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TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

**S T A T E   O F**  
**T H E**  
**H O M E L E S S**  
**R E P O R T**

**2023**

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

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2022 HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

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

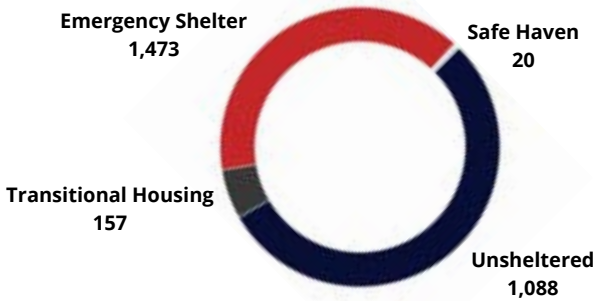
**MISSION**  
The CoC cultivates partnerships to collectively create effective and efficient community solutions to homelessness.



**TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN 2022: 13,632**

## 2023 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

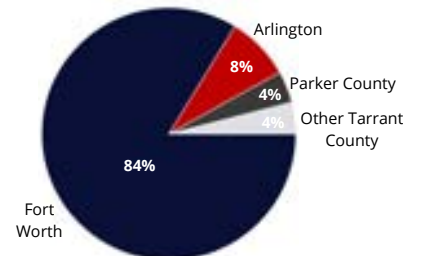
**2023 TOTAL: 2,723**



### TRENDS

- 22% overall increase ↑
- 27% increase in unsheltered ↑
- 27% increase in Veterans homelessness ↑
- 27% increase in Family homelessness ↑
- 9% increase in Chronic homelessness ↑

### WHERE?



### WHY?

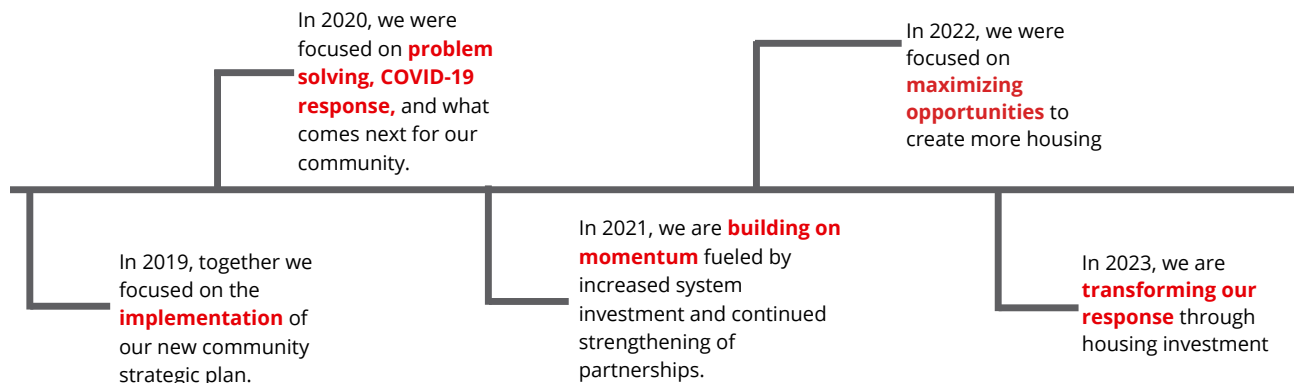
Top reasons people become homeless:

1. Unemployment/No Income
2. Inability to pay rent
3. Physical/Mental Disability

### WHO?



## SYSTEMS CHANGE



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# INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (the Homeless Coalition) is pleased to present the 2023 State of the Homeless Report. The 2023 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.

2023 brings new opportunities, as well as great challenges. 2023 will be a year of continued recovery from the ongoing impact of COVID-19, while focusing on building a future where every person has a place to call home. COVID-19 brought devastation to our community from the loss of loved ones to economic challenges, but it also brought an influx of additional resources to shore up our community safety net including serving people experiencing homelessness. Our system of care received an investment of \$45M in CARES funding to provide housing and protect people in congregate settings. Additionally, for two years, our system had safeguards in place, such the federal eviction moratorium and robust prevention funding, to keep people stably housed. As this funding is coming to an end, we are seeing new impacts from the pandemic every day including an increase in the number of households who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness for the first time.

People often ask how our community managed a 40 percent decrease in homelessness during the pandemic. Simply put, the incredible influx of homeless prevention funding kept people housed and met a great need in our community. During the pandemic our community saw an increased investment in rental assistance and homeless prevention funds and fewer households experienced homelessness.

Our municipalities have continued their strategic investments in the homeless response system over the past year. Together, Tarrant County, the City of Fort Worth, and the City of Arlington have dedicated over \$64,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to build housing for people who are exiting homelessness. This investment means we are building a brighter future and moving closer to our vision of a vibrant community where everyone has a place to call home.

As our system works to assist every household in need, while also creating community-wide changes; we understand that the path ahead will not be an easy one. However, no matter the challenge, we always respond together in incredible ways, keeping people safe and protecting our most vulnerable neighbors.

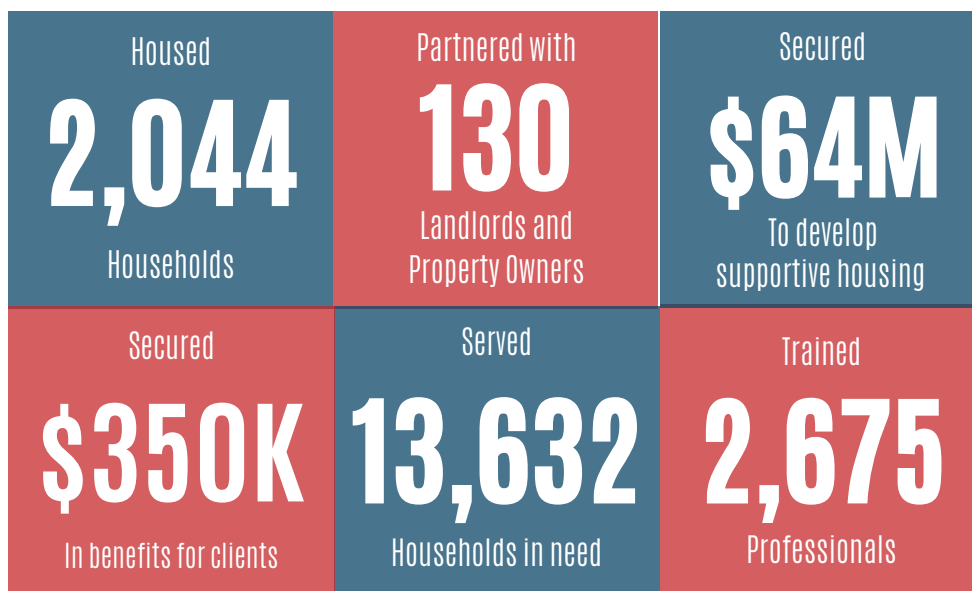
Thank you to all of our partners for coming alongside us on this journey. The Homeless Coalition is here to serve you and could not do our work without you.

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# SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

- **Helped 2,044 households find a place to call home**
  - This is the largest number of households housed in a single year.
- **Secured \$64 million of capital funding to build affordable housing (as of 2/15/23)**
  - With this funding, over 400 multi-family units will be renovated or built to provide specialized housing options for people exiting homelessness.
- **Led the nation in utilization of Emergency Housing Vouchers**
  - In partnership with local housing authorities, our CoC was one of the most successful regions in the US at utilizing these vouchers quickly and efficiently.
- **Recruited over 50 landlord partners committed to giving people a second chance at housing**
  - Since 2020, the Homeless Coalition's Landlord Engagement team has partnered to have access to more than 12,500 units.
- **Developed and launched a new Housing Assessment Tool (HAT)**
  - Worked together with partners to create an assessment that better meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness and our community to ensure the best use of resources available.
- **Received funding for six new youth-focused programs**
  - Programs include Permanent Supportive Housing and Crisis Transitional Housing for 18-24 year-olds - services that were not previously available.
- **Provided training to 2,675 people in our community**
  - Over 200 trainings were conducted to direct service providers, management staff, community partners, and community members to increase knowledge about best practices in homeless services.



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# 2023: A YEAR OF (RE)BUILDING

## Community Alignment and The Strategic Plan

The Homeless Coalition and our partners serving people experiencing homelessness have 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.





# 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.

The last two years have challenged our system in ways no one could have ever predicted, however it also made our system stronger and proved that the collective impact model works well for addressing homelessness in our community. We worked hard in 2018 and 2019 to implement system-wide changes to end homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties. When COVID-19 shut our community down in March 2020, it could have destroyed the groundwork that we built. But like COVID-19, our system of care evolved and changed. As a system, we came together to ensure we continued to work towards our 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.



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## 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 Board 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 two 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.



