



OKC POINT IN TIME 2022 | **SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS**

IMAGE CAPTIONS

Cover: A man walks through the snow with his belongings during February 2021 blizzard. Heavy snowfall was accompanied by below freezing temperatures for over a week. Mental Health Association OK, the Homeless Alliance and OKC Homeless Services opened the Willard Temporary Winter Shelter. At the peak of the storm, it sheltered nearly 300 people and another 200 were provided hotel space. These efforts undoubtedly saved lives.

Page 7: A WestTown Day Shelter visitor receives a COVID-19 vaccine from Healing Hands Healthcare, an organization that provides healthcare for people who are homeless. Once COVID-19 vaccinations were available, Healing Hands held vaccination clinics at OKC shelter facilities.

Page 8: Local service organizations take a group photo before starting morning outreach for the Point in Time count.

Page 11: People in line outside the Will Rogers Building to file for unemployment in late June 2020. Unemployment increased significantly during the pandemic. In June 2020, 116,000 Oklahomans were unemployed, which is nearly double from 2019.

Page 15: A volunteer helps conduct the Point in Time count.

IN MEMORY

Unfortunately, many people who experience homelessness die before they get the help they need to secure a place of their own. Dying on the street is not peaceful. Because people in the homeless population experience disproportionately high rates of stress, violence, health problems and the inability to control food and medication intake, it is reasonable to conclude this list would be shorter if the people on it had a home and regular access to health care.

William A.	Alicia E.	Chuck L.	David P.
Jeffrey A.	Roger E.	Andrew L.	Christopher Q.
Anthony B.	Jackie F.	David L.	Eugene R.
Darren B.	Francis F.	William L.	Matthew R.
Trevor B.	Brian G.	Tony M.	Lisa S.
Steven B.	Terry G.	Kenny M.	Marshall S.
James B.	Jason H.	Denver M.	David S.
Howard B.	Donald H.	William M.	Charles S.
Brent C.	Vincent J.	Dale A. M.	Bill S.
Noel C.	Kehevan J.	Tim M.	Dandrell S.
Kenneth C.	Vicki J.	Danny M.	Kendall S.
Michael C.	Jessica K.	Andy N.	Johnny S.
Danny D.	Tiry K.	James P.	Brian S.
Joseph D.	Bobby L.	Keith P.	Craig S.
Greg D.	Kathleen L.	Joshua P.	Robert S.

SUMMARY

Early morning, March 3, 2022, at the WestTown Resource Center, local homeless service organizations met to begin the 2022 Point in Time count. This was the first census since 2020, as there was no count in 2021 due to the pandemic. The count, usually the last week of Jan., was delayed twice because of the pandemic and a snowstorm. The pandemic and unusually difficult winter weather led to service organizations having to dramatically alter the way they conducted services the past two years. Staff have had to shift more attention to emergency services to keep people safe while also trying to proactively move people into stable housing. It hasn't been an easy feat and our community owes them all a debt of gratitude.

Photos in the report help capture events that defined the last 24 months of homelessness in OKC, like the loss of income that may have lasting impacts. Information gathered for the Point in Time count can help determine these impacts and their significance. The snapshot in this report allows OKC to see where trends were going before the pandemic and how they will change as it (hopefully) approaches an end. The City and service providers use the count to quantify and prioritize housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness, a difficult population to accurately count. Many factors can affect the count, like weather and counting strategies.

This one-day count shouldn't be considered an exclusive measuring tool. Despite the community's improved street outreach efforts, it's likely the difficulties conducting the count led to an artificially lower outcome than reality. The count was less than those counted in 2020, but doesn't reflect a significant decrease. This indicates there are obstacles preventing the community from rapidly housing more people. The most significant obstacle is access to affordable rental housing in a market where it's more difficult for the low income population than any time in history.

While Oklahoma City's service provider community cannot change all factors leading to homelessness, they're always focused on using the resources available to house people as quickly as possible. With this goal and a historic influx of affordable housing resources; a significant, sustained reduction of homelessness in OKC can be achieved.

Solutions

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

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

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

Help is coming this decade. In 2019, voters approved the MAPS 4 program, which includes \$50 million to fight homelessness with “housing first,” affordable housing and more. Investment from service providers must continue.

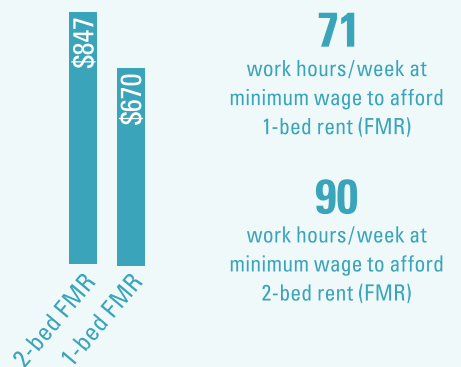
“Two people working full-time on Oklahoma’s minimum wage can’t afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market value without exceeding the recommended 30% of income to be spent on housing.”

