IMAGE CAPTIONS

Cover: December 22, 2022, a man experiencing homelessness huddles with his dog and backpack at a bus stop near downtown OKC. Bitterly cold wind chills dropped temperatures to single digits.

Page 5: On December 22, 2022, a line of tents provide shelter in the early morning after bitterly cold wind chills dropped temperatures to single digits.

Page 7: The Homeless Alliance day shelter on a busy winter day in December 2022. It's common for the shelter to see 250 visitors on an average. Guests have access to meals, showers, mail, phones, computers, barbers, legal aid, classes, service referrals and more.

Page 8: Volunteers show up at 3:30 a.m., January 26 to conduct the field survey for the 2023 Point in Time Count.

Page 11: Volunteers meet with a man experiencing homelessness in downtown OKC around 5 a.m. They ask for details like the man's name, age, ethnicity and if barriers such as prison time, drug use or mental illness contributed to his homelessness.

Page 15: March 12, 2022, a man experiencing homelessness covers himself in tarps and blankets to stay warm at a bus stop near downtown OKC.

1,463

HOMELESS

IN OKC

JAN 26, 2023

SOLUTIONS

Oklahoma County lacks more than 4,500 affordable housing units. More no-barrier and low-barrier housing would help OKC meet demand, and reduce the rising population of people experiencing homelessness. With some of the highest eviction rates in the U.S. before the pandemic, more affordable housing units will be needed to accommodate the swell of people in financial crisis. Experts think it could be two years or more before normal economic conditions return.

More affordable housing would also make it easier for people to get a foothold on self-sufficiency, and provide more options for people who could easily slide into homelessness without it.

Oklahoma has some of the highest national rates of mental illness, substance abuse and domestic violence that create strong headwinds.

Help is coming this decade. In 2019, voters approved the MAPS 4 program, which includes $50 million to develop affordable housing. The City, service providers, and private organizations are partnering to move 75% off people who are unsheltered in Oklahoma City into housing over the next 2 years and intensify services for youth populations starting with the Federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Other Federal resources like the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the HOME-ARP program will contribute to these efforts substantially by expanding outreach, case management and access to existing rental units.

"Two people working full-time on Oklahoma's minimum wage can't afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market value without exceeding the recommended 30% of income to be spent on housing."

OKLAHOMA HOUSING

Most Expensive	Housing Wage
Oklahoma City	$17.65/hr
Tulsa	$17.23/hr
Beckham County	$16.00/hr
Greer County	$15.33/hr
Payne County	$15.87/hr

Housing Affordability	
minimum wage	$7.25/hr
average renter wage	$15.42/hr
2-bed housing wage	$16.28/hr
number of renter households	508,939
% renters	34%

Monthly Rent	Amount
rent affordable at AMI	$1,698
rent affordable w/full time mean wage	$802
rent affordable w/full time minimum wage	$377
rent affordable at 30% AMI	$510
rent affordable on SSI	$251

71
work hours/week at minimum wage to afford 1-bed rent (FMR)

90
work hours/week at minimum wage to afford 2-bed rent (FMR)

FMR: Fair Market Rent AMI: Area Median Income

ABOUT THE COUNT

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that all communities receiving federal funds through McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants conduct a Point in Time (PIT) count. Each community is required to individually plan and carry out its PIT on a single day during the last 10 days in January, at least every other year.

Oklahoma City conducts our count annually, this year on January 26th. This one-day count is only a snapshot and is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness. This report provides a longitudinal analysis of the City's PIT data from the 2017 to 2023 counts. Its findings are one perspective on the state of homelessness in the city on only one day. Data gathered during the PIT and described in this report should be considered not an exact and exhaustive number, but a useful tool to understand the scope of the problem and identify areas for improvement.

DEFINITIONS

Based on guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Area Median Income (AMI)
Midpoint of a region's income distribution. Half of the families in a region earn more than the median, and half earn less. Extremely low incomes are considered at or below 30% of the AMI.

Continuum of Care (COC)
Local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homeless services in a geographic area.

Emergency Shelter (ES)
Short-term lodging for people experiencing a housing crisis.

Fair Market Rent (FMR)
40% of typical standard-quality housing units are available at or below this price in an area.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
Computerized data collection application for capturing client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness over time.

