

# STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS IN METRO DENVER THROUGH A LENS OF RACIAL EQUITY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE



Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder,  
Broomfield, Denver, Douglas  
and Jefferson Counties

Metro Denver Homeless Initiative  
711 Park Ave West, Denver, CO



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## THOUGHTS FROM OUR YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Experiencing homelessness is just exactly that, an experience. Homelessness is not an identity.*

*"I would say the vast majority of people experiencing homelessness right now didn't ask to be homeless; they were put in that position. It was the worst time of my life but, it was a necessary struggle for my growth into the person I am now. I've experienced so much hate and violence on the streets, but it didn't affect me so bad to be hateful and violent to other people. Actually, I think it made me more kind and helpful toward people. Homelessness taught me the power of empathy. It sharpens empathy in a way only that person can understand. I learned a lot being homeless, but I was one of the lucky ones who got the chance to get out of the streets. A lot of people, my age included, don't get that opportunity."*

*"Being homeless has changed my life. I saw a whole different side of the world. I knew people were homeless, but I didn't see the population. I had a false image of homelessness until I was homeless."*

*"In late 2021, I found out I was pregnant. I went from worrying about just me and my significant other to worried about our baby and us. I was very scared about the future because I didn't know when I was going to get housing. I considered giving my baby away because I didn't want her to be on the street with me. I didn't get housing until two months before my baby was born. Being homeless is different for everyone. You could have a job and still live on the streets. As a teenager, I needed guidance, respect, and just support to push me to do more. I had to find that for myself."*

*"Being in this predicament completely changed the way I see the world, and I hope to see people get the help they deserve because no one should be homeless. The data that you are going to see reflects what real people go through. I want readers to understand that just because you are homeless doesn't mean you are less of a person. I want this report to open the public's eyes to the reality of what happens to some people."*

*Young Adult  
Leadership Committee*

MAKING THE HOMELESS  
SYSTEM BETTER FOR YOUTH

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## 01

# INTRODUCTION

Homelessness continues to be one of the most pressing challenges in our region and across the country. Data and lived experience are at the core of how we can understand and solve this critical issue.

This report synthesizes four data sources along with input from people with lived expertise to paint a comprehensive picture of homelessness in Metro Denver. The methodology, time frame, and definition of homelessness vary by data source.

TYPE	METHODOLOGY	TIMEFRAME	DEFINITION
Colorado Homeless Management Information System (COHMIS or HMIS)	Statewide Data System, collects real-time data on individuals accessing homelessness services	CUMULATIVE July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	Housing and Urban Development (see page 86)
Point in Time (PIT) Count	Survey, outreach, & HMIS system pull	SINGLE NIGHT January 24, 2022	Housing and Urban Development
McKinney-Vento Data from the Colorado Department of Education	Identification by school districts, tracked in Student Information System (SIS)	CUMULATIVE 2020-2021 School Year (Last Available)	United States Department of Education (see page 86)
Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)	Providers administer the VI-SPDAT to people in a housing crisis and enter data into HMIS	CUMULATIVE July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	Housing and Urban Development

Homelessness is not limited to the individuals we see, those characterized as "visibly" homeless. There is an entire subset of this population composed of children, families, youth, and others that make up the 'invisible' homeless. Historically in the region, 3 in 4 people experiencing homelessness are in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other indoor situations and are therefore unseen. It is also important to understand the systemic causes of homelessness and listen to people with lived expertise in order to stop perpetuating stereotypes that deter us from meaningful solutions.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide meaningful insight into the nature of homelessness in Metro Denver and the work being done to solve it.

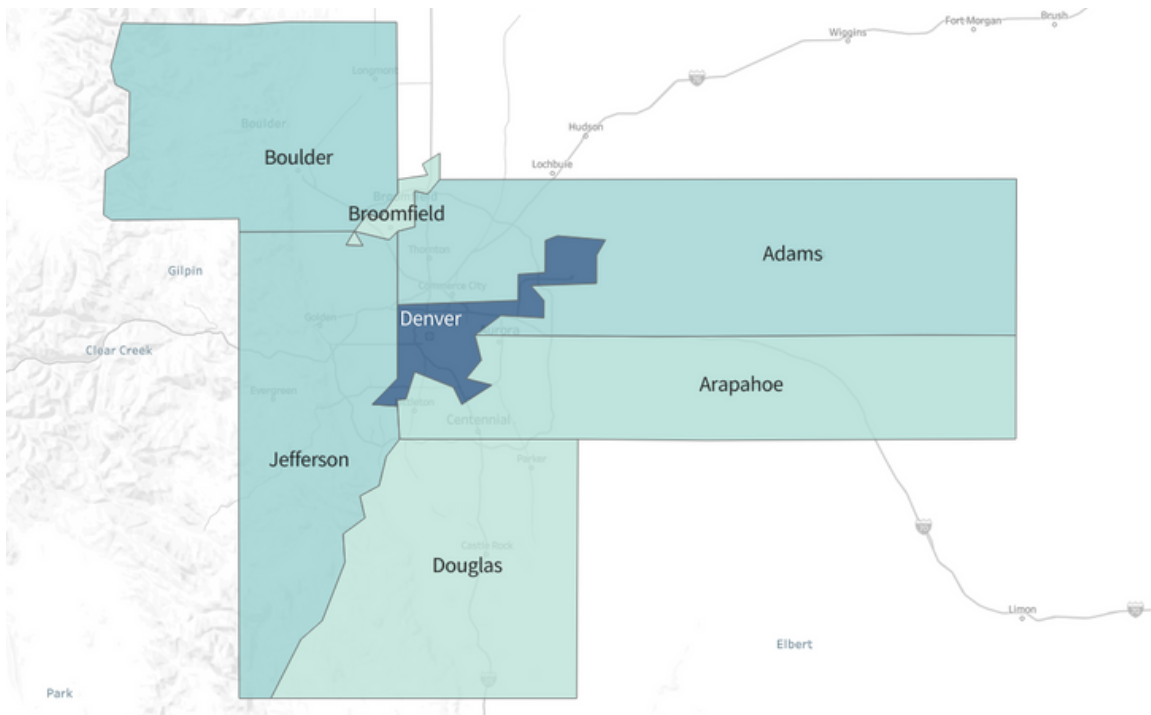
The report first consolidates four existing data sources to depict the overall issue of homelessness as it occurs across systems and throughout the Metro Denver region to provide a fuller, deeper understanding of the problem.

Self-reported causes of homelessness are included to shed light on the impacts of systemic failures that are ultimately the root causes of homelessness. The realities of homelessness are included in an effort to combat common misconceptions and humanize this very personal and traumatic experience that is often unfairly stigmatized by the general public. We hope by the end of this report, readers understand homelessness as a matter of systemic failures rather than personal shortcomings, by and large.

This report also shows that there is hope for this issue, and provides a window into the plans and progress our region has made to date. Before we can begin to address homelessness with sustainable and equitable solutions, we must understand the complexities and experiences of homelessness.

# BACKGROUND

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. The metro-Denver region's CoC is made up of seven counties including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson. The views detailed in this report are those of the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI), the region's CoC.



Part of MDHI's role as the regional CoC includes overseeing the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), conducting the annual Point in Time (PIT) count, and creating a Coordinated Entry (CE) system. Each of these activities provides data points on homelessness that are included in this report. Additionally, the most recent data from the Department of Education is included to provide more context to homelessness experienced by families, children, and youth in the region.

# LIMITATIONS

This report synthesizes the current information available regarding homelessness in the region. However, as with any data surrounding the issue of homelessness, there are several key limitations. The data does not provide “apple-to-apple” comparisons across sources. Comparison is not possible nor advised. Significant differences in counts do appear; however, each of these data sets is unique in what, who, and how it measures homelessness. When combined, they create a much broader understanding of homelessness in our community.

## 01 DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

Two definitions of homelessness are used for this report, provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Department of Education (see page 86).

## 02 DIFFERENT TIMEFRAMES AND METHODOLOGIES

The Point in Time takes place on a single night; the HMIS and VI-SPDAT data are cumulative (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022); and the Mc-Kinney Vento data is from the last reported school year. Each of these sources has different methodologies and reporting requirements for data collection.

## 03 NOT EXHAUSTIVE ON THE TOPIC OF HOMELESSNESS

This report is a mechanism to inform the public, lawmakers, and our local provider community on the wider issue of homelessness in order to improve collaboration throughout the region. It is not exhaustive.



## 02

# EXPLANATION OF DATA SOURCES

## HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

HUD defines an HMIS as "a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness." As the Metro Denver Continuum of Care, MDHI is responsible for managing an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

The data collected helps us better understand the size, characteristics, and needs of the local population experiencing homelessness and play a part in program evaluation, grant writing, research coordination, tracking of services provided, and advancing effective fact-based funding and legislative decisions. The statewide HMIS system is called Clarity, a software developed by Bitfocus. Clarity is a highly collaborative system, which is crucial for providing optimal care and services.

### **METHOD**

STATEWIDE DATA SYSTEM THAT COLLECTS  
REAL-TIME DATA ON INDIVIDUALS  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

### **TIMEFRAME**

CUMULATIVE  
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

### **HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION**

HUD DEFINITION OF LITERALLY HOMELESS

Nearly 92% of shelter providers in Metro Denver and 100% of HUD-funded programs regularly enter client-level data into HMIS.

# POINT IN TIME DATA

The Point in Time (PIT) is an annual count of people experiencing homelessness across the country on a single night in January. The data is meant to be representative of homelessness “on any given night,” specifically during the winter months. As the CoC, MDHI works closely with leads in the seven counties to determine the needs and resources of each community, organize the count and survey, and ensure each count is compliant with HUD guidelines. There are slight variations in each community’s approach depending on their needs and resources.



## LIMITATIONS

The PIT has several factors such as weather, capacity, volunteer engagement, etc. that may result in an undercount.

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

People staying with friends, family, or paying for a hotel are considered 'at risk of homelessness' and not included in this count.

