local economy. At the height of the pandemic, unemployment rates in Philadelphia reached a historic high rate of eighteen percent. "Black and Hispanic residents of Philadelphia were two and three times more likely than White residents, respectively, to lose jobs and income..."ⁱⁱ In Philadelphia, the economic recovery has been slower than the rest of the country.ⁱⁱⁱ The slow job recovery is particularly pronounced among Black and Latinx workers – reflecting historical impact of structural racism.^{iv}

It should be noted that collecting income information when participants leave programs is difficult. The results shown below account for approximately forty percent of all exits and therefore are not fully representative.



INCOME CHANGE: ADULTS WHO EXITED*

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Number of adults who exited a project (leavers)	1,155	669	699	747
Leavers with increased earned income	285 (25%)	115 (17%)	89 (13%)	107 (14%)
Leavers with increased non-employment cash income	328 (28%)	208 (31%)	207 (30%)	220 (29%)
Total leavers with any increase in income (earned + non-employment income)	542 (47%)	295 (44%)	265 (38%)	298 (40%)

Note: This chart reports on data collected from projects that were funded by the Continuum of Care only. More information on the Continuum of Care can be found at <http://philadelphiaofficeofhomelesservices.org/about-us/continuum-of-care/>

One of the key indicators of success for housing projects (Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing) is the percent of exits to a long-term destination. Examples of long-term housing destinations include moving into a rental unit, moving in with friends or family, or entering a long-term housing project.

In FY22, twenty-three percent of all persons who were enrolled in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing or Rapid Rehousing projects exited to a long-term housing destination. In FY22, the percentage of successful exits decreased significantly. A sharp increase in the number of enrollments may have had an impact on this measure. Current external economic forces characterized by unusually high rental rates, dramatic rise in inflation, combined with increased evictions, have put a lot of pressure on the homeless system. A study by D. Culhane (2021) has shown a direct link between rising rental rates and more rapid increase in homelessness.^v Increased rental rates have also made it more difficult to secure affordable housing, possibly contributing to decrease in the number of households exiting to long-term housing.

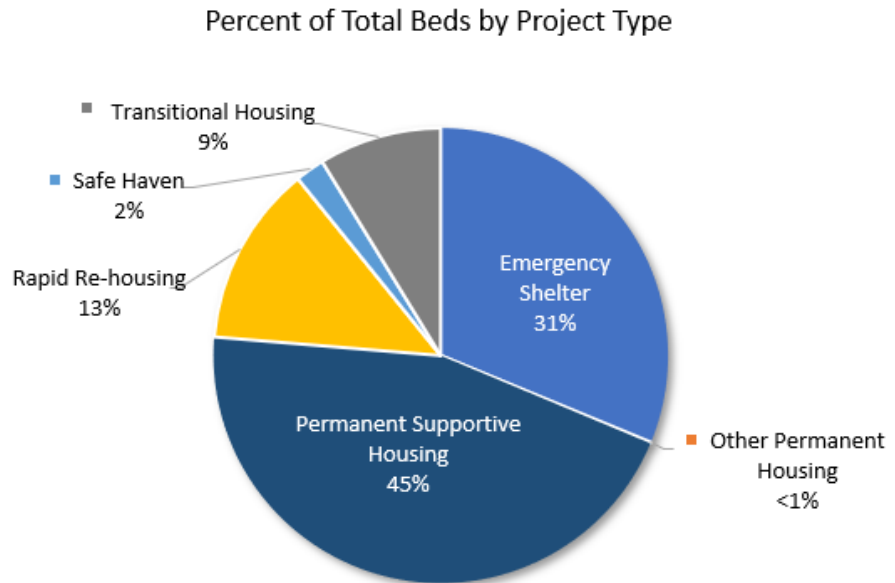
EXITS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Persons in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing	9,193	10,308	7,999	10,283
Of those, who exited to a long-term housing destination	2,417	2,650	2,269	2,329
Successful Exits	26%	26%	28%	23%



Housing Inventory Count

The Housing Inventory Count or “HIC” is an inventory of the emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing beds dedicated exclusively to people experiencing homelessness that are counted as being available during the annual Point-in-Time Count. The HIC is designed to quantify the community’s capacity to serve persons experiencing homelessness, and it can be used to identify underserved populations.



HIC numbers are based on the HUD definition that limits the unit count to homeless dedicated units, that is, units that can only be accessed by people through the OHS Supportive Housing Clearinghouse. OHS uses non-homeless dedicated long-term housing opportunities to augment those not captured in the HIC, including the Blueprint to End Homelessness agreement with the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) to provide a limited number of units both single individuals and families, units made available through HUD Multi-Family and Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and PHA’s Family Unification, and Mainstream Housing Voucher programs.

