
TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

STATE OF
THE
HOMELESS
REPORT

2024

*"A vibrant community where everyone has
a place to call home and the resources to live their best life."*

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INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (the Homeless Coalition) is pleased to present the 2024 State of the Homeless Report. The 2024 State of the Homeless Report is a powerful resource for understanding the scope and intricacies of homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties. This report contains the most current and accurate data and analysis available for homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties. The Homeless Coalition hopes to convey an understanding of how our system works together, the magnitude of the response, accomplishments, and what the next year holds.

After several years of uncertainty, 2024 brings a sense of stability, hope, and an opportunity to invest in change that will benefit our entire community. While our area received a surge of financial support during the pandemic, those resources have since been depleted. Despite the absence of funding, its lasting impact on our community is strong. The pandemic taught us that increased investment into rental assistance and homeless prevention keeps people from experiencing homelessness.

These investments include municipalities' continued focus on strengthening our homeless response system. Together, Tarrant County, the City of Fort Worth, and the City of Arlington have dedicated over \$50,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to build housing for people who are exiting homelessness. This capital investment is estimated to support the development of over 300 affordable rental units in our community. Although this is a significant step toward achieving our goal of ending homelessness, there remains a need for additional investments to serve everyone in our community who needs a place to call home. As the dust settles from the last several years, we are continuing discussions with decision-makers at federal, state, and local levels, advocating for continued investment in housing through capital and supportive programs.

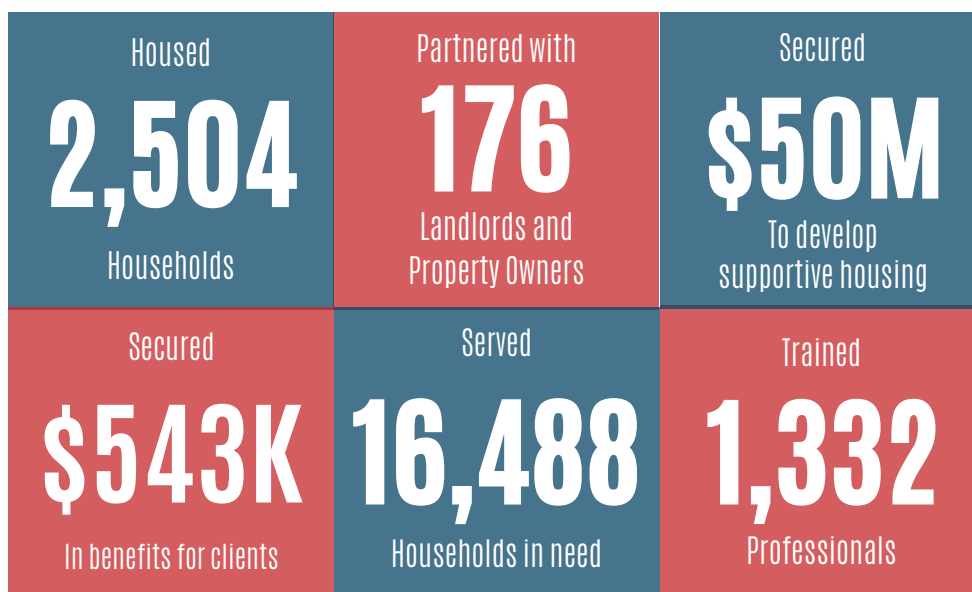
While we focus on current investments for future successes, we must also celebrate that for the second year in a row, our system has moved more households out of homelessness than ever before. This is a true testament to our community's commitment to collaboration, service, and our shared **vision of ensuring everyone has a place to call home.**

Thank you to our partners and the community for coming alongside us on this journey. The Homeless Coalition is here to serve you and could not do our work without you.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CoC made significant progress on the strategic plan with the following major accomplishments:

- **Helped 2,504 households find a place to call home.**
 - This is the largest number of households housed in a single year.
- **Secured over \$50 million in capital funding to build affordable housing.**
 - With this funding, over 300 multi-family units will be renovated or built to provide specialized housing options for people exiting homelessness.
- **Awarded an additional 368 Emergency Housing Vouchers.**
 - Funded through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, our CoC was recognized for our previous successes and awarded additional housing assistance.
- **Recruited 31 landlord partners committed to giving people a second chance at housing.**
 - Since its inception in 2020, we have partnered with more than 175 community landlords, securing access to an impressive 15,633 units – a 25% increase in just the past year!
- **Recognized as national leaders in several areas, including Landlord Engagement, building systems, and creating housing assessment protocols.**
 - Homeless Coalition staff presents at conferences across the United States on topics including the new assessment tool and building and maintaining landlord relationships.
- **Implemented six innovative programs targeting youth aged 18-24 facing homelessness, funded through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP).**
 - In 2023, our community experienced a milestone by serving over 1000 youth for the first time, thanks to the introduction of these programs tailored specifically for young adults.
- **Provided 308 hours of training to 1,332 people in our community.**
 - Over 150 training courses were provided to frontline staff, service providers, management staff, and community partners, about best practices in homeless services.



VISION & MISSION

SHARED VISION

A vibrant community where individuals and families have a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.

MISSION

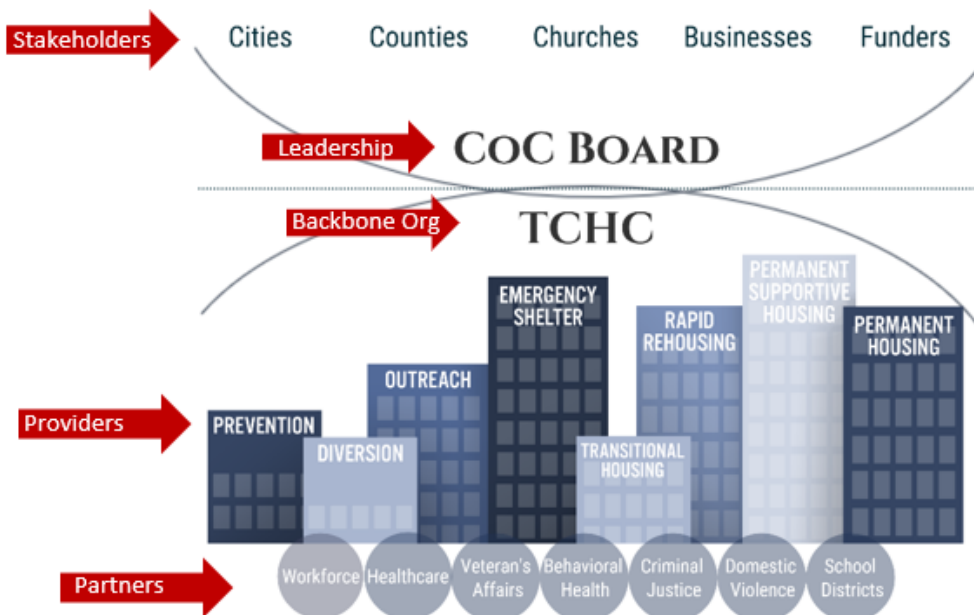
The CoC cultivates and creates partnerships to collectively impact effective and efficient community solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

Over the past four years, our system faced unprecedented challenges. Years of effort creating the groundwork for our community's success was at risk due to the unprecedented pressures of a global pandemic. However, these uncertain times revealed our collective strength as a system. It highlighted our ability to unite as a team and collaboratively strive towards a common goal to give everyone a place to call home.

LEADERSHIP

Housing Crisis System of Care

Our Housing Crisis System of Care encompasses a wide array of services available to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The System of Care works because it is inclusive of many stakeholders, all of whom play a part in addressing homelessness; this includes organizations with the primary mission of addressing homelessness along with community stakeholders, elected officials, community leaders, and other partners who provide essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment.



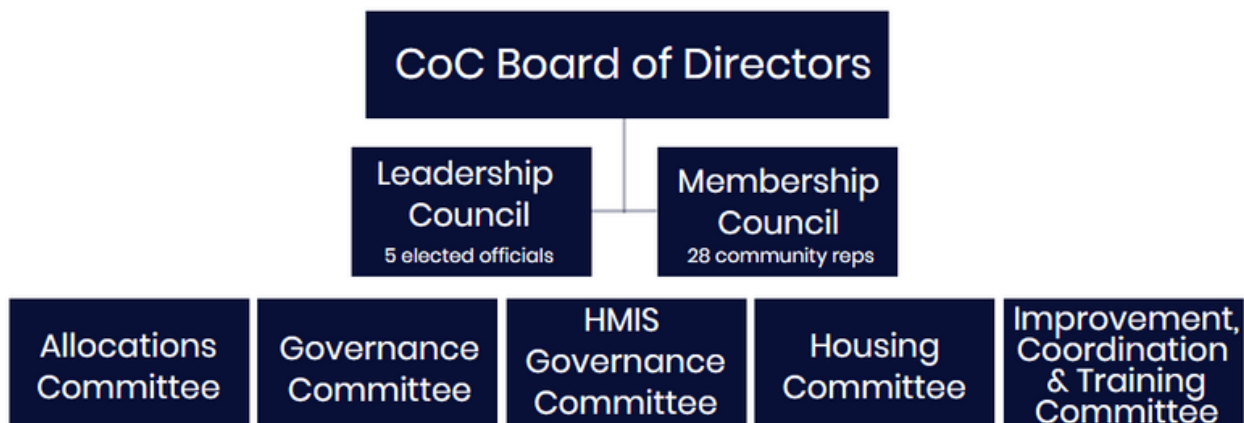
The Continuum of Care Board of Directors

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board of Directors is a community-based planning body committed to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC is responsible for providing community leadership to guide Tarrant and Parker Counties toward the goal of providing a home for all, putting the CoC's mission into action to realize our shared community vision. The Board's responsibilities are to:

- Understand the size and scope of the problem of homelessness in our community;
- Promote funding efforts by non-profit providers, for profit entities and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma caused by dislocation;
- Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families;
- Lead the collective purpose surrounding the issue of homelessness;
- Optimize the self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and
- Design effective strategies and solutions to address homelessness.

Board Structure

The CoC Board of Directors is made up of a five-member Leadership Council and a 28-member Membership Council. The Leadership Council meets three times annually; the Membership Council meets on the fourth Monday of every other month. Within the CoC structure there are also standing committees, ad-hoc committees, subcommittees, and work groups, all of which meet on a monthly or quarterly basis.



Committee Purpose and Alignment

Allocations

Purpose: The Allocations Committee is responsible review and ranking of applications to determine the priority projects for funding in the annual CoC NOFA from HUD. Additionally, the Allocations Committee evaluates other public funding collaborative applications for homeless services.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 5: Committed Resources

Governance

Purpose: The Governance Committee conducts the annual nominations process for the CoC Board of Directors and oversees strategic recruitment of community members to the CoC Board and committees. Committee members must include representation from both the Leadership and Membership Councils.

HMIS Governance Committee

Purpose: The HMIS Governance Committee oversees the Homeless Information Systems Management, including planning, participation, selection, implementation and ongoing oversight of technology systems.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 2: Data Driven Solutions

Housing Committee

Purpose: The Housing Committee makes recommendations to the CoC Board on the planning, CoC wide policies, procedures, implementation and oversight needed to ensure adequate housing stock and access for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal 3: Housing Focused

Improvement, Coordination & Training Committee

Purpose: The ICT Committee oversees the development and implementation of CoC-wide policies, processes and training and oversees all intervention and population workgroups.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal: 1: Effective Response System

Subcommittees, Workgroups and Taskforces

Emergency Shelter Strategy Coordination
Family Committee
Youth Committee
Ranking Workgroup
Advisory Council
Youth Action Board

Veterans Committee
TOTEL (outreach) Committee

Case Conferencing Groups:

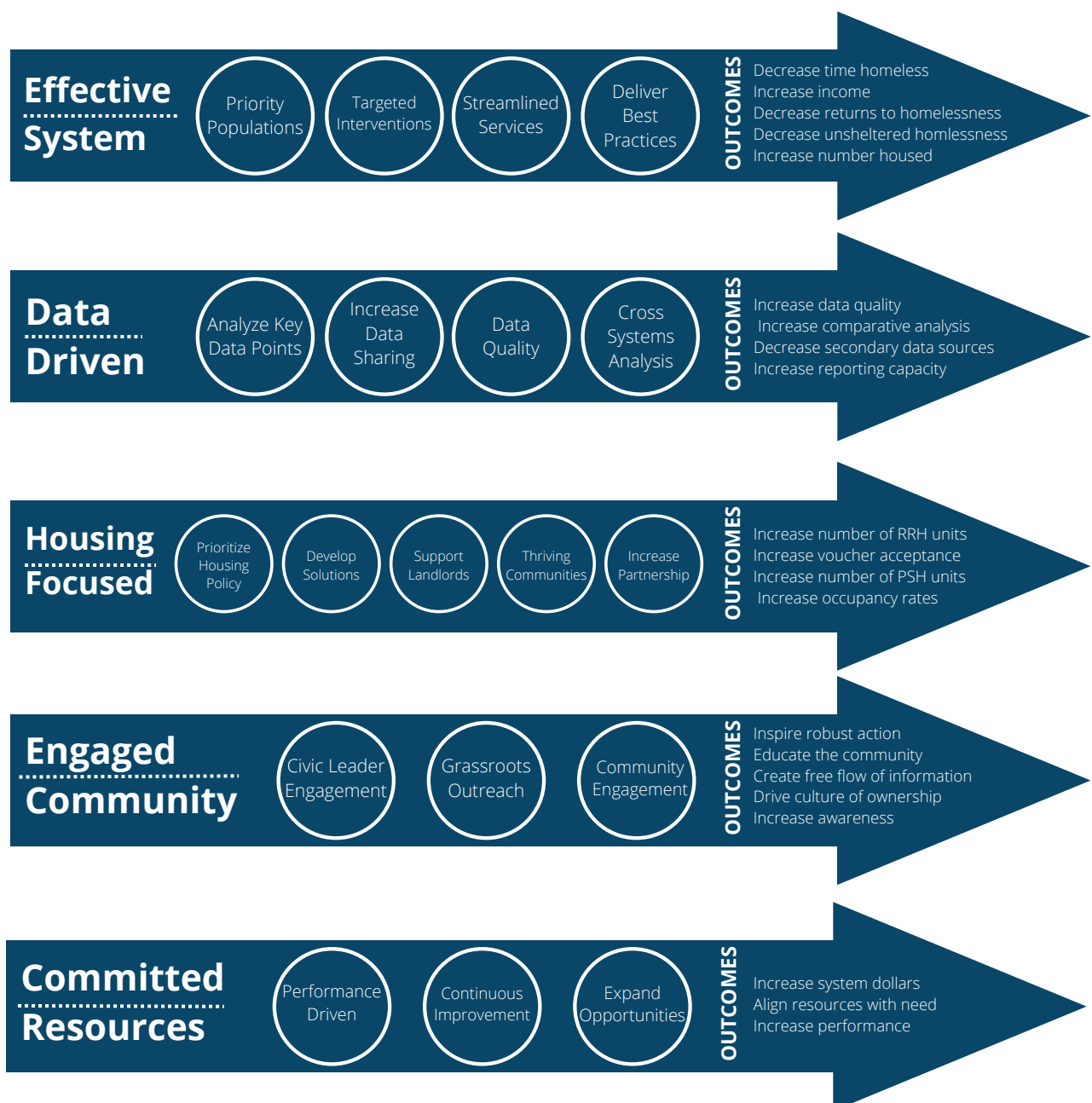
Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid
Rehousing, Veteran, Youth, Emergency
Shelter, Site Based, Unsheltered, Arlington

