

OKC POINT IN TIME 2024 | SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS



IMAGE CAPTIONS

Cover: Miguel Rios with the Curbside Chronicle conducts interviews during the 2024 Point In Time Count.

Page 3: Living outdoors during winter snowfall.

Pages 5 & 11: Volunteers conduct field surveys early in the morning on January 25, 2024. The Point In Time count begins at 4 a.m. on a day during the last week of January and continues until the last meal site closes at 8 p.m. that evening.

Page 7: Lady Bug, the best dog ever.

Page 8: Volunteers for the Point In Time morning shift take the annual group photo at 3:30 a.m. before heading out to conduct field surveys.

Page 15: The Homeless Alliance winter shelter one night during the 2024 winter months. Winter is one of the busiest and most stressful times of year for shelter providers as they flex capacity to get people inside on the coldest nights. This year, more space was added with the winter shelter that is open from November to March.



INTRODUCTION

Homelessness is a lagging indicator of an economic downturn, meaning we don't see the total effects of the economic decline on homelessness until people have already lost income and exhausted every option available to hold onto their housing. Although the Covid-19 pandemic began more than four years ago, we are now beginning to see the repercussions on the homeless population caused by the economic fallout of the pandemic.

For Oklahoma City, the pandemic magnified existing barriers to housing for our low-income neighbors. The 2020 OKC Housing Affordability Study found a significant divergence from 2010 to 2019 between housing prices and incomes. An alarming finding was that 42% of those who rent – and 19% of those who own homes in OKC – were cost burdened, meaning more than 30% of their income was spent on housing, leaving limited income to cover other life needs. The lower the household's income, the more likely they are to be cost-burdened, leaving them on the edge of homelessness and vulnerable to life crisis or other financial burdens, pushing them into homelessness.

Previous Trends

In the last decade, our homeless response system has been successful at curtailing significant growth in the homeless population. This means we are keeping pace with the inflow of people entering this system. In the last three years, the homeless response system rehoused an average of 1,450 people annually. In addition to rehousing efforts, many unhoused people are able to self-resolve their homelessness with a light touch from crisis response.

Although overall homelessness has remained somewhat steady, we saw concerning increases in subpopulations experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth and chronically unsheltered people.

SOLUTIONS

In response to growing need, the community came together to work towards a significant and sustainable reduction in homelessness. In April of 2023, the City launched the *Key to Home Partnership* to bring together City leadership, service providers, community leaders and those with lived experience in homelessness to collaborate in new ways. *Key to Home* is a public-private partnership of nearly 50 organizations, with the City serving as the lead agency. Along with existing pathways out of homelessness, the community is working to develop new pathways to housing, and to support system-wide strategies to reduce homelessness in OKC.

To counter the increasing number of unaccompanied homeless youth, the City applied for the *Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project*, a new competitive funding opportunity that would provide dollars to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness in OKC. The City was selected and the *OKC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project* launched in 2023, creating various housing programs, extended-hour drop in centers and additional services to divert youth from entering homelessness. This project is unique because the program's design was heavily influenced by youth with lived experience. A *Youth Action Board*, comprised of youth with lived experience, was also established to continue providing valuable feedback and recommendations for serving homeless youth in OKC.

To combat the growing population of chronically unsheltered people, *Key to Home* implemented the *Encampment Rehousing Initiative* in late 2023. This initiative relies on strong collaboration between the City, service providers and private businesses to rapidly move people sleeping outside into housing within four to six weeks. Each contributing partner plays a unique role, such as street outreach, case management, landlord engagement, unit acquisition, mental health screenings and encampment site cleaning, among others.

The Partnership's goals are to house 500 chronically homeless and unsheltered individuals and rehouse or divert 100 youth from entering homelessness by the end of 2025. Beyond these milestones, *Key to Home* is focused on refining our City's homeless response system to make homelessness in OKC brief, rare and non-recurring.