The PIT collects data from three different household types:

1. Households with at least one adult and one child

2. Households without children

3. Households of children only

The report includes a sheltered count of how many people are in shelters, transitional housing programs and an unsheltered count of how many people are living outdoors. Data from households that are "doubling up" with family or friends, incarcerated, in treatment facilities, emergency rooms or hotel rooms are not included in this report.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
A report on the number of program beds and/or housing units available and in use on the night of the count.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
Permanent housing with integrated wrap-around services for people who are homeless and have a disabling condition.

Sheltered homeless
People living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter temporary living shelter.

Transitional Housing (TH)
Temporary housing and services for people who have multiple barriers to obtaining housing and employment.

Unsheltered homeless
People with a nighttime residence not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation.

COUNTING METHODS

In 2023, the count included standardized survey forms to collect information from people living on the streets, at meal sites, or in locations that don't participate in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The count employed HMIS to collect information from agencies that enter data about people who are homeless. The survey instruments were designed to mirror the HMIS data elements, allowing the survey data to be consistent with the sheltered data from HMIS. All PIT volunteers got training to properly administer the survey.

To reduce the number of duplicate surveys, the instrument included the first name, last initial and birth date. Information from the surveys was entered into a database and subsequently merged with HMIS data. Duplicates were identified electronically, then reviewed as part of a PIT Committee data quality check.

Volunteers entered the information from the surveys into an online database in real-time as survey teams returned them. Entering the data on the same day allows for staff to easily check for duplication and review preliminary numbers within a matter of days.

Location Counts

Emergency Shelters

Nearly all of OKC's emergency shelters enter information about daily usage of emergency shelter beds into HMIS and gather that data for the count. A survey gathered data on residents of shelters who don't participate in HMIS.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing data for the night of the count comes from the HMIS database. For agencies not using HMIS, transitional housing staff completed computer-based survey forms and returned data to the PIT committee. This data was collected and counted separately to determine total counts. Duplicate entries were eliminated.

Meal Sites

On January 26, volunteers visited sites where free meals were served. This site count focused on identifying and interviewing people who were homeless but did not stay in a homeless shelter that night.

Street

Before the count, a list of locations where people who are homeless are known to sleep and congregate was compiled. These locations included: homeless camps, parks, bridges, libraries, abandoned buildings and downtown. Teams of volunteers led by trained outreach workers visited these locations to engage people.

Day Shelters

Volunteers visited the WestTown Day Shelter and the Sanctuary Women's Development Center, and conducted surveys throughout the day.

Restructuring the Homeless Services System

In early 2022, the City and partner service agencies began an intensive process to completely restructure the homeless services system in Oklahoma City. This process entailed working with Clutch consulting out of Houston, Texas to reshape the governance for the service system, reorganize and increase the capacity of and access to specific services and rethink how we address unsheltered chronic homelessness. While the number of people who are unsheltered in OKC is low compared to cities of similar size, the percentage of those who are chronically homeless is concerningly high. Over the last several months, the City and service partners have piloted a camp decommissioning model to quickly move several chronically homeless people into housing and provide intensive case management support to help them stabilize. This process has been highly successful and the City is aiming to significantly expand it with the goal of housing 75% of OKC's chronically homeless unsheltered population in two years.

homelessness

A person or family who:

> lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

> immediately loses their primary residence.

> is fleeing domestic violence with no other residence, or without resources and support networks to secure one.