2024: INVESTING IN CHANGE

Community Alignment and The Strategic Plan

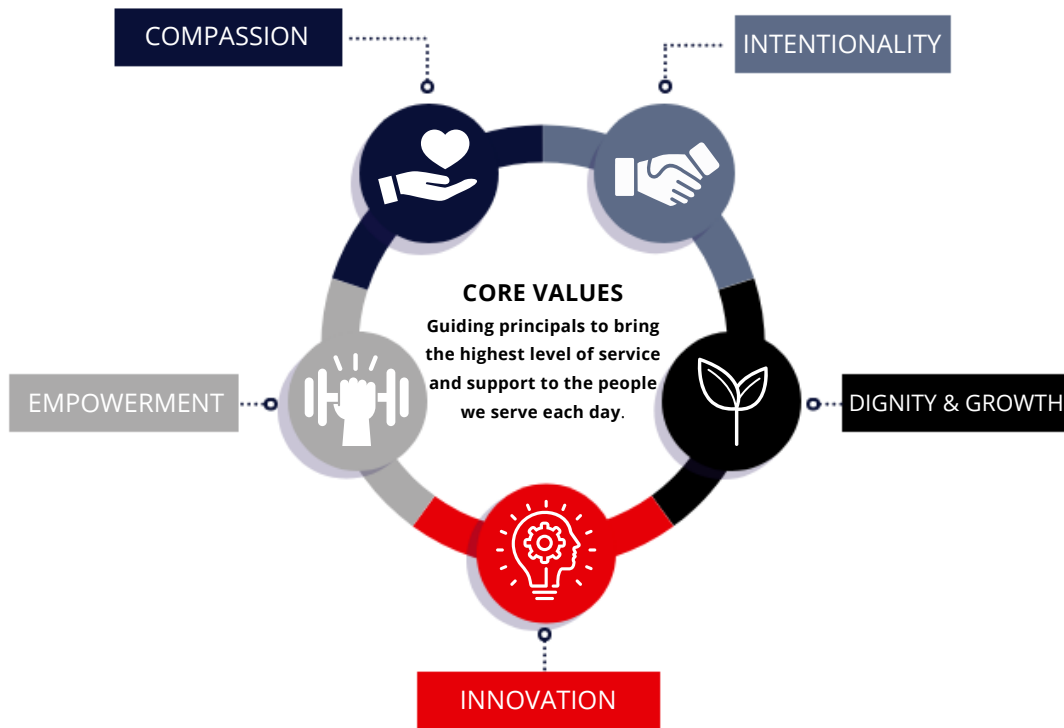
The Homeless Coalition and our partners serving people experiencing homelessness are committed to the CoC Strategic Plan to guide all planning and services within our housing crisis system of care. The strategies in the plan serve as the backbone of all efforts around homelessness, including planning and implementation of programs and services. The strategic plan was created with much thought and is designed to ensure the CoC is well prepared for growth, expansion, and new partnerships far into the future.

Working together, we can realize our shared vision of a vibrant community where every individual has a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.



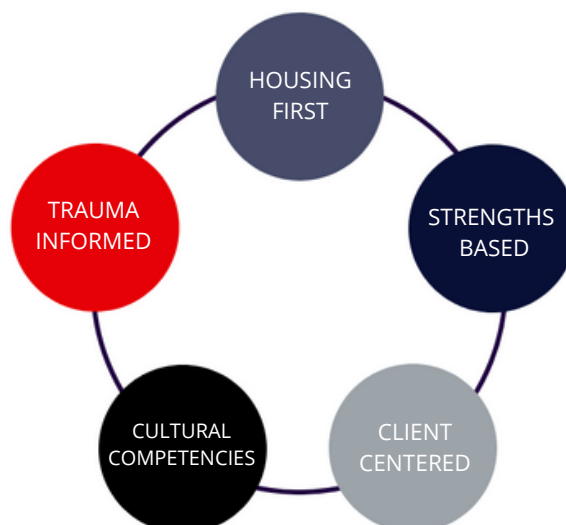
Core Values

Just as we have a shared community vision, our community of service providers also has shared core values that are embedded into our strategic plan and guide interventions in our system. Core values give us guiding principles to bring the highest level of service and support to people experiencing homelessness being served each day.



Core Competencies

Core competencies establish a community wide standard of care to ensure anyone who experiences homelessness receives consistent and high-quality services, regardless of where or what type of services they are seeking.



CORE INTERVENTIONS & PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Our Housing Crisis System of Care is made up of core interventions designed to serve people who have experienced housing instability and homelessness. Services provided range from homeless prevention to crisis response services to housing solutions. Each intervention is specifically designed to respond to meet people's needs and meet them where they are at that time.

PREVENTION EFFORTS

HOMELESS PREVENTION

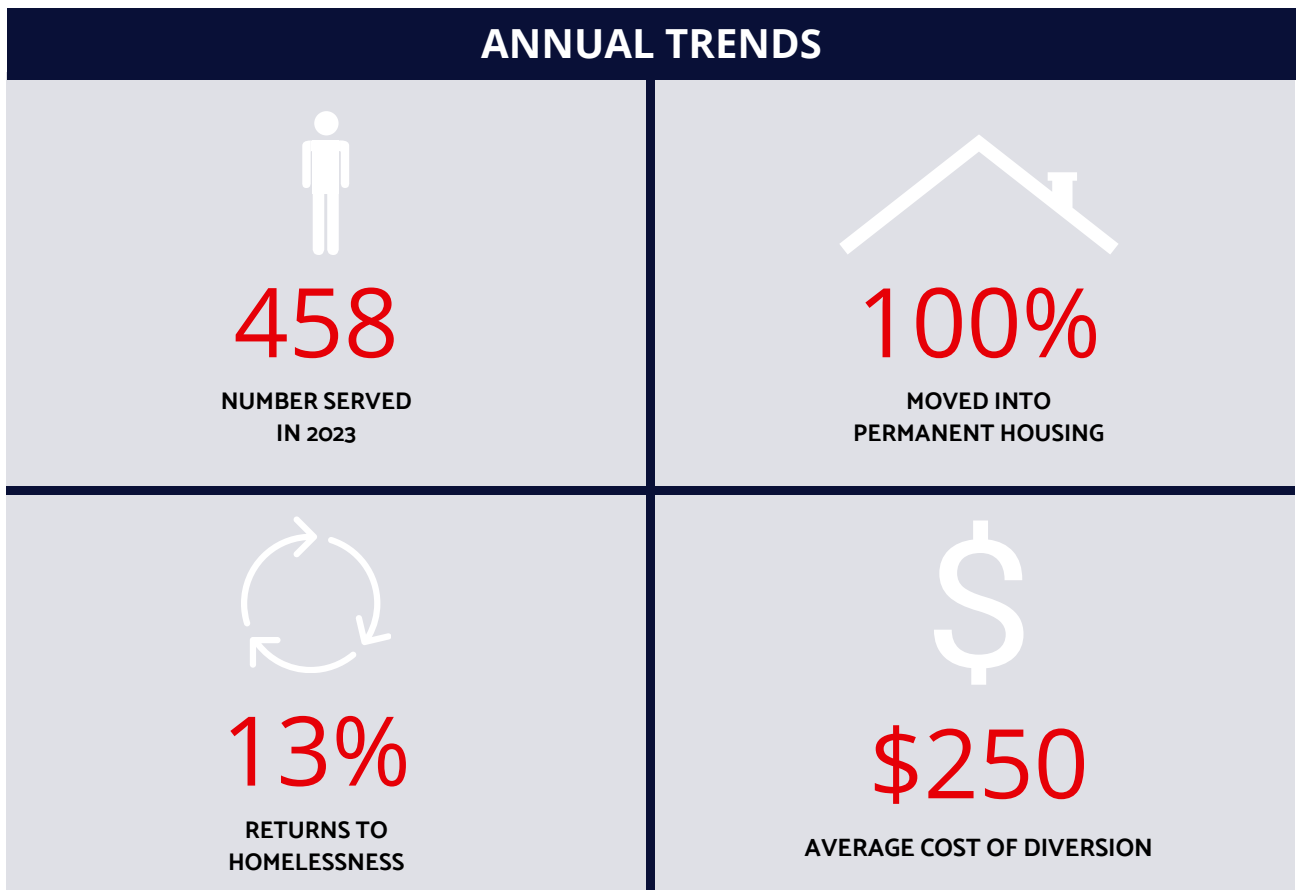
Homeless Prevention services provide direct financial assistance to keep people from becoming homeless. Homeless Prevention is considered the most cost-effective way to help those who are at risk of losing their housing and can ultimately reduce a community's need for and reliance upon crisis response services such as emergency shelter and street outreach.

During the pandemic our community saw an influx of over \$25 million in homeless prevention funds. With this, there was also a 43% decrease in homelessness. Having seen the success of this effort, in 2024 the Homeless Coalition will be exploring homeless prevention opportunities and strategic investments with a goal of launching a prevention initiative in 2025.

Additionally, the City of Fort Worth released their Affordable Housing Strategic Plan, which includes a variety of ways to ensure people do not lose their housing and, as a community, we keep the affordable stock needed, also preventing homelessness.

HOMELESS DIVERSION

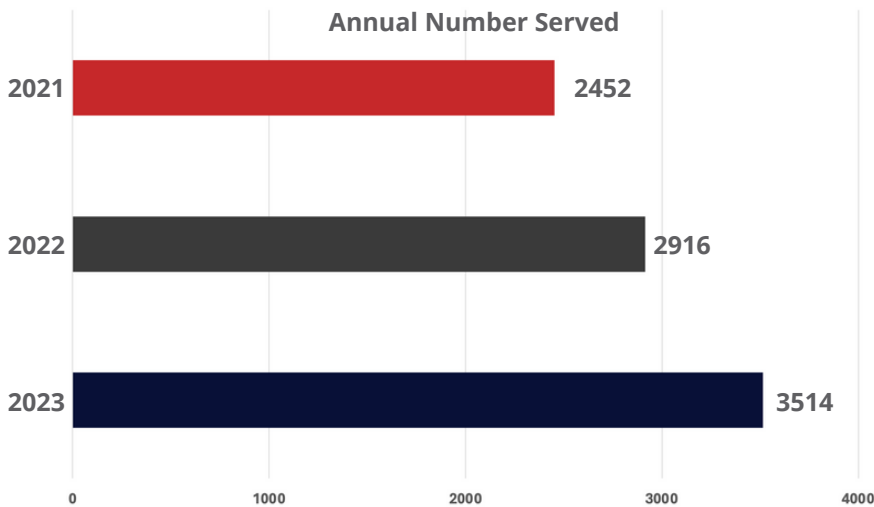
Homeless diversion is an intervention strategy used to keep people from entering homelessness. Diversion happens after households have lost their housing and helps to identify immediate alternative housing arrangements to assist them in securing a permanent place to live. Examples of diversion services include a negotiated return to their previous housing, transportation assistance to a new permanent housing opportunity, or a reunion with family or friends.



CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES

STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach teams work daily to make relationships with people, helping them take steps to move inside and ultimately become housed again. As Tarrant and Parker counties have experienced explosive growth, unsheltered homelessness has become more visible to community members. 967 individuals were living outside on the night of the count, a decrease of 11 percent, compared to the 2023 unsheltered count.



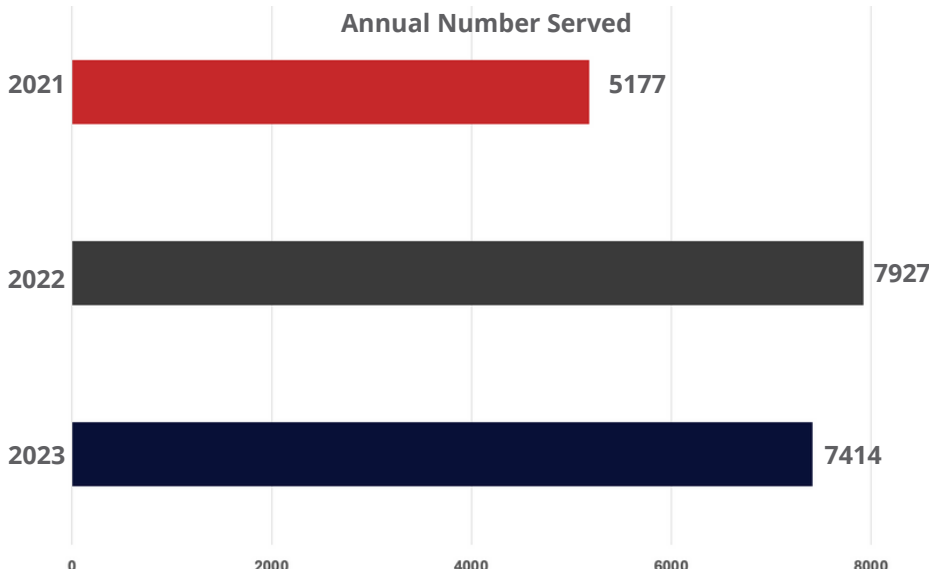
- AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES**
- Hands of Hope
 - JPS
 - DRC Solutions
 - MHMR
 - FW Fire H.O.P.E Team
 - FW PD H.O.P.E. Team
 - Veteran's Affairs
 - Hearts Full of Love
 - TRAC
 - Seasons of Change

ANNUAL TRENDS

 225 Days AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS	 24% EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING
 21% INCREASE IN UNSHELTERED	 17% RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS






EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters are intended for temporary shelter and crisis relief. Eight agencies in Tarrant County provide emergency shelter. On count night, 1,207 people were sleeping in emergency shelter. Emergency shelters are a critical component of our community's ability to respond to a person or family experiencing a housing crisis.



- AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES**
- ACH Child & Family Services
 - Arlington Life Shelter
 - Center for Transforming Lives
 - DRC Solutions - Cold Weather
 - Presbyterian Night Shelter
 - SafeHaven of Tarrant County
 - The Salvation Army Arlington
 - The Salvation Army Fort Worth
 - Union Gospel Mission

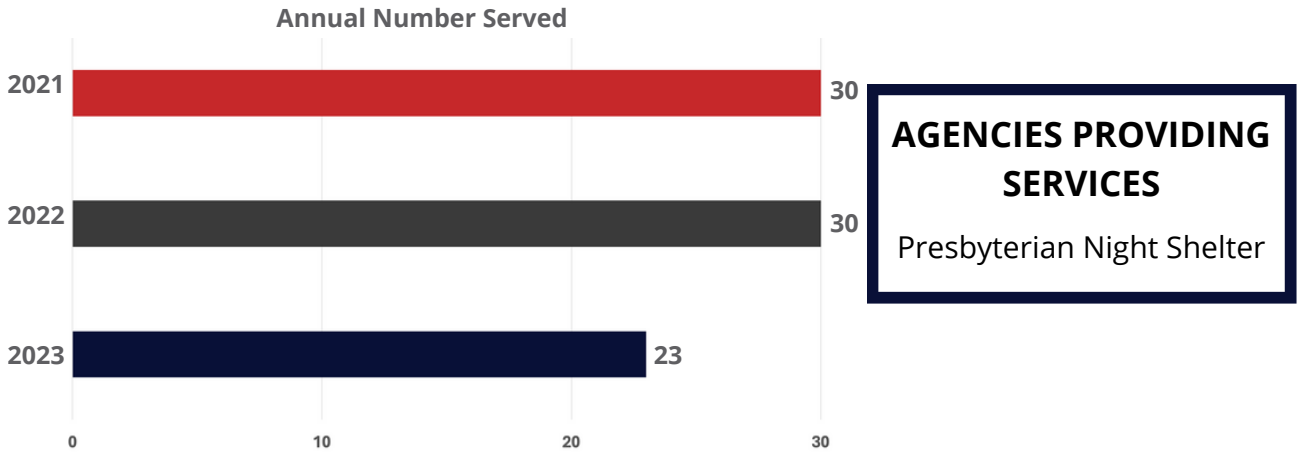
ANNUAL TRENDS

 <p>201 Days AVERAGE TIME SPENT HOMELESS</p>	 <p>6% FEWER PEOPLE ACCESSING SHELTER</p>
 <p>22% RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS</p>	 <p>18% POSITIVE EXITS TO HOUSING</p>
<p>1,207 PEOPLE IN SHELTERS ON NIGHT OF 2024 PIT COUNT</p>	
	

SAFE HAVEN

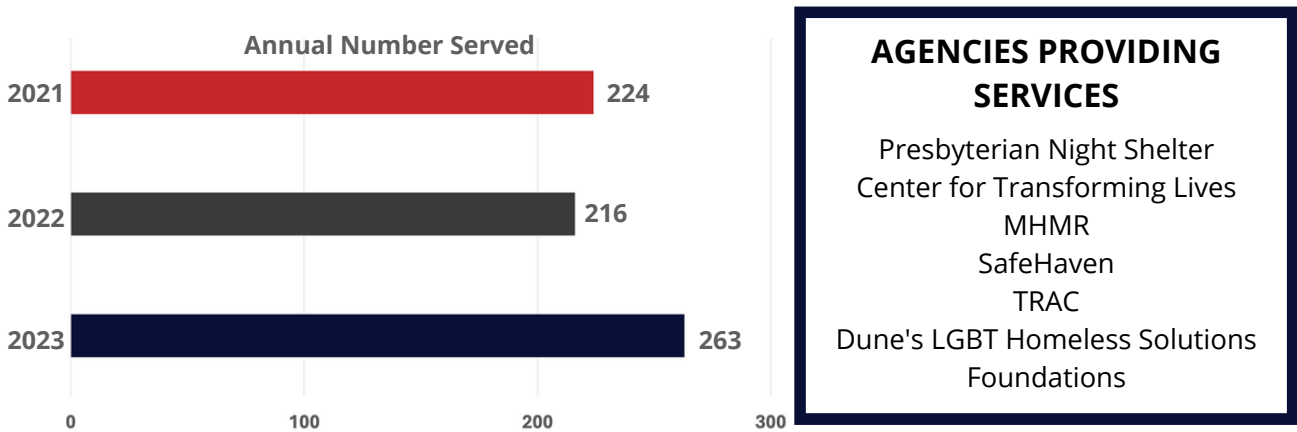
Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by Presbyterian Night Shelter and should not be confused with the organization SafeHaven of Tarrant County, which provides services for victims of domestic violence.

Safe Haven is designed to meet the immediate medical, emotional, psychological, and psychiatric needs of its guests. Long-term, the program also assists with identifying solutions to resolve legal concerns and substance dependency. While housing placement is an ideal outcome for the program, the main purpose of Safe Haven is to provide a safe and secure place for guests to reside while living with severe mental illness. Safe Haven serves 10 men and 10 women for a total of 20 guests at any given time.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing (TH) programs provide time-limited housing assistance (2 years or less) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence. The use of TH has proven effective for certain specialized populations including those experiencing domestic violence, youth aged 18 to 24, Veterans, and those dealing with chronic substance use. These recommendations are embraced by the Continuum of Care, as we strive to provide tailored interventions.



ANNUAL TRENDS



HOUSING PROGRAMS

RAPID EXIT

Rapid Exit is an intervention that reduces homelessness by quickly connecting employed households with one-time move-in assistance including costs such as application fees, administrative fees, double deposits, and rental assistance. Rapid exit approaches are built upon the recognition that some people who experience homelessness can effectively resolve their own homelessness independently or with very limited help. This often takes the form of housing-focused services intended to help the person identify ways to exit homelessness quickly and, when possible, without utilizing homelessness-dedicated resources.



SHALLOW SUBSIDIES

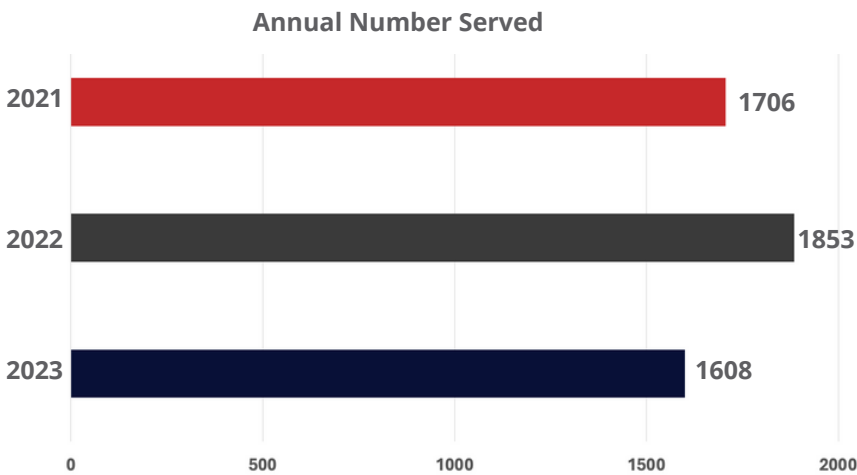
Shallow subsidies provide a rental subsidy to participants in order to help them achieve housing stability and prevent homelessness or reentry into homelessness. This amount is much less than traditional housing assistance and is meant to meet the smaller gap between income and rent for people with employment or sustainable income. Shallow subsidies are ideal for people that just need a little help each month to make ends meet and keep people from returning to homelessness. The Continuum of Care estimates that about 3% of people experiencing homelessness in our continuum could benefit from a shallow subsidy.



RAPID REHOUSING

Rapid Rehousing quickly connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to short-term rental assistance coupled with case management to help people get back on their feet. These programs reduce the amount of time individuals and families experience homelessness, avoid a return to homelessness, and link them to community resources to achieve long-term housing stability.

Rapid Rehousing has been proven to be extremely effective with families and is more cost effective than other long-term interventions such as Transitional Housing.



- AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES**
- Arlington Housing Authority
 - Center for Transforming Lives
 - TRAC
 - DRC Solutions
 - Endeavors
 - MHMR
 - Presbyterian Night Shelter
 - Recovery Resource Council
 - Resources Inspiring Success and Empowering (RISE)
 - SafeHaven
 - Seasons of Changes, INC.
 - Tarrant County Community Devt
 - The Salvation Army- FW

ANNUAL TRENDS



7.5 Months
AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



68%
INCREASE IN INCOME



10%
RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

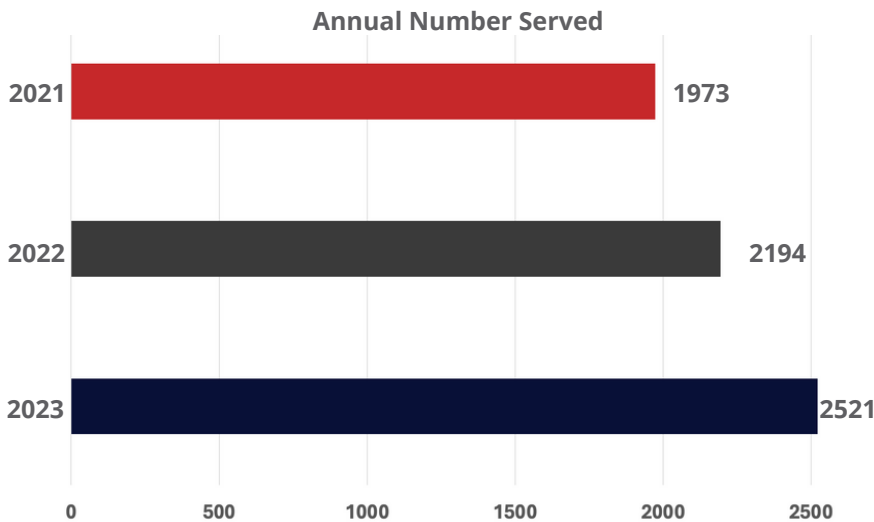


91%
POSITIVE EXITS TO HOUSING

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) combines long-term rental assistance and supportive services tailored to people with complex barriers to getting and keeping housing. PSH is designed for people with a disabling condition who need permanent support to live stably. PSH is a proven solution for people who have experienced chronic homelessness.

PSH is designed to be permanent and typically has a low turnover rate. PSH is best suited for approximately 15% of people experiencing homelessness in our community and should be reserved for those with the most severe challenges to becoming and staying housed. In 2022, our CoC added the first ever PSH program for youth (ages 18-24). Although this program includes long-term rental assistance and case management, households are typically served for an average of three and a half years.



- AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES**
- Arlington Housing Authority
 - CitySquare
 - DRC Solutions
 - Fort Worth Housing Solutions
 - MHMR
 - Presbyterian Night Shelter
 - Recovery Resource Council
 - SafeHaven
 - Samaritan House
 - Tarrant County Community Devt
 - The Salvation Army- FW
 - Veterans Administration

ANNUAL TRENDS

3.4 Years
AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM

65%
INCREASE IN INCOME

15%
RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

95%
RETAIN PERMANENT HOUSING

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Identifying and targeting priority populations has been recognized as a national best practice to address homelessness. Our community has identified priority populations for 2018 to 2024:

- 2018: Veterans
- 2019: Youth (18-24)
- 2020-2022: People most at risk with COVID-19
- 2023: Families
- 2024: Chronically homeless

VETERANS

Veterans experiencing homelessness remain a focus for our community. Veterans were the community's priority population in 2018, when we embarked on a 100-Day Challenge and a group of dedicated service providers began reviewing progress and determining a clear path forward to create a system where there are more veterans leaving homelessness than entering.

In March 2023, The United States Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) announced its goal to provide housing for 38,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness. By the end of 2023, 46,552 homeless Veterans had found a permanent place to call home, representing 122.5% of the goal, a tremendous accomplishment, and a step toward ending Veteran homelessness. **In DFW, 764 previously unhoused veterans moved into a place to call home in 2023, surpassing our area's housing goal by 120%.**

From 2018 to 2023, **our community saw a remarkable 42% decrease in veteran homelessness.** This decline in veteran homelessness can be directly attributed to the VA's housing initiative, which created a significant increase in veterans receiving housing support through programs such as VASH and SSVF. These programs offer rental assistance and supportive services tailored to address the housing needs of veterans experiencing homelessness. By the close of 2023, nearly half (49%) of the veterans who entered our system attained housing stability.

Notable Trends

Number of veterans who experienced homelessness:

2022: 490

2023: 516

Percent of veterans that returned to homelessness:

2022: 23%

2023: 27%

516

veterans served in 2023

149

veterans found experiencing homelessness in the night of the 2024 count.

27%

veterans returned to homelessness after two years

VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: WHO ARE THEY?

**TYPICALLY
MEN**

**ON AVERAGE
52 YEARS OLD**

**61% ARE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS
FOR THE FIRST
TIME**

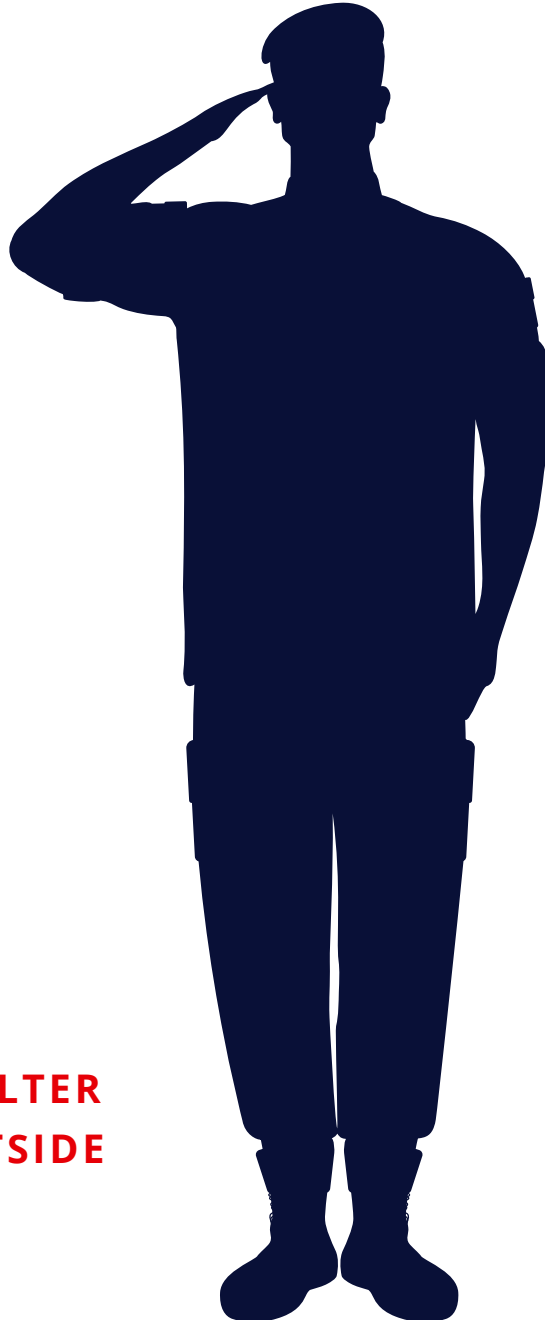
**REPRESENT
ALL BRANCHES
OF THE
MILITARY**

**52% ARE
DISABLED**

**66% HAVE
INCOME**

**58% SEEK SHELTER
42% STAY OUTSIDE**

**HOMELESS
FOR ABOUT
4.5 MONTHS**



YOUTH

Young adults, age 18 to 24 and unaccompanied minors, were identified as our community's priority population for 2019. The vulnerability of youth on the streets makes them susceptible to various forms of exploitation. Moreover, within this demographic, specific subsets such as LGBTQ+ youth, foster care alumni, and trafficked youth require specialized services to address the unique challenges they face, including overcoming past trauma.