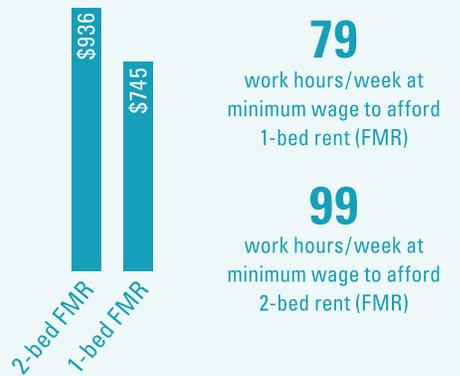
“Two people working full-time on Oklahoma’s minimum wage can’t afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market value without exceeding the recommended 30% of income to be spent on housing.”

OKLAHOMA HOUSING

Most Expensive	Housing Wage
Oklahoma City	\$19.54/hr
Tulsa	\$18.98/hr
Woodward County	\$17.38/hr
Enid	\$17.29/hr
Payne County	\$17.25/hr

Housing Affordability	
Minimum wage	\$7.25/hr
Average renter wage	\$17.89/hr
2-bed housing wage	\$18.00/hr
Number of renter households	510,477
% Renters	34%

Monthly Rent	Amount
Rent affordable at AMI	\$1,985
Rent affordable with full time mean wage	\$930
Rent affordable with full time minimum wage	\$377
Rent affordable at 30% AMI	\$595
Rent affordable on SSI	\$289



FMR: Fair Market Rent AMI: Area Median Income

ABOUT THE COUNT

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

Oklahoma City conducts our count annually, this year on January 25th. This one-day count is only a snapshot and is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness. This report provides a longitudinal analysis of the City's PIT data from the 2019 to 2024 counts. Its findings are one perspective on the state of homelessness in the city on only one day. Data gathered during the PIT and described in this report should be considered not an exact and exhaustive number, but a useful tool to understand the scope of the problem and identify areas for improvement.

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

Area Median Income (AMI)

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

Continuum of Care (COC)

Local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homeless services in a geographic area.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

Short-term lodging for people experiencing a housing crisis.

Fair Market Rent (FMR)

40% of typical standard-quality housing units are available at or below this price in an area.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Computerized data collection application for capturing client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness over time.

The PIT collects data from three different household types:

1. Households with at least one adult and one child
2. Households without children
3. Households of children only

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



Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

A report on the number of program beds and/or housing units available and in use on the night of the count.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Permanent housing with integrated wrap-around services for people who are homeless and have a disabling condition.

Sheltered homeless

People living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Temporary housing and services for people who have multiple barriers to obtaining housing and employment.

Unsheltered homeless

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



COUNTING METHODS

In 2024, Oklahoma City digitized the PIT count for the first time. Funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development allowed staff to purchase an app and tablets for teams to use throughout the count. The app allowed customizing of the surveys and reduction of data errors and duplicated responses. The count used the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect information from organizations that enter data about people who are using their programs on the night of the count. As with previous years, field surveys were used to collect information from people living outdoors, at meal sites and locations that don't participate in HMIS. Duplicates were identified and removed when merged with HMIS.

Location Counts

Emergency Shelters

Nearly all of OKC's emergency shelters enter information about daily usage of emergency shelter beds into HMIS and gather that data for the count.

Transitional Housing

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

Meal Sites

On January 25, volunteers visited sites where free meals were served. This site count focused on identifying and interviewing people who were homeless but did not stay in a homeless shelter that night.

Street

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

Day Shelters

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

PRIORITIES REVEALED

January 25, 2024, 1,838 people were surveyed during the annual PIT count. Through research, several trends were revealed. First, Covid-era funding has expired, and numbers reflect the sunset of a resource that provided significant additional capacity to the homeless response system. Historically, large infusions of funding have contributed to lower counts and as this funding expires, there's an increase in subsequent counts. Also, the community was able to significantly increase the number of winter shelter beds available this year. This increased capacity made surveying people easier, and is reflected in this year's count. Of those accessing winter shelter the night of the count, only a small percentage touched the homeless response system in other locations. This indicates many people accessing winter shelter would benefit from diversion services to prevent their homelessness or support a rapid exit. Diversion is an intervention intended to respond while a person is on the front steps of homelessness, and before they enter the homeless response system.