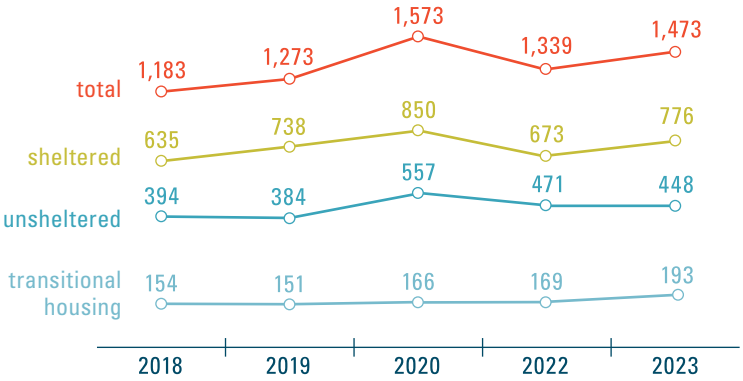
1,463 HOMELESS IN OKC JAN 26, 2023

– VARIABLES –

weather • counting methods
housing progress • economy
service improvements

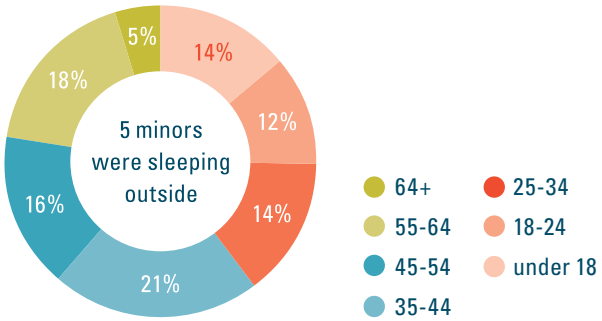
TOTAL HOMELESS

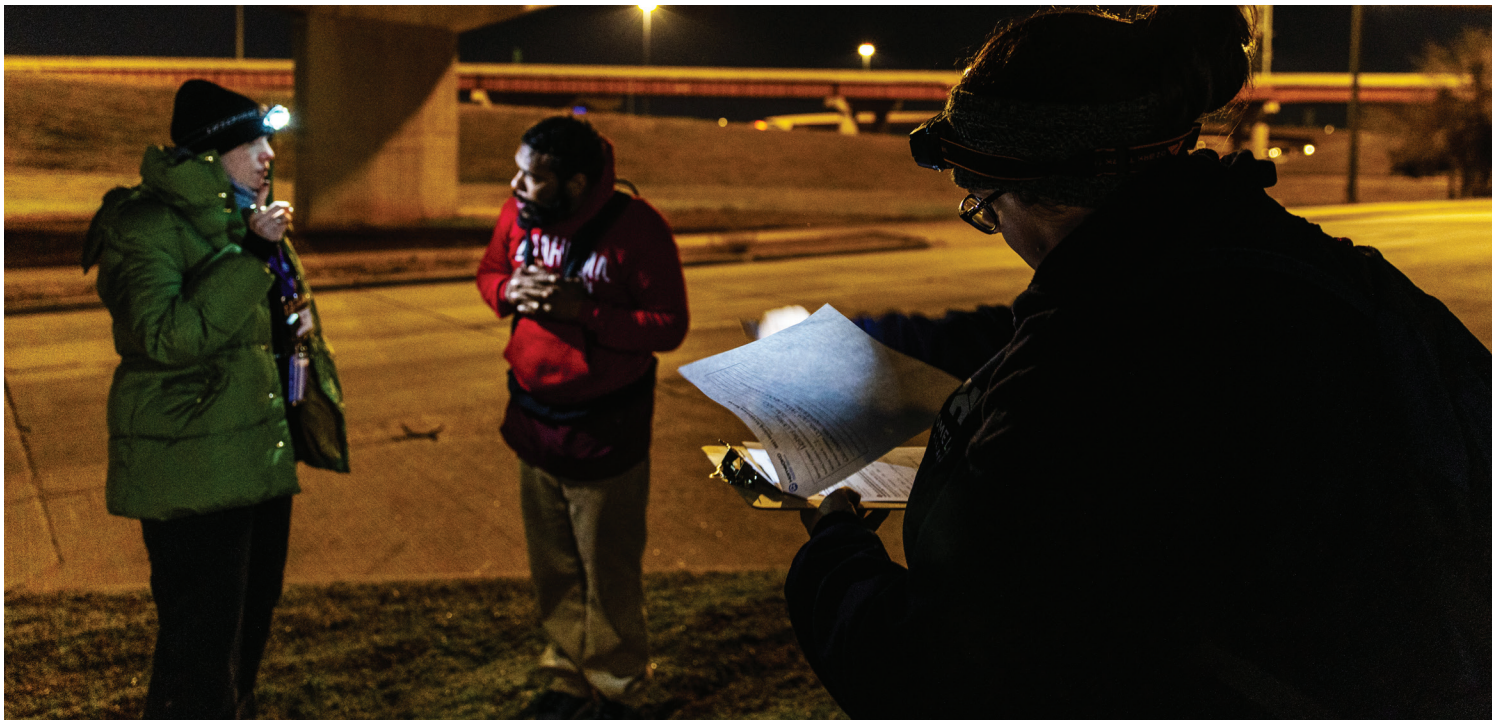
There were 1,463 homeless individuals in OKC, which was up from 1,339 in 2022. The 2022 count was low because it was rescheduled to a warmer day. In 2023, the City and homeless service providers returned to conducting the count on a colder night in January. This likely contributed to the increase in people seeking shelter and a more accurate count. In addition to these locations, 19 people were staying in Safe Haven programs the night of the survey.