In Philadelphia’s homeless assistance system, of the 11,746 total beds counted in the 2022 HIC, thirty-one percent were emergency, temporary shelter. The FY22 increase in shelter beds was due to additional non-congregate shelter for older adults and accounting for recovery house beds administered by the City’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities (DBHIDS).

Two percent of total beds are in Safe Havens, nine percent are for projects with longer stays that are intended to lead to independent living such as Transitional Housing, and fifty-eight percent are dedicated to long-term housing that includes Rapid Re-Housing and Supportive Housing. Additional long-term housing units are also included in OHS’s portfolio, but not identified in the HIC as noted above because they do not meet the definition of exclusively homeless dedicated.



2019-2022 HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT: BEDS AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Emergency Shelter	3,725	3,878	3,392	3,667
Safe Haven	254	254	247	245
Transitional Housing	1,129	1,090	1,061	1,026
Rapid Re-housing	1,111	1,236	1,379	1,512
Supportive Housing	5,158	5,131	5,341	5,286
Other Long-Term Housing			6	10

2019-2022 HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT: BEDS AVAILABLE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing				
Beds for Adult Only Households	2,881	3,006	2,832	3,035
Beds for Households with Children & Adults	2,208	2,193	1,860	1,895
Beds for Households with Children Only	19	23	8	8
Supportive Housing				
Beds for Adult Only Households	2,998	2,940	3,166	3,265
Beds for Households with Children & Adults	2,160	2,191	2,175	2,021

Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. It provides data to understand the number and characteristics of persons who are experiencing homelessness. In 2022, due to the Omicron (COVID-19 variant) surge in January 2022, OHS received HUD approval to conduct the PIT count on February 23, 2022, instead of our customary date in January. The count included a youth focused count, unhoused, and sheltered count. To ensure the health and safety of all participants, based on CDC, local, and HUD COVID-19 guidelines, volunteers were encouraged to get fully vaccinated, use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while conducting the count, and maintain recommended social distance.^{vi} On the night of the count, volunteers and City partners covered the entire city of Philadelphia, canvassed street by street, block by block, and hit every known “hotspot” including the Schuylkill River trail and under the I-95 highway. Street Outreach teams canvassed SEPTA transit stations and trains and administered full surveys to all interested participants.



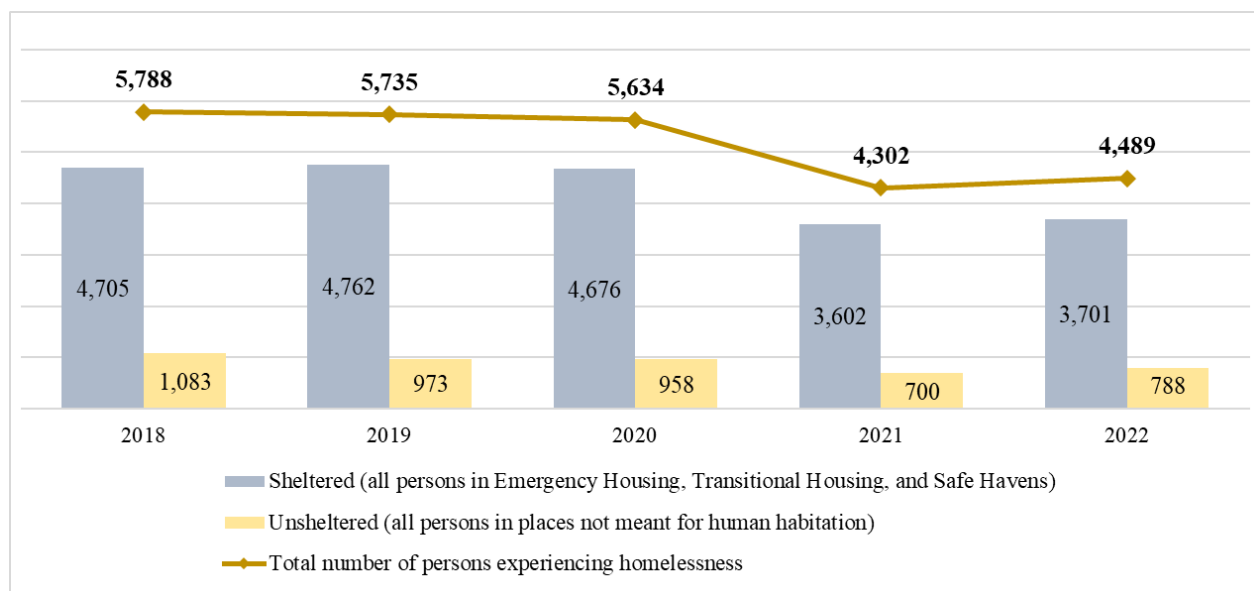
- ▶ **Unsheltered population** includes persons sleeping in any location not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans, such as on the streets, transportation centers, public parks, abandoned buildings or cars.^{vii}
- ▶ **Sheltered population** includes persons experiencing homelessness that are staying in an emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional housing project.