The 2024 data also revealed a growing number of people experiencing long-term, sheltered homelessness. In general, the longer a person remains unhoused, the higher the level of intervention that will be needed to end their homelessness. This causes a bottleneck in the system, because the number of people staying longer and needing more support grows, making it difficult for others to move through the system efficiently. Data shows the homeless response system needs more housing so people can exit into housing more quickly. Housing is the right answer in both an economic response for the community and a dignified solution for those affected by homelessness.

homelessness

A person or family who:

- > lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- > immediately loses their primary residence.
- > is fleeing domestic violence with no other residence, or without resources and support networks to secure one.

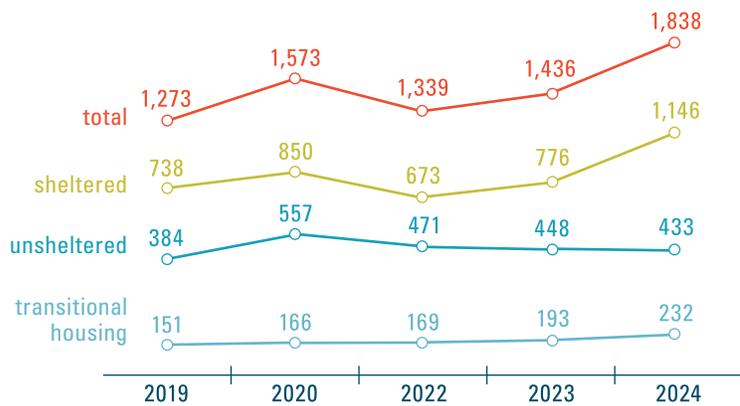
1,838
HOMELESS
IN OKC
 JAN 25, 2024

— VARIABLES —

- weather • counting methods
- housing progress • economy
- service improvements

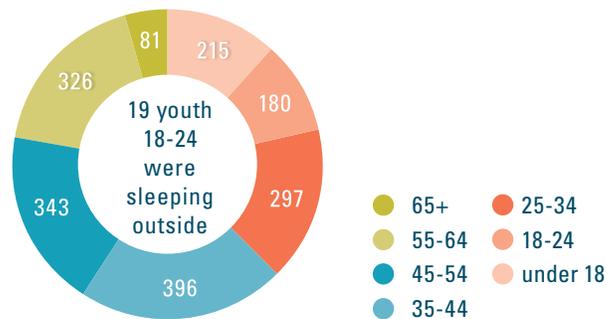
TOTAL HOMELESS

There were 1,838 homeless people located in OKC on the night of the count. Factors that likely impacted the count most significantly were economic factors coupled with the end of pandemic era funding, plus the addition of more locations for people to get out of the cold during winter. Service providers opened 300 additional low barrier winter beds last season, so it's possible many were counted this year who were not located previously in an unsheltered environment.



AGE

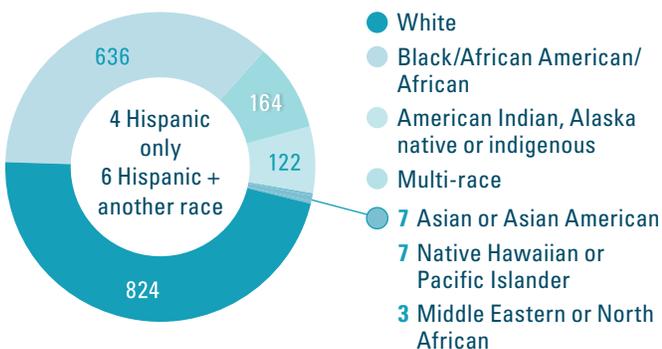
Though the overall number of people in each age group may fluctuate from year to year, as a percentage of the total population, each group is fairly stable. Notably, the population of homeless seniors is growing on a national level, however remained flat from '23 to '24 in OKC.