## **METHOD**

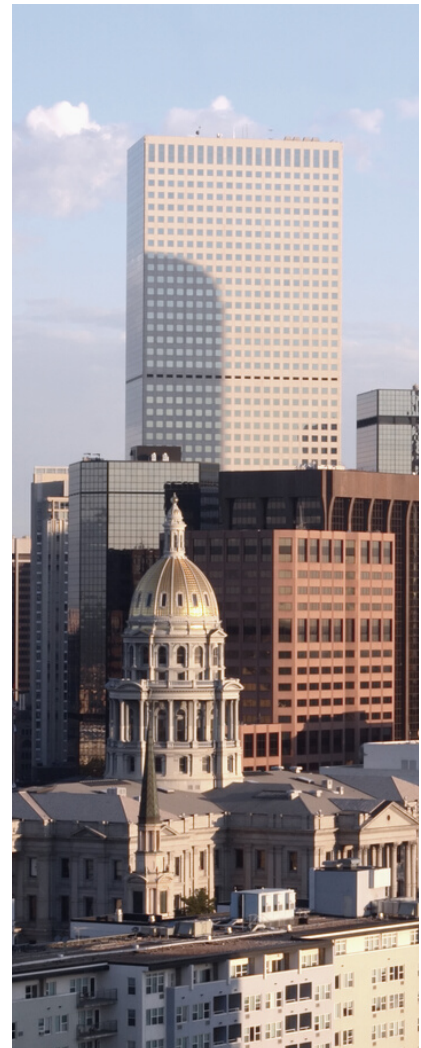
SURVEY, OUTREACH, & HMIS  
SYSTEM PULL

## **TIMEFRAME**

NIGHT OF JANUARY 24, 2022

## **HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION**

HUD DEFINITION OF LITERALLY  
HOMELESS



# VI-SPDAT DATA

Case managers and service providers at agencies across the region administer an assessment called the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) to people experiencing homelessness that are eligible according to HUD. The tool measures client vulnerability and is one of many factors used to dynamically prioritize clients for the limited number of housing resources in our Coordinated Entry System.

## ADDRESSING RACIAL INEQUITY

In 2021, MDHI partnered with C4 Innovations, a consulting agency dedicated to building racially equitable systems through process improvement, to analyze racial inequities in our Coordinated Entry System (CES). As part of the continued work, the Results Academy working group (individuals with lived experience/expertise, front-line staff, and community partner leadership) was formed to advise and partner in the upcoming CES redesign, ensuring there are racially equitable goals and outcomes.



## LIMITATIONS

Not all data fields are required. The VI-SPDAT has also been proven to be racially inequitable.

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

People staying with friends, family, or in a motel are considered 'at risk of homelessness' and not included in this count.

## METHOD

PROVIDERS ADMINISTER THE VI-SPDAT TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS AND ENTER DATA INTO HMIS

## TIMEFRAME

JULY 1 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

## HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION

HUD DEFINITION OF LITERALLY HOMELESS

# MCKINNEY-VENTO DATA

The McKinney Vento Act requires public school districts to identify, support, and report on students experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year. This data is sent to the US Department of Education and is publicly available. Since this identification is intended to support the educational needs of students, the definition of homelessness under the Department of Education varies from HUD.



## LIMITATIONS

This data only captures students enrolled in public schools, and does not include the entire household such as parents/guardians.

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

People staying with friends, family, or in a motel due to economic hardship are included in the Department of Education's definition of homelessness.

## **METHOD**

IDENTIFICATION BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TRACKED IN STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS)

## **TIMEFRAME**

CUMULATIVE SCHOOL YEAR  
2020-2021, LAST AVAILABLE

## **HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION**

US DEPT. OF EDUCATION



# 03 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS DATA SUMMARY

## 27,860

**HMIS**

People accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies

**07/01/21 - 06/30/2022**

## 6,884

**POINT IN TIME**

People counted experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night

**NIGHT OF 01/24/22**

## 3,695

**VI-SPDAT**

People included in households assessed by the VI-SPDAT in our Coordinated Entry System

**07/01/21 - 06/30/2022**

## 8,240

**MCKINNEY-VENTO**

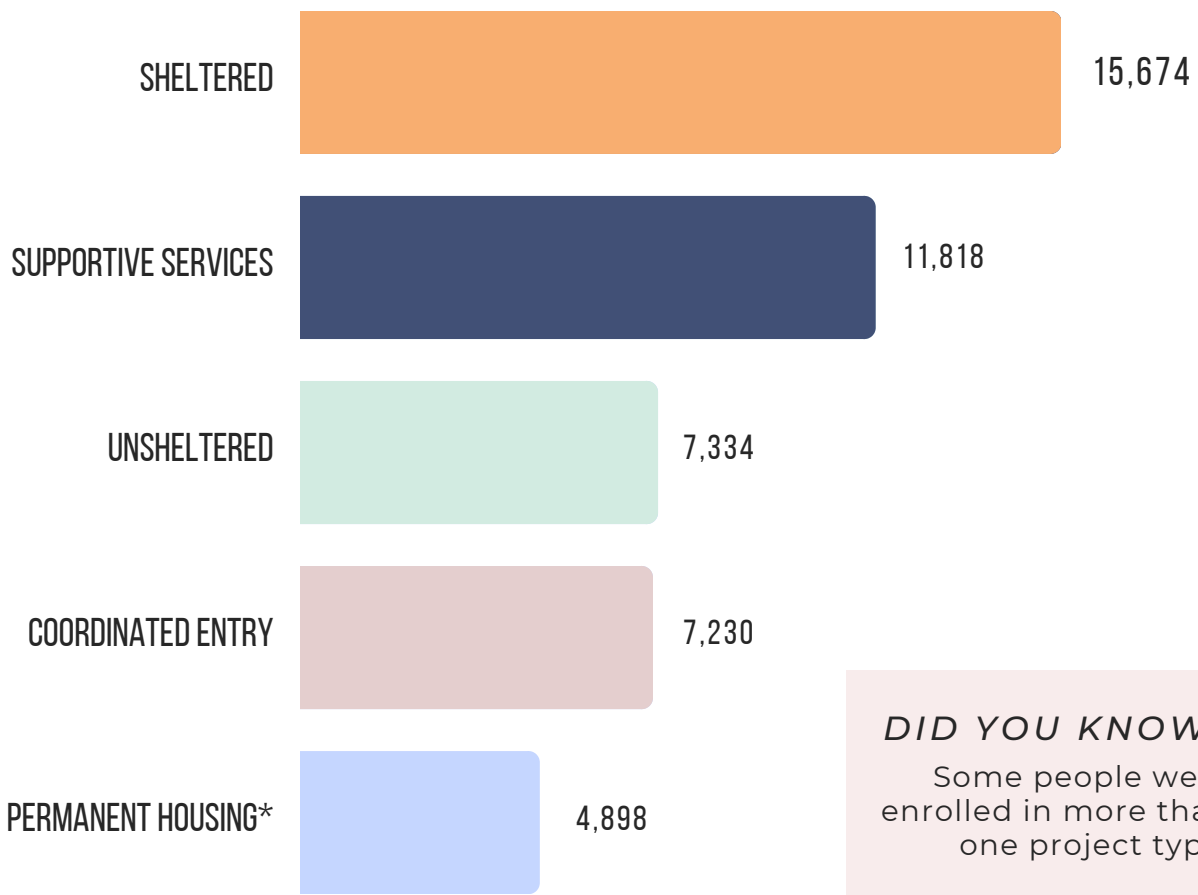
Students identified and reported by public school districts as experiencing homelessness

**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

# TOTAL HMIS DATA

**27,860 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE

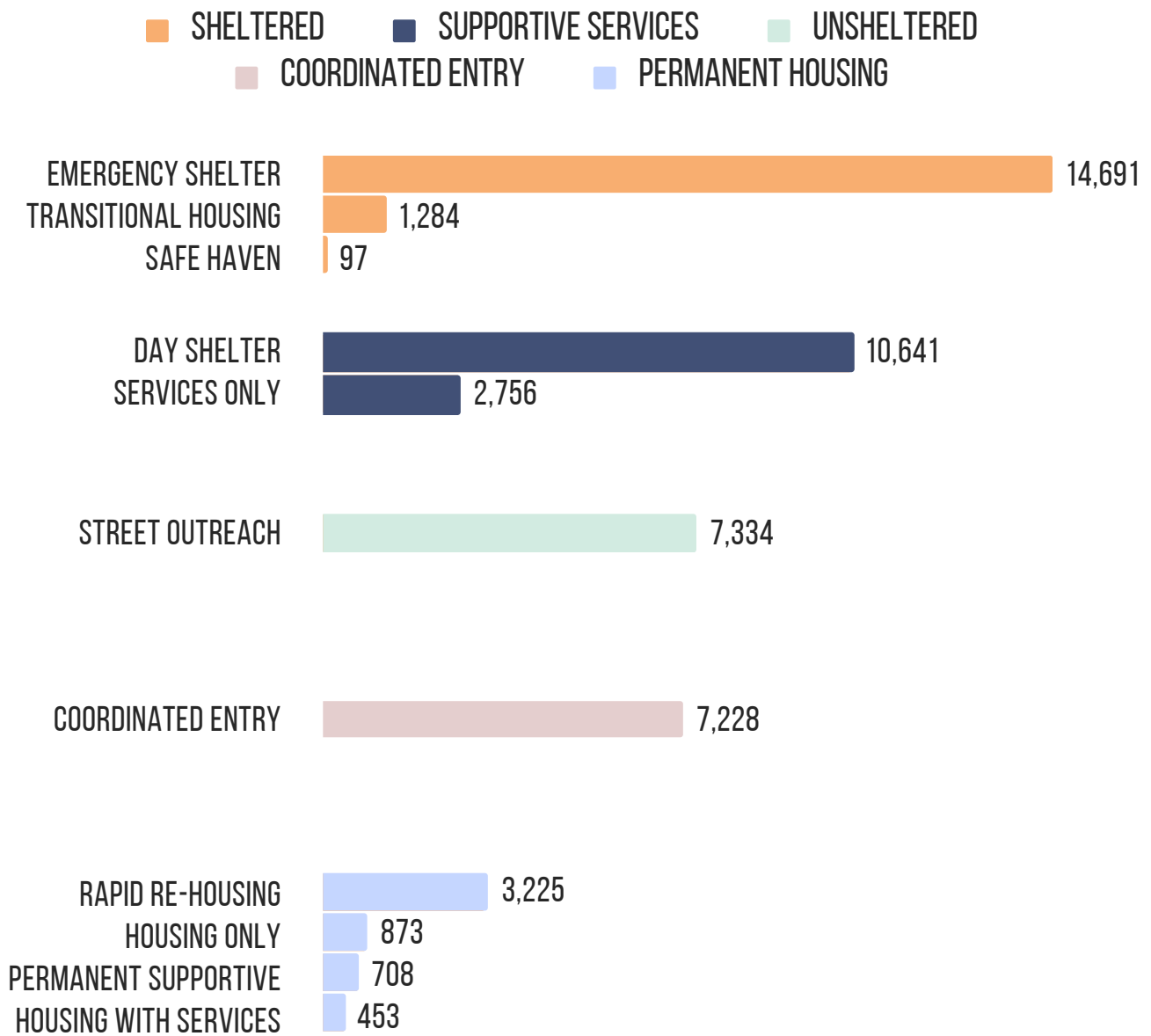


*\*While people in housing are no longer considered homeless, those in Permanent Housing were counted because they were experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.*