AGE

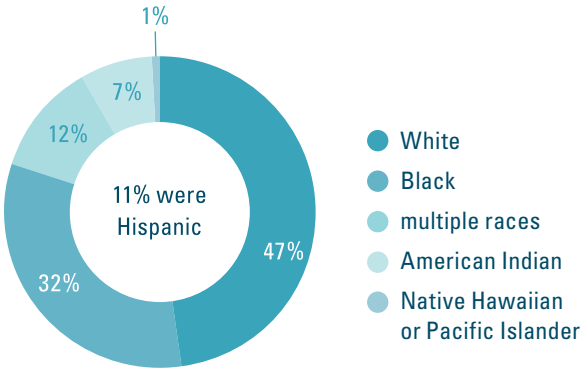
Though the overall number of people in each age group may fluctuate from year to year, as a percentage of the total population, each group is fairly stable.





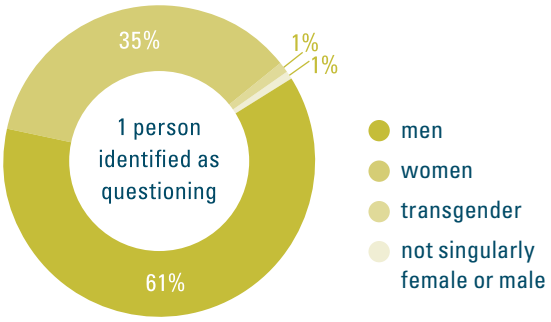
RACE & ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity changes were relatively flat from 2022 to 2023. The most significant change was in the number of people who are black. That number was already disproportionate when compared to the total city population and increased by 5% from 2022.



GENDER

Gender typically varies very little from year to year, which remained the case from 2022 to 2023. Men are less likely to be sheltered than women and regularly comprise the largest percentage of people surveyed. One person identified as questioning.



chronically homeless

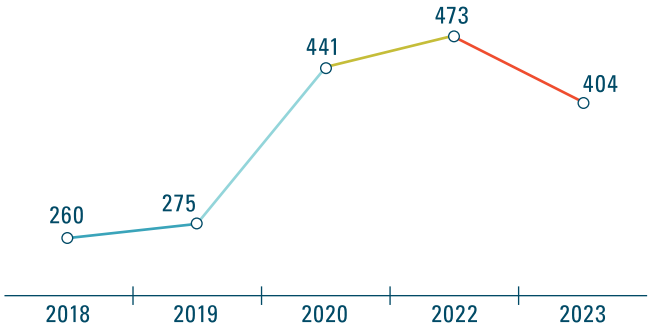
An unaccompanied homeless person with a disabling condition, or a family with a disabled adult head-of-household, who has either been continuously homeless for a year, or at least four times in three years with a combined total of at least 12 months.

60%
ARE UNSHELTERED

Permanent supportive housing is a proven solution to chronic homelessness.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Of all subpopulations, the chronically homeless have more frequent emergency room visits, hospitalizations and contact with law enforcement. Housing greatly reduces these occurrences and the associated trauma and costs. The OKC chronically homeless count continues to remain high, making up 60% of the unsheltered. While service providers were more reactive due to Covid-19, the service community is planning proactive shifts in programming to refocus efforts on permanent housing.



veteran

Someone who has served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. This doesn't include inactive military reserves or National Guard, unless the person was called to active duty.