In the last quarter of 2021, our CoC was awarded HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) funding totaling \$4,083,000. The goal of this funding was to support communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. A Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to end youth homelessness was developed through a comprehensive planning process that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including more than 25 agencies and youth with lived experience of homelessness.

The CCP established six goals to guide our community when serving youth experiencing homelessness:

- 1. Prioritize youth and data in planning, decision-making, and resource allocation.**
- 2. Identify all unaccompanied homeless youth.**
- 3. Utilize prevention, diversion, and low-barrier crisis housing.**
- 4. Implement coordinated entry processes for housing solutions.**
- 5. Provide comprehensive support for transitioning into permanent housing.**
- 6. Sustain resources and capacity to prevent future youth homelessness.**

Through a local competition, the Allocations Committee recommended six new projects for YHDP to support new youth-focused projects, including Crisis Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.

All six YHDP projects were under contract with HUD and began serving youth in Tarrant and Parker Counties in October 2022. With the deployment of these youth-specific housing programs, our community served more youth than ever before in 2023, surpassing 1000 youth served for the first time.

Notable Trends

Number of youth served:

2022: 761

2023: 1001

32% increase

Percent of youth who returned to homelessness:

2022: 16%

2023: 36%

Percent of youth who retained or increased their employment income:

2022: 24%

2023: 23%

1001

youth served
in 2023

115

youth found experiencing
homelessness in the night
of the 2024 count.

36%

youth returned to
homelessness after two
years

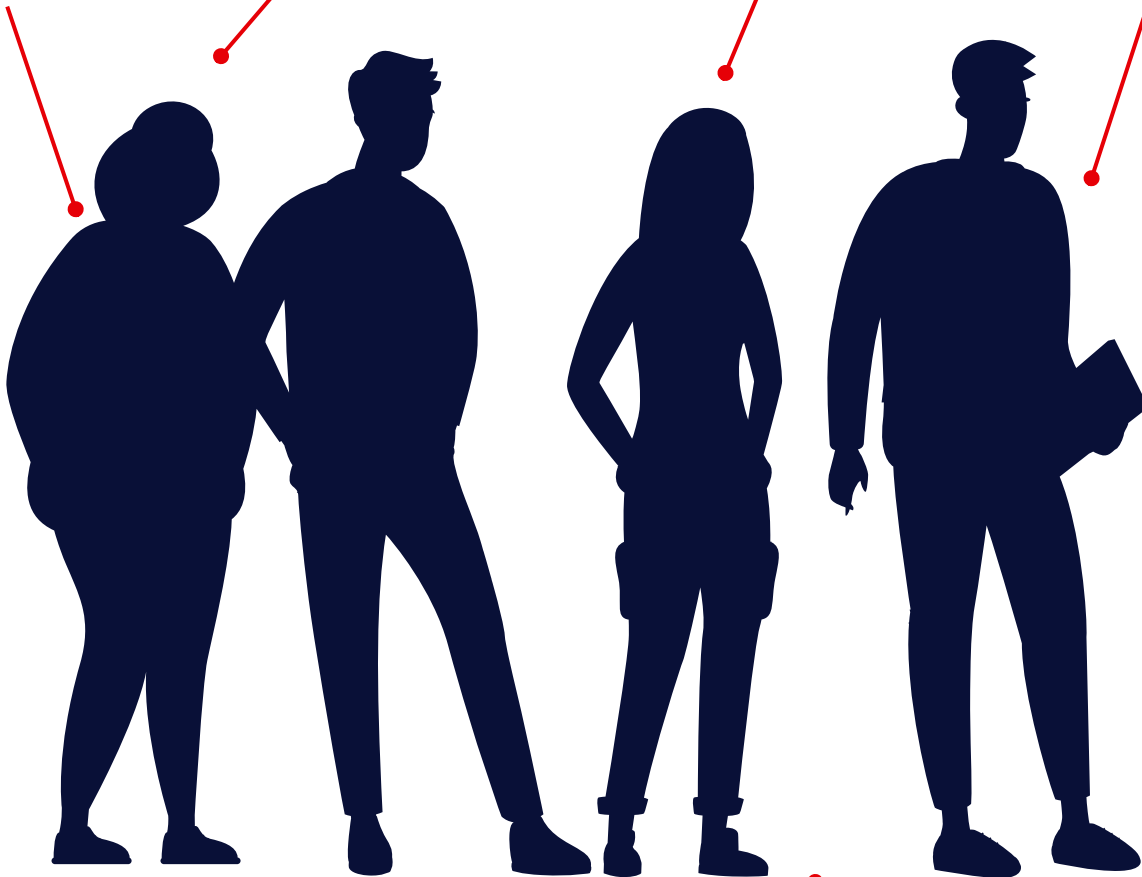
YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: WHO ARE THEY?

**36% ARE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS
FOR THE FIRST
TIME**

**TYPICALLY
YOUNG WOMEN**

**36% HAVE
INCOME**

**NEED
6 MONTHS
TO 2 YEARS
OF ASSISTANCE**



**76% SEEK SHELTER
24% SLEEP OUTSIDE**

**APPROXIMATELY
40% WERE
FORMERLY IN
FOSTER CARE**

FAMILIES

Our community is working very intentionally to address family homelessness. Historically, our system has served families exceptionally well and has been able to quickly respond to their needs, primarily through the rapid exit and rapid rehousing interventions. Unfortunately, in 2022 our system saw a 50% increase in families experiencing homelessness, a trend that persisted throughout 2023.

In the immediate years following the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in family homelessness was attributed to the ending of COVID-era federal funding and protections, including a never-before-seen amount of rental assistance in our community. This funding along with the federally mandated eviction moratorium helped people maintain their housing from 2019 until 2021. With those resources diminished, many families in our community are now struggling to stay afloat.

While we saw many things in our community change due to the impact of the pandemic, the most significant issue impacting homelessness is that our community has become unaffordable for many families in the past four years. With more people moving to the area than ever, the demand for housing and the rising cost of rental units is outpacing what people can afford to pay. Most families who become homeless point towards inability to pay rent or find an affordable unit for their family as their primary reason for experiencing homelessness.

Due to the continued rise in family homelessness, our system has had to create alternative solutions to addressing unsheltered family homelessness. In the summer of 2023, TCHC partnered with city officials, partner agencies, and a local church to open a designated overflow shelter for unsheltered families. This initiative aimed to provide a necessary, immediate response to the pressing issue of homelessness among families.

Additionally, identifying the need to invest more funding and resources into families experiencing homelessness, the Homeless Coalition was awarded \$2.5 million from the Day 1 Families Fund in November 2023. This funding is dedicated to families experiencing homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties through investing in rapid exit, diversion, navigation, linkage, and enhanced supportive services. This funding will be deployed in the community in the Spring of 2024.

Notable Trends

Number of families who experienced homelessness:

2022: 688

2023: 811

Percent of families that returned to homelessness:

2022: 15%

2023: 24%

138

families experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 point-in-time count

402

family members found experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 count.

24%

returns to homelessness after two years

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: WHO ARE THEY?

**51% ARE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS
FOR THE FIRST
TIME**

**TYPICALLY A
SINGLE MOM**

**69% WORK OR
ARE SEEKING
EMPLOYMENT**

**AVERAGE OF 2
KIDS PER FAMILY**

**HOMELESS FOR
AN AVERAGE OF
2.5 MONTHS**

**AVERAGE AGE
OF KIDS:
6 YEARS OLD**



**NEED 6-18
MONTHS OF
ASSISTANCE**

COMMON BARRIERS TO HOUSING:

- 1. No or very low income**
- 2. Previous evictions**
- 3. Bad credit**

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

For 2024, our community has designated people facing chronic homelessness as the primary focus. Chronically homeless individuals are people who have experienced homelessness for more than one year or more than four times in three years and have a disability. People experiencing chronic homelessness often face complex and long-term health conditions such as mental illness, substance abuse disorders, physical disabilities, and other chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

People experiencing chronic homelessness are considered particularly vulnerable because they often live outdoors or in other living situations not meant for human habitation, which typically intensify or worsen any disabilities or ongoing medical conditions. Additionally, chronically homeless individuals are often the most visible population experiencing homelessness and personify stereotypes about the homeless population.

To help address chronic homelessness in our community, the Homeless Coalition is partnering with Fort Worth city officials and partner agencies to develop a Housing First ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Team. The multi-disciplinary team, composed of diverse professionals, delivers personalized assistance including physical healthcare, mental healthcare, substance use treatment, and comprehensive support. Through active engagement and a trauma-informed approach, the team builds trust with individuals facing homelessness and offers services that are flexible and adapted to individual needs.

One barrier to housing our chronically homeless population is the lack of appropriate and available housing options. Many individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in our community need permanent supportive housing (PSH). Unfortunately, the turnover rate for PSH is low, with a rate of 20% or less annually. This creates a situation where the availability of PSH is limited compared to the number of people who could benefit from this intervention.

In a strategic move to increase PSH availability, our CoC opted for a 'Move-on' strategy while allocating 368 emergency housing vouchers (EHV) received from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Our community collaborated to identify people being served by PSH who no longer needed supportive services and simply needed rental assistance. By facilitating the transfer of these individuals to EHV, we successfully freed up much needed PSH for chronically homeless individuals in need.

Additionally, as a community investment approach to housing our chronically homeless community, our municipalities strategically invested in the homeless response system by dedicating over \$50,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to capital investments for building housing. This investment will remove barriers to housing and create units specifically for people exiting homelessness, including over 200 units of PSH.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

**AVERAGE AGE:
45 YEARS OLD**

**EXPERIENCE
HOMELESSNESS
FOR MORE THAN
ONE YEAR**

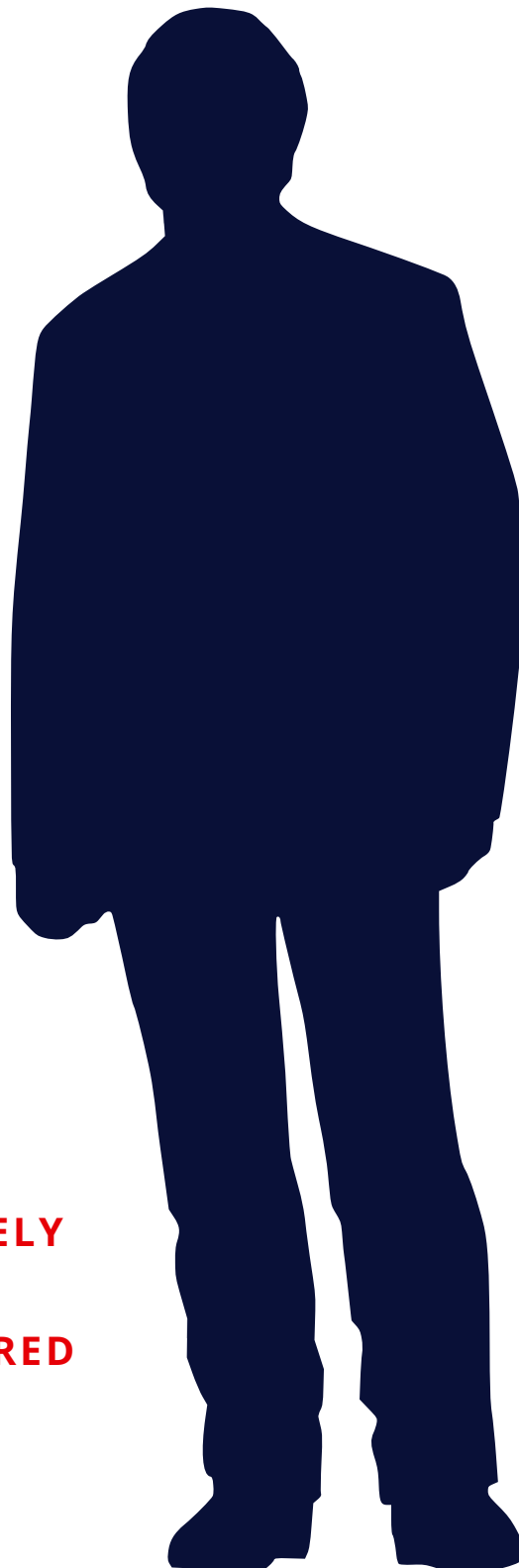
**TYPICALLY
MEN**

**38% HAVE
INCOME**

**NEED
PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING**

**LIVING WITH A
DISABILITY**

**MORE LIKELY
TO BE
UNSHELTERED**



NEEDS & GAPS

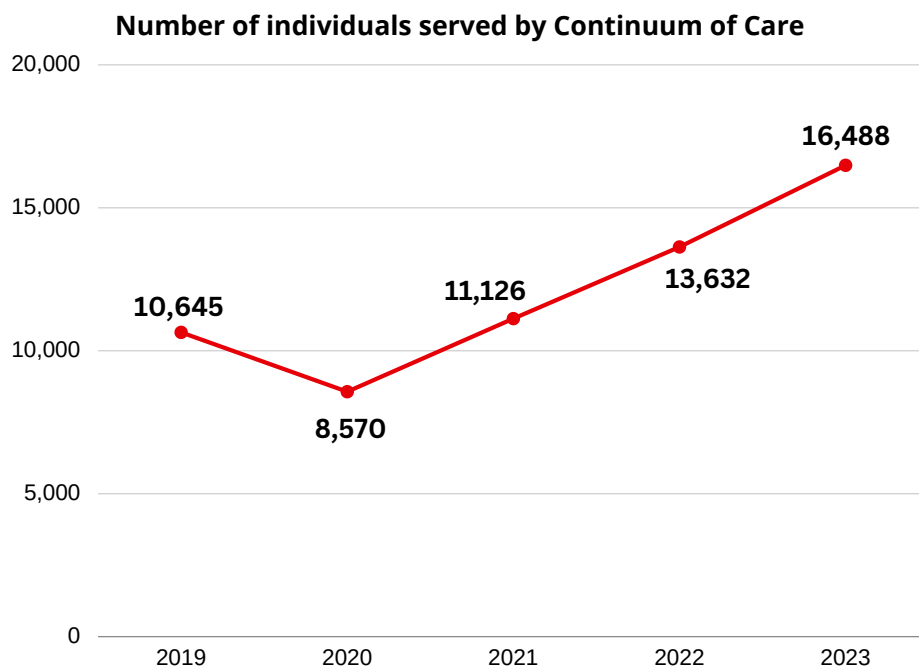
As we work to maximize resources, annually the Homeless Coalition completes an analysis of projected need and available resources. This analysis looks at housing programs available for people experiencing homelessness versus the need in our system.

