



St. Johns County
Continuum of Care

ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

2024 GAPS Analysis

What is this?



The St. Johns County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts an annual gaps analysis/needs assessment of the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area. The following information will inform the lead agency, board, and community about the gaps in the system and services within the CoC. The information will be used to set performance standards and goals with the intention that homelessness is rare, brief and one time in St. Johns County.

What is the purpose?

1. Identify any gaps and areas of growth within services, and the system running within the CoC.
2. Provide actionable take aways for members of the lead agency, board, and general membership.



Methodology

- All funded homeless services agencies are expected to input their information within the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Victim service providers enter the same data in a comparable database to help ensure the safety of individuals experiencing homelessness and either domestic violence or sexual assault.
- The CoC utilized the HMIS database to pull data for this report as well as reports that are already completed for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The reports include:
 - The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)
 - System Performance Measures (SysPM)
 - Point-In-Time (PIT)
 - Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- The CoC also utilized demographic information for the county from the 2021 Census.

A look at the numbers

(10/01/2022 – 09/30/2023)

Total Served by the CoC:

Households 1216	Individuals 1709
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Demographics throughout the system:

	Totals	% of Total
Male	845	49%
Female	539	30%
No Single Gender	1	0.25%
Questioning	1	0.25%
Transgender	7	0.50%

Demographics throughout the system:

	Totals	% of Total
White	1140	67%
Black or African American	492	28%
American Indian	6	0.35%
Asian	18	1%
Native Hawaiian	8	0.47%
Multi Race	49	3%
Unknown	39	2.28%

	Totals	% of Total
Adults (18+)	1352	79%
Children (Under 18)	345	20%
Youth (18-24)	156	9%
Veterans	115	7%
Chronically Homeless	276	16%

Chronically Homeless

1 in 3 people surveyed during the 2023 PIT were identified as *chronically homeless*.

Of those individuals who identified as chronic 44% stated that they have been or are currently struggling with a mental health issue.

The count of chronic individuals has increased 8% from the previous GAP Analysis.

Anecdotal feed back from providers that there is an increase in Chronically homeless.



Race and Ethnicity

Race	County	Served by the system in 2022	Housed in 2022	Housed in 2023
American Indian	-%	1%	1%	1%
Black or African American	5%	22%	23%	25%
Native Hawaiian/Pilipino	-%	2%	-%	-%
Asian	3%	1%	-%	1%
White	83%	70%	70%	68%
Multiple Races	2%	5%	6%	5%
Unknown	-%	-%	-%	-%

GAP

The individuals who identified as black or African American has decreased from 2022. However, the number of individuals housed increased to 25% in 2023. This number shows that while there is a reduction in the amount of individuals in that racial demographic. The demographic group is being over represented in their housing placement. This GAP is identified that members of this demographic group are potentially scoring higher on the vulnerability index.

Housing Inventory Count

Transitional Housing: Average 99% utilization rate.

GAP: The # of transitional housing units has declined by 15 units over the last year. – One provider had a utilization rate of 125%.

Insight: Transitional housing is seeing an increase in *smaller* families (1-2 parents and 1 child) and this can negatively impact utilization. The families are coming from an equal distribution of shelter and street. A majority of the families are in transition from an unsafe environment and/or have an income but are unable to afford housing at the current market rate.

Emergency Shelter: Average utilization rate of 72%

GAP: Higher needs of residence, growing elderly population, longer length of stay. Shelters are also seeing an increase of individuals with and income that are unable to sustain housing at the given market rate.



West Augustine

The representation of homeless individuals from the West Augustine has begun to grow. However, at the same rate Street Outreach and other providers are finding that there is an increased rate of refusal of services from the individuals in this particular community. In working with the Outreach team it was discovered that the refusal was tied to a strong community that tries to “take care of their own”. Outreach has begun to hire individuals from the community to bridge the gap in the community and advise on programming and planning in those areas. It was also identified that there is a Community Redevelopment Agency that meets regularly in the area. Agencies from the Continuum of Care will begin attending these meetings to understand the needs of the community and assist where needed.