# TOTAL HMIS DATA

**27,860 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PROJECT TYPE BREAKDOWNS



# TOTAL HMIS DATA

This data represents the total number of individuals in households accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies in Metro Denver between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

**27,860 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	63.7%
Female	33.9%
Transgender	0.7%
Nonconforming	0.5%

## HOUSING STABILITY FLEXIBLE FUND

An individual working odd jobs was unable to prove their income. As a result, they couldn't find rental assistance anywhere else in the community. The Flex Fund was able to provide rental assistance for this individual's unique circumstances so that permanent housing could be sustained.

[SHOW YOUR SUPPORT](#)

AGE	PERCENT
0-17	12.4%
18-24	6.3%
25-34	18.4%
35-44	21.6%
45-54	17.1%
55-64	15.3%
65+	5.9%



**1 in 10 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time



# TOTAL POINT IN TIME

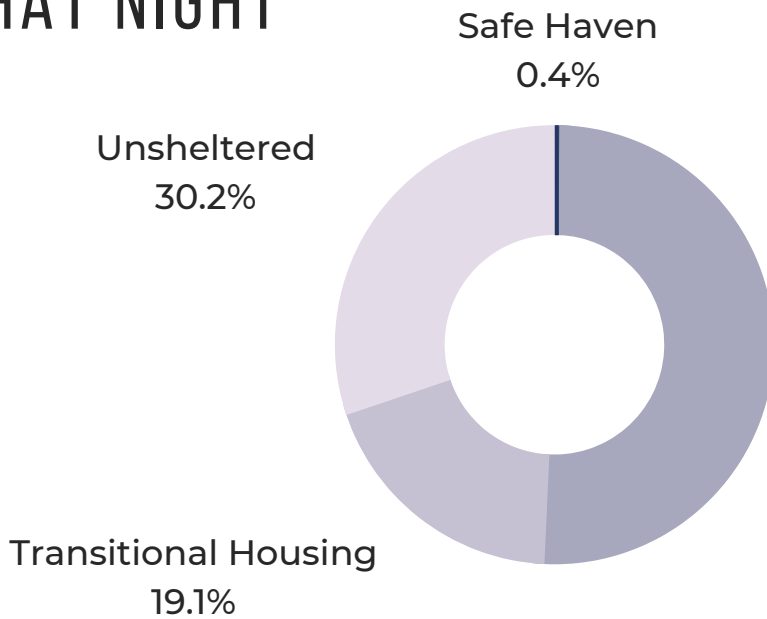
**6,884 PEOPLE**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

This data represents the number of individuals counted during the annual Point in Time count on January 24, 2022. It includes those staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and places outside not meant for human habitation. It is a snapshot of the many people experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not include those staying with friends, family, or in a motel.

# WHERE THEY STAYED THAT NIGHT

**2,078 UNSHELTERED**

**4,806 SHELTERED**



Emergency Shelter  
50.3%

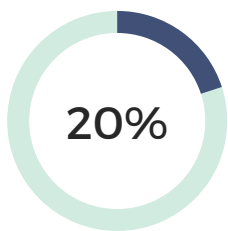
'Sheltered' includes Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, and Emergency Shelter.



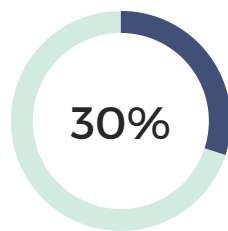
**1 in 3 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS

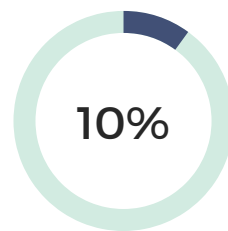
People surveyed during the Point in Time are asked to complete optional questions. This survey collects information about their length of time experiencing homelessness, factors contributing to homelessness, household demographics, and conditions or barriers. This data helps us understand the makeup and challenges of our local unhoused population and many people experience more than one of these factors.



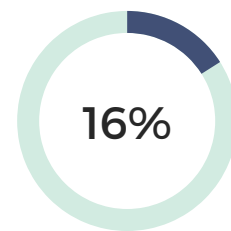
Disabling Condition



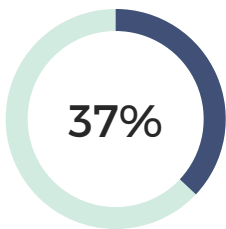
Chronic Health Condition



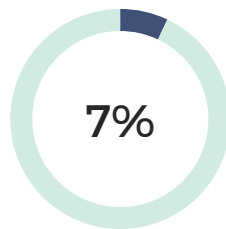
Developmental Condition



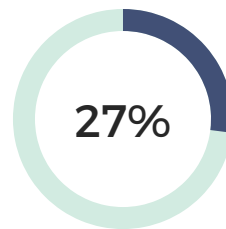
Domestic Violence



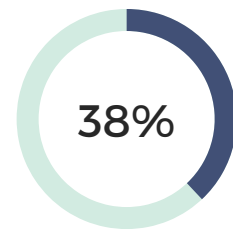
Mental Health Concern



Traumatic Brain Injury



Substance Use



Chronically Homeless

*When I was constantly hurting people that are family to me over and over, I left. I decided that leaving and getting help somewhere else would be better for me especially if they are certified, so I became homeless because when I turned 18, I believed it would be easier.*

*JIAVYON, YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE*

# TOTAL POINT IN TIME

**6,884 PEOPLE**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

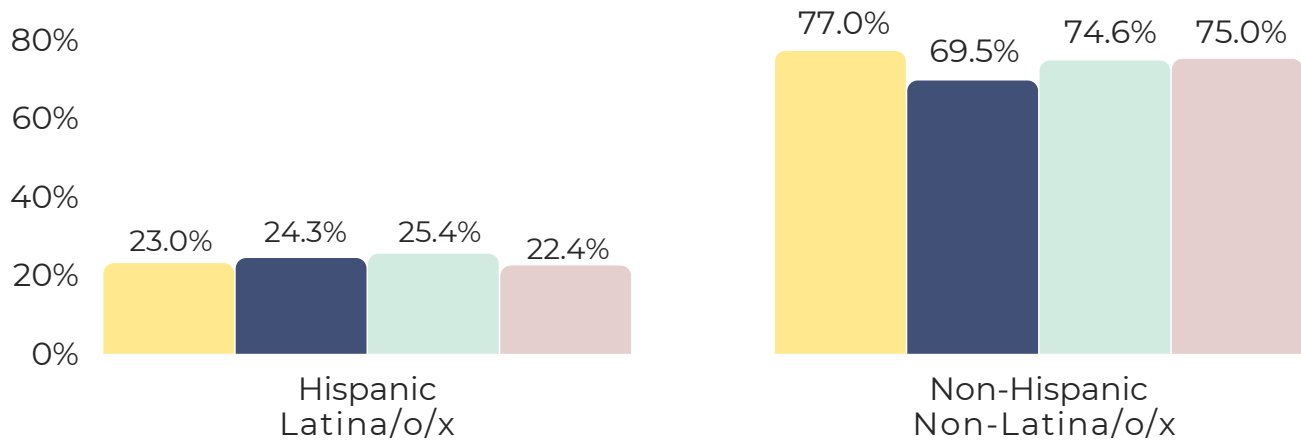
AGE	PERCENT
0-17	11.6%
18-24	4.9%
25-34	13.2%
35-44	22.8%
45-54	19.6%
55-64	21.5%
65+	6.4%

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	60.7%
Female	38.0%
Transgender	0.7%
Nonconforming	0.6%

View an [Interactive Dashboard](#) of the 2022 Point in Time Data or [one-page reports](#) at [MDHI.org/PIT](https://MDHI.org/PIT).

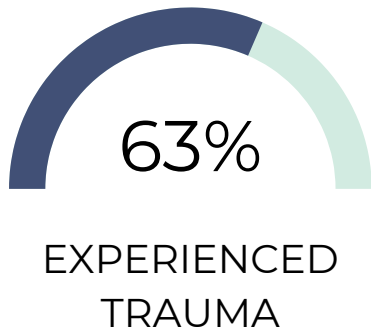
## ETHNICITY ACROSS SOURCES

■ Census ■ HMIS ■ PIT ■ VI-SPDAT



# TOTAL VI-SPDAT DATA

**3,691 PEOPLE**  
ASSESSSED FOR COORDINATED ENTRY



The following data provides a deeper look into the characteristics of those assessed for Coordinated Entry between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. During the date range, 3,691 people were identified in households that completed the VISPDAT.