ANNUAL DATA

Year after year, people experiencing homelessness report their top needs are housing that is affordable and increased income to be able to afford housing in our area. The metroplex's booming population growth, the nation's rising inflation rate, and unpredictable economy has created a housing market that leaves many - often who have lived here for years - in our community unable to find or afford a unit that fits within their household financial capacity.

In 2023, 5,814 households experienced homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties, of those **64% are experiencing homelessness for the first time** or were reentering our system of care after previous stabilization. While there is not one specific reason for the increase, there are a number of contributing factors that we have identified that have impacted the system.

- **Significant increases in cost of housing:** As the DFW real estate market has heated up, rent has increased across all types of units. **Over the past three years, the average rent in Fort Worth increased by 21%**, going from \$1,150 in January of 2021 to \$1,440 a month in December 2023. Additionally, as the median home cost continues to climb and is currently \$325,500, more and more households are priced out of the opportunity to own a home. This not only limits wealth-building for our community but also puts additional pressure on the rental market.
- **Inflation:** Inflation impacts everyone in our community, and people who are on the verge of, or are experiencing homelessness are no exception. When people pay more for basic needs like food, transportation, housing, and childcare, household budgets are often stretched to the max and ultimately cannot support everything needed, including housing.
- **Lack of affordable units:** Like many communities across the US, our community faces a significant lack of affordable units available. **DFW now has the largest deficit of affordable units in the state.** It is estimated that it would take 19,000-32,000 units to close the gap of affordable housing in Fort Worth alone!
- **Evictions at an all-time high:** COVID protections significantly lowered the number of evictions occurring and protected tenants who were struggling. These protections are no longer available, and more people are being evicted at higher rates than before the pandemic. According to North Eviction Project, **in 2023, more than 35,000 evictions were filed in Tarrant County.**



UNDERSTANDING NEEDS

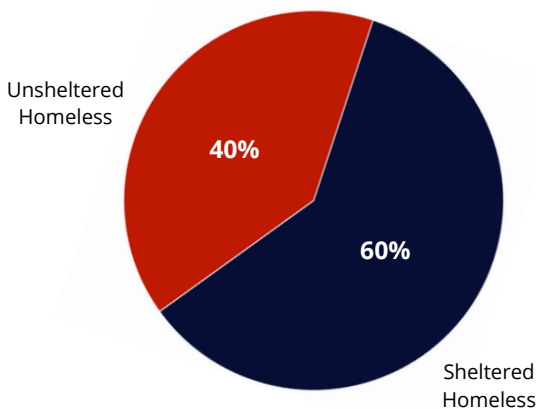
As a community we are dedicated to making data-driven decisions and strive to provide people with the housing intervention that best fits their needs. In 2020 we began discussions around the need for a tool that would help professionals at all levels better understand population strengths, barriers, and needs around housing. To do this, we spent the summer of 2021 collaborating with nonprofit leaders, shelter workers, street outreach workers, housing case managers, and program managers to create a new housing assessment tool, also known as the HAT (Housing Assessment Tool).

Transitioning to the HAT allows us to focus on housing people in the most appropriate housing intervention. The HAT looks at categories such as a client's strengths and weaknesses, what type of housing the client prefers, and where the client would like to live. The HAT helps case managers assess the best housing intervention for the client, such as Rapid Rehousing/Short term Rental Assistance, Transitional Housing, or Long-Term rental subsidy. The HAT encourages the client to provide their own preferences and insight and to advocate for what they desire.

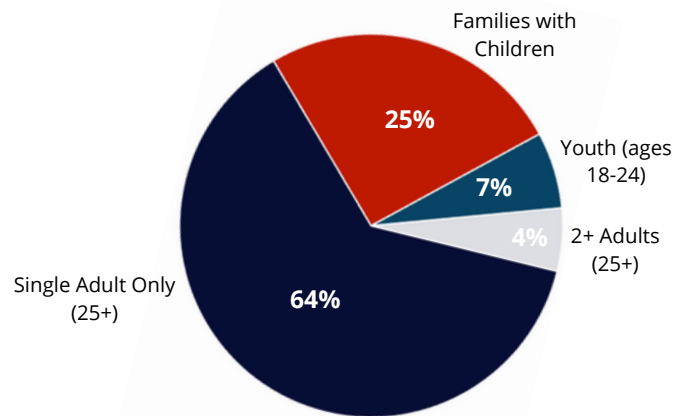
This tool provides information for appropriate housing interventions and an incredible amount of information that allows us to better advocate for client needs and the resources needed to meet that demand. On a systems level, this information helps us understand what types of housing we should be advocating for and how we can best assist partners in creating and sustaining housing and services that best meet community and individual needs.

Data below has been gathered from almost two years of HAT data. Although some of the information mirrors what we have traditionally found in our data, there are some differences as well. The point in time count gives us a snapshot of one night, while HAT data gives us a much more comprehensive look at the population experiencing homelessness.

Unsheltered vs. Sheltered



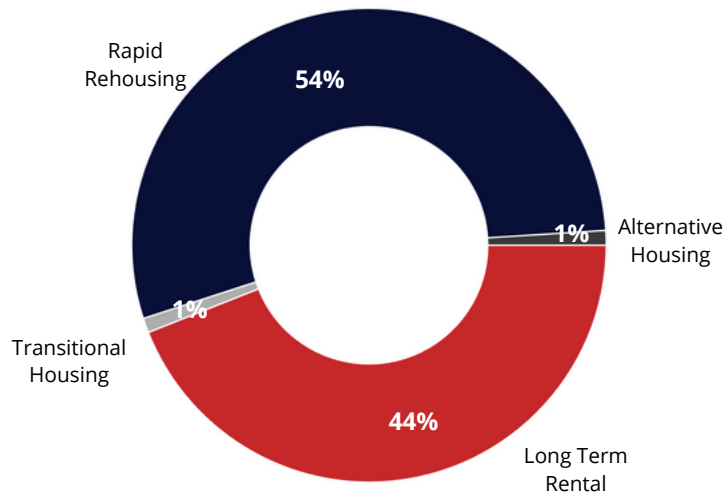
Household Type



In addition to providing insights into individuals' strengths and potential obstacles, the HAT also allows us to identify the most suitable housing interventions for those experiencing homelessness. Our goal as a system is to transition from merely offering available housing to delivering housing solutions that align most effectively with every individual's needs.

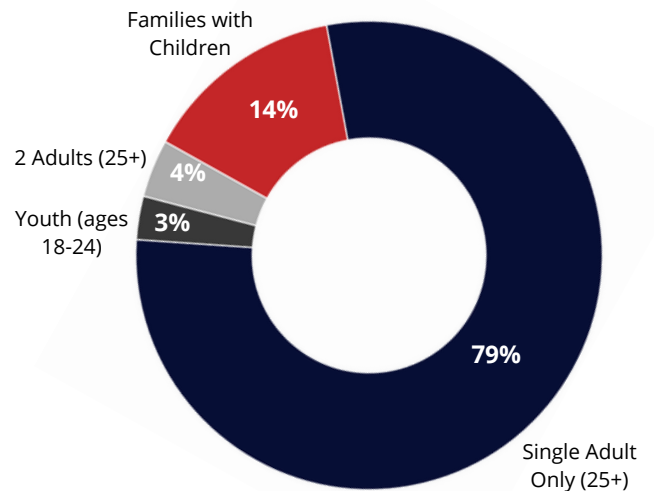
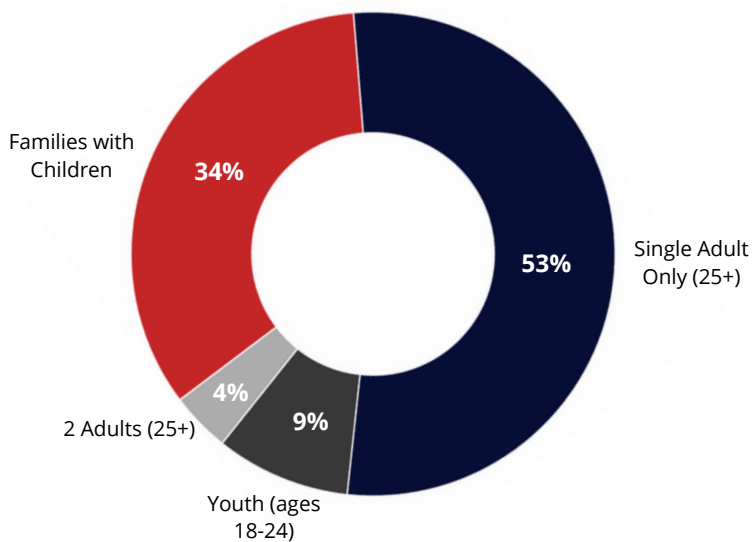
HAT data has shown that 54% of households would be best served by Rapid Rehousing, meaning they need a medium-term intervention, a chance to get back on their feet, increase their income and regain stability. 44% of the population identifies as in need of long-term support; right now, this is typically Permanent Supportive Housing or some other type of long-term rental assistance. This group of households tends to be older, may have a disability, and is often on a fixed income.

Recommended Housing Interventions



Household Types Recommended for Rapid Rehousing

Household Types Recommended for Long-term Assistance



The HAT also gives us a better picture of barriers and needs around what clients might face when accessing housing. Often clients face three primary barriers: lack of rental history, lack of credit history, and lack of income. The HAT gives case managers a clearer understanding of what obstacles clients may be facing when searching for housing and helps them understand how they need to advocate for their clients and support that may be needed in that process.

Top 5 Challenges to Housing



57%

No earned income from employment during past year



51%

Survivor of domestic violence



36%

Bad credit



35%

One or more experiences of homelessness before the age of 25



34%

Felony Conviction

LEARNING FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE

The Homeless Coalition believes in the importance of learning from people who have experienced homelessness. Everyone's experiences are unique and can help guide us in our decision-making. In the last several years, the Homeless Coalition has continued to commit to learning from lived experience in additional ways.

What The Homeless Coalition Believes

Everyone is a Decision-Maker: We bring people who have experienced homelessness to the table when making decisions. Their insights shape our plans, policies, and programs.

Lifting Voices, Not Labels: We're here to empower those with lived experience, celebrating their strength and wisdom. By sharing their stories, we aim to bring dignity back to their lives.

No One-Size-Fits-All: Homelessness is different for everyone. By listening closely to those who've been there, we can create solutions that fit individual needs.

Always Getting Better: We see people's insights as a roadmap for improvement. Learning from their experiences helps us adapt and grow, making our strategies more effective and compassionate.

What steps The Homeless Coalition is taking

TCHC hosts two advisory boards comprised entirely of people with lived experience of homelessness. These committees are an integral part of the process for decision-making. All major changes to our system are discussed with both committees to help understand how changes will impact on the people served in our system of care.

The Advisory Council is made up of a diverse group of 11 members. Through bi-monthly meetings, the Advisory Council is a crucial part of the Homeless Coalition's commitment to staying informed, responsive, and collaborative. These regular meetings enable us to stay connected with the community, ensuring that our initiatives to address homelessness are both well-informed and

effective. Before making decisions that could impact client services, the Advisory Council is consulted to ensure our system's policies and procedures are client-focused and meet the needs of our community. Additionally, Advisory Council members play a role on the Ranking Committee for the Allocations Committee, assisting in making funding decisions during funding competitions, such as the annual CoC Competition.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a committee for youth (ages 18-24) with lived experience. This group is intended to create a safe space for youth to help empower young individuals with lived experience, address the specific needs of homeless or at-risk youth, and involve them in decision-making processes for the system of care.

Additionally, last year the Homeless Coalition committed to expanding focus groups from an annual to quarterly basis. The purpose of the focus groups is to gather information about the people in our system, their needs, and how well their needs are being met by our system of care. Focus groups were initially only conducted with people actively experiencing homelessness within our system's shelters. In 2023 the expansion allowed Homeless Coalition staff to also conduct focus groups with people actively participating in housing programs, including both PSH and Rapid Rehousing. In 2023, the Homeless Coalition conducted Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing focus groups comprised of 82 people. These focus groups were held primarily in-person, at various shelters and agencies within Tarrant County, but phone interviews were conducted when most convenient for the participant.

What The Homeless Coalition has learned

TOP IDENTIFIED NEEDS:

1. Jobs
2. Transportation
3. Trauma-informed staff
4. Child-care

“ Going past Lancaster after homelessness and seeing that it has less, and less people is a good thing. You see different people, not the same people, which means people are graduating. ”

“ I was a live-in caregiver for someone with cerebral palsy. I didn't have a lot of expenses, so I spent my money on other things. Whenever his family decided to suddenly move him into a group home, I didn't have a place to stay or a car. I was given 6 days to figure out my situation and they dropped me off at a shelter that day. ”

COMMON FEEDBACK:

1. Life skills training would be beneficial, such as budgeting, cooking, cleaning and how to pay bills
2. More training in certifications could be beneficial in the workforce
3. Staff should be well-trained, compassionate, and patient.

“ People see one depiction of homelessness and like to assume that stereotype for all groups of people... I've met Lawyers, Teachers, Doctors... and for whatever reason something happens in their life, maybe a loss of a child, and they go off the deep end. Maybe they self-medicate and the next thing they know, they aren't paying their bills, and they are out of the street... and no one knows about them. No one cares about them. ”

MOVING UPSTREAM: HOMELESS PREVENTION

Originally authorized in 1987, The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is federal legislation that, in part, aims to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have immediate and equal access to public education. Within this initiative, state educational agencies (SEAs) are mandated to guarantee that every child and youth experiencing homelessness enjoys equal access to the same free, appropriate public education. The Act makes certain provisions available for unhoused students, and defines homelessness as lacking "a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence."

According to the McKinney-Vento program, a student is considered homeless if they live in the following circumstances:

- In a shelter
- In a motel
- In a car, park, bus station, or other public space
- In a campground or substandard house or trailer (no utilities, open to outside elements, pest infestation)
- Doubled-up with another family on a temporary basis due to loss of housing
- As a youth unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian

Although this definition aligns closely with HUD's definition of homelessness, which is followed by most of our community's housing services, it deviates by categorizing children as homeless when their families are residing with others in shared living arrangements or in hotels/motels. This difference in definition can cause inconsistent data reporting when determining who in our community is considered to be experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Coalition is looking for all ways to impact homelessness, including moving upstream to prevent homelessness in a more strategic way. In 2024, the Homeless Coalition will begin work with school districts and families impacted by homelessness and housing instability to better understand predictors of homelessness in our community, enabling us to strategically target homeless prevention investments to stop households from ever needing the homeless response system. Our goal is to pilot prevention programs in 2025 to understand what is most impactful for our community specifically.



