YOUR WAY HOME
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

# 2024 Point-in-Time Count and
# Fiscal Year 2023 System Performance Measures Report

## What is the Point-in-Time Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care (CoCs) conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. The PIT Count provides a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness and helps communities plan services and programs to address local needs, shows strengths and gaps in the local response system, and measures progress toward ending homelessness.

## What are HUD System Performance Measures?

The System Performance Measures (SysPM) report is a summary and year-to-year comparison of system wide counts, averages, and medians related to areas of performance for homelessness services in a CoC. The purpose of the SysPM is to help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness and provide a more complete picture of how well a community is achieving this goal. Reporting periods for SysPM follow the Federal Fiscal Year (FY), which is October 1st through September 30th. Most of the SysPM rely on the use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data that reflects the full system of homeless assistance available in each community. Each year SysPM reports are compared to previous years. This helps the community gauge their progress toward ending homelessness. HUD uses this data as a competitive element in the annual CoC Program Competition and to assess the state of the homeless response system nationally.

## 2024 Point-in-Time Count Analysis

The 2024 PIT count used methodologies approved by the [PA-504 Continuum of Care Governing Board](#) in 2023 to ensure the PIT will remain more accurate and comprehensive than it has been in years past. This includes participation from street outreach professionals and invited community leaders who have local knowledge of their own communities to volunteer the night of the PIT Count.
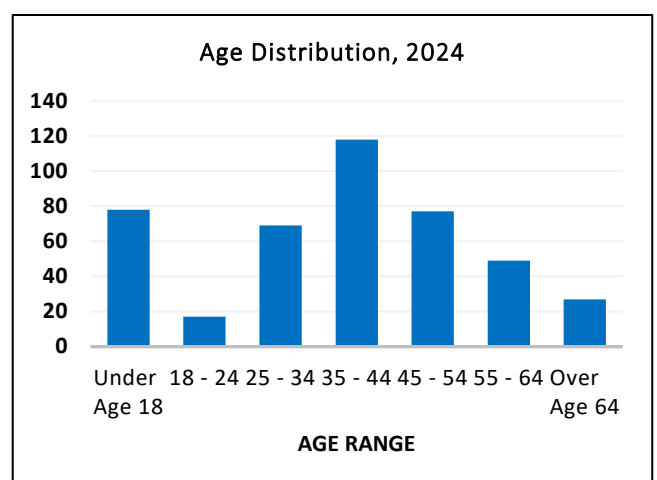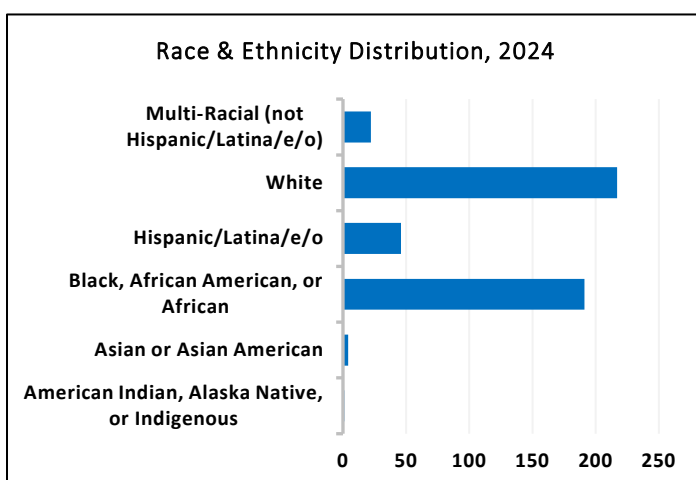
*Important Note: All submitted 2024 PIT Count numbers are preliminary until confirmed by HUD*

**Overall PIT Count Total**: 22% more individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2024 PIT Count compared to 2023

|                               | **2023** | **2024** | **%Change** |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| **Total Number of Households** | 263      | 300      | +14%        |
| **Total Number of Persons**    | 357      | 435      | +22%        |

The demographics of those identified during the 2024 PIT count are **consistent** with the demographics of those counted in 2023.