AGE	PERCENT
18-24	7.1%
25-34	19.1%
35-44	24.4%
45-54	20.8%
55-64	19.7%
65+	8.8%

The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool administered to households seeking services that meet HUD's definition of 'literally homeless.' Adults 25+ without children present are assessed as an adult-only household; adults 25+ with at least one child present are assessed as a family; and individuals 18-24 with or without children are assessed as a youth with the TAY-VI-SPDAT.

Visit [our website](#) for full eligibility criteria and a map of Coordinated Entry Access Points.



**1 in 3 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

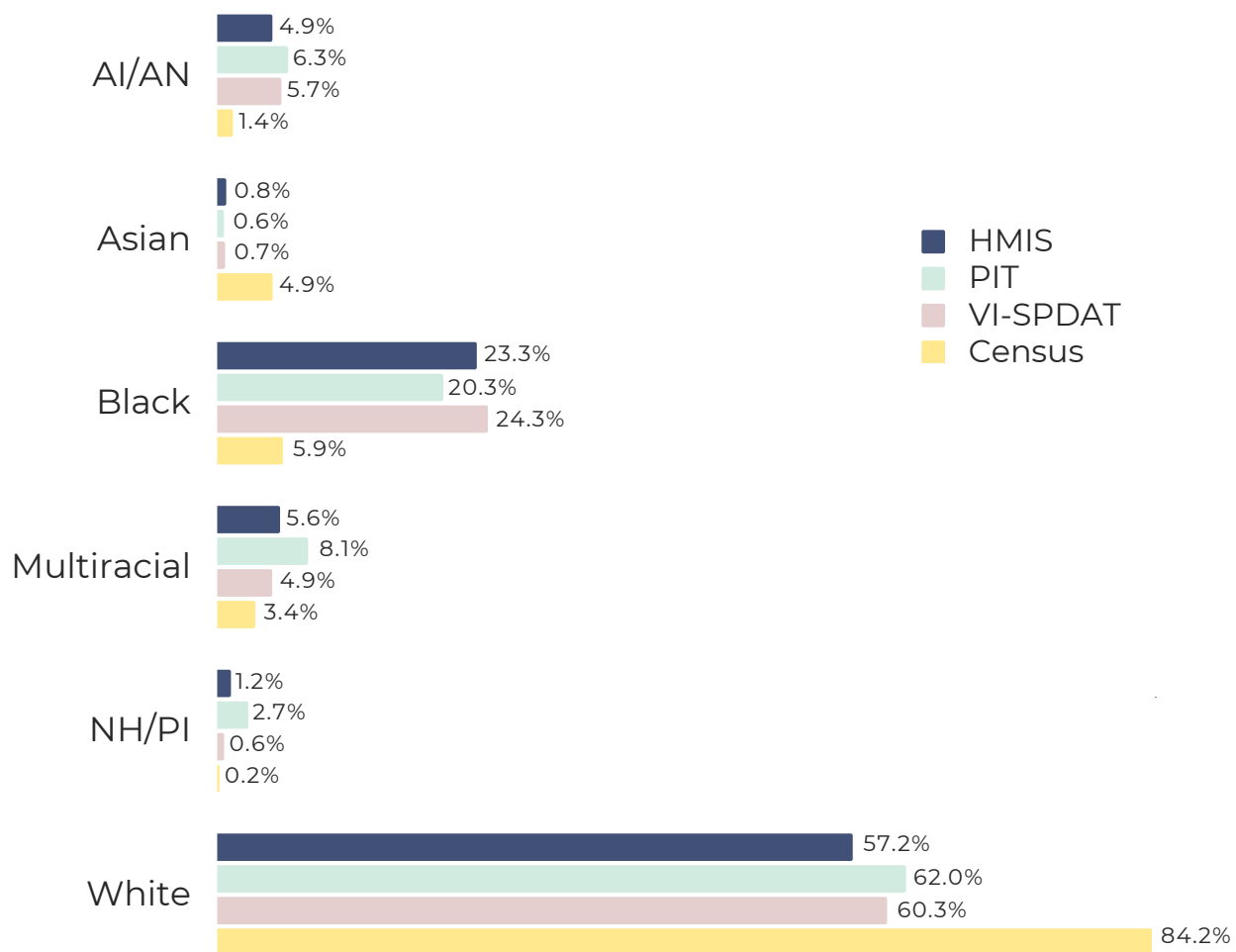
# RACIAL INEQUITIES IN HOMELESSNESS

*An end to homelessness in Metro Denver requires the region to continuously analyze the inequities that can be both the cause of someone's homelessness and their barrier to resolving it.*

One statistically significant disparity that has remained consistent across data sources over time is the overrepresentation of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI), and multiracial people experiencing homelessness.

## RACE DATA

The following chart compares the representation of different racial groups experiencing homelessness to their makeup of the census population in Metro Denver.



## RACIAL DISPARITIES LEAD TO MORE HOMELESSNESS, MORE TRAUMA

These racial groups are overrepresented in homelessness relative to their makeup of the general population per census data. These disparities are not the result of personal failures; they stem from centuries of systemic racism and inequities that directly cause homelessness and perpetuate generational trauma.

**3.6 X**

**OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS**

**BLACK OR AFRICAN  
AMERICAN**

**2.6 X**

**OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS**

**MULTI-RACIAL**

**4.0 X**

**OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS**

**NATIVE AMERICAN  
OR INDIGENOUS**

**4.5 X**

**OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS**

**NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
OR PACIFIC ISLANDER**

## 04

# DATA BY SUBPOPULATION

This report organizes the data by household types (subpopulations) in an effort to examine the different data sources side-by-side:

## **FAMILY**

Adult household age 25+ with at least one child under 18 present

## **YOUTH**

Transition-aged youth ages 18-24, unaccompanied youth, and parenting youth

## **ADULT**

Adults age 25+ without children

## **VETERAN**

Person who served in the active military, naval, or air service.

## FAMILY DATA

“One of the characteristics of homelessness that often goes unrecognized is shame, the shame of the person experiencing homelessness about his/her situation. As Leanne indicates in her story, her “friends” kept asking her, “Why don’t you ask your family for help?” Part of the answer was her sense of shame about being in that situation. Another part was her clear understanding of her parents’ economic situation and not wanting to be a financial burden on them. Homelessness creates real psychological trauma, and all of those in helping situations must recognize that and proceed with trauma-informed practices.”

LEANNE, JOURNEYS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Families are defined as adults age 25+ with at least one child in the household. Compared to individual homelessness, households with children have significantly fewer:

- Barriers due to mental health
- Chronic health conditions, disabilities, and/or substance abuse

A much higher percentage of families are newly homeless and much fewer are chronically homeless compared to unhoused single adults and veterans.

Family homelessness is perhaps where economic challenges, family breakups, and systemic inequities are the most visible.

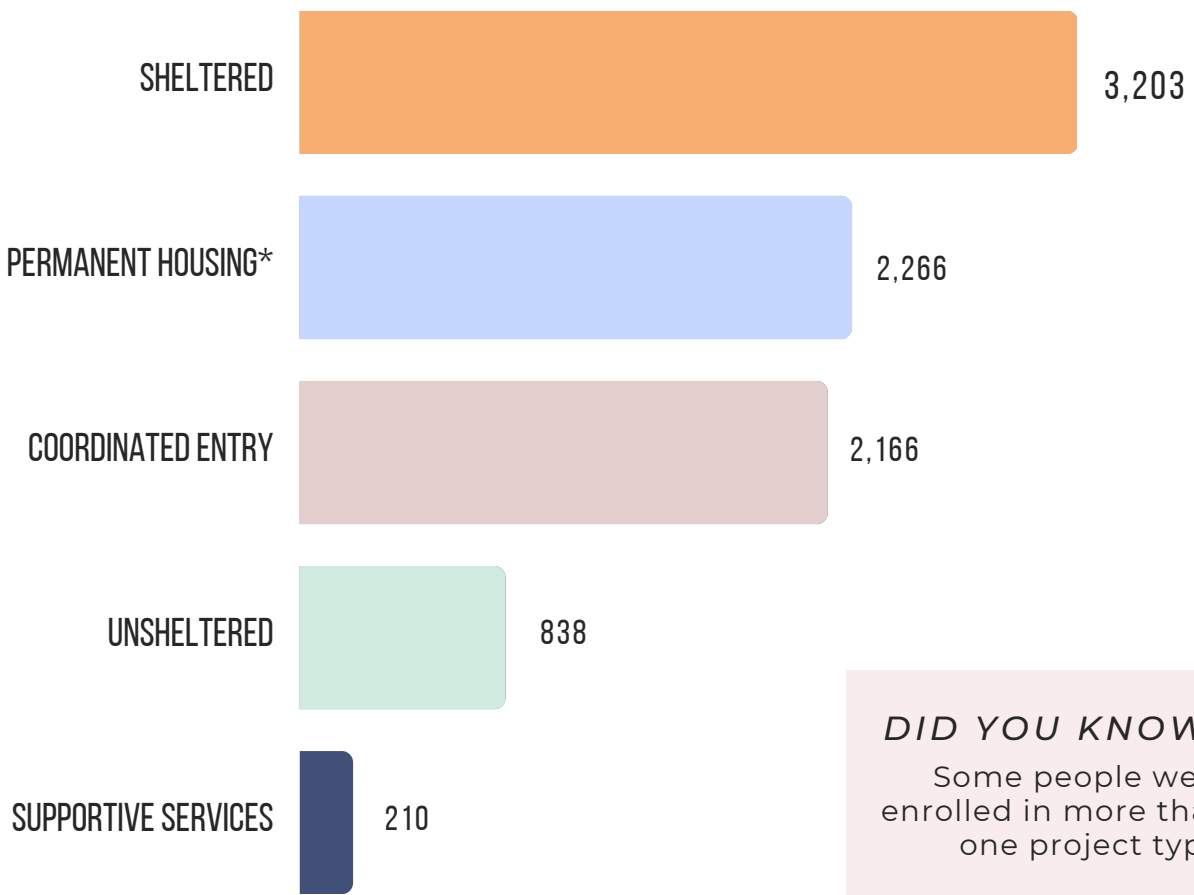
The vast majority of these households have one to three children and over half identify trauma as contributing to their homelessness.