RESULTS OF THE 2022 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total Persons	3,701	788	4,489
Total Children (Under 18)	783	1	784
Total Youth (Ages 18 to 24)	294	72	366
Total Adults (Over 24)	2,624	715	3,339
% Of Total Persons	82%	18%	100%

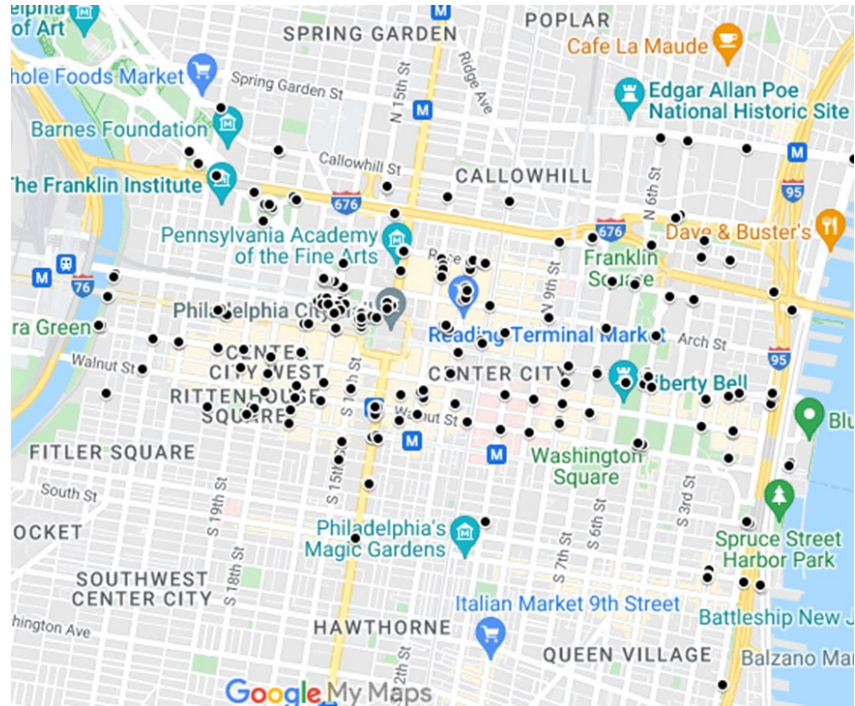
Overall, the number of people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, decreased by twenty-two percent between 2018 and 2022. The total number of people who were unsheltered decreased by twenty-seven percent (-295). Between 2021 and 2022 there was a thirteen increase in the number of unsheltered persons. The total number of sheltered persons declined by twenty-one percent as compared to 2018 (-1,004).

2018-2022 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT TRENDS



2022 PIT COUNT: UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED IN CENTER CITY

The 2022 PIT count was held on the night of Wednesday, February 23 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The map to the right shows the location of unsheltered persons who were sleeping on the streets, or in either Suburban Station or 30th Street Station. In the Center City area, defined here as south of Spring Garden, north of South Street, and bordered by the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, there were a total of 300 individuals counted. Since 2018, the total number of persons experiencing homelessness has decreased



by twenty-two percent (-1,299 people). This reduction is both due to a decrease in the number of persons in shelter and an overall decrease in the number of unsheltered persons in the last four years. It is notable, especially when compared to other major cities, that no families with children were counted outdoors on the night of the PIT count.

2022 PIT COUNT: UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED IN KENSINGTON

The Kensington area again saw an increase in the number of unsheltered people from the previous year’s count. The area continues to be the epicenter of an opioid epidemic, which greatly increases street homeless presence. The main areas where there was an increase were McPherson Square, Kensington Avenue, Lehigh Avenue, and Allegheny Avenue. There was an 11% increase in the number of people outdoors in Kensington for 2022 compared with 2021.

UNSHELTERED KENSINGTON VS. CITYWIDE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Seasonal Count	2019	2020	2021	2022
Unsheltered-Kensington (PIT)	286	201	245	273
Unsheltered-Citywide (PIT)	973	958	700	788
% Of Unsheltered in Kensington (PIT)	29%	21%	35%	35%

For households with at least one child and one adult, the sheltered count decreased by thirty-six percent (-237 households) from 2019 to 2022. There were no unsheltered families identified on



the night of the count. In 2022, the number of households without children increased by thirteen percent for both sheltered and unsheltered households combined. However, the overall number of households without children experiencing homelessness decreased by fourteen percent since 2019.