- There remains a clear racial disparity amongst those experiencing homelessness as identified in the 2024 PIT count, in alignment with previous Point-in-Time Counts.
- According to [the U.S. Census](#), 78% of the total population Montgomery County is white and 10% is Black. However, 50% of those counted were white and 44% were black.
    - 2023 – 48% Black, 2024 – 44% Black
    - 2023 – 46% White, 2024 – 50% White



Race & Ethnicity Distribution, 2024



Age Distribution, 2024

**Sheltered PIT Count Total**: The total number of sheltered households counted was up 35% from the 2023 PIT Count.

|  | 2023 | 2024 | %Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Number of Sheltered Households** | 170 | 229 | +35% |
| **Total Number of Sheltered Persons** | 263 | 334 | +27% |

The Sheltered PIT Count total includes all individuals sleeping in emergency shelter, including family shelter, transitional housing, year round single adult shelter, emergency hotel stays, and Code Blue cold weather emergency shelter.

The Montgomery County Your Way Home partnership increased Code Blue emergency weather sheltering capacity in 2024, leading to an increase in the sheltered individuals counted.
- 2024: Seven (7) Code Blue shelters with 170 beds
- 2023: Five (5) Code Blue shelters with 110 beds

Chronic Homelessness: The total count of sheltered individuals experiencing Chronic Homelessness has **increased by over 169%**

- o 2023 – 29 Sheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals
- o 2024 – 78 Sheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals

**The Housing Inventory Count (HIC):** A point-in-time inventory of Your Way Home projects that provide beds to persons who are homeless including Rapid Rehousing programs.

|  | 2023 | 2024 | %Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Number of Beds** | 810 | 943 | +16% |
| **Utilization Rate** | 92% | 99% | +7% |

**Unsheltered PIT Count Total**: The 2024 PIT Count saw an 8% decrease in unsheltered individuals who were encountered compared to 2023.
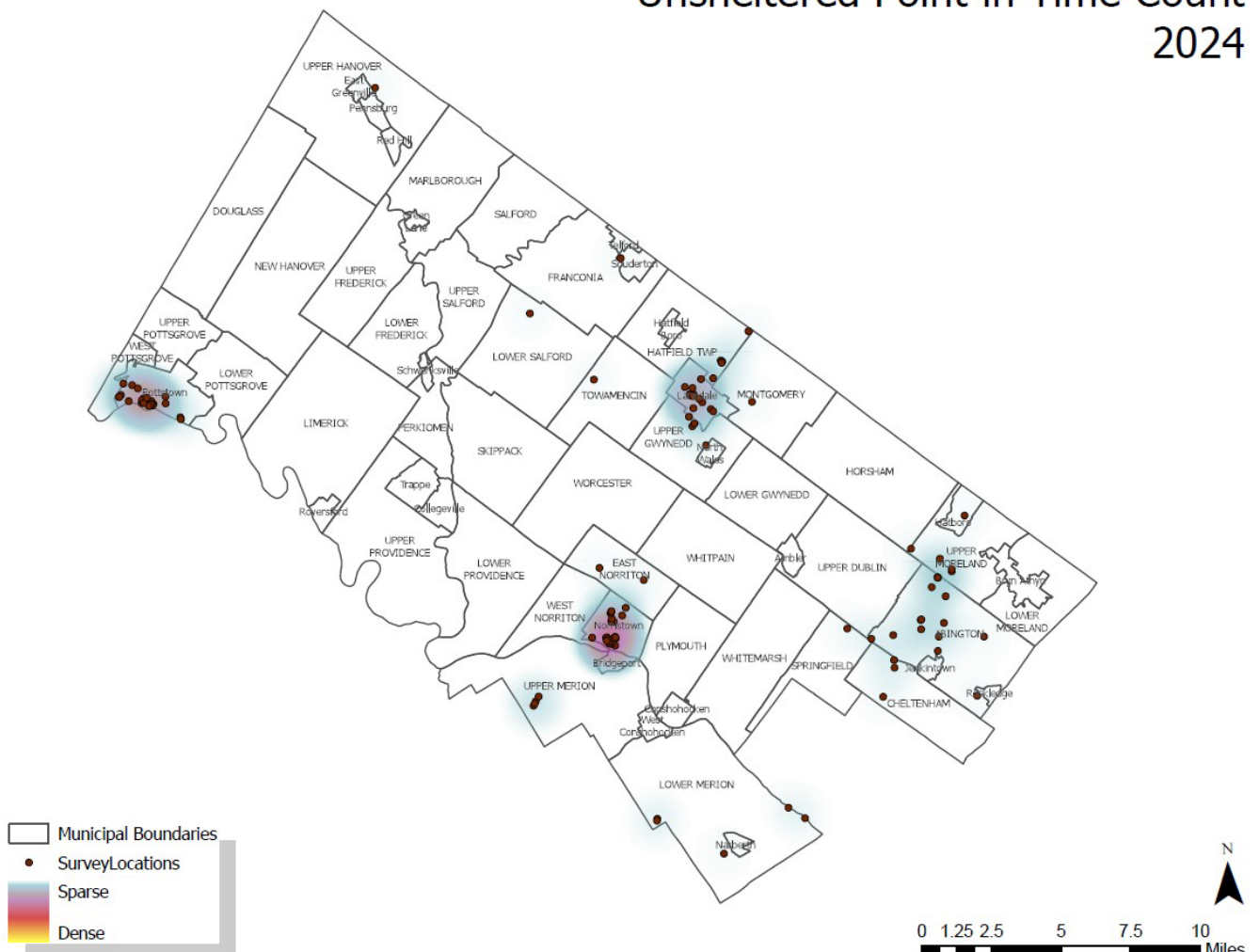
|  | 2023 | 2024 | %Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Number of Unsheltered Households** | 92 | 71 | -23% |
| **Total Number of Unsheltered Persons** | 110 | 101 | -8% |