# FAMILY HMIS DATA

**5,570 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE

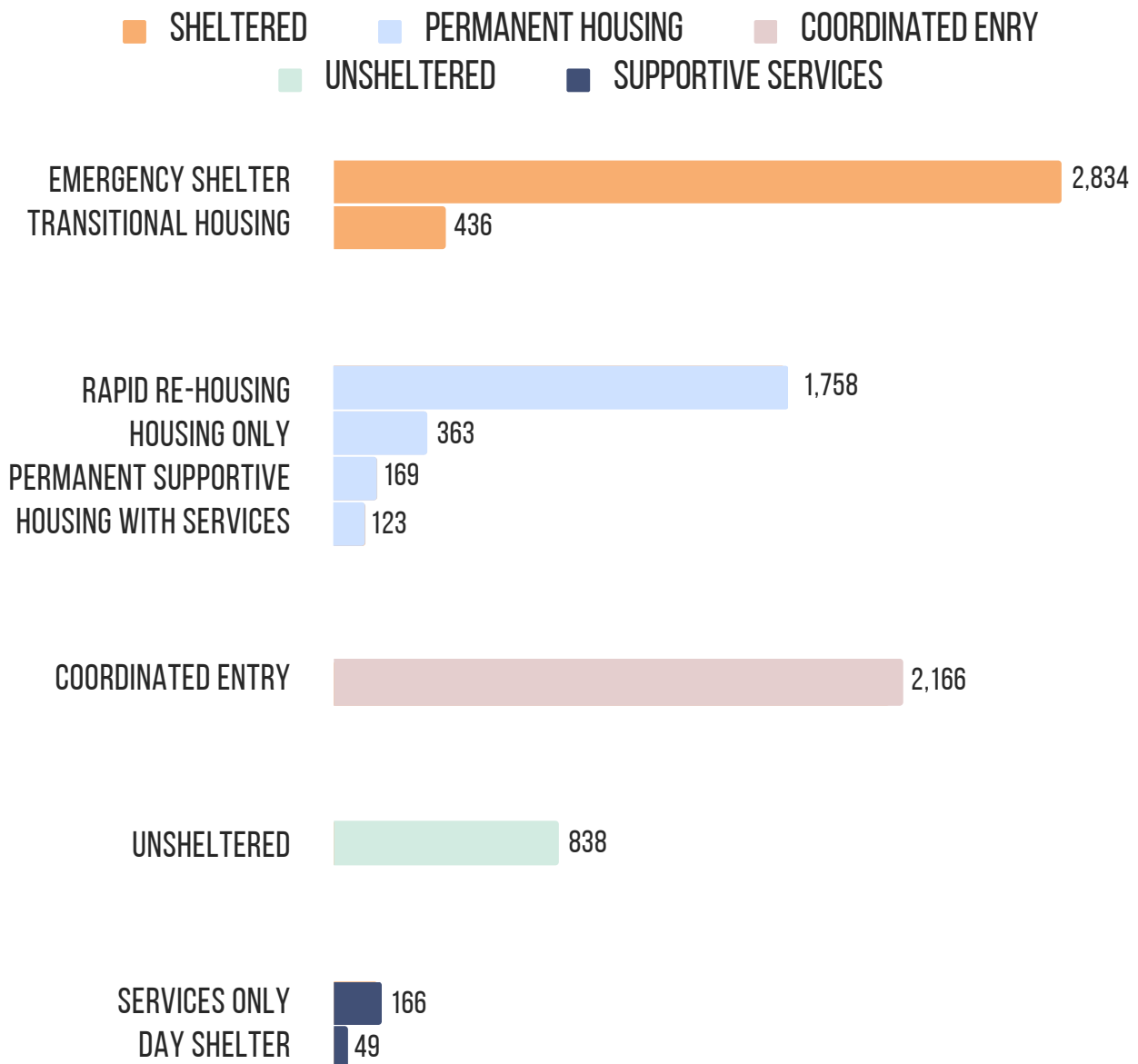


*\*While people in housing are no longer considered homeless, those in Permanent Housing were counted because they were experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.*

# FAMILY HMIS DATA

**5,570 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PROJECT TYPE BREAKDOWNS



# FAMILY HMIS DATA

This data represents the number of individuals in families with at least one adult age 25+ in the household accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies in Metro Denver between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

**5,570 PEOPLE**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

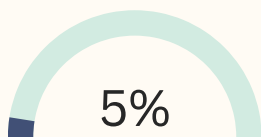
GENDER	PERCENT
Female	56.7%
Male	42.5%
Transgender	0.2%
Nonconforming	0.2%

## HOUSING STABILITY FLEXIBLE FUND

A pregnant, literally homeless woman considered high risk to COVID-19 was unable to afford her deposit fee. She received security deposit assistance from the Flex Fund and was able to secure safe and stable housing in time for the baby's arrival.

[SHOW YOUR SUPPORT](#)

AGE	PERCENT
0-17	58.2%
18-24	4.8%
25-34	16.2%
35-44	14.1%
45-54	4.6%
55-64	1.4%
65+	0.5%



**Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# FAMILY POINT IN TIME

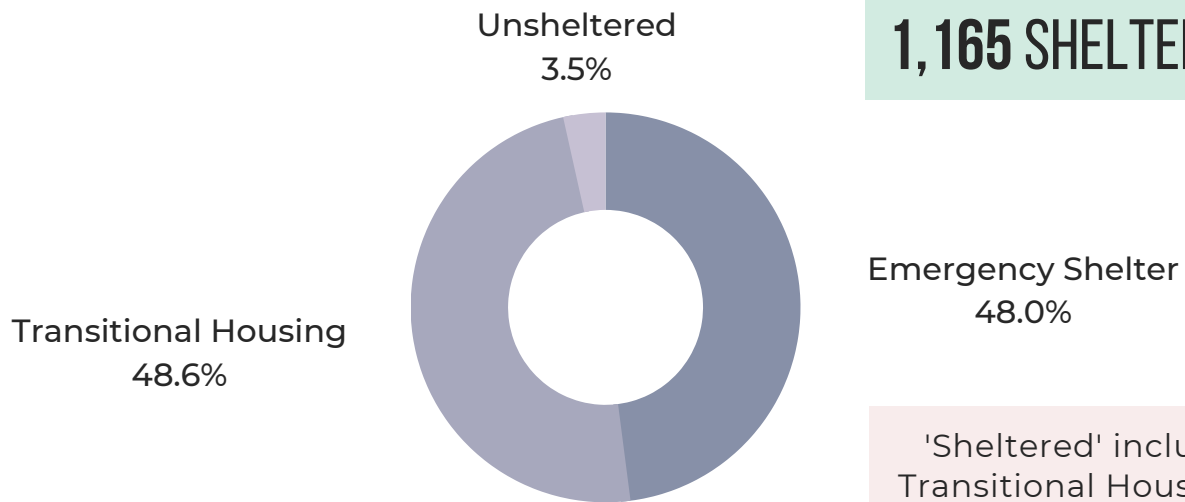
**1,207 PEOPLE**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

This data represents the number of individuals in families with at least one adult age 25+ in the household counted during the annual Point in Time. The count took place on January 24, 2022 and includes those staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and places outside not meant for human habitation. It is a snapshot of the many people experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not include those staying with friends, family, or in a motel.

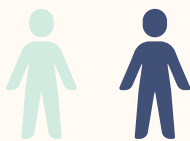
# WHERE THEY STAYED THAT NIGHT

**42 UNSHELTERED**

**1,165 SHELTERED**



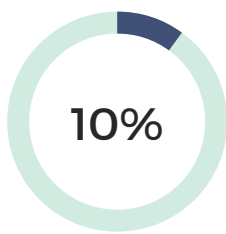
'Sheltered' includes Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, and Emergency Shelter.



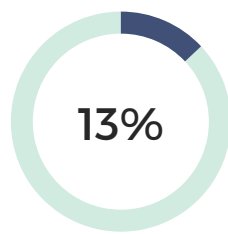
**1 in 2 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS FOR FAMILIES

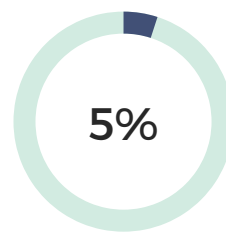
People counted during the Point in Time are asked to complete an optional survey. This survey collects information about their length of time homeless, factors contributing to homelessness, household demographics, and conditions or barriers. This data helps us understand the makeup and challenges of our local unhoused population.