HOUSEHOLDS REPORTED 2019 - 2022 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sheltered Households	3,426	3,335	2,625	2,847
Households without children	2,754	2,709	2,148	2,421
Households with adults and children	663	612	474	426
Households with only children	9	14	3	0
Unsheltered Households	973	958	693	788
Households without children	967	947	693	787
Households with adults and children	0	0	0	0
Households with only children	6	11	0	1
Total Households	4,399	4,293	3,318	3,635

To be considered chronically homeless by the HUD definition, a person must have a disabling condition and their homeless experience must be at least one year long, or during the last three years they must have at least four occasions of homelessness that totals one year in length. In the 2022 PIT count, the total number of chronically homeless persons increased by 14% compared to 2021 PIT count. The largest increase was among the people who were unsheltered in which forty percent of those identified were chronically homeless. The number of chronically homeless people in Philadelphia increased by three percent since 2019.

2022 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Unsheltered	Total	% Change from previous year (2021)
Chronically Homeless Individuals	593	151	316	1,060	14% ↑

2019 - 2022 CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chronically Homeless Individuals	1,032	1,145	933	1,060



Several population subgroups are considered by HUD to be more vulnerable. This includes persons who are chronically homeless, unaccompanied youth (18 to 24 years old), and veterans. Of the subpopulations identified in the table below, persons who self-identified as experiencing a severe mental illness and chronic substance abuse are the most represented. Both populations saw an increase from the 2020 PIT count. During the 2020 count, forty percent of all adults reported a mental illness, and in 2022 that percentage increased to forty-two percent. This is twice the national average for housed persons. For substance use disorder, the percentage increased from thirty-three percent in 2020 to thirty-six percent in 2022.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: SUBPOPULATIONS

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	% Of Adult Population (3,705 adults)
Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)	159	73	232	6.3%
Parenting Youth (18-24)	118	0	118	3.2%
Veterans	157	0	157	4.2%
Mental Illness	1,185	374	1,559	42.1%
Substance Use Disorder	1,089	228	1,317	35.5%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	97	16	113	3.0%
Adults fleeing domestic violence	201	76	277	7.5%

2019 - 2022 SUBPOPULATION TRENDS, SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

	2019 (4,449 adults)	2020 (4,465 adults)	2021 (3,393 adults)	2022 (3,705 adults)
Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)	6.7%	6.0%	4.8%	6.3%
Parenting Youth (18-24)	3.1%	1.6%	3.1%	3.2%
Veterans	5.6%	5.4%	7.4%	4.2%
Mental Illness	40.6%	39.6%	N/A*	42.1%
Substance Use Disorder	37.5%	33.3%	N/A*	35.5%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	2.7%	3.4%	N/A*	3.0%
Adults fleeing domestic violence	8.8%	8.4%	N/A*	7.5%

Note: Unsheltered subpopulations not surveyed in 2021 due to COVID-19



Total Persons Served

OHS records and tracks the number of persons served each fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th). The tables in this section are based on the total number of persons who were counted as being enrolled in each project type defined as Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Supportive Housing as recorded in HMIS. Persons with enrollments in multiple project types are reported once for each project type. In other words, this is not an unduplicated count of people, but of people entering projects. Projects that do not participate in HMIS or projects that are dedicated to providing services to victims of domestic violence (for reasons of confidentiality) are not represented in this data. Eighty-six percent of homeless system’s providers utilized HMIS in FY22.



In FY22, the homeless service system served a total of 17,693 unique individuals in all project types. This represents a nineteen percent increase from the previous year and a two percent increase from FY19 to FY22. After a significant dip in the number of persons served in FY21, the FY22 total number of persons served reflects pre-pandemic levels. As many of the pandemic era supports (including rental assistance, eviction moratorium, COVID economic impact payments, and Advanced Child Tax Credit) expired or are phased out, a greater number of people experienced housing insecurity^{viii}.

TOTAL PERSONS SERVED BY THE HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM 2019 - 2022

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Unique Persons Served	17,766	19,988	14,849	17,693

The chart below summarizes number of unique persons served in each project type. The largest increase was in emergency shelter. In FY22, we served 30% more participants in Emergency Shelter compared to FY21.

TOTAL PERSONS SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE 2019 – 2022

	Overflow (After Hours & Winter Initiative)	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive
FY22	4,182	8,246	157	590	2,568	3,446
FY21	2,905	6,666	138	675	2,535	3,195
FY20	5,445	8,206	703	1,287	2,608	4,059
FY19	3,811	8,347	561	1,385	2,198	3,653

Note: Persons are reported in each project type that they enrolled in. Persons with multiple enrollments are counted in each project type.



Identifying the type of households served in crisis housing can be challenging as family structures change for various reasons, such as children becoming adults or individuals leaving a household. The total households reported above are based on the most recent enrollment reported. A total of 6,049 persons in a household with at least one adult and child were served in FY22, with an average household size of three people.