The Unsheltered PIT Count total includes all individuals encountered sleeping outside, in a vehicle, or any place not meant for human habitation.

- **Unsheltered Children and Youth:**
  - No children under 18 were found unsheltered during the 2024 PIT count.
  - The 2024 PIT Count saw a 70% decrease in unsheltered youth (aged 18-24).
    - 2023 = 10 Unsheltered Youth (18-24)
    - 2024 = 3 Unsheltered Youth (18-24)

**Municipalities:** Pottstown, Norristown, Lansdale and the Abington area were found to have the largest population of unsheltered homelessness in Montgomery County.



Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count 2024

# FY2023 System Performance Measures Analysis

*Data Source: Your Way Home Homeless Management Information System and National Summary of Homeless System Performance Measures 2015-2022 (HUD)*

**Based on data reported during Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023)**
Generally, the data indicates that there is an increased need for provider capacity in Montgomery County, and that Your Way Home providers were performing similarly in FY2023, but have encountered a much greater need in our community.

- **First Time Homelessness**: There was a 27% increase in people experiencing homelessness for the first time
    - FY22: 672 individuals enrolled in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing with no prior program enrollment
    - FY23: 855 individuals enrolled in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing with no prior program enrollment
- **Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Enrollment:** There was a 24% increase in the unduplicated total clients who were enrolled.
    - FY22**:** 909 individuals enrolled
    - FY23**:** 1126 individuals enrolled
- **Shelter Length of Stay**: The amount of time households remain enrolled in an Emergency Shelter decreased 20% from FY2022.
    - FY22**:** 68 day average (National Average: 158 days)
    - FY23**:** 54 day average
    - FY23 YWH Goal: 90 days average length of stay in shelter

**More individuals utilized Emergency Shelters, and they remained there for a shorter length of time than the previous fiscal year.**