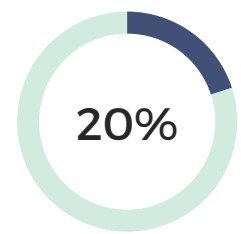
Disabling Condition



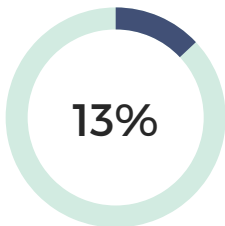
Chronic Health Condition



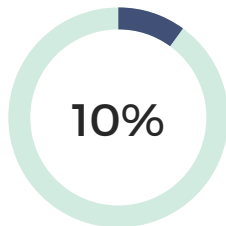
Developmental Condition



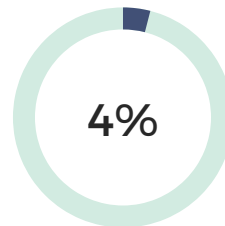
Domestic Violence



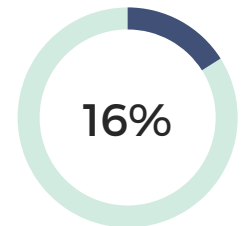
Mental Health Concern



Physical Disability



Substance Use



Chronically Homeless

*I want people to know that the emotional effects of homelessness stay with you, just like those of abuse. Getting housing does not fix it, getting a job does not fix it, and having wonderful friends and loved ones doesn't fix it. I thank God for the strength that I found to keep going; I can never ignore the reality of those less fortunate because this is who I am. I believe I had to experience homelessness to be a better advocate for the homeless and people living in poverty.*

**MICHELLE, JOURNEYS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS**

# FAMILY POINT IN TIME

**1,207 PEOPLE**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

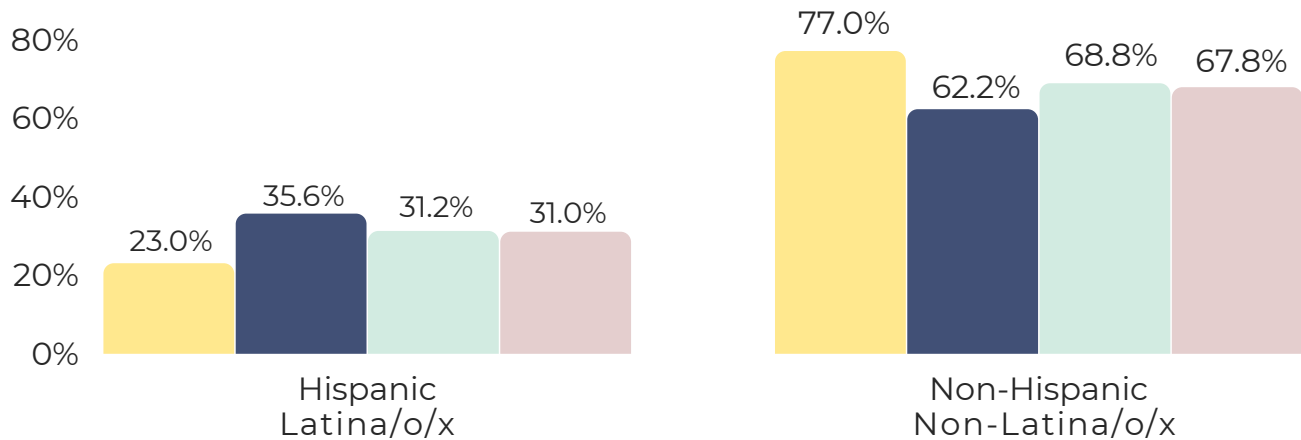
AGE	PERCENT
0-17	61.9%
18-24	2.4%
25-34	14.1%
35-44	11.9%
45-54	6.0%
55-64	2.3%
65+	1.3%

GENDER	PERCENT
Female	56.0%
Male	44.0%
Transgender	-
Nonconforming	-

View an [Interactive Dashboard](#) of the 2022 Point in Time Data or [one-page reports](#) at [MDHI.org/PIT](http://MDHI.org/PIT).

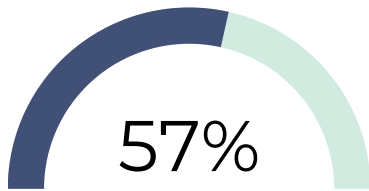
## ETHNICITY ACROSS SOURCES

■ Census ■ HMIS ■ PIT ■ VI-SPDAT



# FAMILY VI-SPDAT DATA

**707 PEOPLE**  
ASSESSSED FOR COORDINATED ENTRY



EXPERIENCED TRAUMA

AGE	PERCENT
18-24	9.2%
25-34	38.2%
35-44	37.6%
45-54	10.5%
55-64	3.5%
65+	0.7%

The following data provides a deeper look into the characteristics of families assessed for Coordinated Entry between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. During the date range, 707 people were identified in family households with at least one adult 25+ years old.

The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool administered to households seeking housing or homelessness services. To complete an Assessment and enter Metro Denver's Coordinated Entry System as a family, adults aged 25+ must meet HUD's literal homeless criteria and have at least one minor or dependent living in the household for which they have at least 50% custody.

Parenting youth ages 18-24 are administered the TAY-VI-SPDAT, which is included in the Youth section.

Visit [our website](#) for full eligibility criteria and a map of Access Points.



**1 in 5 Newly Homeless**

Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# RACIAL DISPARITIES FOR FAMILIES

One statistically significant disparity that has remained consistent across data sources over time is the overrepresentation of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI), and multiracial people experiencing homelessness. This means these groups experience higher rates of homelessness compared to their relative makeup of the general population.

**18.0 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR  
PACIFIC ISLANDER

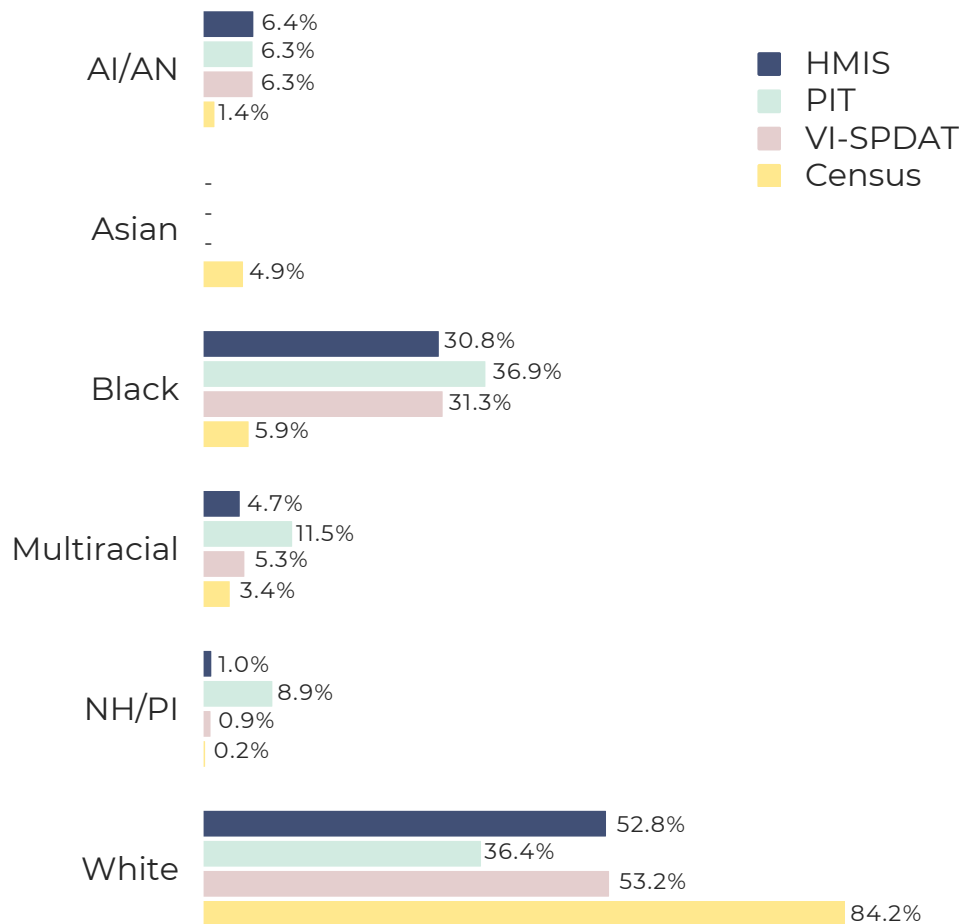
**5.6 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
BLACK OR AFRICAN

**4.5 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
OR INDIGENOUS

**2.1 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
MULTI-RACIAL

## RACE DATA

The following chart compares the representation of different racial groups experiencing homelessness to their makeup of the census population in Metro Denver.





## ADULT DATA

“One of the characteristics of homelessness that often goes unrecognized is shame, the shame of the person experiencing homelessness about his/her situation. As Leanne indicates in her story, her “friends” kept asking her, “Why don’t you ask your family for help?” Part of the answer was her sense of shame about being in that situation. Another part was her clear understanding of her parents’ economic situation and not wanting to be a financial burden on them. Homelessness creates real psychological trauma, and all of those in helping situations must recognize that and proceed with trauma-informed practices.”

LEANNE, JOURNEYS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

The following section outlines data on adult-only households for both sheltered and unsheltered living situations. This includes individuals aged 25+ without children present in the household.

Individuals experiencing homelessness overwhelmingly identify as:

- Male
- Disproportionately BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- Not experiencing homelessness for the first time
- Having higher rates of physical or mental disabilities, chronic health conditions, and/or substance use compared to other subpopulations