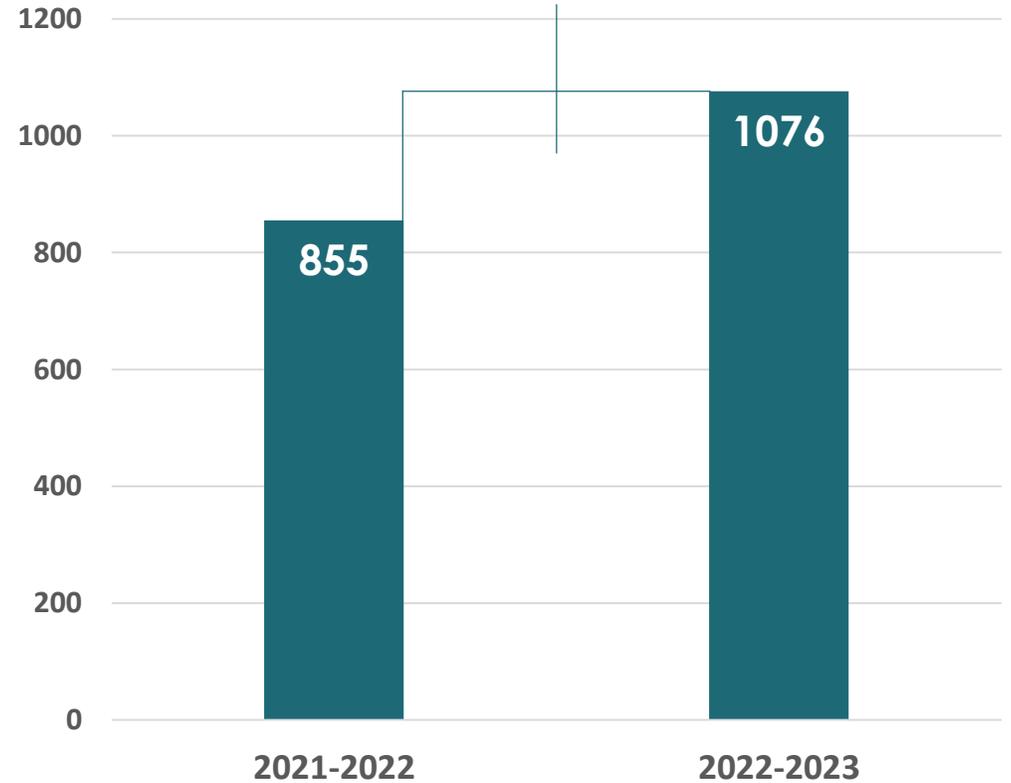
Elderly and Aging

From 2019 – 2023:

- 46% increase in individuals identified in the 62+ age group.
- 37% increase in individuals in the 55-61 age group.
- The needs of individuals in these age groups (Health, Mental Health, and Financial) is 20% higher than those are under the age of 55.
- Housing providers are finding that individuals in these age groups are also on a fixed income. However, given the needs of the population and the cost of housing in the county puts individuals in a precarious position to choose between some health, housing, and other necessities.

HMIS – 62+ Age Group

25% Increase



Provider Survey!

15 Responses

Questions

1. How can current service provisions be improved for the homeless community in St. Johns County?
2. What are the challenges you are facing moving individuals to the next level of care/support?
3. What are some of the gaps your organization has noticed in the homeless system with in St. Johns County?
4. What trends is your organization seeing with the homeless population you are serving?
5. Is your agency noticing concerning trends in the overall service area and your programs/organization? – What may not be going well or what is something that may need assistance/fixing?
6. Is your agency noticing positive or helpful trends in the overall service area and your programs/organization? – What is going well?
7. What systemic/policy barriers is your organization or programs facing in regards to homelessness?
8. How do you see stigma interfering with those seeking help?
9. What gaps do you see in St. Johns County's mental health and substance use system of care as they relate to homeless experiences?

How can current service provisions be improved for the homeless community in St. Johns County?

1. Funding
2. Communication
3. Affordable Housing Units/Workforce Housing
4. Transportation assistance
5. Training

What are the challenges you are facing moving individuals to the next level of care/support?

1. Housing Affordability
2. Consistency in client communication
3. Operational space
4. Health Providers that will see those experiencing homelessness
5. Paperwork/redtape

What are some of the gaps your organization has noticed in the homeless system with in St. Johns County?

1. Lack of Supportive Housing
2. Lack of “Outside of the box thinking” – Retrofitting busses/spaces etc.
3. Shelter capacity – always full
4. Low credit scores/lack of government documents (ids)
5. Transportation for people that work

What trends is your organization seeing with the homeless population you are serving?

1. Economically Homeless
2. Families
3. Family Care
4. Health and Mental Health Care
5. Housing Insecurity

Is your agency noticing concerning trends in the overall service area and your programs/organization?

What may not be going well or what is something that may need assistance/fixing?

1. Lack of senior resources for elderly homeless
2. Funding for emergency services
3. New categories of homelessness rising – economically homeless
4. An increase in uninsured clients
5. Lack of housing for those with chronic conditions

Is your agency noticing positive or helpful trends in the overall service area and your programs/organization?

What is going well?

1. An increase in collaboration across agencies!
2. Better client/agency relationships.
3. The Resource Collective.
4. Positive outcomes relating to long-term sobriety.
5. Increase in programming – Patriot Place.

What systemic/policy barriers is your organization or programs facing in regards to homelessness?

1. Lack of a housing authority
2. Grant deliverables
3. Shelter funding
4. Lack of workforce funding
5. The barriers associated with assisting those that have legal records