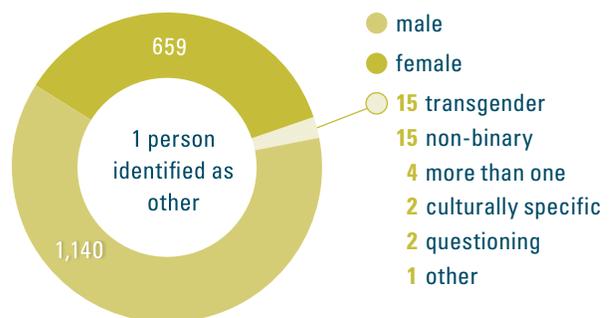
RACE & ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity change little from year to year, as was the case from '23 to '24. However, there were several additions this year. Middle Eastern or North African and people who identified as Hispanic in addition to one other race were taken into account.



GENDER

Gender changes little from year to year, as was the case from '23 to '24. Men are less likely to be sheltered than women and often comprise the largest percent of people surveyed. More classifications were added this year. Two people identified as a culturally specific gender, two as questioning and one as a gender other than those listed.



chronically homeless

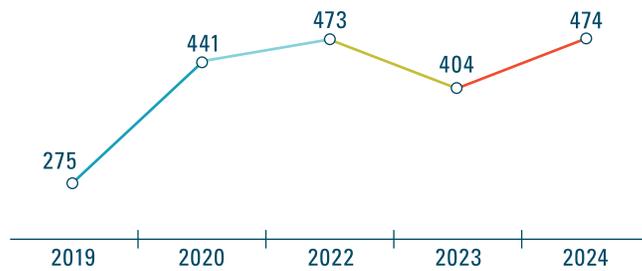
An unaccompanied homeless person with a disabling condition, or a family with a disabled adult head-of-household, who has either been continuously homeless for a year, or at least four times in three years with a combined total of at least 12 months.



Permanent supportive housing is a proven solution to chronic homelessness.

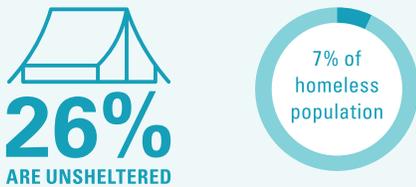
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Of all subpopulations, the chronically homeless have more frequent emergency room visits, hospitalizations and contact with law enforcement. Housing greatly reduces these occurrences and the associated trauma and taxpayer costs. While the OKC chronically homeless count remains high, the number of chronically homeless that were unsheltered dropped from 60% to 44% from '23 to '24. This is likely due to access to more shelter beds on the night of the count and an increased focus on permanent housing efforts like the Key to Home Encampment Rehousing Initiative.



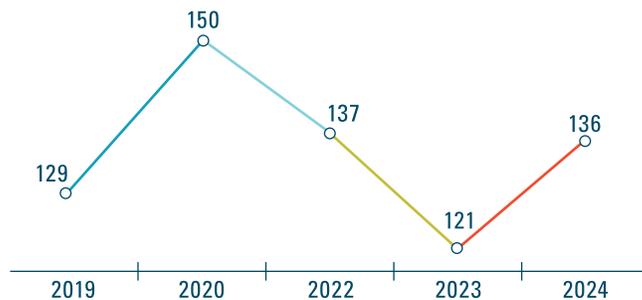
veteran

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



VETERANS

While the number of veterans who are homeless increased slightly from 121 in '23 to 136 in '24, the number of chronically homeless veterans decreased by about 7%. In addition to service programs open to all, there are two programs in OKC that focus only on serving veterans and their families: Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF).