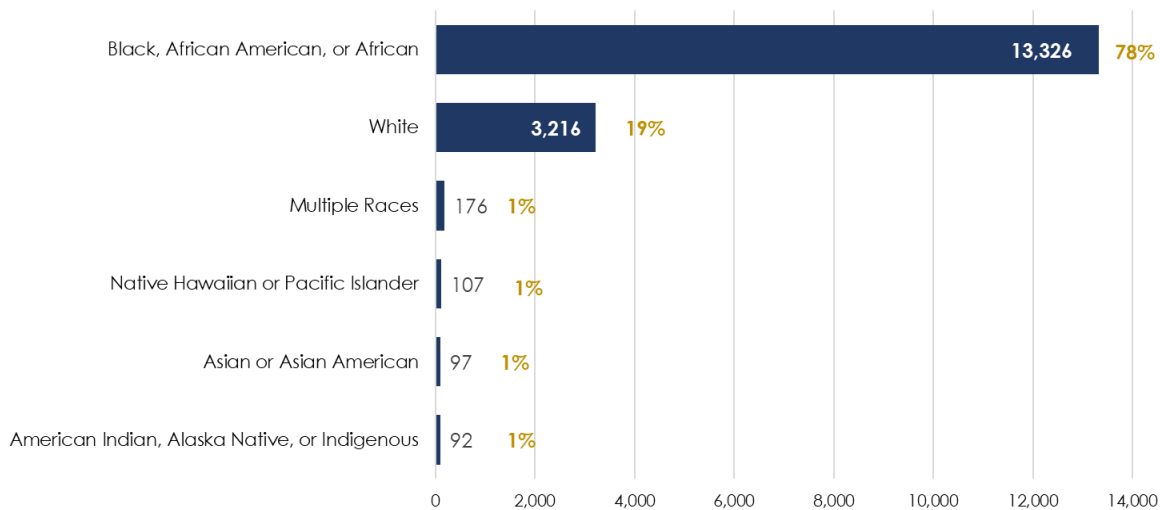
HOUSEHOLDS SERVED IN FY22

	Families	Adults Only	Child Only	Total Households
Total Households	2,011	11,404	63	13,478
Total Persons in Households	6,049	11,574	70	17,693

Note: For the purposes of this report, Families are households with at least one Adult and one Child (less than 18 years old). In Adult Only households, all members are over 18 years old, and Child Only households are those where all members are under 18 years of age.

RACE & ETHNICITY OF ALL PERSONS SERVED IN FY22

For the past three decades, studies have shown that African Americans are overrepresented in the U.S. homeless population.^{ix} Reviewing the cumulated results from last year’s PIT count shows that nationally, four in ten people experiencing homelessness were African American, whereas in the general population, African Americans represent one in ten.^{xxi} This trend is also evident in Philadelphia, where African Americans represent seventy-eight percent of the people served in housing crisis and assistance programs in FY22, but comprising only forty-one percent of the city’s general population.^{xiii}



Note: Excludes the 679 (4%) persons with Client Refused, Client Doesn't Know, Data Not Collected selected for Race.

One of the key indicators of success for housing projects is the percent of exits to a permanent housing destination. **A review of exits by race shows that those who identify as Black or African American and Multiple races had a higher exit rate to permanent housing, 25% and 34% respectively, than the overall system (23%).** Other groups, such as those who



identified as White, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and American Indian or Alaska Native had lower percent of exits to permanent destinations.

EXIT DESTINATIONS BY RACE IN FY22

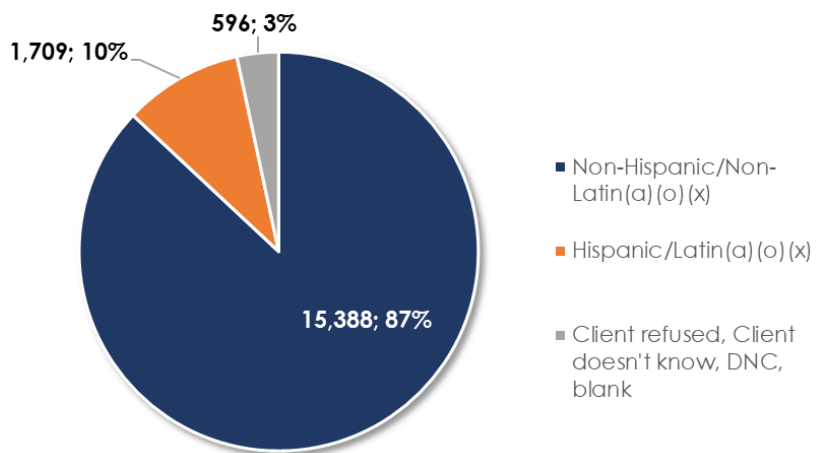
Exit Destination	Black, African American, or African	White	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Multiple Races	Asian or Asian American	American Indian or Alaska Native, or Indigenous
Temporary Destination	1,251	330	6	16	9	8
Permanent Destination	1,799	309	10	28	13	13
Institutional Settings	73	63	1	4		2
Other Destinations	4,219	1,180	55	35	43	46
Successful Exits	25%	16%	14%	34%	21%	19%
Total	7,342	1,882	72	83	63	69

Note: Excludes the 545 (5%) exited persons with Client Refused, Client Doesn't Know, Data Not Collected selected for Race.