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## **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  
Continuous Quality Improvement YHDP  
Workgroup  
Advisory Council  
Youth Action Board

Veterans Committee  
TOTEL (outreach) Committee

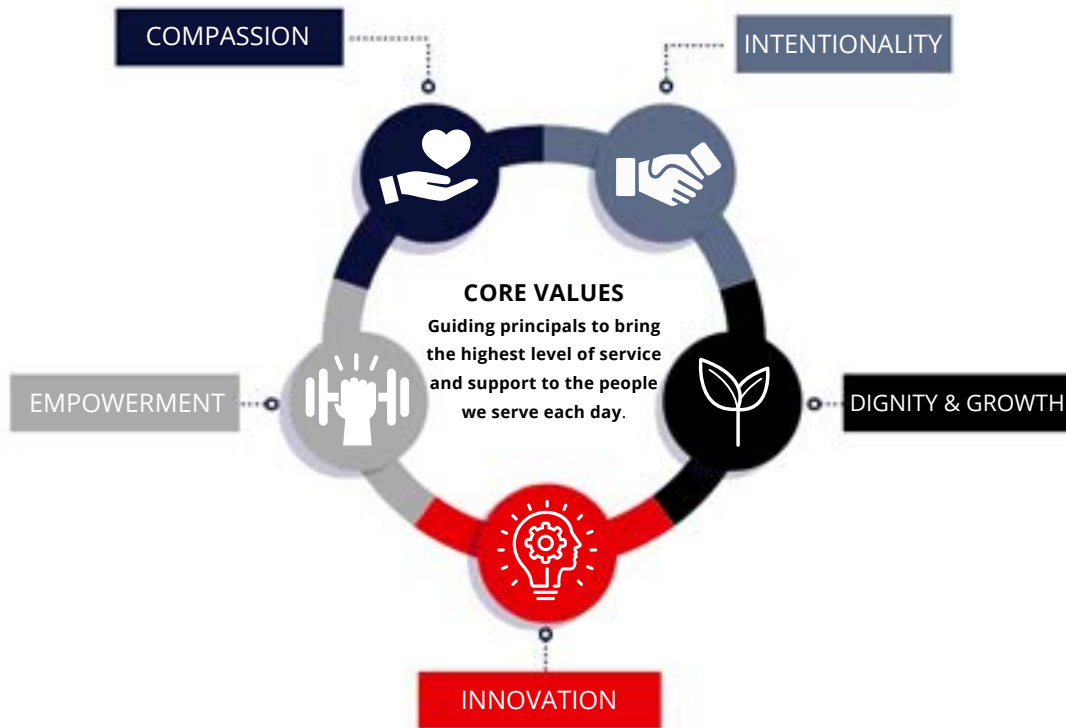
Case Conferencing Groups:  
Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid  
Rehousing, Veteran, Youth, Emergency  
Shelter, Site Based, Unsheltered, Arlington



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## 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.



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# **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.

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# PREVENTION EFFORTS

## HOMELESS PREVENTION

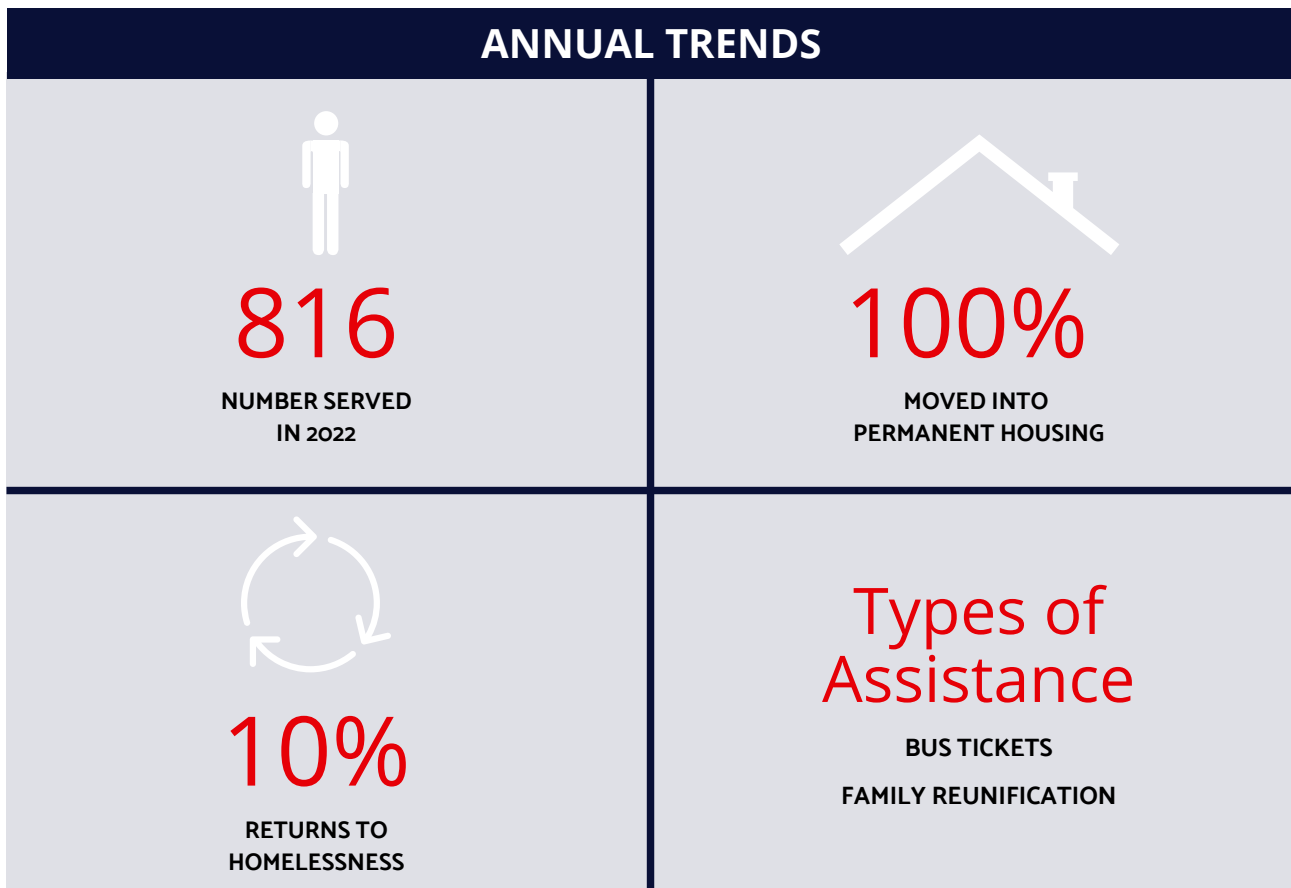
Homeless Prevention services provide direct financial assistance to keep people from becoming homeless. Homeless Prevention is considered the most cost-effective way to help those who are at risk of losing their housing and can ultimately reduce a community's need for and reliance upon crisis response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



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## HOMELESS DIVERSION

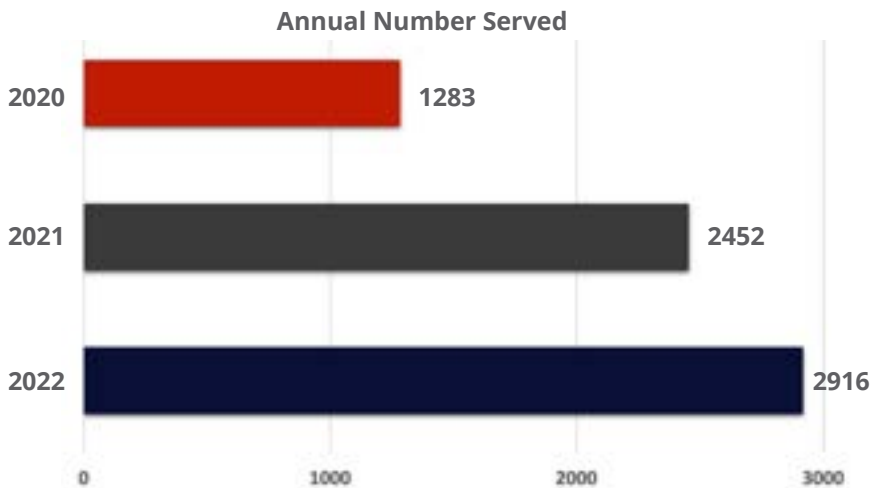
Homeless diversion is an intervention strategy used to keep people from entering homelessness. Diversion happens after households have lost their housing and helps to identify immediate alternative housing arrangements to assist them in securing permanent place to live. Examples of diversion services includes 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 staying inside and ultimately becoming housed again. As Tarrant and Parker counties have experienced explosive growth, unsheltered homelessness has become more visible to community members. 1088 individuals were living outside on the night of the count, an increase of 34 percent, compared to the 2020 unsheltered count.



### AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Hands of Hope  
JPS  
DRC Solutions  
MHMR  
FWPD H.O.P.E Team  
Veteran's Affairs  
Hearts Full of Love  
CitySquare  
Seasons of Change

## ANNUAL TRENDS



**204 Days**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS



**19%**

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING



**16%**

INCREASE IN UNSHELTERED



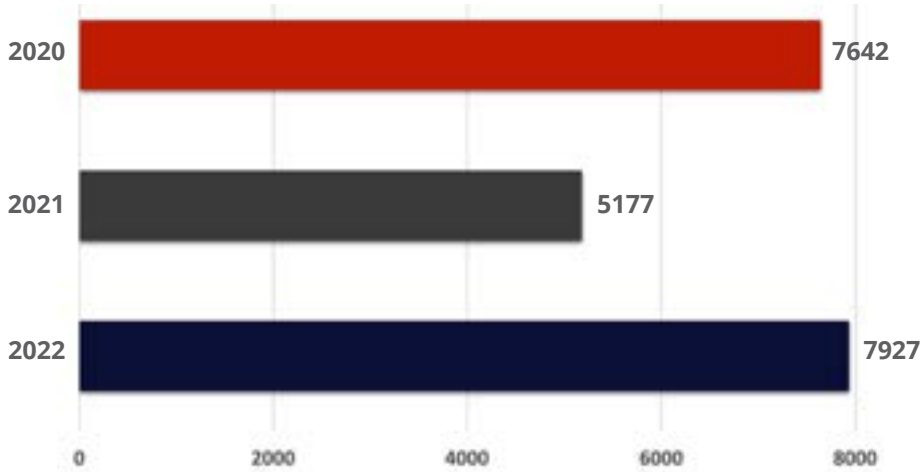
**13%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

# EMERGENCY SHELTER

Emergency shelters are intended for temporary shelter and crisis relief. Nine agencies in Tarrant County provide emergency shelter. On count night, 1,473 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.

Annual Number Served



## 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



**160 Days**

AVERAGE TIME SPENT HOMELESS



**35%**

INCREASE IN PEOPLE ACCESSING SHELTER



**24%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



**13%**

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

**1,473**

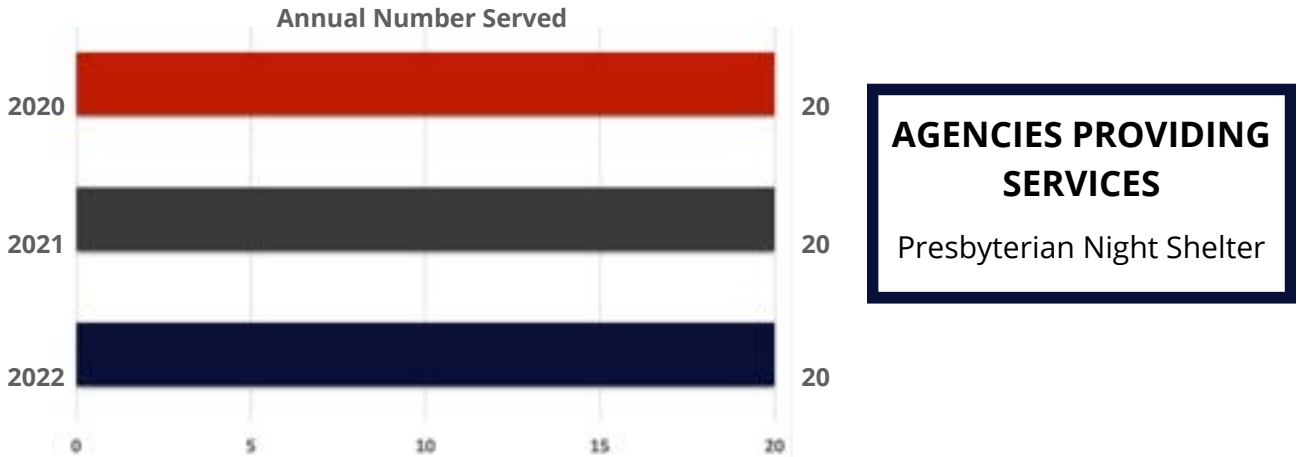
PEOPLE IN SHELTERS ON NIGHT OF 2023 PIT COUNT



# SAFE HAVEN

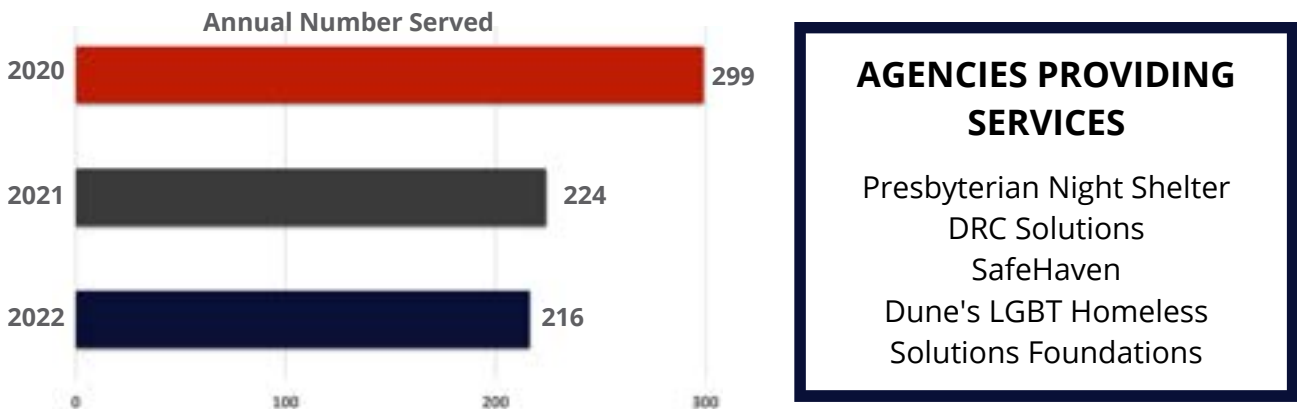
Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by Presbyterian Night Shelter and should not be confused with the organization SafeHaven of Tarrant County, which provides services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



## ANNUAL TRENDS



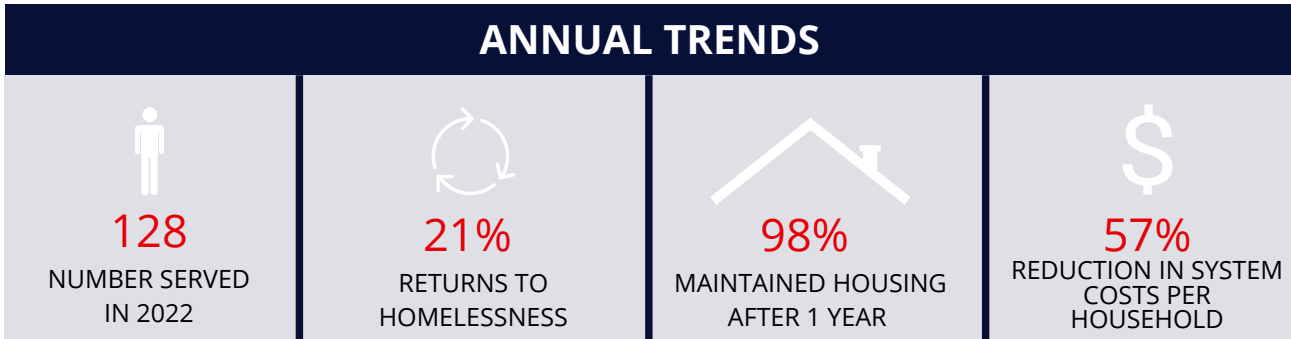


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# HOUSING PROGRAMS

## RAPID EXIT

Rapid Exit is an intervention that reduces homelessness by quickly connecting employed clients 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.



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## SHALLOW SUBSIDIES

Shallow subsidies provide a small payment to families and individuals to help them cover rent. 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 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

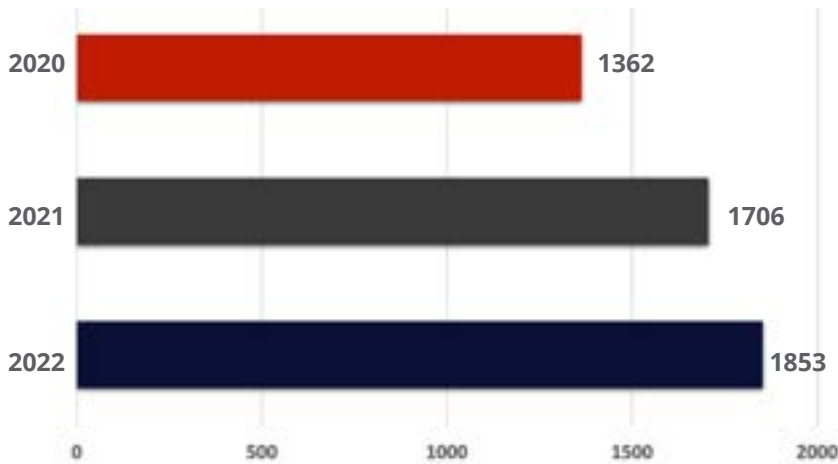
Rapid Rehousing quickly connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to short-term rental assistance coupled with case management to help people get back on their feet. These programs reduce the amount of time individuals and families experience homelessness, avoid a return to homelessness, 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. Rapid rehousing served over 1000 people in 2022, with nearly 90% successfully retaining permanent housing after assistance ended.

## AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Arlington Housing Authority  
 Center for Transforming Lives  
 CitySquare  
 DRC Solutions  
 Family Endeavors  
 MHMR  
 Presbyterian Night Shelter  
 Recovery Resource Council  
 Resources Inspiring Success and  
 Empowering (RISE)  
 SafeHaven  
 Seasons of Changes  
 Tarrant County Community Devt  
 The Salvation Army- FW

Annual Number Served



## ANNUAL TRENDS



**8.5 Months**

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



**66%**

INCREASE IN INCOME



**14%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



**89%**

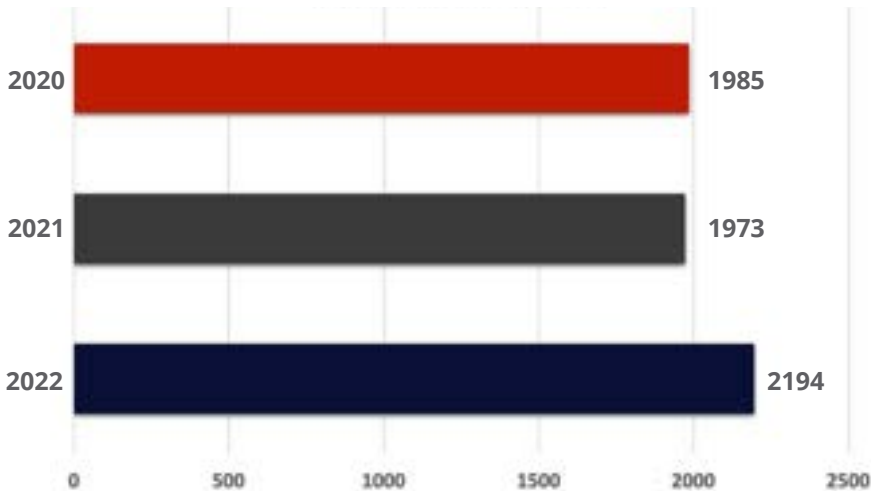
EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

# 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.

There were 1,772 households served in community PSH programs last year. PSH is designed to be permanent and typically has a low turnover rate. PSH is best suited for approximately 10% 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 less than five years.

Annual Number Served



## 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



**3.5 Years**

AVERAGE TIME IN PROGRAM



**74%**

INCREASE IN INCOME



**16%**

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS



**94%**

EXITING TO PERMANENT HOUSING

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# 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 2023:

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

With the recognition that COVID-19 had potentially disastrous impacts in congregate settings serving people experiencing homelessness, the CoC Board approved a change in priority population during the pandemic, refocusing our efforts on people who were most at risk for negative outcomes from COVID-19. The decision was also made to delay targeted work on other populations to keep people safe and move vulnerable people out of congregate settings. This work continued into 2021 and 2022 as our community continued to feel the impact of the pandemic.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, each year we kicked off efforts of our target population with a 100-Day Challenge, usually in the fall. During these Challenges our community brought providers serving specific populations together to get creative about their services, figure out how to serve complex cases within the population, and work together to make our system function the best it possibly can. Like many other things, our targeted population challenges looked different after working throughout the pandemic to ensure as many people had a place to call home as possible.

## 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.



**Our community saw a 12% increase in veterans experiencing homelessness in 2022, compared to 2021.**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen a significant decrease in the percent of veterans moving out of homelessness. The percent of veterans who returned to homelessness after two years remained stable at 20% in 2021 and 2022, however the percentage of returns is higher than other groups. The Veteran Committee is charged with continued efforts to address barriers to end homelessness for veterans in Tarrant County.

**490**

Veterans served  
in 2022

**175**

Veterans found experiencing  
homelessness on the night  
of the 2023 count.

**20%**

Veterans returned to  
homelessness in 2  
years

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# PRIORITY POPULATIONS

## Youth

Young adults, age 18 to 24 and unaccompanied minors, were identified as our community's priority population for 2019. Youth are especially vulnerable on the street and are often taken advantage of and exploited in different ways. Additionally, a subset of this population, including LGBTQ+ youth, foster care alumni, and trafficked youth, need specialized services to help overcome barriers and 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 is to support communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. YHDP requires each community to develop a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP). The CCP is the result of a comprehensive planning process that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including youth with lived experience of homelessness, to develop a community-specific approach to ending youth homelessness. In addition to youth with lived experience, more than 25 agencies were involved in the CCP process, including child welfare agencies, state and local governments, runaway and homeless youth (RHY) funded agencies, correctional institutions, local non-profits, institutions of higher learning, and more.

Our community collaborates incredibly well, and as a result was the first CCP plan submitted and approved for this round of funding. This plan outlined the community's plan to utilize YHDP funding to support new youth-focused projects, including Crisis Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Through a local competition the Allocations Committee recommended six new projects for YHDP. All six YHDP projects were officially under contract with HUD to provide services to youth and young adults in our community starting in October 2022 and are now operational.

### Notable Trends

Number of youth served:

2021: 507

2022: 761

30% increase

Percent of youth who returned to homelessness:

2021: 17%

2022: 16%

Percent of youth who retained or increased their employment income:

2021: 22%

2022: 24%

**761**  
youth served in 2022

**138**  
youth found experiencing homelessness in the night of the 2021 count.

**16%**  
youth returned to homelessness after two years

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## People Susceptible to COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control recognized that people experiencing homelessness were at great risk for COVID-19 infections and complications. People experiencing homelessness have increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and they cannot “shelter in place” in a home of their own. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness often have co-occurring health conditions, which put this population at higher risk of COVID-19 complications. Because of this, our community designated people susceptible to COVID-19 as the priority population for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

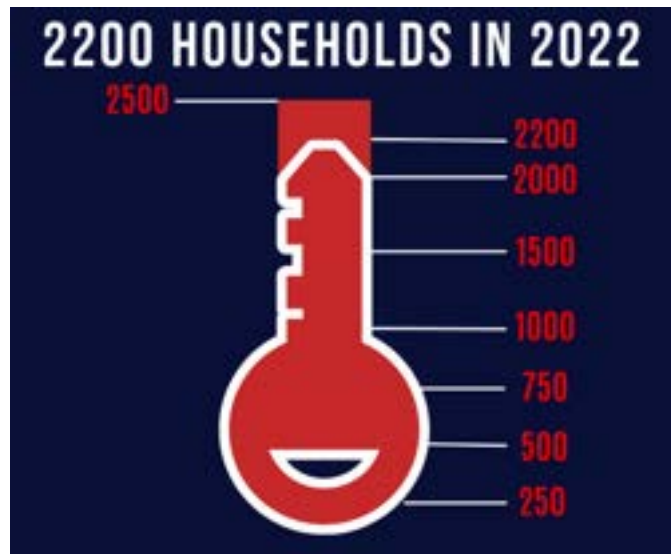
The CoC worked with JPS Health Network to identify factors that would put a person experiencing homelessness at greatest risk of COVID-19 complications. Through a partnership, JPS helped identify people experiencing homelessness who had these factors, which then resulted in them being prioritized for housing. Our community was able to quickly get vulnerable people out of congregate settings and do our best to protect as many people as possible.

One significant success coming out of COVID was the creation of Casa de Esperanza, a motel conversion that created 119 units of PSH for chronically homeless individuals who were most at risk. The City of Fort Worth invested \$10M in CARES funds to create this impactful new housing.

## House America Challenge

Recognizing the need to respond to our nation’s homelessness crisis, HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge called on state, tribal, and local leaders to re-house 100,000 households experiencing homelessness and to add 20,000 new units of affordable housing into the development pipeline from September 20, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

Always up for a challenge, the CoC Leadership Council agreed that our community would participate in the House America Challenge by endeavoring to house 2200 people from September 20, 2021 to December 30, 2022. With the lingering effects of COVID-19 still impacting our community, CoC leadership understood this was a lofty goal, but recognized the importance of pushing our system and resources to provide assistance to our most vulnerable.



In late 2021 and early 2022, COVID-19 virus continued to evolve. The Omicron variant hit Tarrant County and caused shelters to continue to limit capacity and created staffing shortages across the CoC. This resulted in a slower than expected start to our housing challenge. Though the year brought unexpected twists and turns along the way, by the end of 2022 our system housed 2,647 households, surpassing our goal of 2,200 and contributing to the continued commitment of moving as many households as possible out of homelessness. We are thankful and proud of the hard work from our community partners. Because of their willingness to take on a challenge and commitment to home, over 2,500 households now have a place to call home.



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## 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 can be attributed to the end of federal funding that was pushed into communities during the pandemic, including a never-before-seen amount of rental assistance and homeless. These funds along with the federally mandated eviction moratorium helped keep people housed from 2019 until 2021. With these resources now going away, many families in our community are struggling to stay afloat.

### Notable Trends

Number of families who experienced homelessness:

2021: 458

2022: 688

Percent of families that returned to homelessness:

2021: 14%

2022: 15%

**209**

Families experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2023 point-in-time count.