families

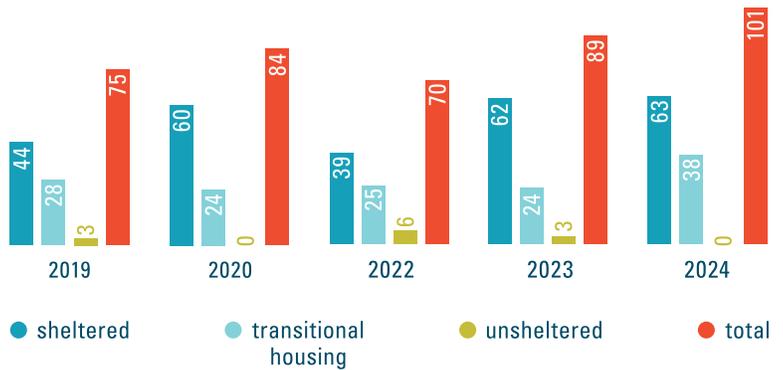
Homeless household living with at least one minor.



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

FAMILIES

Early childhood homelessness has been linked to child welfare involvement and school failure. OKC addresses this using the Emergency Solutions Grant and Permanent Supportive Housing. These programs help people stay in their homes and provide services to re-house families. No families were found to be unsheltered in '24, but the overall number of homeless families increased by 12 households from '23 to '24.



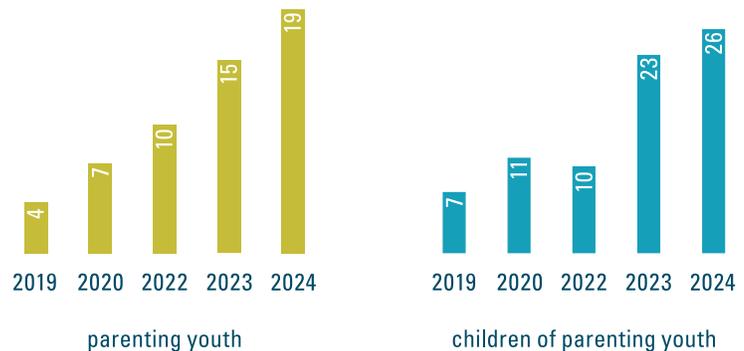
parenting youth

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

“All parenting youth were ages 18 - 24. No parenting youth households were unsheltered.”

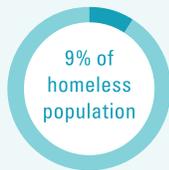
PARENTING YOUTH

Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness face many common challenges, although each has a unique story. Helping young parents provides stability for two generations. The number of parenting youth households rose slightly from 15 in '23 to 19 in '24, but so did the number of resources to address youth homelessness. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program will provide numerous new services and housing opportunities for parenting youth.



unaccompanied youth

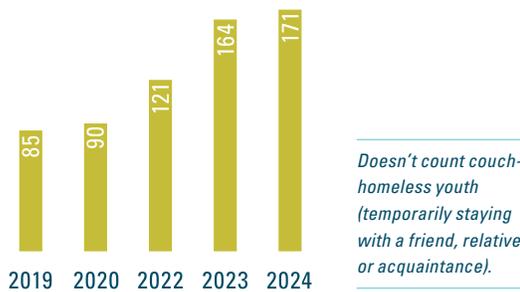
People under age 25 who aren't presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian, including single people, couples and groups. Most are ages 18-24.



- MORE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN OR EXPERIENCE
- > violence
 - > sexual assault
 - > physical illness
 - > severe anxiety & depression

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

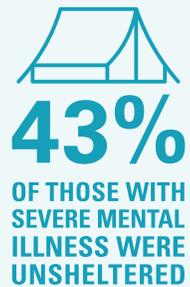
It's harder to count unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness because they often try not to be located. Some don't access services because they don't know about them or may be nervous about mandated reporting to parents or guardians. However, we are seeing an increase in youth using services overall. Unaccompanied youth increased 4% from '23-'24. An increase in shelter capacity is a likely explanation. Likewise, increased shelter capacity can be credited for zero unsheltered minors counted in '24, down from five in '23. Unaccompanied youth remain 11% of the total homeless population.