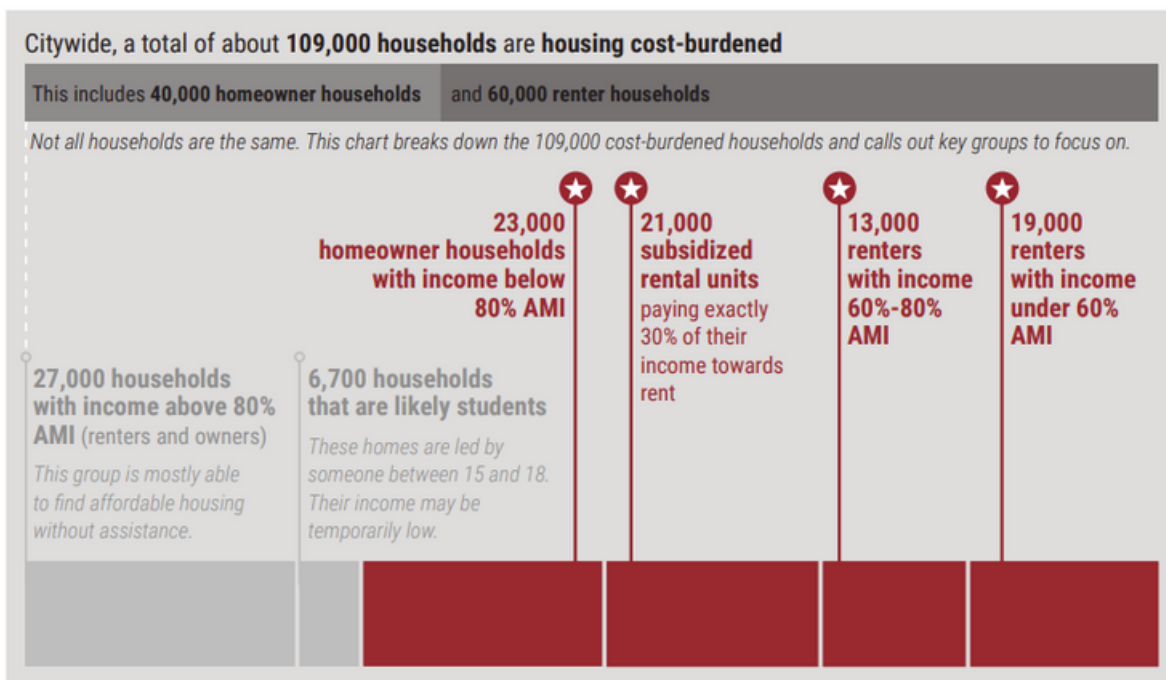
HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

Homelessness is a housing issue, and the housing market has a significant impact on homelessness. A strong real estate market, while beneficial for some, often creates significant challenges for households in search of available and affordable units. Over the last 2 years, more people experiencing homelessness have reported they are homeless because they can no longer afford housing, be it through renting or homeownership.

Because of the incredible demand for places to live, landlords and property owners can raise rent rates and still have plenty of people who need a unit. While there was a 4.3% decrease in home prices in Fort Worth from 2022 to 2023, the median home cost still stands at \$325,495. This increasing median cost is contributing to a shift of community members away from the homebuyer market, which increases demand for affordable rental units.

According to the Fort Worth Neighborhood Conservation Plan and Housing Affordability Strategy, to afford a median priced single-family home in Fort Worth, a family must spend \$296,000, while the maximum home price that a median income household can afford is \$246,000. Compared to 2010 when eight in 10 homes in Fort Worth sold for less than \$200,000. Today, the opposite is true: nine in 10 homes on the market now cost more than \$200,000.

Over the past three years, the average rent in Fort Worth increased by 21%, going from \$1,150 in January of 2021 to \$1,440 a month in December 2023. Rent for affordable housing units are no exception and have also risen dramatically from \$950 a month in January 2021 to approximately \$1,135 in December 2023, a 19% increase.

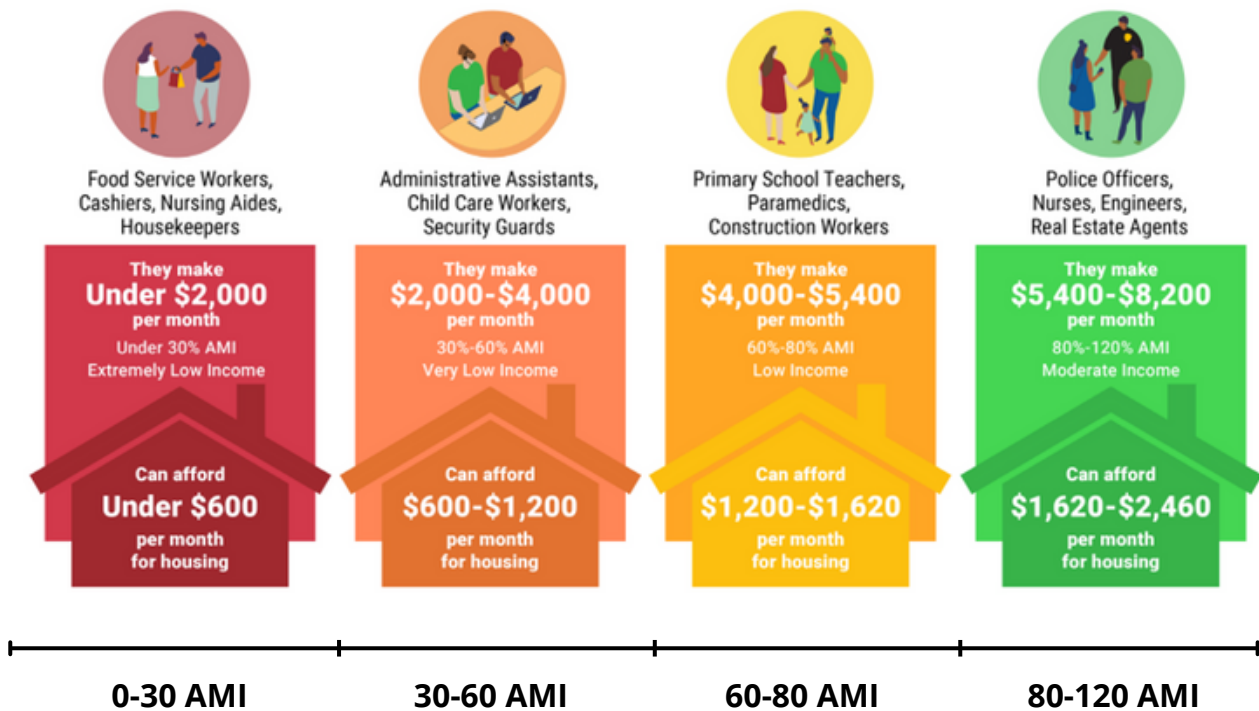


In addition to the rapid rise in rental costs, there is also a lack of unit availability in our community. According to the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP), the Dallas/Fort Worth area ranks as the third most challenging metropolitan area in the nation when it comes to housing shortages, offering only 16 affordable and available units for every 100 households.

HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

Who Needs Affordable Housing?

Everyone should have a place to call home. Whether renting or owning, a secure and stable place to live is crucial for building healthy communities. According to the Fort Worth Neighborhood Conservation Plan and Housing Affordability Strategy, 100,000 households in Fort Worth are burdened by high housing costs. In today's housing market, many of these individuals typically have a net income at or below \$4,000 per month or \$48,000 per year. This includes many crucial professionals like grocery store cashiers, restaurant wait staff, childcare workers, administrative assistants, and even some teachers! It's important to recognize that while affordable housing may not be needed for everyone, it remains a critical necessity for many of our neighbors.



Home Fort Worth: Opening Doors for All

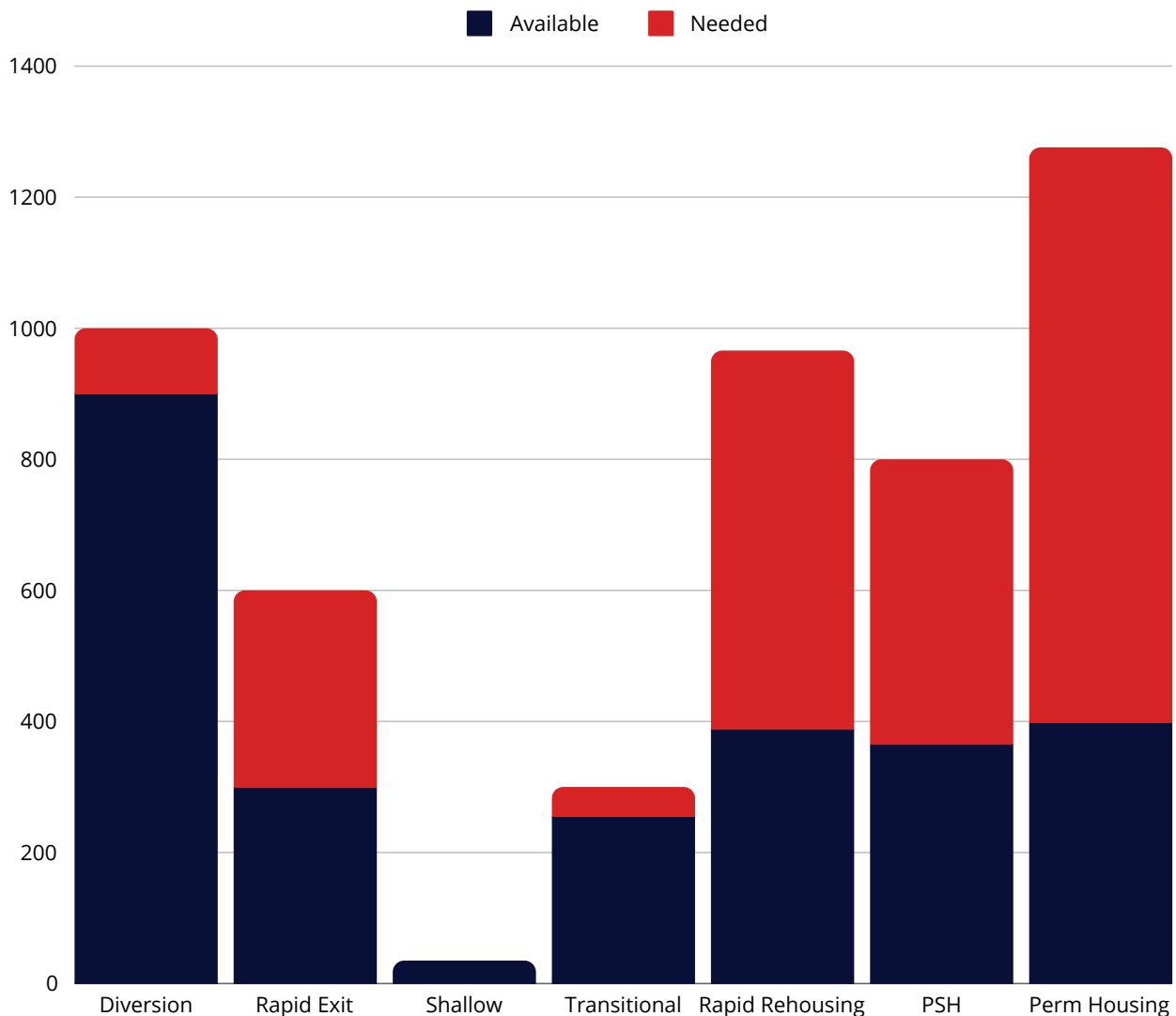
To help address the shortage of affordable housing in our community, The Homeless Coalition initiated a collaborative effort to convene affordable housing developers. This effort is the next step in our collaborative impact work and brings together funders, developers, Public Housing Authorities, non-profits, architects, and more with the common goal of addressing the affordable housing shortfall in Fort Worth. Members of HomeFTW share a vested interest in bridging the gap in affordable housing by advocating for increased investments and streamlining processes to expedite the development of affordable housing in our community.

ASSISTANCE GAPS

Ending homelessness and providing housing for everyone in our community is a goal we work towards every day. Unfortunately, we currently do not have all the resources needed to accomplish this goal. This remains true regardless of how we prioritize people for housing, whether it be families, the elderly, Veterans, or youth. No matter how well our homeless response system works, the stark reality remains—we simply do not have enough resources to provide housing for everyone. Without additional financial investment, people in our community will remain without a home.

The Homeless Coalition, the CoC, and partners serving people experiencing homelessness are committed to ending homelessness for as many households as possible. The charts below detail available resources versus the need in our system.

2023 Annual Gap Between Needed Vs. Available Housing Resources



NEW SOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

Because demand outpaces available resources the CoC is continually exploring innovative approaches to respond to homelessness, including:

- **Affordable Housing Development:** A lack of affordable housing continues to be a major concern and cause of homelessness in our community and across the United States. To help combat rising rental costs, the Homeless Coalition is committed to advocating for available funding to be dedicated to building affordable housing options. Utilizing ARPA funding pledged by Tarrant County, the City of Fort Worth, and the City of Arlington, we anticipate having over 300 newly built PSH and affordable housing units over the next two years.
- **Investing in Case Management:** Effective case management plays a pivotal role in securing and sustaining stability. The Homeless Coalition currently has two initiatives to help ensure consistency of case management service implementation across the CoC. In 2023, the Homeless Coalition created case management standards which are meant to set requirements for case managers in practice ensuring that everyone gets high quality case management. To further invest in high-quality case management services in our community, a robust 3-day training for all CoC case management staff called 'Foundations of Case Management', is now being offered. This training provides case managers with the knowledge needed to begin successfully providing services in our community.
- **Model Community Consulting:** In December of 2020, the Homeless Coalition established our Training Department in response to a recognized need for a high standard of training within our community. Over the past three years, our team of trainers has curated an extensive catalog of training opportunities. As we see our CoC (Continuum of Care) continue to flourish, we recognize our training curriculum could benefit not only everyone within our community, but also CoCs across the country. In 2024, TCHC aspires to collaborate with other CoCs, aiming to share the knowledge base we have created and best practices to achieve positive outcomes.
- **Prevention:** Prevention plays a vital role in ending homelessness. It is more cost-effective than addressing the consequences of homelessness and helps avoid additional costs to our system, such as emergency shelter and medical care. Prevention efforts also focus on root causes of homelessness like financial crises or family conflicts, maintaining existing social networks, and minimizing disruption. Prevention is a proactive strategy to address homelessness at its source and create more sustainable solutions. The Homeless Coalition understands the need for our system to focus efforts on prevention services to help stop the inflow of people into our system. This includes conducting research to target prevention services more effectively for those who stand to benefit the most.

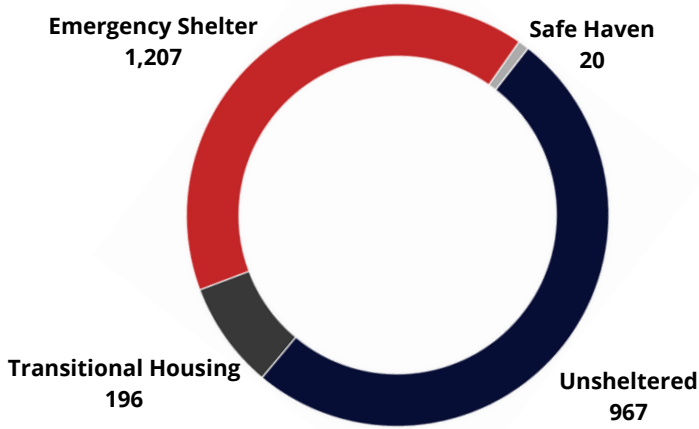
POINT IN TIME COUNT

A snapshot of what homelessness looked like on January 25, 2024.