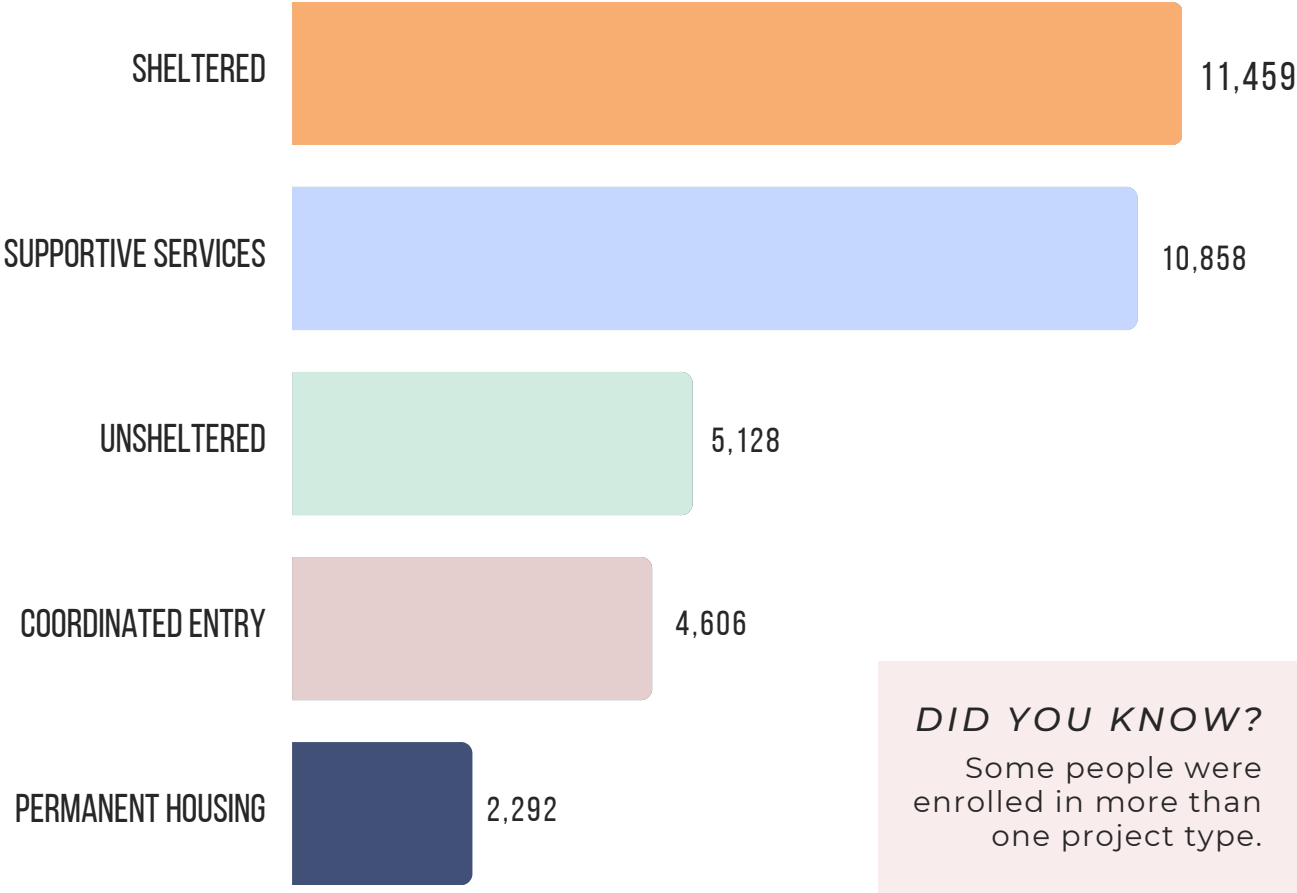
Approximately 15% surveyed with the VI-SPDAT are veterans, the majority of whom identify trauma as contributing to their homelessness.

Due to the visibility of many of these individuals, the general public forms many of its assumptions about those experiencing homelessness based on this population. However, this is but one of the faces of homelessness and is not representative of the entire population.

# ADULT HMIS DATA

**20,071 ADULTS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE



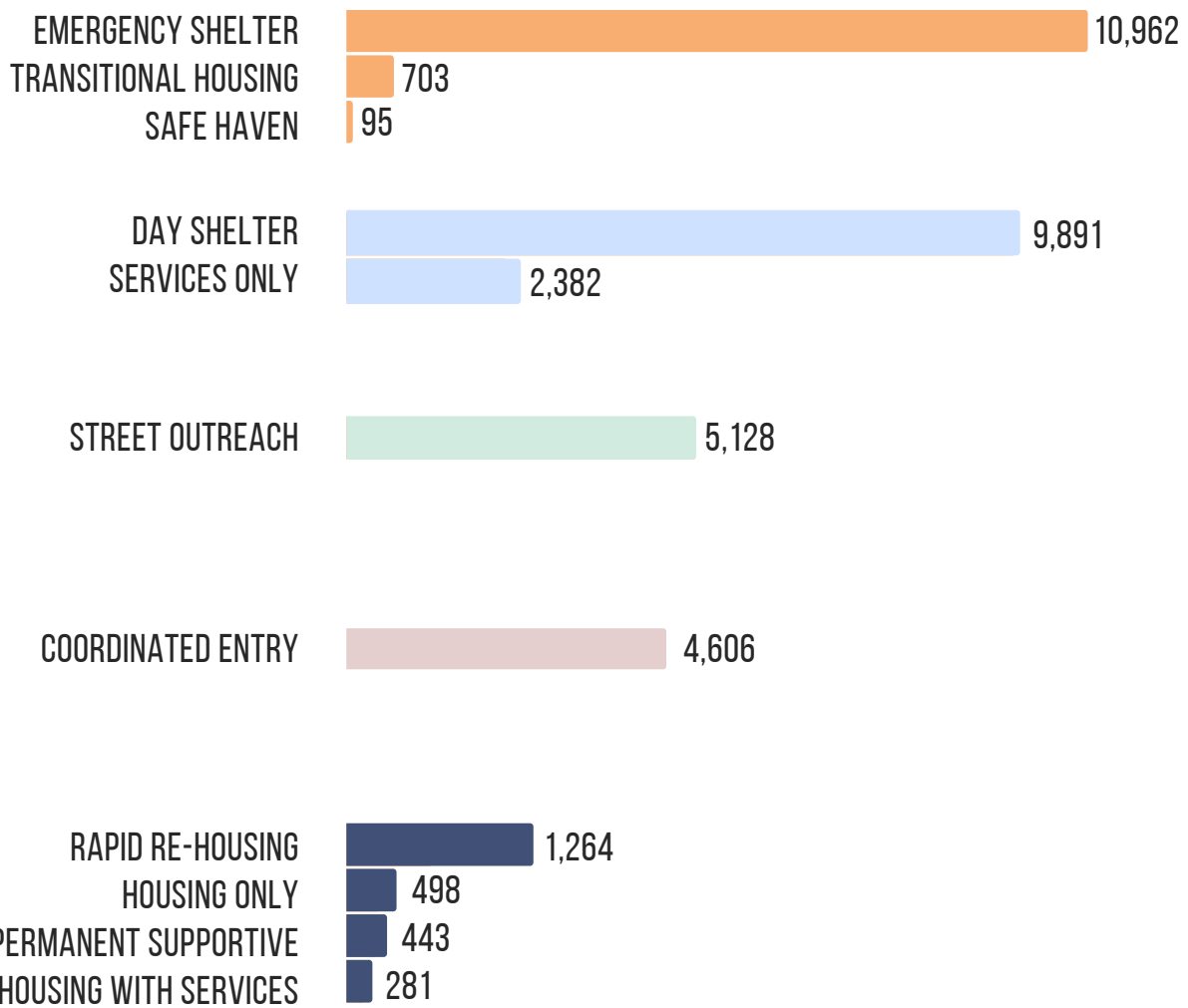
*\*While people in housing are no longer considered homeless, those in Permanent Housing were counted because they were experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.*

# ADULT HMIS DATA

**20,071 ADULTS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PROJECT TYPE BREAKDOWNS

- SHELTERED
- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
- UNSHELTERED
- COORDINATED ENTRY
- PERMANENT HOUSING



# ADULT HMIS DATA

**20,071 ADULTS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	70.5%
Female	27.8%
Transgender	0.8%
Nonconforming	0.5%

This data represents the number of adults 25+ with no reported children in the household accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies in Metro Denver between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

AGE	PERCENT
25-34	21.9%
35-44	26.6%
45-54	22.5%
55-64	20.7%
65+	7.9%

**HOUSING STABILITY FLEXIBLE FUND**

A disabled, pregnant woman with a housing voucher found an ADA compliant unit but was unable to afford the move-in costs. The Flex Fund quickly provided security deposit assistance so the household did not lose the ADA apartment of her choice. She was thrilled to move into her first ADA-compliant housing.

[SHOW YOUR SUPPORT](#)



**1 in 10 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# ADULT POINT IN TIME

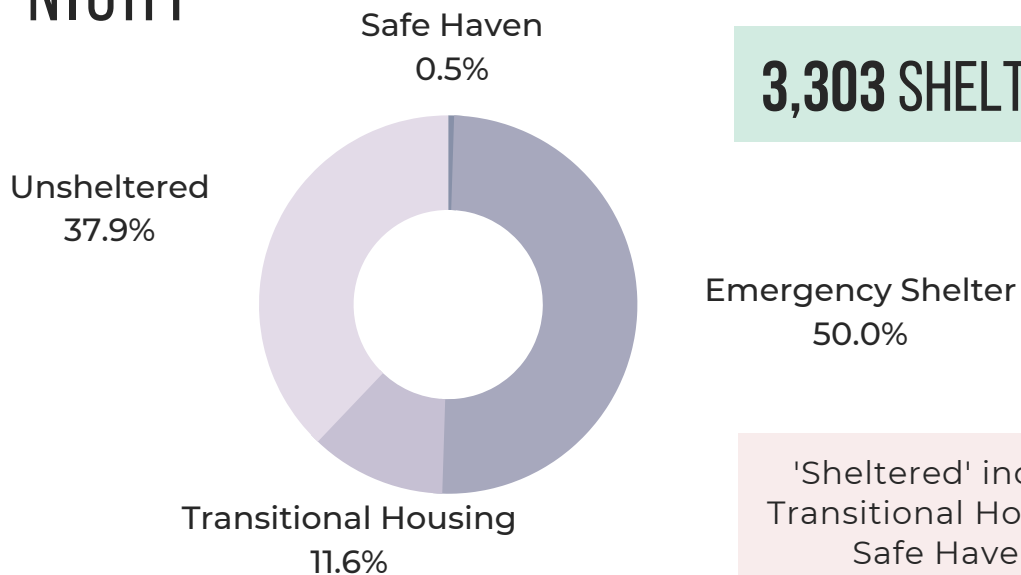
**5,317 ADULTS**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

This data represents the number of individuals in families with at least one adult age 25+ in the household counted during the annual Point in Time. The count took place on January 24, 2022 and includes those staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and places outside not meant for human habitation. It is a snapshot of the many people experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not include those staying with friends, family, or in a motel.

# WHERE THEY STAYED THAT NIGHT

**2,014 UNSHELTERED**

**3,303 SHELTERED**



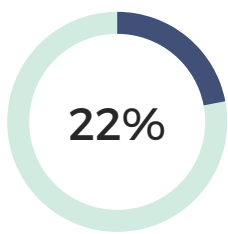
'Sheltered' includes Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, and Emergency Shelter.