**670**

Family members experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2023 count

**15%**

Returns to homelessness after two years

## Chronically Homeless

People experiencing chronic homelessness have been identified as our community's priority population for 2024. 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.

Our municipalities strategically invested in the homeless response system by dedicating over \$64,000,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to build housing. This will transform the way we are able to respond to homelessness and will bring our community closer to the goal of ending chronic homelessness. Along with the opportunity to build more housing, we are continually improving our data and increasing our understanding as we prepare to shift our focus to this priority population in 2024.

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# NEEDS & GAPS

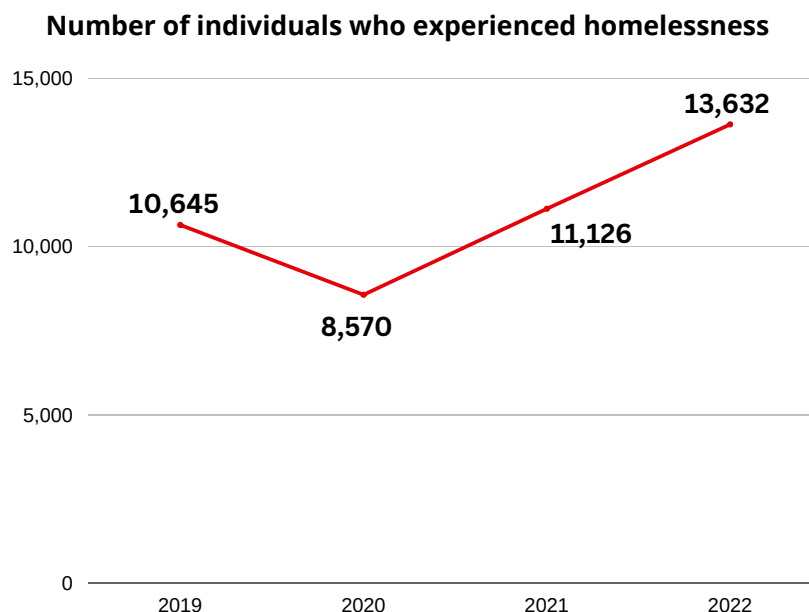
As we work to maximize resources, annually the Homeless Coalition completes an analysis of projected need and available resources. This analysis looks at housing programs and housing stock available for people experiencing homelessness versus the need in our system.

# 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 in our community unable to find or afford a unit that fits within their household financial capacity.

In 2022, 7,173 households experienced homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties. Of those, 5,411 households are either experiencing homelessness for the first time or were reentering our system of care after previous stabilization. This is compared to 5,221 households experiencing homelessness with 3,911 households entering either into or back into homelessness in 2021. 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.

- **COVID safety net no longer available:** For over two years, local, state and federal governments invested billions of dollars in rental assistance and homeless prevention to help keep people in their homes. As the pandemic drew to a close, these resources are no longer available.
- **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. In 2022, 220,000 households were evicted.
- **Significant increases in cost of housing:** As the DFW real estate market has heated up, rent has increased across all types of units. In 2022, rent for affordable units increased by 9%. Additionally, as the price to purchase a home increases, the rental market continues to become more competitive.
- **Inflation:** Inflation impacts everyone in our community, and people who are on the verge of, or are experiencing homelessness are no exception. When people have to pay more for basic needs, household budgets are often squeezed in other areas, 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.



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# UNDERSTANDING NEEDS

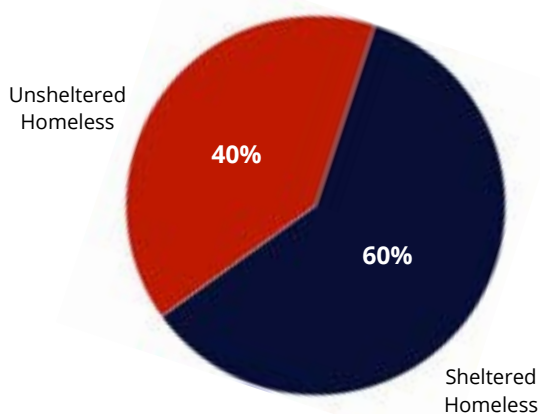
As a community we are committed to making data-driven decisions, including being willing to change systems we have used for years. In 2020 we began discussions around the need for a tool that would help professionals at all levels better understand population strengths, barriers, and needs around housing. To do this, we spent the summer of 2021 working with providers, shelter workers, street outreach workers, housing case managers, and program managers to find the quickest way to identify appropriate housing using people-first language.

After using the VI-SPDAT to score and prioritize people for housing for the last 5 years, we created a new housing assessment tool (HAT) that focuses 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, Long-Term rental subsidy, alternative housing, and site base case management housing. The HAT allows staff responses and enables providers to use problem-solving skills based on the client's responses and capacity. The HAT encourages the client to provide their own preferences and insight and to advocate for what they desire.

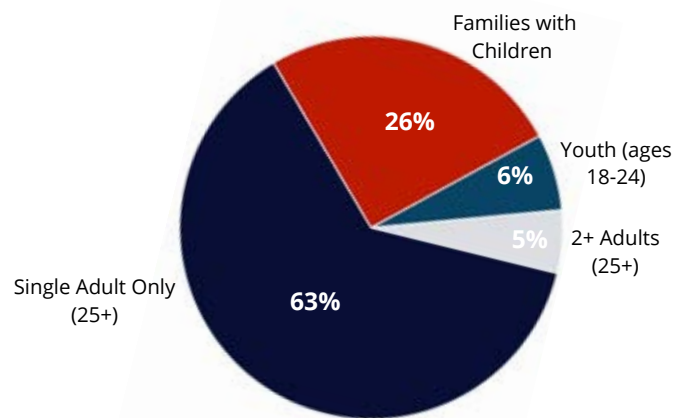
This tool provides information for appropriate housing interventions and an incredible amount of information that allows us to better advocate for our client's needs and the resources needed to meet that demand. On a systems level, this information helps us understand what types of housing we should 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 one year 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**



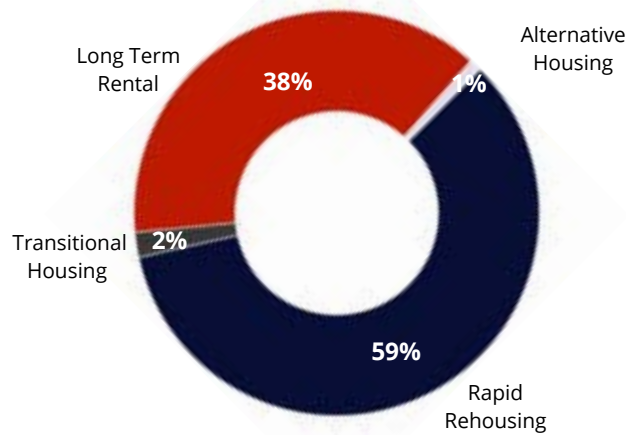
**Household Type**



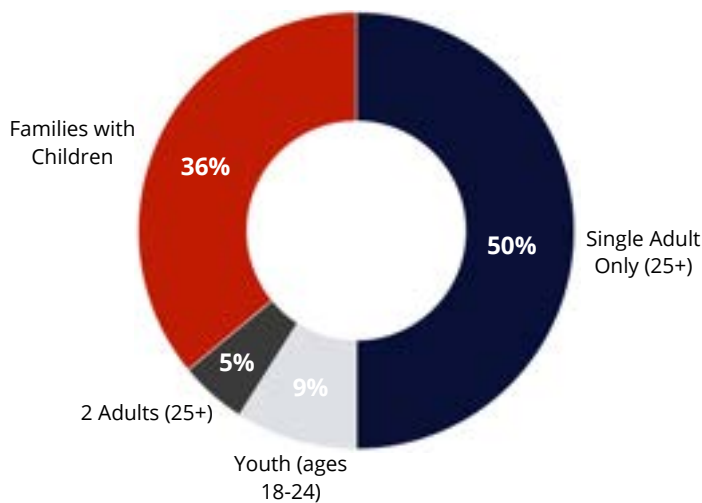
Along with giving us a better understanding of strengths and potential barriers people may experience, the HAT also allows us to see what housing interventions would be the best fit for people experiencing homelessness. As a system, our goal is to move from only being able to provide available housing to being able to provide the most appropriate housing.

HAT data has shown that 59% 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. 38% 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 of often on a fixed income.

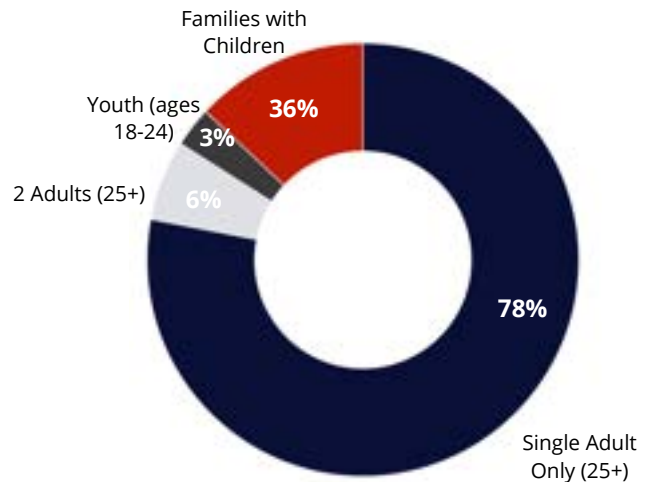
### Recommended Housing Interventions



### 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 working to access 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.