The Philadelphia CoC is committed to ensuring delivery of services to the most vulnerable populations within racially equitable framework. In addition to breaking down data by race and ethnicity to better understand service delivery to minority populations, in 2020, OHS conducted a racial inequity analysis of the system in order to identify any disparities in the delivery of services. As the result of the analysis, the Roadmap to Homes Board voted to establish a standing Racial Equity Committee (REC) to help bring an equity lens to the system and ensure that progress is being made in creating a system that promotes racial equity. The REC includes people with lived experience, diversity and equity experts, providers, representatives from other governmental entities, researchers, and community members.

The share of the U.S. population identifying as Hispanic/Latinx (18% of U.S. population), are also overrepresented within the homeless population, representing twenty-three percent of persons experiencing homelessness.^{xiii}

In Philadelphia, fifteen percent of the general population identified as Hispanic/Latinx, but in the housing assistance programs, this group represented ten percent of the population served.^{xiv} This is one percent increase from



FY21 and reflects our continued efforts to better serve the Hispanic/Latinx community. People who are Latinx/Hispanic are also less likely to use standard homeless sleeping arrangements and more likely to be in crowded, inadequate housing or “doubling up.”^{xv} This may consequentially, exclude them from accessing homeless assistance programs, which focus on serving persons who are homeless according to the definition provided by HUD.

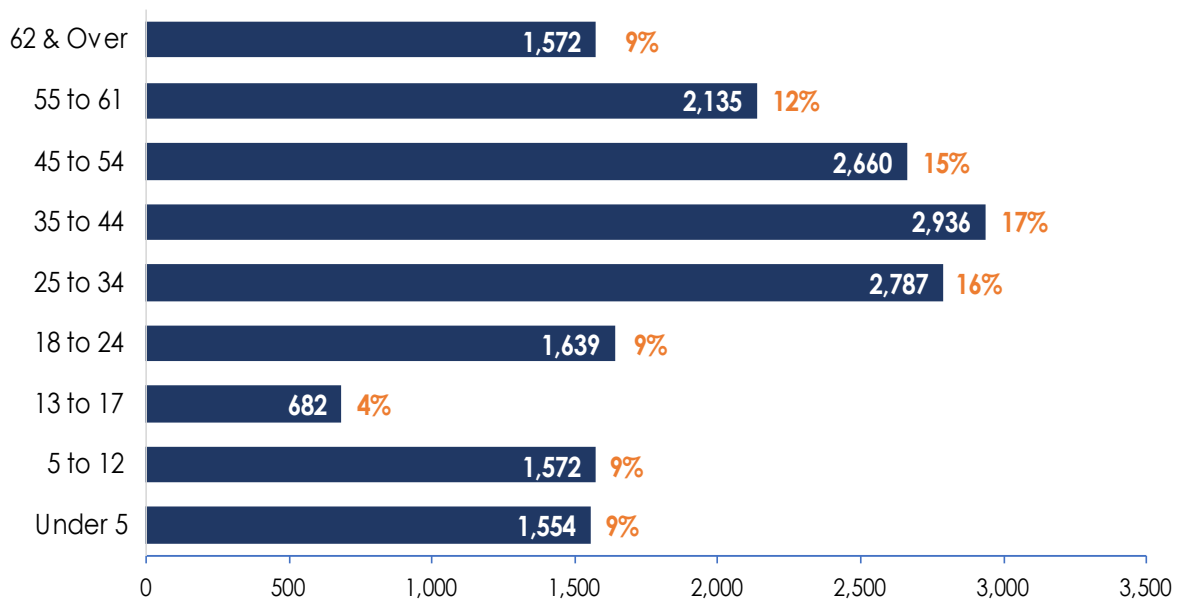


To address this disparity OHS has made a number of important innovations: 1) offering a suite of homelessness prevention services that do not require people to meet the definition of literally homeless to get rental assistance; 2) providing more culturally competent Spanish language services in community organizations that already serve the Hispanic/Latinx community; 3) nesting the range of homeless assessment, referral and emergency housing services within housing counseling agencies in the Hispanic/Latinx community; 4) expanding the network of homeless services providers in the Hispanic/Latinx community to build capacity and increase availability; 5) supporting innovative practices, programs and policies designed to meet the unique needs of this population.

OHS was awarded a \$191,100 grant through the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act (PHARE) by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to build the system’s capacity to serve the Hispanic/Latinx community. With this grant we established the PHARE workgroup which selected two consultants to develop tailored plans to increase homeless services staff that are bi-lingual and bicultural, and develop a marketing plan to better reach the refugee and immigrant community.