special needs

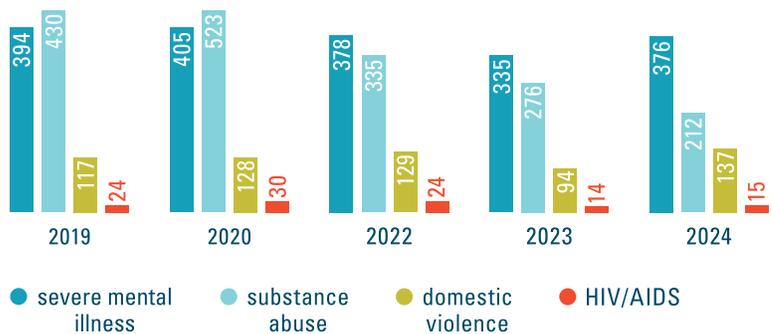
Someone living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or living outdoors who has one or more disabling conditions.

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



SPECIAL NEEDS

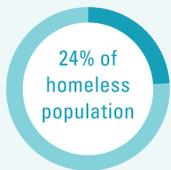
Before 2018, people were included in the domestic violence count if they reported ever experiencing it. But for many years, HUD requires data reported on domestic violence survivors be limited to those currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence. People who reported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





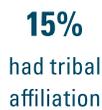
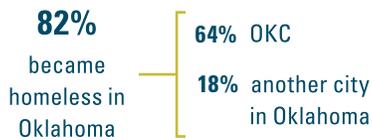
additional unsheltered data

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



ADDITIONAL UNSHELTERED DATA

Data in the rest of this report is required for all federally funded service areas to collect during the Point in Time count. For the last two years, the OKC service community included additional questions to the street survey to get a better idea of factors contributing to living situations of people living outdoors. Some of this data is shown below.



BED COUNTS & USE RATES

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Pershing Center / City Care	60	53	88%
Westlawn / City Care	24	27	113%
City Care Affordable Housing / City Care	28	21	75%
Remerge / City Care	20	16	80%
Building Foundations for Families Homeless Alliance	99	121	122%
Hope Chronic 32 / HOPE	32	24	75%
Hope Housing Plus / HOPE	19	18	95%
Hope Partners in Housing / HOPE	33	32	97%
Shelter Plus Care 39 / HOPE	43	36	84%
LTS OKC Apartments Mental Health Association OK	15	13	87%
MHA Supportive Housing Mental Health Association OK	46	50	109%
Palo Duro I & II / Neighborhood Services	36	34	100%
YHDP PSH / Homeless Alliance	10	11	110%
Alliance Encampment PSH Homeless Alliance	21	21	100%
City Care Encampment PSH / City Care	10	10	100%
North Care Encampment / North Care	2	2	100%
Catholic Charities Encampment Catholic Charities	3	3	100%
Parkside Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	11	11	100%
Lodges Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	11	11	100%
*VASH / VA	591	591	100%
Total	1114	1105	99%

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

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

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

Family units may be considered full without all beds being occupied.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Carolyn Williams Transitional Neighborhood Services	10	8	80%
TH / Catholic Charities	17	14	82%
Gatewood / Neighborhood Service	8	8	100%
Hope House OKC / Hope House	29	21	72%
Martha's House / Neighborhood Services	28	33	118%
Housing to Hope Youth Mental Health Association OK	8	7	88%
Park View Place Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	26	20	77%
Phoenix House Phoenix Recovery Institute	19	27	142%
Transitional Living Program / Pivot	25	22	88%
Atlas / Sisu Youth	11	9	82%
Friendship House / VA	16	6	38%
Safe Homes / Homeless Alliance	37	34	92%
Quest Transitional Living / Sisu	18	16	89%
YHDP TH / Sisu	7	7	100%
Total	259	232	90%

EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES)