## Top 5 Challenges to Housing



## FOCUS GROUPS

As part of the annual needs and gaps assessment completed in February 2023, the Homeless Coalition's Planning Department conducted eight focus groups with 63 clients currently in our homeless services system. These focus groups were held in-person, at various shelters and agencies within Tarrant County. The purpose of the focus groups was to gather information about those experiencing homelessness, their needs, and how well their needs are being met by our system of care.

Traditionally, focus groups conducted by TCHC staff were conducted annually. Understanding the importance of learning from those impacted by homelessness, TCHC is expanding focus groups to be conducted on a quarterly basis, as well as extended to include people in our CoC housing programs. This expansion and focus on data collection through focus groups will allow our community to better understand people's experiences with homelessness and how we can better serve them.

### TOP THREE NEEDS ARE:

1. Housing
2. Employment/income assistance
3. Transportation

### COMMON FEEDBACK:

1. Staff should be compassionate, patient, and trauma-informed
2. Concerns around cleanliness and sanitation
3. Need accommodations for those with disabilities

“
  
**“There are so many people nationwide that are homeless... how many people might just fall short a few dollars on rent and be here.”**
  
”

“
  
**“Talk to us. Come see for yourself what we need and how you can help.”**
  
 - when asked what decision-makers in our city can do to help people experiencing homelessness.
   
”

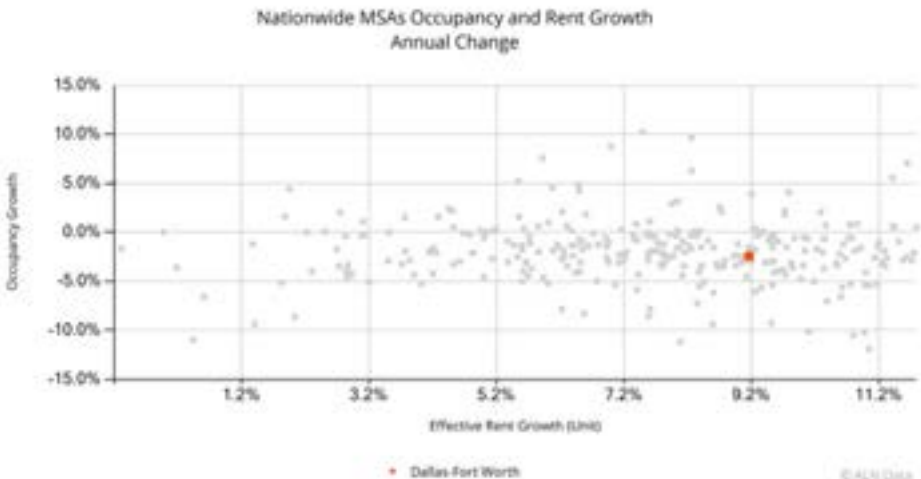
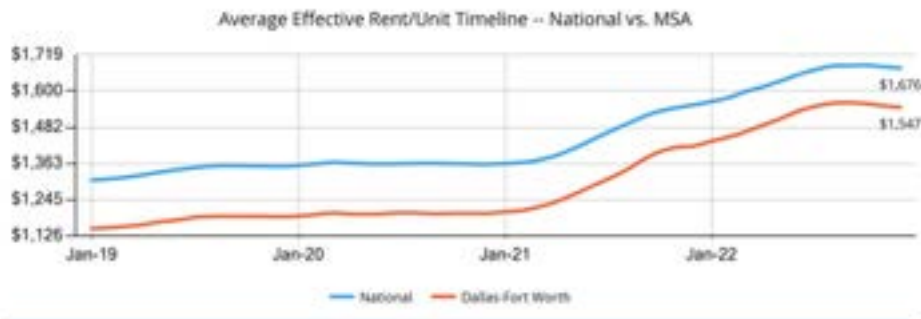


# HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

The housing market has a significant impact on homelessness. While a hot real estate market may be good for some, often it creates significant difficulty when households are working to find available and affordable units and it also makes developing units much more challenging. Over the past year more people experiencing homelessness have reported they are homeless because they can no longer afford the unit they were in. Because of the incredible demand, landlord and property owners can raise rent rates and still have plenty of people who need a unit. Additionally, with the median purchase price of a home at \$330,000, many community members have been priced out of the homebuyer market, putting further pressure on the rental market.

Over the past two 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 2022. Rent for affordable housing units are no exception and have also risen dramatically from \$950 a month in January 2021 to approximately \$1,190 in December 2022, also a 21% increase.

In addition to the rapid rise of rental costs, there is also a lack of unit availability in our community. According to an analysis conducted by the Ft. Worth Housing Finance Corporation in 2018, the gap between need and available housing units for people of lower incomes in Fort Worth is approximately 46,000 units. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's *2021 Gap Report* identifies DFW as the having the largest deficit of units and needs over 250,000 units to meet the need of households who make less than 50% AMI (approximately less than \$35,000/year).



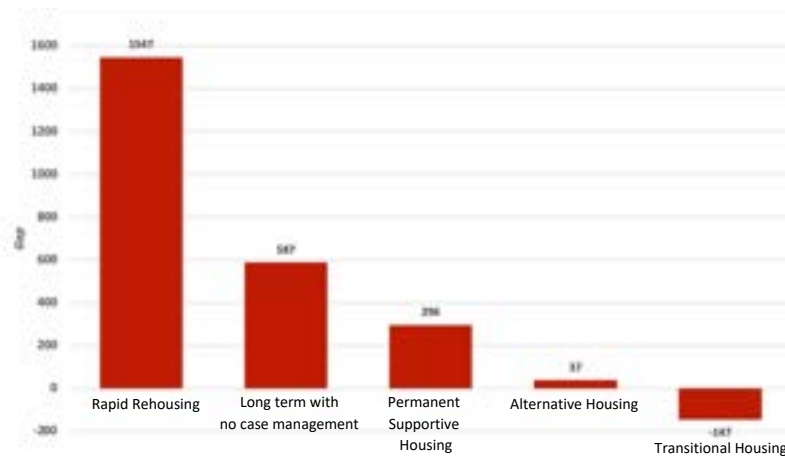
# ASSISTANCE GAPS

If we could end homelessness and house everyone in our community, we would. Unfortunately, we currently do not have all the resources needed to accomplish this goal. In the past we've gotten into significant discussions regarding who gets prioritized for housing. Is it families with children? Older adults on a fixed income who have been priced out of the market? Veterans? The person working two jobs to make ends meet? Regardless of who we decide should get the limited housing assistance available, the bottom line is that we do not have enough to serve everyone. Someone in the groups will be left out and will continue to experience homelessness.

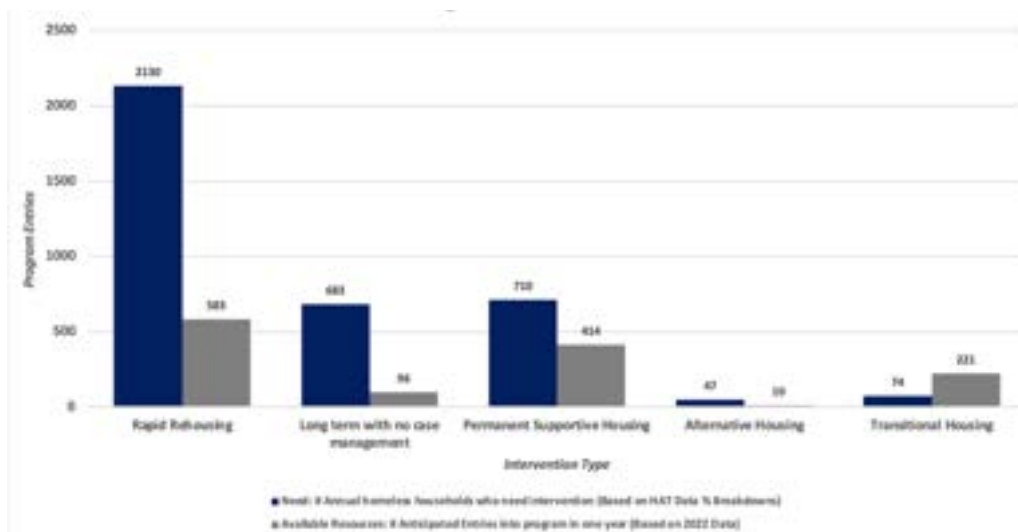
The Homeless Coalition, the CoC, and partners serving people experiencing homelessness are committed to ending homelessness for as many households as possible. Over the past year we have made a concentrated effort to fully utilize all housing assistance available. Our community has been successful in this effort and maintains an utilization rate of over 95% for all housing programs.

The charts below detail available resources versus need in our system.