AGE OF ALL PERSONS SERVED IN FY22

The average age of all persons served in projects in FY22 was thirty-five years old, which has remained the same since FY20. In FY22, the percent of total number of children ages 0-17 was one percent lower than in FY21. The percent of total youth ages 18-24 remained the same at nine percent of total population served. There was a two percent increase in the 35-44 age group. Overall, age group distribution remained relatively the same as in FY21.



Note: Total of 156 persons (1%) missing Date of Birth information.

The percent of adults aged 55 and older experiencing homelessness is projected to grow as the Baby Boomer generation and Generation X age. Studies show that older individuals



experiencing homelessness age prematurely, with rates of cognitive decline and decreased mobility equal to persons twenty years older.^{xvi} This suggests that with the increase of older individuals, the homeless assistance community should anticipate an increase in costs associated with health care services when serving this population.

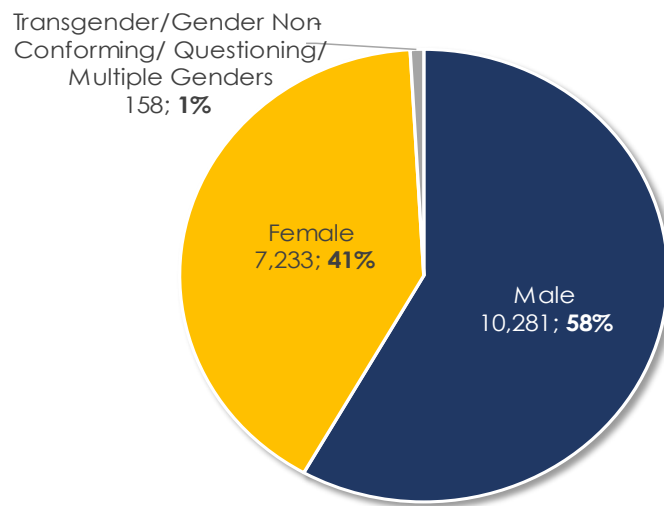
Individuals experiencing homelessness in congregate settings who are 65 or older, or who were 60+ with chronic health conditions were eligible for the COVID-19 Prevention Spaces. Additional non congregate beds were added in small, community-based settings.

OHS established the “PEACE” program, Partners Establishing Accessible, Affordable Housing and Caring for Older Adults Empathetically, to help older, frail adults with experiences of homelessness and/or behavioral health needs navigate entry to higher levels of care, such as personal care or nursing homes.

With the closure of the hotel-based Quarantine and Isolation Site, operated by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), OHS opened a small shelter-based location, COVID Recovery and Isolation Site (CRIS), to cohort people experiencing homelessness who test positive for COVID at intake or in shelter. Since February 2022, more than 175 participants were served.

GENDER OF ALL PERSONS SERVED IN FY22

In Philadelphia, fifty-eight percent of persons experiencing homelessness were male, forty-one percent were female, and the remaining one percent identified as transgender, gender non-conforming, questioning, or multiple genders.



A closer review suggests an even wider gender split. Adding the household type shows that among individuals, that is, households with adults only, sixty-two percent were male and thirty-seven percent were female. The difference between the percent of male and female widens even further when looking at the number of individuals who were unsheltered as counted in the 2022 PIT, with seventy percent male (554), thirty percent being female (234). Studies have shown that men are more likely to stay in unsheltered situations and experience longer durations of homelessness than women and transgender individuals.^{xvii, xviii, xix} Transgender individuals are reported to experience more frequent episodes of homelessness, and on average are significantly younger than other gender cohorts.^{xx, xxi} This is seen in individuals served in Philadelphia during FY22, where the average age for adult females was 39, for adult males 46. For transgender, gender non-conforming, questioning, or multiple gender individuals, 35 was the average age.



Conclusion

With the new COVID-19 variants, OHS has continued to implement pandemic prevention measures throughout its facilities. Despite the challenges of navigating service delivery with the pandemic backdrop, our community continued to maintain project-level and system-wide performance monitoring to help make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. OHS continued to focus on data quality while ensuring all people have equal access to the resources they need to prevent or resolve their homelessness, no matter their age, ancestry, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, domestic violence status, family composition, gender identity, sexual orientation, or source of income.

As the federal pandemic-era assistance phases out, and as the homeless population gets older, we are seeing greater need for services to meet their unique needs. We have worked to enhance our services to better respond to growing needs of the homeless population as well as to better respond to unexpected crises like the pandemic. To help with the economic recovery, through our Help for the Hurdles program, we have helped families and individuals gain employment, exit shelter sooner, and achieve a sustainable income. OHS has been able to leverage existing and new resources such as Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to move people into safe and affordable housing quicker. We have expanded our landlord network and our outreach efforts to help address some of the housing affordability challenges faced by the City of Philadelphia. As we move forward, OHS will continue to provide additional resources to aid in economic recovery and continue to utilize historically unprecedented assistance from the Federal government to help end homelessness in Philadelphia.

###

Key Terms

- **Adult:** Persons aged 18 and older.