OKLAHOMA HOUSING

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

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

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



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 March 3. This one-day count is only a snapshot, and is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness. This report provides a longitudinal analysis of the City's PIT data from the 2017 to 2022 counts. Its findings are one perspective on the state of homelessness in the city on only one day. Data gathered during the PIT and described in this report should be considered not an exact and exhaustive number, but a useful tool to understand the scope of the problem and identify areas for improvement.

DEFINITIONS

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

Area Median Income (AMI)

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

Continuum of Care (COC)

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

Emergency Shelter (ES)

Short-term lodging for people experiencing a housing crisis.

Fair Market Rent (FMR)

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

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

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

The PIT collects data from three different household types:

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

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



Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

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

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

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

Sheltered homeless

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

Transitional Housing (TH)

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

Unsheltered homeless

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



COUNTING METHODS

In 2022, the count included standardized survey forms to collect information from people living on the streets, at meal sites, or in locations that don't participate in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The count employed HMIS to collect information from agencies that enter data about people who are homeless. The survey instruments were designed to mirror the HMIS data elements, allowing the survey data to be consistent with the sheltered data from HMIS. All PIT volunteers got training to properly administer the survey.

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

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

Location Counts

Emergency Shelters

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

Transitional Housing

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

Meal Sites

On March 3, 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.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a federal program that supports sustainable funding for youth programs within a community's service area. The program is highly competitive and only awarded to a handful of applicants annually. Oklahoma City has been working to obtain the program for several years and it was included in the *Strategies to Address Homelessness in Oklahoma City* approved by the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness in 2021. That year, OKC was awarded the program. Since then, the service community has undertaken a rapid planning process to determine what the greatest needs are for unaccompanied youth in OKC and what programs best meet those needs. The culmination of these efforts will be a Coordinated Community Plan for housing and services for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. The program will renew annually, providing a sustainable source of funding for youth services in OKC.

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.

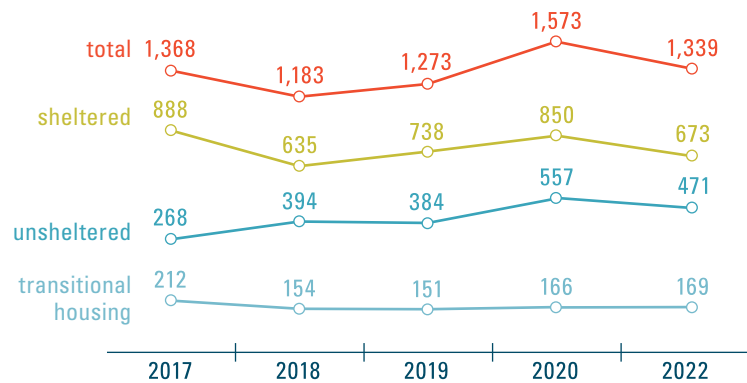
1,339
HOMELESS
IN OKC
MARCH 3, 2022

— VARIABLES —

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

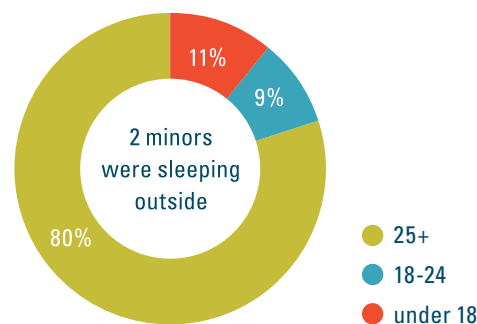
TOTAL HOMELESS

There were 1,339 homeless individuals in OKC, which was down from 1,573 in 2020. This number may be low because the count was rescheduled to a warmer day. Shelter stays were lower than usual, and it's more difficult to locate people outdoors. Regardless, 1,339 is higher than the 2018 and 2019 counts and shouldn't be ignored. Local service providers believe the number is the same as 2020, if not higher.



AGE

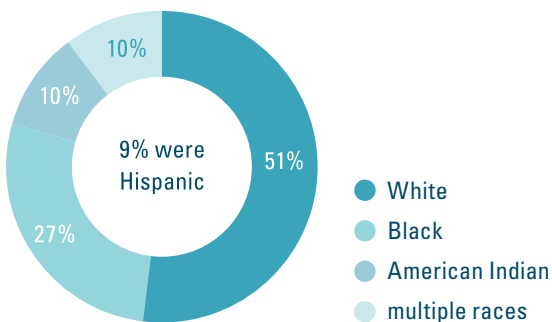
Though the overall number of people in each age group may fluctuate from year to year, as a percentage of the total population, each group is fairly stable.