POINT IN TIME COUNT SUMMARY

2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

2024 TOTAL: 2,390



TRENDS

12% overall decrease



11% decrease in unsheltered



14% decrease in Veterans homelessness



33% decrease in Family homelessness



WHO?



62% Men



38% Women



10% Children

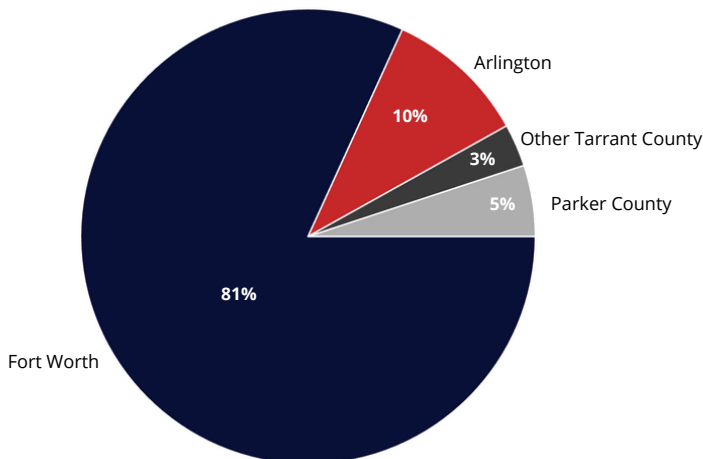


11% Families



5% Veterans

WHERE?



WHY?

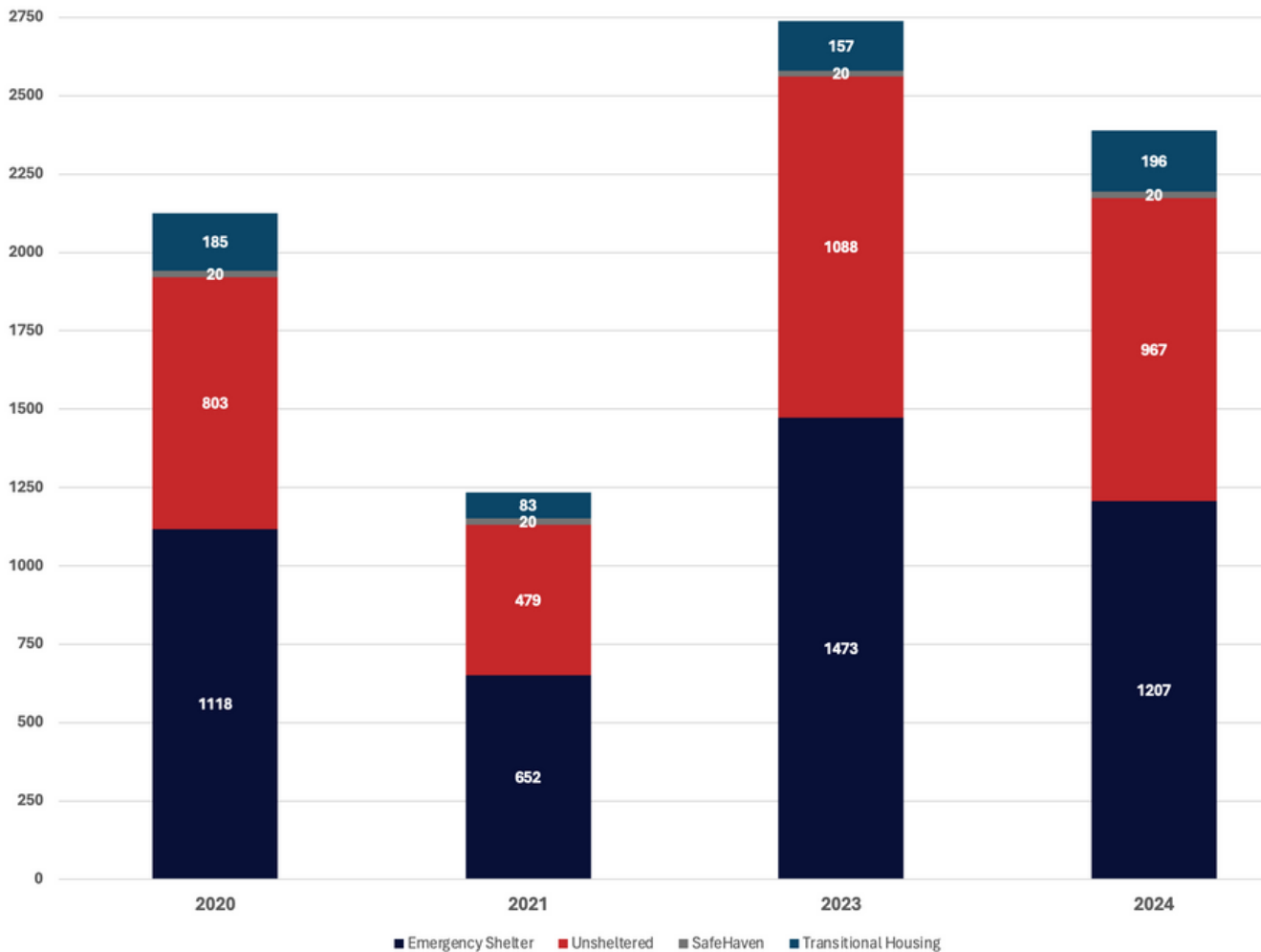
Top reasons people become homeless:

1. No income in the last year
2. Experiencing domestic violence
3. Bad credit
4. One or more experiences of homelessness before the age of 25
5. Felony conviction

2024 Point in Time Count

One way we understand what homelessness looks like on a given night is by conducting an annual Point in Time Count. The 2024 Homeless Count was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, and included identifying and surveying those living outdoors along with using HMIS data to identify those living in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven.

On January 25, 2024, almost 400 volunteers were mobilized throughout Tarrant and Parker Counties to conduct the Point-in-Time Count. On the night of the count a total of 2,390 people were identified as homeless in Tarrant and Parker counties. This was a 14% decrease in people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, as compared to 2023.



A Point in Time Count was not conducted in 2022

How do we compare?

Tarrant County is the 3rd most populous county in Texas and the 13th largest county in the United States, with an estimated population of just over 2.2 million in 2023. Homelessness as a percentage of the population has remained consistent, with no significant increase compared to previous years. Comparatively, Homeless census (point in time count) compared to population census, 0.001% of the population in Tarrant County is experiences homelessness. The map below represents the most relevant nationally available point-in-time data from 2023.



HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN THE 15 LARGEST CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

YEAR TO YEAR

Year	2020	2021	2023	2024
Number	2,103	1,234	2,723	2,390
Annual Change	+5%	-42%	+121%	-12%

Where people are sleeping

Understanding where people choose to sleep is critical in understanding how our system is functioning to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. 59% of people experiencing homelessness on Count night accessed emergency shelter, while 41% were staying in places not meant for human habitation.



SAFE HAVEN

Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing (TH) programs provide time-limited rental assistance (less than 2 years) and supportive services geared towards self-sufficiency.



UNSHELTERED

Individuals sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, including cars, vacant lots and buildings, under bridges or in the woods.

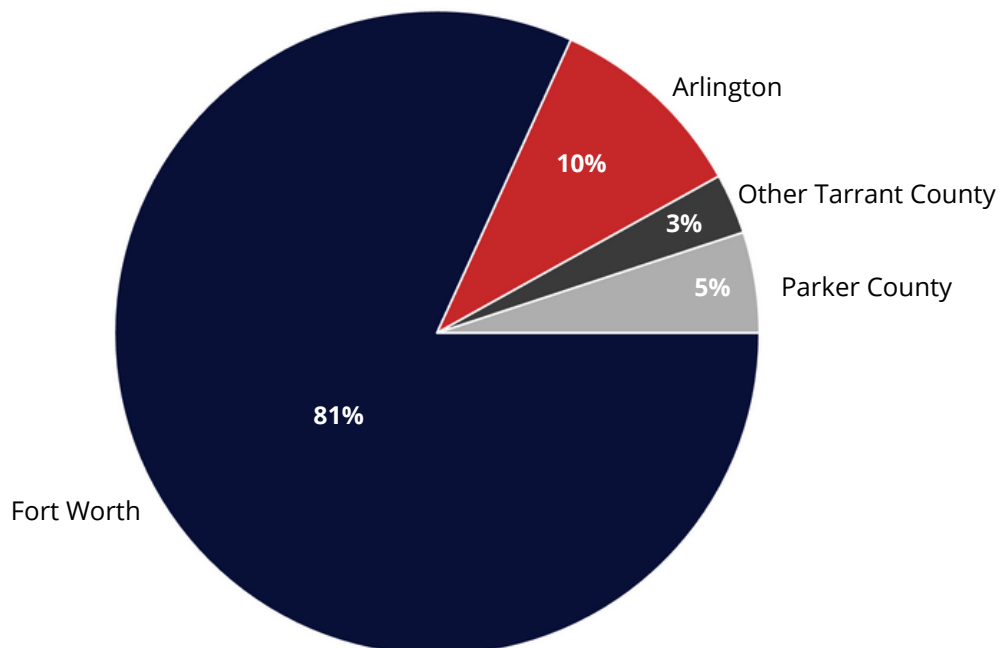


EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters (ES) are intended for transitional or temporary shelter and crisis relief.

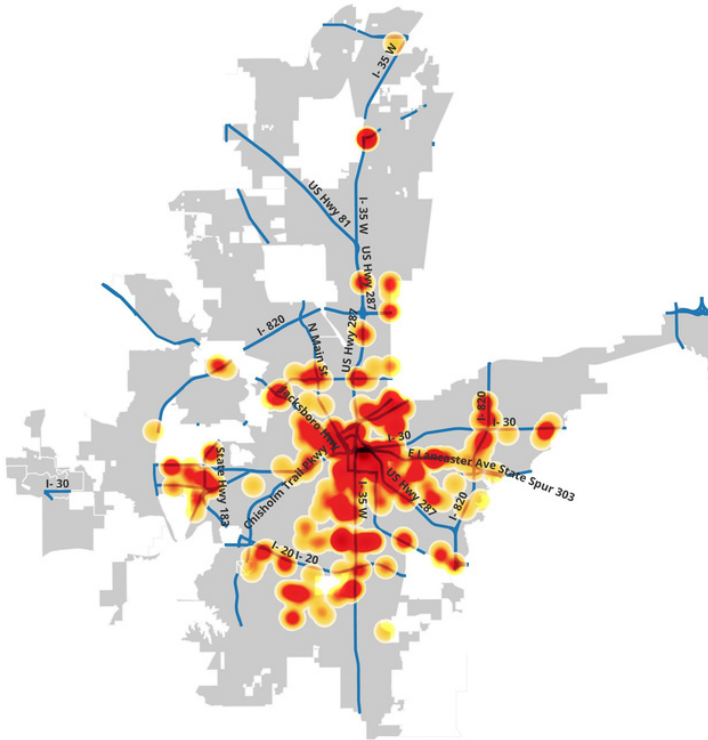
Geographic Distribution

The majority of those experiencing homelessness are located within the City of Fort Worth, as most homeless services are located in Fort Worth. Geographic distribution is similar to trends in previous years.