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Night Shelter / City Care	145	139	96%
ES / City Rescue Mission	252	239	95%
Winter Shelter / City Rescue Mission	90	117	130%
Recovery / City Rescue Mission	60	51	85%
ES / Grace Rescue Mission	30	30	100%
ES / Cardinal House	17	25	147%
Park View Place ES Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	4	2	50%
The Point / Pivot	12	11	92%
ES / Salvation Army	109	111	102%
Youth Shelter / Sisu Youth	30	32	107%
HCHV ES / Phoenix Recovery Institute	12	12	100%
YWCA ES / YWCA	59	59	100%
Emergency Night Shelter Homeless Alliance	300	310	103%
Serenity / VA	8	8	100%
Total	1,114	1,146	103%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *Key to Home Partnership* is grateful for all of the people and agencies who contributed time, staff, resources and effort to the count. It could not be completed without the support and dedication of the many service providers working daily to provide safe housing for people experiencing the crisis of homelessness in OKC. We owe a distinct acknowledgement to the volunteers who administered the Point In Time survey, Coordinated Street Outreach for helping to map street count locations and the Homeless Alliance for helping to recruit and train volunteers.

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the people who completed surveys and shared their experiences and reasons for homelessness. Together, they provide us with a better understanding of the local magnitude of homelessness and inspire us to continue working to ensure that homelessness in OKC is brief, rare and non-recurring. Contributors to the 2024 Point In Time count are listed below.

City Care	Joe's Addiction	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Upward Transitions
Catholic Charities	Mental Health Association Oklahoma	Oklahoma County Social Services	Urban League of Greater OKC
City Rescue Mission	Metropolitan Library System	Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
EMBARK	Neighborhood Services Organization	Oklahoma VA Healthcare System	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Grace Rescue Mission	NorthCare	Pivot	YWCA of OKC
Heartline 211	OKCPD Homeless Outreach Unit	Positive Tomorrows	
Homeless Alliance	OKC Housing Authority	Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	
HOPE Community Services	OKC Public Schools	Salvation Army of Central OK	
HopeHouse	Oklahoma Department of Human Services	Sisu Youth	

SOURCES

“Out of Reach 2023”

National Low Income Housing Coalition (2023)

HUD Homeless Data Exchange 2.0

hudhdx2.info

“Oklahoma City Housing Affordability Study”

Economic and Planning Systems, Inc. (2021)

PHOTO CREDITS

Nathan Poppe & Curbside Chronicle

LOCAL RESOURCES

Heartline • Dial 2-1-1

If you need housing or other assistance someone will connect you with a resource.

City Care | Overnight Shelter

532 N Villa Ave. • (405) 724-8439

City Rescue Mission

Overnight Shelter

800 W California Ave.
(405) 232-2709

Diversion Hub

Justice Involvement Services

220 NW 10th St.
(405) 594-8843

Homeless Alliance | Day Shelter

1724 NW 4th St. • (405) 415-8410

Homeless Alliance

Overnight Winter Shelter

501 N Indiana Ave.
(405) 415-8410, Open Nov-March

Jesus House

Residential Recovery Program

1335 W Sheridan Ave.
(405) 232-7164

Joe’s Addiction | Day Shelter

1725 SE 59th St. • (405) 768-5161

Lottie House | Day Shelter

1311 N Lottie Ave.
(405) 600-3074

Palomar

Domestic Violence Services

1140 N Hudson Ave.
(405) 552-1010

Pivot | Youth Overnight Shelter

201 NE 50th St. • (405) 235-7537

Salvation Army

Overnight Shelter

1001 N Pennsylvania Ave.
(405) 246-1133

Sanctuary Women’s

Development Center

Day Shelter • (405) 526-2321

Sisu Youth Services

Youth Overnight Shelter

2129 NW 30th St.
(405) 459-7478

YWCA Domestic Violence

Overnight Shelter

(405) 948-1770

“The test of our progress is not
whether we add more to the
abundance of those who have much;
it is whether we provide enough for
those who have too little.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



keytohomeokc.org