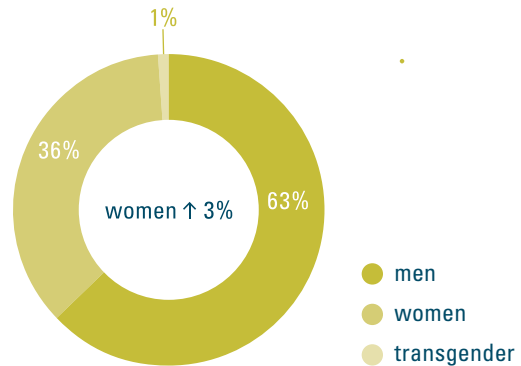
RACE & ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity changes were relatively flat from 2019 to 2020. Of groups with a large sample size, white people had the biggest percentage change, decreasing from 60.5% to 51%. Seven were Asian and 9 were Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.



GENDER

Gender saw slight changes from 2020. Men are less likely to be sheltered than women. However, the percentage of unsheltered women rose slightly to 36%. One person was gender non-conforming.



chronically homeless

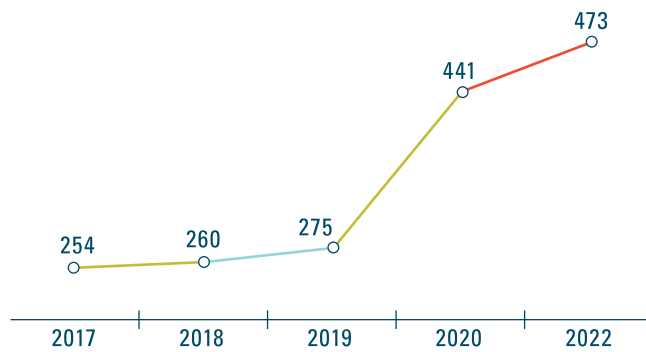
An unaccompanied homeless person with a disabling condition, or a family with a disabled adult head-of-household, who has either been continuously homeless for a year, or at least four times in three years with a combined total of at least 12 months.



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 costs. The OKC chronically homeless count continues to rise, making up 61% of the unsheltered. While service providers were more reactive due to Covid-19, the service community is planning proactive shifts in programming to refocus efforts on permanent housing for this population.



veteran

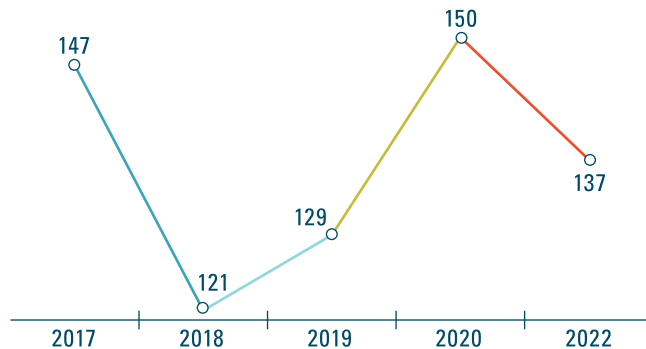
Someone who has served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. This doesn't include inactive military reserves or National Guard, unless the person was called to active duty.



48% are chronically homeless

VETERANS

To address veteran homelessness, housing providers, Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VAISH), Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) and other providers of veteran services meet several times a month for Veteran's Coordinated Case Management (VCCM). This collaborative pools their resources to house homeless veterans. The total number of veterans located the night of the count decreased, while the chronically homeless veteran count increased 10%.



families

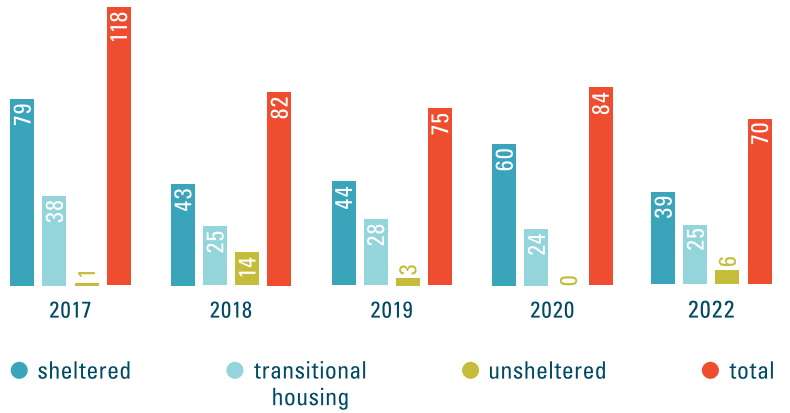
Homeless household living with at least one minor.