- **After Hours:** An emergency shelter project that provides beds on a night-by-night basis to persons entering emergency shelter after 5:00 pm on weekdays, on weekends or holidays. After Hours beds are also referred to as Overflow beds.
- **Child:** Persons aged 17 and younger.
- **Chronically Homeless:** A person experiencing homelessness (in a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or an emergency shelter) continuously for at least 1 year, or on at least four separate occasions in last 3 years where the combined length of time is those occasions is at least 12 months; and the person has a disability.
- **Disability:** an individual with a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder or brain injury. The condition must be:
 - Expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration.
 - Impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and
 - Could be improved with suitable housing conditions.
- **Emergency Shelter:** Any facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness.
- **Household:** One or more individuals who live together.
- **Housing Inventory Count:** also known as the HIC, this chart is a complete inventory of all Emergency, Transitional, Safe Haven, Permanent Supportive, and Rapid Re-housing projects within the Philadelphia Continuum of Care.
- **Parenting Youth:** Youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who identifies as the parent or guardian of one or more children who are present or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent.
- **Long-Term Housing Destination:** HUD defined exit from program outcome measure. Permanent destinations include any rental or owned housing by client (with or without subsidy), permanent housing for formerly homeless persons, staying or living with family or friends on permanent basis, and moving from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA Permanent Housing. These exits are considered positive outcomes.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (Long-Term Housing):** Long-term housing project that provides supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently.
- **Other Permanent Housing (OPH)** – long-term housing that is included in the HIC count of permanent housing. OPH includes a. Housing with Services projects that provide long-term housing and supportive services for homeless persons, but do not limit eligibility to persons with disability; b. Housing Only projects that provide long-term housing for homeless persons, but do not make supportive services available as part of the project.
- **Point-in-Time Count:** Also known as the PIT, this is an annual count of all persons experiencing homelessness, sheltered or unsheltered, on a given night in January.
- **Project:** Technical term used to describe a program. The term Project is often used interchangeably with the term Program.
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** A project that provides rental assistance and supportive services on a time-limited basis to homeless families and individuals.
- **Transitional Housing:** Used to facilitate the movement of homeless families and individuals into permanent housing, this project type provides supportive services and housing for up to 24 months.



- **Unaccompanied Youth:** Persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- **Winter Initiative:** An emergency shelter project that provides supplemental beds on a planned basis during the winter. Winter Initiative beds are also referred to as Seasonal or Code Blue beds.
- **Youth:** Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child or children. Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

Sources

ⁱ This report does not provide overall testing and positivity rates for the entire OHS System. The number of positive cases only reflects those that have been reported to OHS by the providers. For citywide testing rates and results, please refer to

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/testing/testing-data/#explore-covid-19-datasets>

ⁱⁱ The PEW Charitable Trusts (2020). How COVID-19 Has Undercut Philadelphians' Physical and Financial Well-Being.

ⁱⁱⁱ The PEW Charitable Trusts (2022). 5 Key Economic Trends and the Critical Questions They Raise for Philadelphia. Issue Brief June 22, 2022. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2022/06/5-key-economic-trends-and-the-critical-questions-they-raise-for-philadelphia>

^{iv} Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (2021). Tracking the COVID-19 Economy's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-economys-effects-on-food-housing-and>

^v Culhane, D., Byrne, T., Glynn, C. (2021). "Inflection points in community-level homeless rates", *Annals of Applied Statistics* 15(2): 1037-1053 (June 2021)

^{vi} U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2021). Conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count. <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Conducting-the-2021-Unsheltered-PIT-Count.pdf>

^{vii} U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2014). Point-in-Time Count Methodology Guide. 18.

^{viii} Versey, H., (2021) "The Impending Eviction Cliff: Housing Insecurity During COVID-19", *American Journal of Public Health* 111, no.8 (August 2021): pp. 1423-1427

^{ix} Rhee T.G., Rosenheck R.A. (2021) Why are black adults over-represented among individuals who have experienced lifetime homelessness? Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition analysis of homelessness among US male adults. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 2021, Vol 75, 161-170

^x U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2020). The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 12.

^{xi} U.S. Census Bureau (2019 population estimated); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.



^{xii} U.S. Census Bureau (2020 population estimated); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US42101&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP05>

^{xiii} U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2020). The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 12.

^{xiv} U.S. Census Bureau (2020 population estimated); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

^{xvi} Culhane, D., Byrne, T., Metraux, S., Kuhn, R., Doren, K., Johns, E. and Schretzman, D. (2019). The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness. <https://1slo241vnt3j2dn45s1y90db-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness-1.pdf>

^{xvii} Batko, S., Oneto, A. D., Shroyer, A. (2020). Unsheltered Homelessness: Trends, Characteristics, and Homeless Histories. Urban Institute, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/103301/unsheltered-homelessness.pdf>.

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