- **Street Outreach Exits**: There was a 47% increase in the number of people who exited Street Outreach.
    - FY22: 1571 individuals exited street outreach; 158 individuals exited to permanent housing
    - FY23: 2313 individuals exited street outreach; 223 individuals exited to permanent housing

**10% of those who were exited from Street Outreach in FY23 (223 individuals) were exited to a Permanent Housing destination.**

- **Program Stayers:** Individuals who remain enrolled at the end of the fiscal year. (This includes clients who exited any program and re-enrolled.) There was 70% decrease in program stayers in 2023.
    - FY22 Total Stayers: 165
    - FY23 Total Stayers: 50
    - **Program Stayers Income**
        - Stayers with Increased Earned Income: 4 individuals or 8% of total stayers (3% Increase from 2022)

- Stayers with Increase Non-Employment Benefits: 15 individuals or 30% of total stayers (3% increase from 2022)
- Stayers with Any Kind of Increased Income: 19 individuals or 38% of total stayers (7% increase from 2022)

- **Program Leavers:** Individuals who exited and were no longer enrolled at the end of the fiscal year.
  - FY22 Total Leavers: 195
  - FY23 Total Leavers: 195
  - **Program Leavers Income**
    - Leavers with Increased Earned Income: 32 individuals or 16% of total leavers (3% decrease from 2022)
      - National Average in 2022: 14.2%
    - Leavers with Increased Non-Employment Benefits: 21 individuals or 11% of total leavers (4% decreased from 2022)
    - Leavers with Any Kind of Increased Income: 48 individuals or 25% of total leavers (7% decrease from 2022)
      - National Average in 2022: 31.9%

- **Exits to Permanent Housing from Emergency Shelter, Permanent Housing, and Rapid Re-Housing**: Through the last two year fiscal years (2021-2023), there has been a 3% decrease in the number of people who have exited Your Way Home programming to a permanent housing destination.
  - FY22: 515 individuals; 49.42% of individuals
  - FY23: 500 individuals; 40.42% of individuals

  National Average in FY22: 33.9% of individuals who exited emergency shelter, permanent housing, and rapid rehousing.

- **Return to Homelessness**: The rate of those who have returned to homelessness during the last two year fiscal years (2021-2023) has increased by 6%. This measure shows the percentage of clients who exited homelessness to a positive destination, but then returned within 2 years.
  - FY22: 94 individuals or 16% of the total individuals who exited to housing between 2020-2022 **(National Average: 16.5%)**
  - FY23: 156 individuals or 22% of the total individuals who exited to housing between 2021-2023

## FY2023 System Performance Measures Final Thoughts
*Source: Your Way Home Homeless Management Information Systems Data and Outcome Action Team*

The Your Way Home public-private partnership continues to provide services to a similar number of individuals across all programs. However, there has been a noticeable uptick in the number of individuals seeking these services, coinciding with a deepening affordable housing crisis. A key indicator of this growing demand is the 16% increase in available shelter beds, matched by a 7% rise in their utilization rate. Despite some expansion in system capacity, the demand for services is surpassing the available support. National trends attribute the surge in homelessness to escalating rents and living costs, stagnant wages and public benefits, economic and political instability, local barriers to zoning reform and affordable housing initiatives, more frequent severe weather incidents, and the criminalization of street homelessness.

## Press Release: Your Way Home Releases Official Submission Numbers For Montgomery County 2024 Point-In-Time Count
*Source: Montgomery County HHS, Office of Housing and Community Development*

NORRISTOWN, PA–On Tuesday, January 23, 2024 seventy-eight volunteers comprising local community leaders and homeless service providers assisted in the effort to count all people experiencing homelessness on one night in Montgomery County.

The 2024 **Annual HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) Count** identified **435** individuals sleeping in the County's emergency shelters (including hotel rooms paid for with public funding), transitional housing projects, or outdoors.