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

FAMILIES

Early childhood homelessness has been linked to child welfare involvement and school failure. OKC addresses this using the Emergency Solutions Grant and Supportive Housing Program. These programs help people stay in their homes and provide services to re-house families. In 2022, there were 216 people in 70 households experiencing family homelessness - six of those families were unsheltered.



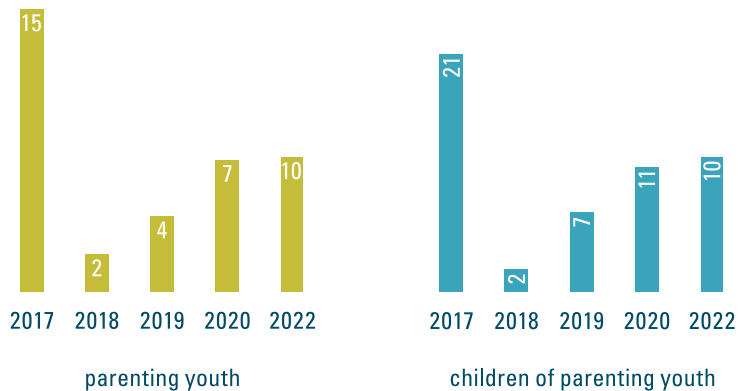
parenting youth

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

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

PARENTING YOUTH

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



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.

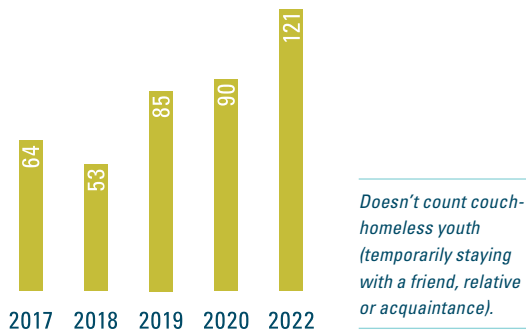


MORE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN OR EXPERIENCE

- > violence
- > sex assault
- > crime
- > physical illness
- > severe anxiety & depression

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

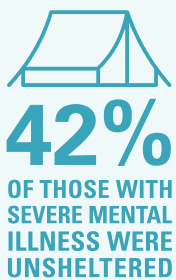
It's harder to count unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness because they often try not to be located. Some also don't access services because they don't know about them. Many may be nervous about mandated reporting to parents or guardians, or about perceived rules for accessing the services. Oklahoma City Public Schools counted 2,184 homeless students at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Of those, 1,952 were couch homeless.



special needs

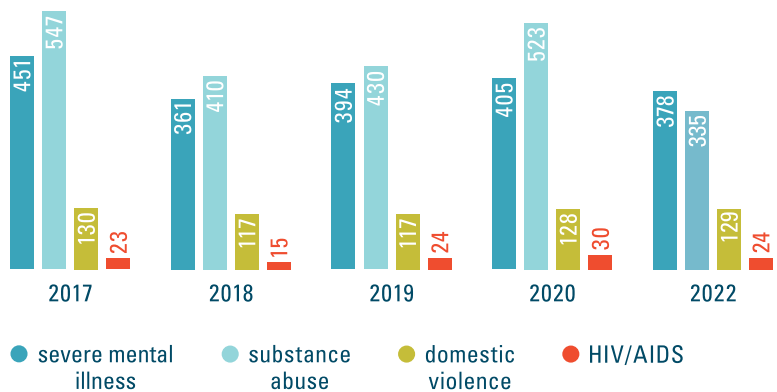
Someone living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or living outdoors who has one or more disabling conditions.

