

# 2023 Homeless Count & Survey Analysis



The Way Home

**WHAT:** The Point-in-Time ("PIT") Count & Survey is a count of people experiencing homelessness — both sheltered and unsheltered — on a single night in January. It is a snapshot of homelessness in our community at a moment in time.

**WHERE:** Throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas.

**WHO:** Organized by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the lead agency to The Way Home, our local homeless response system. Conducted by 450 volunteers.

**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 24, 2023, was the "night of record" and the night of the Sheltered Count. The Unsheltered Count was conducted Jan. 25-27.

**WHY:** The Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process. In the 2022 funding cycle, the Houston region received more than \$46 million in CoC funding for homelessness interventions including permanent housing, supportive services, and planning funds. The Count illustrates trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness and provides insights into the effectiveness of our community's housing programs and homeless services.

## 2023 Key Findings

61% DECREASE  
in overall homelessness since 2011.

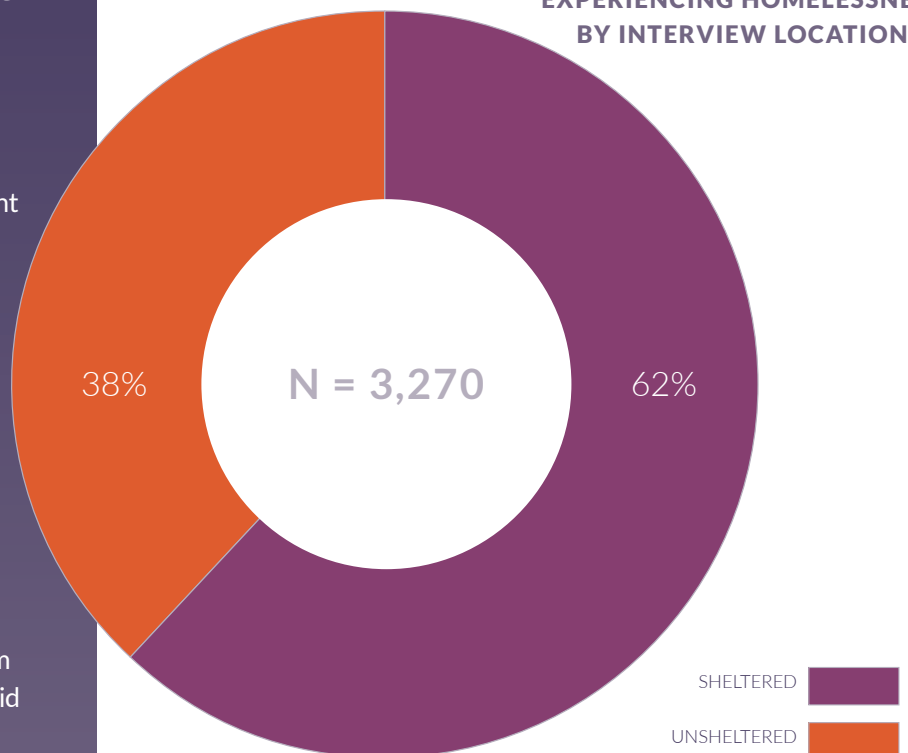
59,000 PEOPLE  
touched the Homelessness Management  
Information System (HMIS) in 2022,  
INCLUDING 22,600  
who accessed a homeless program.

3,270 PEOPLE  
were experiencing homelessness  
in the three-county area on the  
night of Jan. 23, 2023.

MORE THAN  
9,300 PEOPLE  
people were living in a housing program  
(Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid  
Rehousing) of The Way Home on the  
night of Jan. 23, 2023.

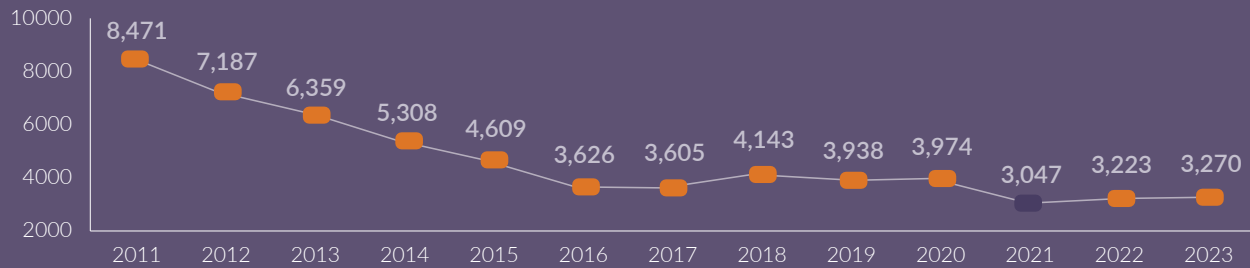
MORE THAN  
28,000 PEOPLE  
have been placed in permanent  
housing since 2012.