"The Point-in-Time Count offers us one snapshot of what homelessness may look like on any given night, and can help us plan our strategies and interventions accordingly."
said **Kayleigh Silver, Administrator of the HHS Office of Housing and Community Development**. "We have not seen the major increases in numbers that other parts of the country have seen, and that is due to the coordinated efforts of services available through Your Way Home."

Specifically, the 2024 PIT Count found the following:

- o **334** people sleeping in a site-based emergency shelter on the night of the Count, including active Code Blue shelters and transitional housing facilities, a 27% increase from 2023.
- o **101** people found unsheltered on the night of the Count, an 8% decrease from the 110 people found in 2023.

The increase in sheltered individuals encountered in the 2024 PIT Count in Montgomery County reflects an increase in Code Blue sheltering capacity in 2024, which allowed more individuals to access shelter during a cold night in January.

Volunteers provided assistance that night, offering supplies to any homeless individuals located outdoors, as well as transportation to available Code Blue shelters. Items distributed were recommended by the Your Way Home Lived Experience Advisory Team and donated by the community through the Your Way Home PIT Count Wish List.

Volunteers surveyed areas in and around Abington, Ambler, Ardmore, Bridgeport, Cheltenham, East Greenville, King of Prussia, Lansdale, Lower Merion, Norristown, Pennsburg, Pottstown, Royersford, Souderton, and Willow Grove; unsheltered individuals were encountered throughout the county.

The PIT Count was conducted by Montgomery County PA-504 Continuum of Care (CoC) under the direction of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) Office of Housing and Community Development.

The HHS Office of Housing and Community Development revised its PIT methodology in 2022 and maintained that approach this year to include targeted and intentional outreach to community leaders with local knowledge of those experiencing homelessness for participation in the Count.

The need for homeless services and affordable housing in Montgomery County is great. The Point-in-Time Count helps the county have more knowledge of those experiencing housing instability.

Systemic drivers into homelessness have been stronger than the ability to quickly re-house households experiencing homelessness. Lack of housing affordability remains a large factor in housing instability in Montgomery County, with rents having increased 15% and home prices increasing by 25% since the start of the pandemic.

Resources have been made available to combat this challenge. The HHS Office of Housing and Community Development's proposed 2024-25 Housing Action Plan budget, funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has approximately $1.2 million dedicated to combatting homelessness. Additionally, the following funding and programming administered by the Office assists in addressing homelessness and housing affordability:

- $4.2 million in funding for homeless efforts coming from HUD Continuum of Care funding
- $5.8 million to fund the development of more affordable homes from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, HealthChoices, HUD's Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and HOME-ARPA
- $306,986 in funding for emergency food and shelter programs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Despite challenges, Your Way Home continues to make strides in solving homelessness by embracing a "housing first" approach through meaningful partnerships with providers and community groups. Between 2021 and 2023, 79% of Your Way Home Rapid Rehousing clients maintained permanent housing stability after exiting the program. The Housing First approach helps individuals who are unsheltered or living in an emergency shelter find permanent housing without preconditions or barriers. It then connects them with the community, health, human, and financial services they need to prevent future experiences of homelessness.

In 2023, there were 8,879 eviction filings in Montgomery County. Your Way Home has continued to work to assist renters at risk of eviction by providing emergency rent and utility assistance. In 2023, Your Way Home distributed over $30.5 million in emergency rent and utility assistance to over 3,900 households impacted by COVID-19. Due to the end of the public health emergency, the Emergency Rent and Utilities Coalition closed to new applicants in January of 2024. Your Way Home continues to manage the Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition (EPIC), which is a project designed to stabilize vulnerable families and individuals in Montgomery County facing eviction by providing them with free legal and social services support on the day of their eviction hearing.

Residents interested in contributing to a unified voice for positive change in Montgomery County around issues of homelessness are welcome to join the Your Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC). Membership in the CoC is free and open to any person or organization committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Anyone interested can register for membership in the CoC here.

*Point-in-Time Count numbers submitted by counties are considered preliminary until HUD reviews and releases the final count.*

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