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

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





additional unsheltered data

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



ADDITIONAL UNSHELTERED DATA

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

83%
became homeless in Oklahoma

69% OKC
14% another city in Oklahoma

48%
experiencing homelessness for the first time

137
have a physical disability

26%
have co-occurring mental illness & substance abuse

18%
had contact with the foster care system

BED COUNTS & USE RATES

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Pershing Center / City Care	60	57	95%
Westlawn / City Care	24	24	100%
City Care Affordable Housing City Care	28	25	89%
Remerge / City Care	15	15	100%
CEC-Journey Home Community Enhancement Corp.	18	5	28%
CEC-COC-24 Community Enhancement Corp.	34	21	62%
CEC-HOME Funds-12 Community Enhancement Corp.	12	13	108%
CEC-HOME Funds-28 Community Enhancement Corp.	28	24	86%
Building Foundations for Families Homeless Alliance	99	91	92%
Journey Home PSH / Homeless Alliance	21	26	124%
Hope Chronic 32 / HOPE	49	45	92%
Hope Housing Plus / HOPE	25	27	108%
Hope Partners in Housing / HOPE	40	39	98%
Shelter Plus Care 39 / HOPE	51	47	92%
LTS OKC Apartments Mental Health Association OK	17	15	88%
MHA Supportive Housing Mental Health Association OK	46	15	89%
Palo Duro I & II Neighborhood Services	36	30	82%
Lodges Red Rock Behavioral Health Serv.	14	13	93%
Park Side Red Rock Behavioral Health Serv.	12	12	100%
*VASH / VA	385	385	100%
Total	1014	955	94%

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

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

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

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
AIDS Support / Winds House	12	9	75%
Neighborhood Services Carolyn Williams - Transitional	17	12	71%
Transitional Housing / Catholic Charities	18	11	61%
Neighborhood Services / Gatewood	8	8	100%
Hope House OKC / Hope House	32	29	91%
Neighborhood Services / Martha's House	28	20	71%
Housing to Hope Youth Mental Health Association OK	8	7	88%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services Park View Place	26	23	88%
Phoenix Recovery Institute Phoenix House	19	19	100%
Transitional Living / Pivot	5	9	180%
Transitional Living / Sisu Youth	6	6	100%
Friendship House / VA	16	16	100%
Total	195	169	87%

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Program & Organization	Total Beds	PIT Count	Use Rate
Night Shelter / City Care	145	145	100%
Emergency Shelter / City Rescue Mission	215	472	46%
Emergency Shelter / Grace Rescue Mission	31	30	103%
Night Shelter / Homeless Alliance	47	75	63%
Emergency Shelter / Jesus House	35	35	100%
Emergency Shelter / OK Halfway House	17	11	65%
First Step Men / OKC Metro Alliance	4	4	100%
First Step Women / OKC Metro Alliance	7	8	88%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services Park View Place ES	3	3	100%
Emergency Shelter / Pivot	9	4	225%
The Point / Pivot	7	12	58%
Shelter / Salvation Army	97	109	89%
Youth Shelter / Sisu Youth	23	16	100%
HCHV/EH-Serenity Outreach Recovery / VA	6	8	75%
YWCA / YWCA ES	33	51	65%
Total	673	989	68%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the people who completed surveys and shared their experiences and reasons for homelessness. Together, they provide us with a better understanding of the local magnitude of homelessness and inspire us to continue working to ensure that homelessness in OKC is brief, rare and non-recurring. Contributors of the 2022 Point in Time count are listed below.

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

SOURCES

“The Hard, Cold Facts About the Death of Homeless People”
National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2006)

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

“Homelessness & Health: What’s the Connection?”
National Health Care for the Homeless Council (2011)

HUD Homeless Data Exchange
hudhdx.info

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

“Oklahoma City Affordable Housing Strategy”
Oklahoma City Housing Authority (2017)

“Out of Reach 2019”
National Low Income Housing Coalition (2019)

PHOTO CREDITS

Nathan Poppe & Curbside
Chronicle

LOCAL RESOURCES

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

Catholic Charities
catholiccharitiesok.org

City Care
citycareokc.org

City Rescue Mission
cityrescue.org

Grace Rescue Mission
(405) 232-5766

**Greater Oklahoma City
Urban League**
urbanleagueok.org

Homeless Alliance
homelessalliance.org

HopeHouse
hopehouseokc.com

**HOPE Community
Services**
hopecsi.org

Jesus House
jesushouseokc.org

Joe’s Addiction
outrageous.love

**Latino Community
Development Agency**
lcdaok.com

**Neighborhood Services
Organization**
nsookc.org

OKC Metro Alliance
okcmetroalliance.com

**Oklahoma AIDS Care
Fund**
okaidscarefund.com

Phoenix House
(405) 525-0201

RAIN OK
rainoklahoma.org

**Red Rock Behavioral
Health**
red-rock.com

**Salvation Army of Central
Oklahoma**
salvationarmyokcac.org

SISU Youth
sisuyouth.org

Sunbeam Family Services
sunbeamfamilyservices.org

Upward Transitions
upwardtransitions.org

Winds House
windshouseokc.org

Pivot
pivotok.org

YWCA
ywcaokc.org

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

Nelson Mandela



@homelessservices • fb.com/homeokc