**2022 Annual Gap Between Needed Vs. Actual Housing Resources**



**2022 Annual Housing Needs Vs. Available Resources**



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# NEW SOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

Because demand outpaces available resources the CoC is continually exploring new 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, our CoC is committed to advocating for available funding to be dedicated to build affordable housing options. Utilizing ARPA funding pledged by Tarrant County, the City of Fort Worth and the City of Arlington, we anticipate having over 400 newly built PSH and affordable housing units.
- **Housing Tool Assessment (HAT):** The HAT helps assess the best housing intervention for clients. It encourages the client to provide their own preferences and advocate for what they desire, allows staff responses, and enables providers to use problem-solving skills based on the client's responses and capacity. This tool provides information for appropriate housing interventions and a treasure trove of information that allows us to better advocate for client's needs and the resources needed to meet that demand.
- **Case Management Standards of Care:** Case management standards of care help ensure consistency and uniformity of case management service implementation across the CoC. Standardizing case management services across the CoC will help guarantee that people receiving services in our community receive consistent quality services regardless of their entry point into our system.
- **Shared Housing:** In shared housing, two or more people live in one apartment or home and share the costs of living there, such as rent and utilities. This provides low-cost housing in high-rent markets. Shared housing also has other benefits, including the potential to share housing maintenance and cleaning responsibilities, social support, and sometimes child care support. In addition to being an option for reducing homelessness, shared housing is also an intervention to allow senior citizens to age in place.
- **Qualitative Data:** Qualitative research is a type of research that aims to gather and analyze non-numerical data in order to gain an understanding of individuals' social reality, including understanding their attitudes, beliefs, and motivation. As our CoC continues to focus on data-driven decisions, we will further integrate qualitative data into our decision-making processes. Historically, focus groups have been held annually to learn more about the people we serve. Beginning in 2023, these types of conversations will be conducted on a quarterly basis to help understand the unique challenges people face in Tarrant and Parker Counties.
- **Critical Time Intervention:** Critical Time Intervention (CTI) is an intensive time-limited form of case management that provides support for vulnerable individuals during periods of transition. CTI has been applied with veterans, people with mental illness, people who have been homeless or in prison, and many other groups. Utilizing this form of case management to assist during the transition from homelessness to housing for some of our most vulnerable in our community will provide additional supportive services to help ease the pathway to stability.

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# POINT IN TIME COUNT

A snapshot of what homelessness looked like on January 26, 2023.

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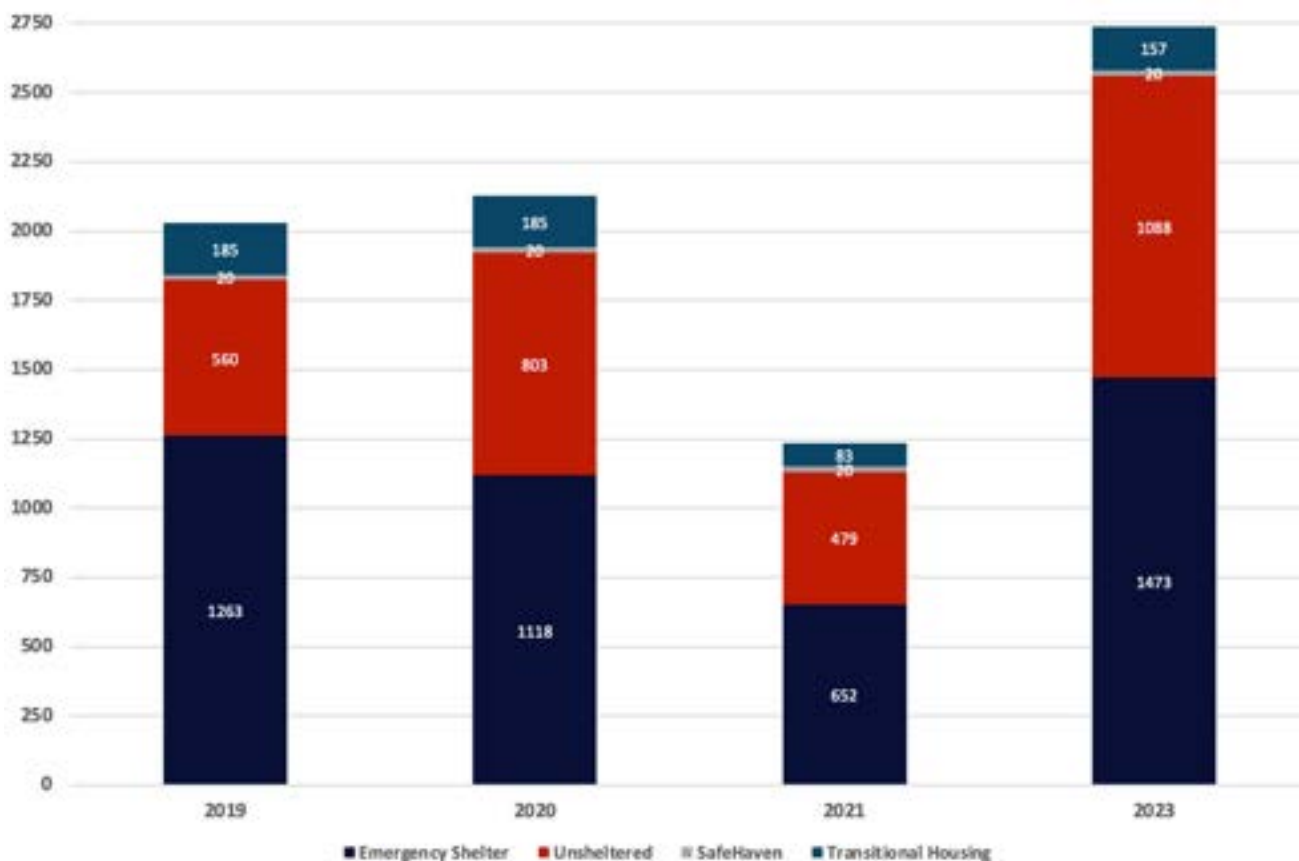
## 2023 Point in Time Count

One way we understand what homelessness looks like on a given night is by conducting an annual Point in Time Count. The 2023 Homeless Count was held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, 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.

While the Point in Time (PIT) Count was conducted differently in 2021 and 2022 because of the pandemic, we returned to a traditional PIT Count in 2023. Because of this, we have compared our most recent 2023 data to 2020.

On January 26, 2023, almost 500 volunteers were mobilized throughout Tarrant and Parker Counties to conduct the Point-in-Time Count. On the night of the count a total of 2,723 people were identified as homeless in Tarrant and Parker counties. This was a 20% increase in people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, as compared to 2020. From 2017 to 2020, homelessness on count night had remained relatively static, hovering around 2,000 people.

The increase in the point-in-time count mirrors the increase in homelessness seen in other communities as we attempt to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community has seen an increase in both the number housed and the number of new households entering into homelessness.



## 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 2.2 million in 2022. 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 2020. At that time, Tarrant County had the sixth lowest rate of homelessness per population among the 48 largest cities.



**HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN THE 15 LARGEST CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

\*2020 NATIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

## YEAR TO YEAR

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number	2,028	2,103	1,234	2,723
Annual Change	+0.6%	+5%	-42%	+121%

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## Where people are sleeping

Understanding where people chose to sleep is critical in understanding how our system is functioning to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. 57% of people experiencing homelessness on Count night accessed emergency shelter, while 43% were unsheltered 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.

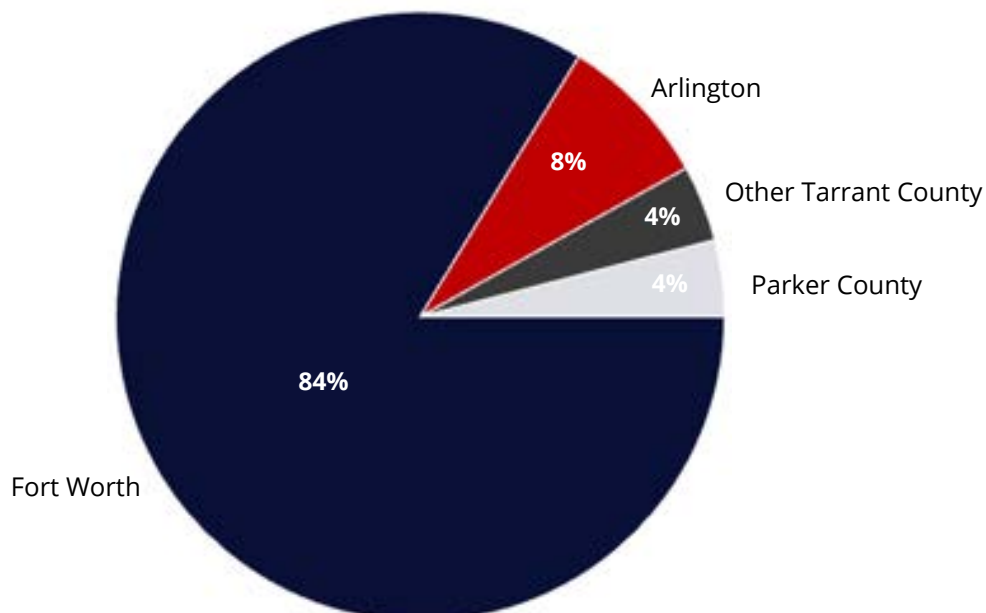


### EMERGENCY SHELTER

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.