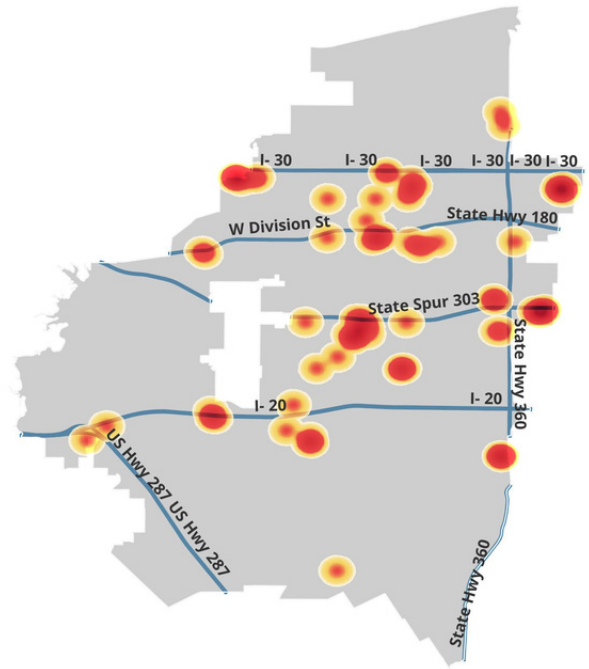


Geographic Distribution

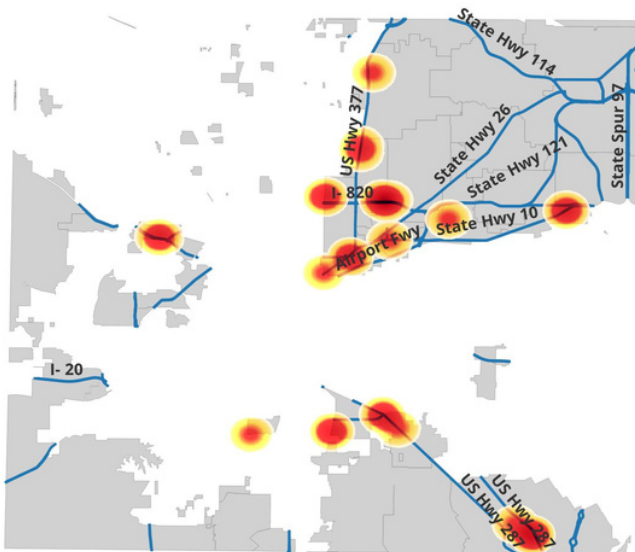
Fort Worth



Arlington



Other Tarrant County

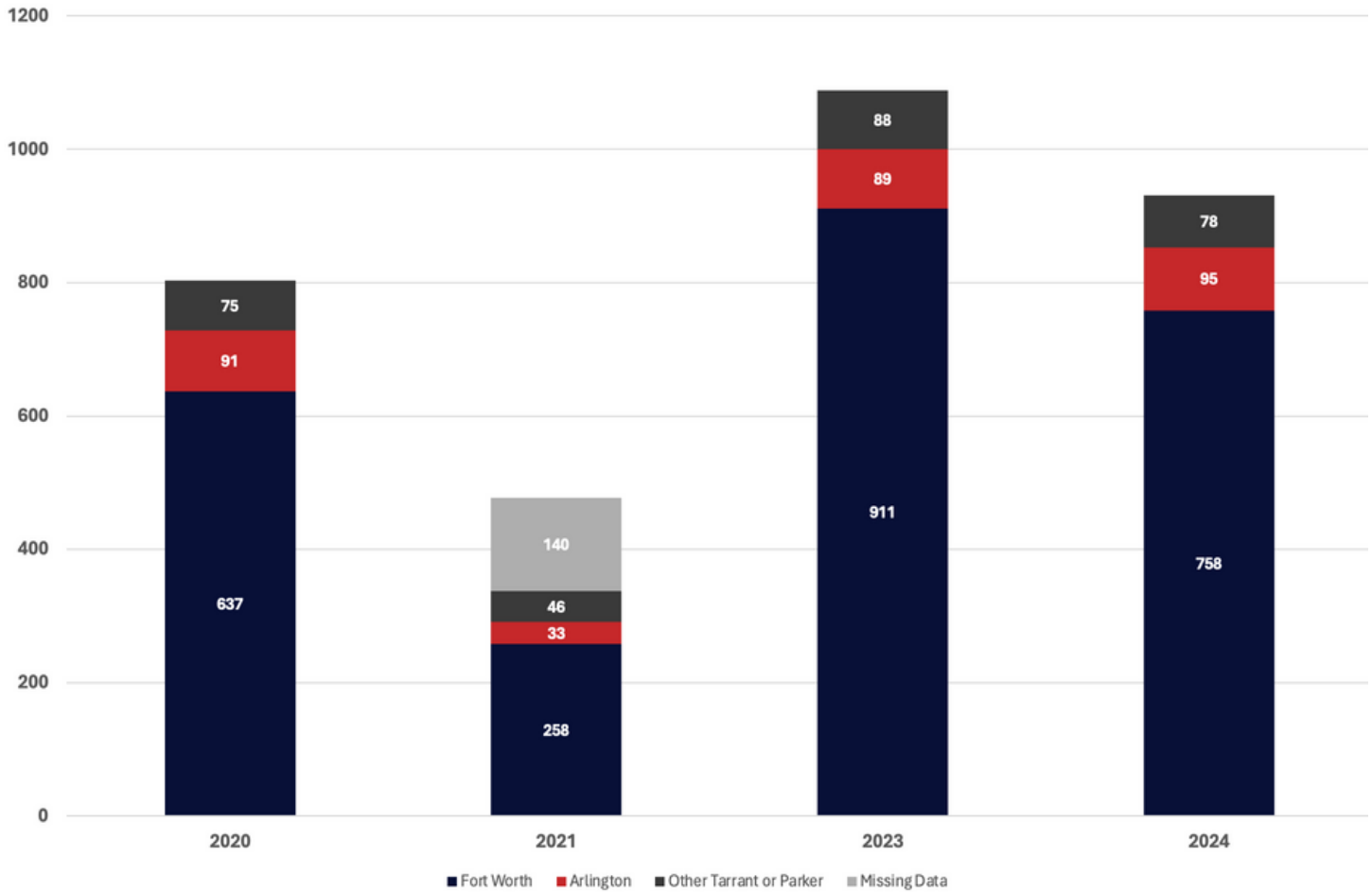


Parker County



Unsheltered Homelessness & Sleeping Outside

Unsheltered homelessness increased significantly in our community from 2020 to 2022. This increase mirrored the national trend of cities and communities across the U.S. In Tarrant and Parker counties, unsheltered homelessness decreased by 11% from 2023 to 2024 going from 1088 people living unsheltered during the annual Point in Time count to 967.



A Point in Time Count was not conducted in 2022

APPENDICES

History, Scope, and Geography

The McKinney-Vento Act was signed into law by President Reagan in 1987 and was the first of its kind, on a national level, to address homelessness. Twenty-two years later, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act xi) was signed into law in 2009 by President Obama to provide additional resources and opportunities for communities to address the issue of homelessness. The HEARTH Act expanded the definition of homelessness and combined several HUD (Housing and Urban Development) programs into a single Continuum of Care program. The HEARTH Act mandates that communities quantify the level of need in their area and the effectiveness of community-wide interventions. The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) accomplishes both of these tasks.

Reports have been issued on the extent and characteristics of the homeless population in Tarrant County since 1994. Early reports were published by Tarrant County Homeless Coalition with staffing support provided by Tarrant County Community Development Division. These reports relied on counts conducted inside shelters, limited canvassing of the unsheltered by volunteers, and estimation methods.

Counts and surveys have been completed in:

1994	2006	2014	2019
1997	2007	2015	2020
2000	2009	2016	2021
2002	2011	2017	2023
2004	2013	2018	2024

The 2007 count was the first to utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and include a robust “street count” in Arlington. Parker County has been included in the PIT count since 2014. The cities of Arlington and Fort Worth both utilized the 2007 count as baseline data for their respective ten-year plans. Subsequent PIT counts have utilized both HMIS to enumerate people sleeping inside shelters and volunteers to canvas areas within Tarrant and Parker Counties to count people who were sleeping unsheltered.

Terms used in Report

Bed Utilization

An indicator of whether shelter beds are occupied on a night or over a period of time.

Consumer

An individual or family or has or is currently experiencing homelessness.

Continuum of Care

The work of ending homelessness in a community is carried out by a Continuum of Care—the collective networks, institutions, and organizations that provide housing and services to people who are experiencing homeless. Each Continuum of Care (or, “CoC”) serves a designated geography and is responsible for: operating the Continuum of Care, administering an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System); 3) planning for the CoC; and, 4) applying for competitive CoC Program funding from HUD.

Each Continuum of Care appoints an entity (or entities) to lead its strategic, administrative, and information technology efforts. Locally, the Fort Worth/ Arlington/ Tarrant County Continuum of Care (also known by its HUD designation, “TX-601”) has selected Tarrant County Homeless Coalition to serve as its “Lead Agency”, “HMIS Administrator”, and “Collaborative Applicant”. The service area of TX-601 includes Tarrant and Parker Counties.

Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

A plan identifying the CoC goals and objectives, action steps, performance targets, etc. and serves as a guide for the CoC development and performance improvement related to preventing and ending homelessness. This may be the same as or different than a community's "Ten Year Plan" or other community-wide plan to prevent and end homelessness and may be generated by the CoC lead decision making group or another community-planning body. If the CoC follows a regional or statewide 10 year or other plan to prevent and end homelessness, the CoC strategic plan would be the CoC's specific goals and objectives, action steps and timelines to support the regional or statewide plan.

Chronic Homelessness

HUD defines chronic homelessness as an individual with a disabling condition who has lived in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or an emergency shelter and has been homeless for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the past 3 years as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months. xii

Unaccompanied Youth

Minors up to the age of 24 not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars or on the streets. Includes those who have been denied housing by their families and young mothers with no housing options of their own.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs that improve and develop the Nation's communities and enforce fair housing laws. HUD's business is helping create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans and it has given America's cities a strong national voice at the Cabinet level.

Definitions of Homelessness

The Federal Government has five definitions of homelessness that approach living situations in different ways. This report primarily relies on Categories 1 and 4 of the HEARTH Act definition of homelessness. Included in these definitions are families living in places not intended for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The table below has detailed descriptions of each category.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Literally Homeless	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence
<i>Living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or exiting an institution where they temporarily resided if they were in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation before entering the institution</i>	<i>Losing primary nighttime residence, including a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing</i>	<i>Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state</i>	<i>Fleeing or attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening situations related to violence; have no other residence; and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing</i>
January 24, 2019 Tarrant and Parker County 2,028	2018 Tarrant and Parker County 1,593	2017-2018 School Year Tarrant and Parker County 4,908	January 24, 2019 Tarrant and Parker County 252
PIT Count	Prevention and Diversion	McKinney-Vento (cite TEA)	PIT Count

Housing Types

This report employs HUD terminology to describe where people were sleeping on the night of the count. A distinction is drawn between persons sleeping in permanent housing that is operated by the Continuum of Care—where the tenant typically has a lease in their name—and other places people sleep that fit the definition of homelessness. The housing types include:

Housing Type	Description	Homeless or Permanent Housing
Unsheltered (UN)	Includes people living in places not intended for human habitation, such as in cars, vacant lots/buildings, under bridges, or in the woods	Homeless
Emergency Shelter (ES)	Are intended for short-term lodging and crisis relief; TX-601 ES include: ACH Child and Family Services, Arlington Life Shelter, Center for Transforming Lives, Presbyterian Night Shelter, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, The Salvation Army - Arlington, The Salvation Army Mabee Center, and Union Gospel Mission	Homeless
Transitional Housing (TH)	Programs provide time-limited rental assistance (≤ 2 years) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence	Homeless
Rapid Exit	Rapid Exit provides one time, limited financial assistance to those with income potential and minimal barriers to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	PSH combines rental assistance and a package of robust supportive services tailored to the needs of tenants with complex and often compound barriers to getting and keeping housing	Permanent Housing
Rapid Re-housing (RRH)	RRH provides short- and mid-term rental assistance intervention to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
Safe Haven (SH)	Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by the Presbyterian Night Shelter - and should not be confused with the organization, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, which provides ES for victims of domestic violence	Permanent Housing
Shared Housing	Consists of a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family sharing a unit with other persons assisted under the housing choice voucher program or with other unassisted persons. The unit contains both a common space for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family. For example, people who have a roommate are said to be living in "shared housing"	Permanent Housing
Permanent Housing (PH)	The HUD definition of Permanent Housing (PH) is defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. The CoC Program funds two types of permanent housing: PSH & RRH PH may also be defined as community based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. This housing includes rental subsidy but does not include supportive services. PH is often administered by local Public Housing Authorities in the form of Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to serving the homeless populations.	Permanent Housing
Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	OPH is long-term housing not considered as permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing. OPH consists of: 1.PH: Housing with Services providing long-term housing and supportive services for homeless persons, but no disability is required for entry 2.PH: Housing Only providing long-term housing for homeless persons, but do not offer supportive services as part of the project	Permanent Housing

Point in Time Count

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that local Continuums of Care conduct an annual point-in-time count of the homeless in the last ten days of the month of January. The local count was held from January 26, 2023. "PIT Count" requirements derive from the HEARTH Act and are described in the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule (CoC Interim Rule xiii). Further guidance for local Continuums is provided in HUD Methodology Guides xiv and Notices xv. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition developed PIT Count methods to conform with HUD requirements and align with best practices.

Methodology

Sheltered PIT Count Methods

The TX-601 Homeless Management Information System was used to conduct the sheltered PIT count of homeless individuals and families who were spending the night of January 26, 2023 in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. The data was reviewed to the client record level to ensure de-duplication with personal identifiers. Additionally, bed stays, enrollments and exit data is reviewed for accuracy for the night of the PIT Count. HMIS data meets the required HUD data standards and produces comprehensive PIT Count data.

Organizations that are not "Contributing HMIS Organizations" (CHOs) are provided templates to gather all required PIT Count data. Each non-CHO has an HMIS-equivalent data system that can provide universal data elements and de-duplication methods to ensure an accurate count. This methodology was selected due to its HUD compliance and reliability. HMIS staff review HUD guidance to ensure the data is at the highest quality and is compared against prior year data to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Unsheltered PIT Count Methods

During the night of the unsheltered PIT Count, volunteers canvassed the complete CoC geography. TX-601 produced PIT Count maps based on major highways and distributed the volunteers to serve the whole continuum. TX-601 held meetings with street outreach teams and emergency personnel to gather feedback and plan prior to the count.

A web-based form was created for volunteers to complete the PIT survey. The form was accessible over volunteers' mobile devices or tablets. The form allowed for collecting surveys and also observational data. The form also allowed for GIS location which can be used for further outreach, connecting people to housing, and future PIT counts.

Volunteers were assigned territories to avoid duplication. Teams were trained and the survey language included asking people where they were sleeping on the night of the count (January 26, 2023). Data was de-duplicated after the count completion using clients' identifying information.

Limitations

While significant efforts were undertaken to ensure the 2023 PIT count was as comprehensive and accurate as possible, limitations include but are not limited to concerns about the completeness of the dataset. Tarrant and Parker Counties total 1,807 square miles (1.16M acres). Although the continuum was divided by major highways, and utilized almost 500 street outreach works, volunteers, and emergency personnel, geographic coverage was not 100%. Unsheltered people experiencing homelessness may have been missed, especially who were not along major roads.

Data captured in the HMIS and in the street count relies on self-reports from the person being surveyed and has not necessarily been verified by an expert such as a clinician in the case of a mental illness or an official with the VA in the case of Veteran status. While training is provided to everyone who has access to HMIS and to the volunteers who conduct the surveys, implementation is not uniform. Participation in the unsheltered count is voluntary; therefore, not all data elements were captured for each person counted.

Periodic changes in regulations, programs, definitions, and HMIS software mitigate absolute year-to-year comparisons of some data. For example, the definition of chronic homelessness changed in both 2010 and 2016; however, the data published, retained and assessed by HUD and presented in this report reflect the definitions in place at the time that the counts were taken.

Lastly, point-in-time counts are a snapshot of a single, January night. Weather conditions alone can impact both volunteer turnout and the number of people sleeping outside in both positive and negative directions. While imperfect, the PIT count remains a requirement for federal funding and has utility as a national and local benchmark.

Data Sources for Report

Annual Point in Time Count (PIT)

The PIT Count is a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required activity for communities receiving HUD funding.^{xvi} The PIT Count provides a one day snapshot on the number of persons who are literally homeless. The 2013 PIT Count occurred on January 26, 2023.

Housing Inventory Count

Like the PIT Count, the HIC is required by HUD and occurs on the same day. The HIC gives us a one day snapshot of the number of beds dedicated to serving the homeless in our community. Beds included in State of the Homeless Report 2023 from the HIC are emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, safe haven, and other permanent housing programs.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Reporting

Various HMIS data pulls were used throughout this report. Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) is the local HMIS system which is used to collect client-level data and statistics on the provision of housing and services provided to homeless individuals.

Client Focus Groups

During the month of January, Homeless Coalition staff conducted client focus groups at emergency shelters and outreach locations. 8 focus groups were completed and consisted of standard questions for each group. Groups ranged in size, but generally had fewer than 12 participants in each group to facilitate meaningful discussion. Responses were recorded and used to assist in community analysis of needs and gaps.

ABOUT THE HOMELESS COALITION

Shared Community Vision

A vibrant community where every individual has a place to call home and the resources to live their best life.

Mission

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition leads the community solution to homelessness in Greater Tarrant and Parker counties by serving as a catalyst for community transformation.

2023 Tarrant County Homeless Coalition Board Members

Krystle Gandhi, Chair
Dr. Victoria Farrer-Myers, Vice-Chair
Dr. Kapreta Johnson, Secretary
Lyn Scott, Treasurer
Devan Armstrong
Deborah Kratky
Marti Lawrence
Dr. Frank Lonergan
Dr. Nicholas Thompson
Jay White

ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Mission

The CoC cultivates and creates partnerships to collectively impact effective and efficient community solutions for those experiencing homelessness.

Leadership Council

Mayor Mattie Parker | Mayor Jim Ross | Judge Tim O'Hare | Mayor Laurie Bianco | Judge Pat Deen

2023 CoC Board of Directors

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Mary-Margaret Lemons, Vice-chair
Cassandra Walker, Secretary
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