TOTAL NUMBER OF THOSE  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS  
BY INTERVIEW LOCATION



SHELTERED, HARRIS COUNTY	1,803	57.7%
SHELTERED, MONTGOMERY COUNTY	178	2.9%
SHELTERED, FORT BEND COUNTY	47	1.4%
UNSHELTERED, HARRIS COUNTY	1,186	36.3%
UNSHELTERED, MONTGOMERY COUNTY	36	1.1%
UNSHELTERED, FORT BEND COUNTY	20	0.6%

## COMPARING THE COUNTS: 2011 - 2022



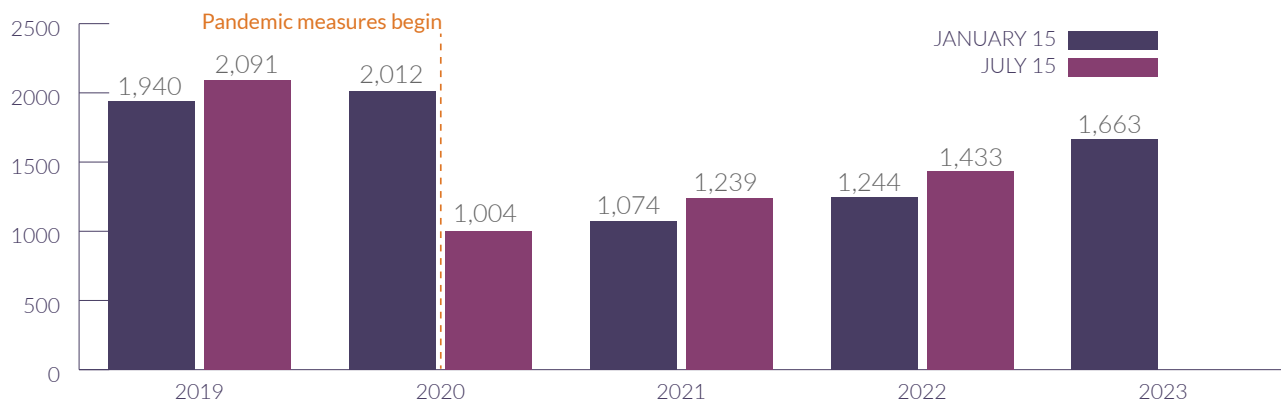
## CHANGES IN THE PROPORTION OF SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

This year, the PIT Count found 1,242 people living unsheltered, a decrease of 17% since 2022. Meanwhile, the 2023 Count found 2,028 people staying in shelter, an increase of 18% over 2022. Demographic data suggests that people didn't simply relocate from the streets to shelter.

The increase in the sheltered number is likely due to relaxation of pandemic restrictions on maximum shelter bed occupancy levels. In other words, shelter occupancy was lowered due to COVID-19 but is now returning to pre-pandemic levels. A high instance (51%) of people in shelters experiencing homelessness for the first time in the past year suggests that the increase in sheltered homelessness

is not simply due to the migration of those living unsheltered to shelters.

Meanwhile, the decrease in the unsheltered number is likely due to the partners of The Way Home having undertaken several initiatives to accelerate access to housing. Most recently, with investments from the City of Houston and Harris County, the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP) made use of federal COVID relief funds to place people in permanent housing. The funding also allowed for the "decommissioning" of encampments, and the City's new Housing Navigation Center has been crucial in getting people off the streets and on the path to housing.



## HMIS SHELTER OCCUPANCY - 2019-2023

## UNDERSTANDING THE PIT COUNT

### WHAT THE COUNT DOES TELL US

- Approximately how many people were experiencing homelessness in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties on the night of **Jan. 24, 2023**
- Trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness
- Insights into the effectiveness of our community's housing programs and homeless services

### WHAT THE COUNT CAN'T TELL US

- The total number of people who experienced homelessness in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties **for any period of time over the course of the past year**
- How many people are precariously housed, e.g., couch surfing, on the verge of eviction, or others who do not meet HUD's definition of literal homelessness
- How many people are living in poverty