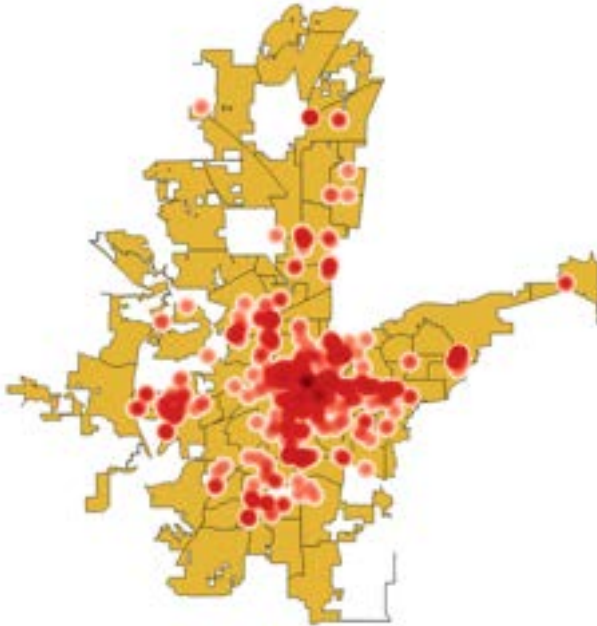




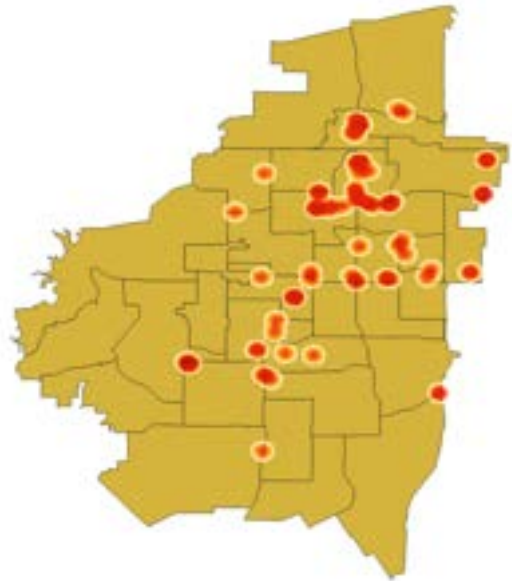
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## Geographic Distribution

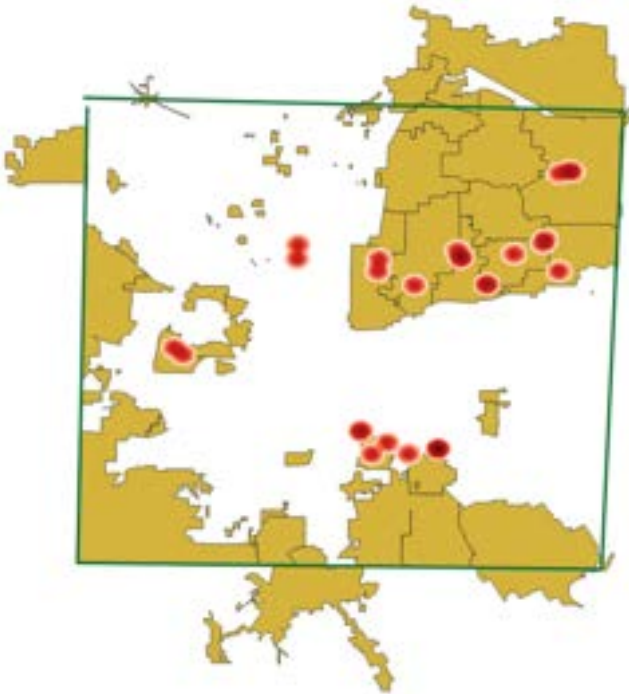
**Fort Worth**



**Arlington**



**Other Tarrant County**



**Parker County**

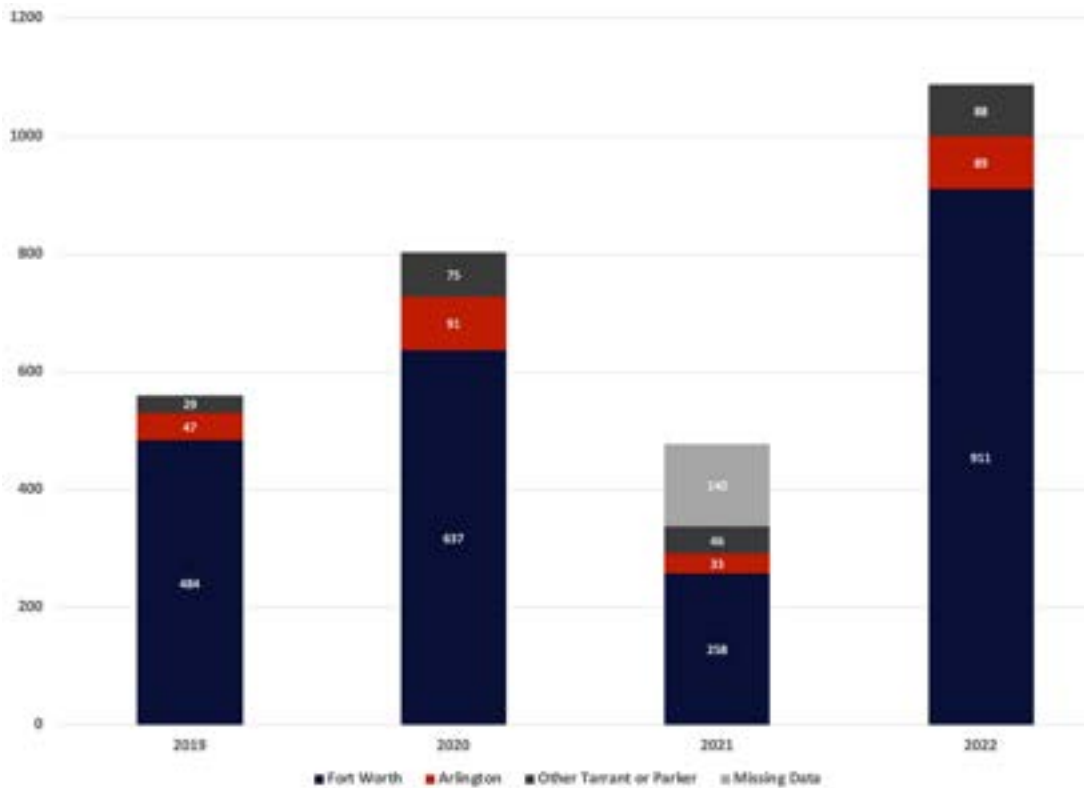


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## Unsheltered Homelessness & Sleeping Outside

Unsheltered homelessness increased significantly from 2020 to 2022. This increase mirrors the national trend of cities and communities across the U.S. In Tarrant and Parker counties, unsheltered homelessness increased by 27% from 2020 to 2022 going from 803 households living unsheltered during the annual Point in Time count to 1,088 households.

While there has been an increase in unsheltered homelessness in our community, these numbers may also be impacted by the increase in outreach services in our community. In 2020, our community's outreach services quadrupled in size going from 15 outreach workers to over 60. With this increase our community has been able to better locate and serve people who are living unsheltered.



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# 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:

<b>1994</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2018</b>	

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
<b>Literally Homeless</b>	<b>Imminent Risk of Homelessness</b>	<b>Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes</b>	<b>Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence</b>
<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, ushc 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 ( $\leq 2$ 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)	SafeHavens 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

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## **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.



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## 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.<sup>xvi</sup> 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.



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# 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.

## TCHC Board Members

Jerome Johnson, Chair  
Dr. Victoria Farrer-Myers, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Kapreta Johnson, Secretary  
Lyn Scott, Treasurer  
Devan Armstrong  
Nathan Davis  
Dr. Frank Lonergan  
Deborah Kratky  
Jay White  
Krystle Gandhi, Past Chair

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# 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

## CoC Board of Directors

Leah King, Chair  
Mary-Margaret Lemons, Vice-chair  
Cassandra Walker, Secretary  
Artie Williams, Allocations Chair  
Toby Owen, Governance Chair  
Dierdre Brown, ICT Committee Chair  
Steve Montgomery, Past Chair

## CoC Board

Whitnee Boyd  
Elizabeth Brands  
Jonathan Cranz  
Mayor Michael Evans  
Staci Marquardt  
James McClinton  
Robyn Michalove  
Kenny Mosley  
Councilperson Dr. Barbara Odom-  
Wesley  
Joy Parker  
Tara Perez  
Tori Sisk  
Marc Thompson  
Krystle Gandhi