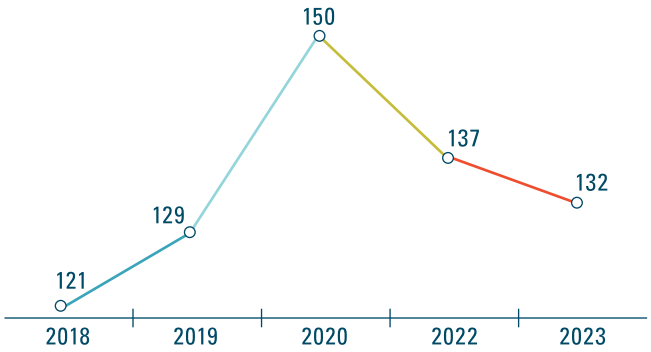
35%
ARE UNSHELTERED

31% are chronically homeless

each = 10 cases

VETERANS

To address veteran homelessness, housing providers, Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) and other providers of veteran services meet several times a month for Veteran's Coordinated Case Management (VCCM). This collaborative pools their resources to house homeless veterans. The total number of veterans located the night of the count decreased slightly by 16 people from 2022 to 2023.



families

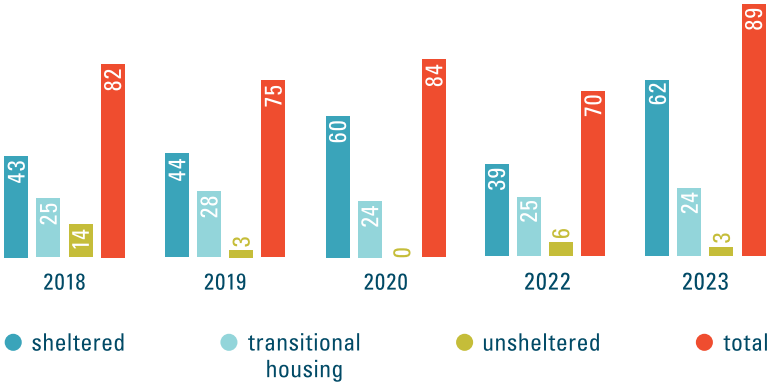
Homeless household living with at least one minor.

THREE WERE UNSHELTERED

MORE THAN **3 in 5** members of homeless families are **minors**

FAMILIES

Early childhood homelessness has been linked to child welfare involvement and school failure. OKC addresses this using the Emergency Solutions Grant and Supportive Housing Program. These programs help people stay in their homes and provide services to re-house families. In 2023, there were 281 people in 89 households experiencing family homelessness - three of those families were unsheltered.



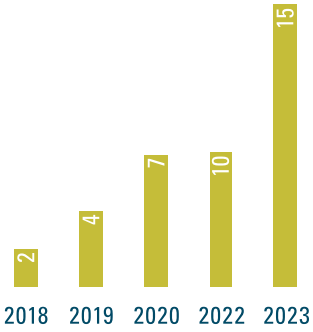
parenting youth

Youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian or one or more children who are present with, or sleeping in the same place as, the youth parent, and where there is no one over age 24 in the household.

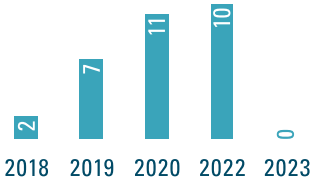
> "All parenting youth were ages 18 - 24. No parenting youth households were unsheltered."

PARENTING YOUTH

Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness face many common challenges, although each has a unique story. Helping young parents provides stability for two generations.



parenting youth



children of parenting youth

unaccompanied youth

People under age 25 who aren't presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian, including single people, couples and groups. Most are ages 18-24.

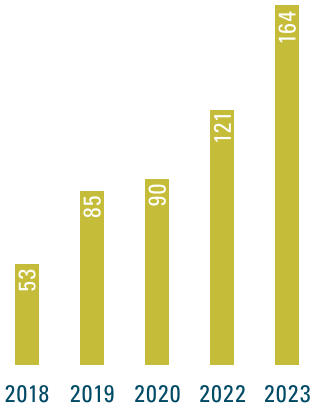
6%
ARE UNSHELTERED

MORE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN OR EXPERIENCE

- > violence
- > sex assult
- > physical illness
- > severe anxiety & depression

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

It's harder to count unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness because they often try not to be located. Some also don't access services because they don't know about them. Many may be nervous about mandated reporting to parents or guardians, or about perceived rules for accessing the services. Oklahoma City Public Schools annually reports that more than 2,000 youth in the school system are homeless. Of those, the majority were couch homeless.



Doesn't count couch-homeless youth (temporarily staying with a friend, relative or acquaintance).

special needs

Someone living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or living outdoors who has one or more disabling conditions.

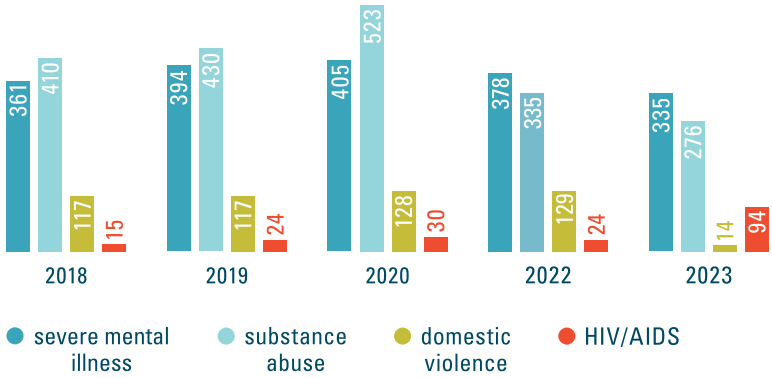
This includes adults who self-reported living with mental illness, alcohol or drug addiction, HIV/AIDS or are experiencing homelessness because they're fleeing domestic violence.

45%
OF THOSE WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS WERE UNSHELTERED

61%
OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WERE UNSHELTERED

SPECIAL NEEDS

People who reported having more than one condition are included in more than one category. Before 2018, people were included in the domestic violence count if they reported ever experiencing it. But for the last 3 years, HUD requires the data reported on domestic violence survivors be limited to those who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence.



additional unsheltered data

This information was only asked of people living outdoors, not from people staying in shelters or transitional housing.

448

WERE UNSHELTERED

ADDITIONAL UNSHELTERED DATA

Data in the rest of this report is required for all federally funded service areas to collect during the Point in Time count. This year, the OKC service community wanted to get more information from people experiencing homelessness and living outdoors. To get a better idea of factors contributing to their living situation, additional questions were added to the street survey and some of the data is shown below.

81% became homeless in Oklahoma
- **66%** OKC
- **15%** another city in Oklahoma

45% experiencing homelessness for the first time

106 have a physical disability

24% have co-occurring mental illness & substance abuse

18% had previously been evicted

BED COUNTS & USE RATES

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Pershing Center / City Care	60	57	95%
Westlawn / City Care	28	28	100%
City Care Affordable Housing City Care	28	25	89%
Remerge / City Care	20	21	105%
CEC-COC-24 Community Enhancement Corp.	34	29	85%
CEC-HOME Funds-12 Community Enhancement Corp.	12	11	92%
CEC-HOME Funds-28 Community Enhancement Corp.	28	15	54%
Building Foundations for Families Homeless Alliance	99	74	75%
Journey Home PSH / Homeless Alliance	63	59	94%
Hope Chronic 32 / HOPE	32	33	103%
Hope Housing Plus / HOPE	19	22	116%
Hope Partners in Housing / HOPE	33	36	109%
Shelter Plus Care 39 / HOPE	43	42	98%
LTS OKC Apartments Mental Health Association OK	15	13	87%
MHA Supportive Housing Mental Health Association OK	46	46	100%
Palo Duro I & II Neighborhood Services	30	36	83%
Lodges Red Rock Behavioral Health Serv.	13	13	100%
Park Side Red Rock Behavioral Health Serv.	12	12	100%
*VASH / VA	352	352	100%
Total	**973**	**918**	**94%**

**The VASH program is not required to enter into HMIS. Data is collected and aggregated with supportive housing programs.*

People living in permanent supportive housing are not considered to be homeless and are not included in the total count numbers.

Client level data regarding victims of domestic violence is de-identified before aggregate reporting.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Neighborhood Services Carolyn Williams - Transitional	17	17	100%
Transitional Housing / Catholic Charities	18	13	72%
Neighborhood Services / Gatewood	8	6	75%
Hope House OKC / Hope House	32	26	81%
Neighborhood Services / Martha's House	28	22	79%
Housing to Hope Youth Mental Health Association OK	8	7	88%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services Park View Place	26	21	81%
Phoenix Recovery Institute Phoenix House	19	16	84%
Pivot - TLP	25	24	96%
Sisu Youth - Atlas	11	12	109%
Sisu Youth - TLP	10	13	130%
Friendship House / VA	16	16	100%
Total	**218**	**193**	**89%**

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Night Shelter / City Care	145	150	103%
City Rescue Mission - Emergency Shelter	472	243	51%
City Rescue Mission - Recovery	80	60	75%
Emergency Shelter / Grace Rescue Mission	30	41	137%
Emergency Shelter / Jesus House	35	40	114%
Emergency Shelter / Cardinal House	17	12	71%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services Park View Place ES	4	6	150%
Emergency Shelter / Pivot	9	1	11%
Extended Hours Drop-In / Pivot	2	2	100%
Hotel-Motel Voucher / Pivot	10	14	140%
The Point / Pivot	12	15	125%
Shelter / Salvation Army	109	100	92%
Drop-In / Sisu Youth	10	10	100%
Youth Shelter / Sisu Youth	16	18	112%
HCHV/EH-Serenity Outreach Recovery / VA	8	9	112%
YWCA / YWCA ES	51	55	108%
Total	**1010**	**776**	**77%**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Oklahoma City Continuum of Care Point in Time Planning Committee is grateful for all of the people and agencies who contributed time, staff, resources and effort to the count. It could not be completed without support and dedication from many service providers working daily to provide safe housing for people experiencing the crisis of homelessness in OKC. We owe a distinct acknowledgement to the volunteers who administered the Point in Time survey, the Data Committee of the Coalition to End Poverty for developing this year's survey, the Coordinated Outreach Team for helping to map street count locations, and to The Homeless Alliance for helping to recruit and train volunteers.

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the people who completed surveys and shared their experiences and reasons for homelessness. Together, they provide us with a better understanding of the local magnitude of homelessness and inspire us to continue working to ensure that homelessness in OKC is brief, rare and non-recurring. Contributors of the 2023 Point in Time count are listed below.

City Care

Catholic Charities

City Rescue Mission

EMBARK

Goodwill Industries of Central OK

Grace Rescue Mission

Heartline 211

Homeless Alliance

HOPE Community Services

HopeHouse

Jesus House

Joe's Addiction

Mental Health Association Oklahoma

Metropolitan Library System

Neighborhood Services Organization

NorthCare

OKC Metro Alliance

OKCPD Homeless Outreach Unit

OKC Housing Authority

OKC Public Schools

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Oklahoma County Social Services

Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency

Oklahoma VA Healthcare System

Pivot

Positive Tomorrows

Red Rock Behavioral Health Services

Salvation Army of Central OK

SISU Youth

Upward Transitions

Urban League of Greater OKC

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development - OK Field Office

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

YWCA of OKC

SOURCES

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National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2006)

Hart-Shegos, Ellen. "Homelessness and its Effects on Children"
Prepared for the Family Housing Fund by Hart-Shegos and Associates, Inc (1999)

"Homelessness & Health: What's the Connection?"
National Heath Care for the Homeless Council (2011)

HUD Homeless Data Exchange
hudhdx.info

National Center on Family Homelessness, American Institutes for Research
familyhomelessness.org

"Oklahoma City Affordable Housing Strategy"
Oklahoma City Housing Authority (2017)

"Out of Reach 2019"
National Low Income Housing Coalition (2019)

PHOTO CREDITS

Nathan Poppe & Curbside Chronicle

LOCAL RESOURCES

Heartline • Dial 2-1-1
They will refer you to one of the resources listed

Catholic Charities
catholiccharitiesok.org

City Care
citycareokc.org

City Rescue Mission
cityrescue.org

Grace Rescue Mission
(405) 232-5766

Greater Oklahoma City Urban League
urbanleagueok.org

Homeless Alliance
homelessalliance.org

HopeHouse
hopehouseokc.com

HOPE Community Services
hopecsi.org

Jesus House
jesushouseokc.org

Joe's Addiction
outrageous.love

Latino Community Development Agency
lcdaok.com

Neighborhood Services Organization
nsookc.org

OKC Metro Alliance
okcmetroalliance.com

Phoenix House
(405) 525-0201

RAIN OK
rainoklahoma.org

Red Rock Behavioral Health
red-rock.com

Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma
salvationarmyokcac.org

SISU Youth
sisuyouth.org

Sunbeam Family Services
sunbeamfamilyservices.org

Upward Transitions
upwardtransitions.org

Winds House
windshouseokc.org

Pivot
pivotok.org

YWCA
ywcaokc.org

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.“

Nelson Mandela

HomeOKC
OKLAHOMA CITY
HOMELESS SERVICES

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