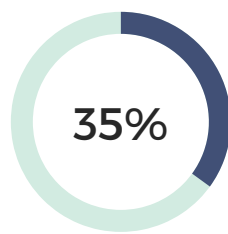
**1 in 3 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS FOR ADULTS

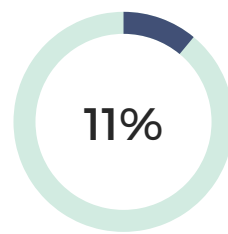
People counted during the Point in Time are asked to complete an optional survey. This survey collects information about their length of time homeless, factors contributing to homelessness, household demographics, and conditions or barriers. This data helps us understand the makeup and challenges of our local unhoused population.



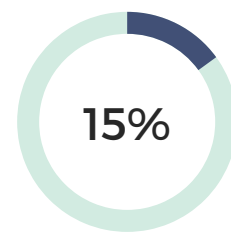
Disabling Condition



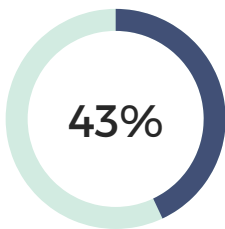
Chronic Health Condition



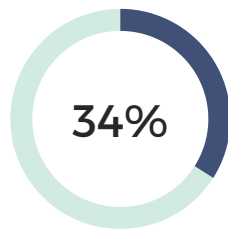
Developmental Condition



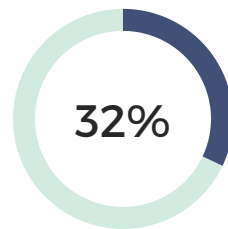
Domestic Violence



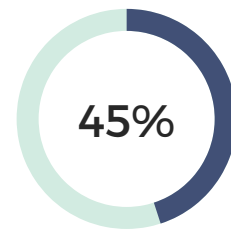
Mental Health Concern



Physical Disability



Substance Use



Chronically Homeless

*I felt the air go out of me and my mood sunk even lower; the anxiety became nearly paralyzing. One of the most difficult and abrupt adjustments I was being forced to make was going from a life that was fully engaged, challenging and fulfilling – supervising the in-home care of my mother throughout the course of her illness -- to one where I had to more or less sit back, wait for things to happen and change, and have faith that they would.*

**JAMES, JOURNEYS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS**

# ADULT POINT IN TIME

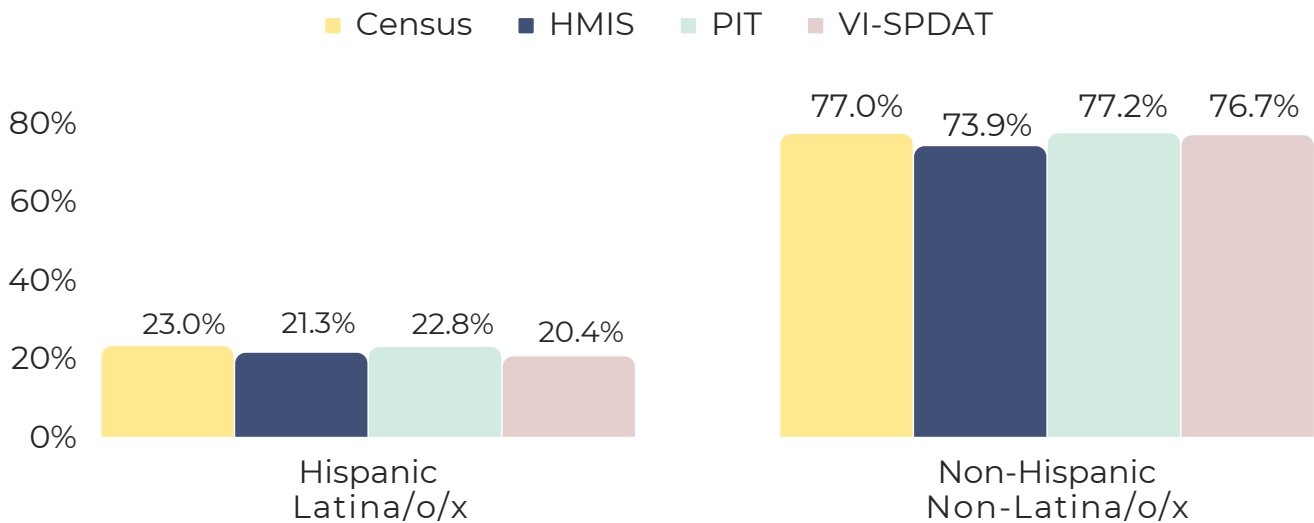
**5,317 ADULTS**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

AGE	PERCENT
25-34	14.0%
35-44	26.8%
45-54	23.9%
55-64	27.4%
65+	8.0%

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	64.6%
Female	33.9%
Transgender	0.8%
Nonconforming	0.7%

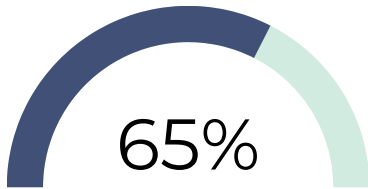
View an [Interactive Dashboard](#) of the 2022 Point in Time Data or [one-page reports](#) at [MDHI.org/PIT](https://MDHI.org/PIT).

## ETHNICITY ACROSS SOURCES



# ADULT VI-SPDAT DATA

**2,795 ADULTS**  
ASSESSED FOR COORDINATED ENTRY



EXPERIENCED TRAUMA

The following data provides a deeper look into the characteristics of adults assessed for Coordinated Entry between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. During the date range, 27,95 adults were administered the assessment.

The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool administered to households seeking housing or homelessness services. To complete an assessment and enter Metro Denver's Coordinated Entry System as an adult, one must meet HUD's literal homeless criteria and be at least 25 years old with no children in the household. Each household member over the age of 18 should complete an individual assessment, while individuals ages 18-24 complete the TAY-VI-SPDAT.

Visit [our website](#) for full eligibility criteria and a map of Coordinated Entry Access Points.

AGE	PERCENT
25-34	15.1%
35-44	22.3%
45-54	24.6%
55-64	25.4%
65+	11.6%

**1 in 10 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time



# RACIAL DISPARITIES FOR ADULTS

One statistically significant disparity that has remained consistent across data sources over time is the overrepresentation of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI), and multiracial people experiencing homelessness. This means these groups experience higher rates of homelessness compared to their relative makeup of the general population.

**4.3 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR  
 PACIFIC ISLANDER

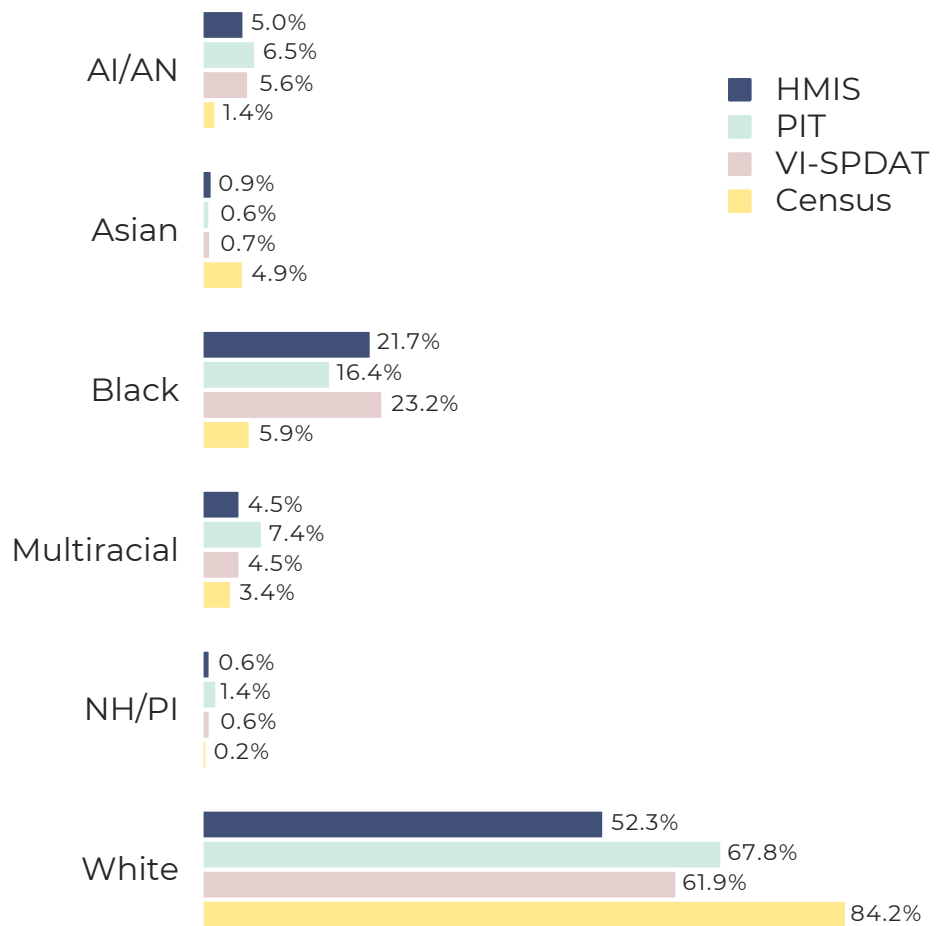
**4.1 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 NATIVE AMERICAN  
 OR INDIGENOUS

**3.5 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 BLACK OR AFRICAN

**1.6 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 MULTI-RACIAL

## RACE DATA

The following chart compares the representation of different racial groups experiencing homelessness to their makeup of the census population in Metro Denver.



## YOUTH DATA

*“Many times when we were homeless I was pregnant and people treated us like trash. They didn’t view us a human beings, even our shelters wouldn’t help us and ignore our pleas for help. There were many nights we had to sleep in piles of snow because the only youth shelters we knew and was told or given any information about did not allow us to come back. And other shelters were not able to take us in because I was not 21 I was only 18. I believe more youth services should be offered as many times we found our selves helpless.”*

### YOUTH WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

The following section outlines data on youth-only households for both sheltered and unsheltered living situations. This includes transition-aged youth 18-24, unaccompanied youth, parenting youth, and students.

While the definition of “unaccompanied youth” varies between HUD and the US Department of Education, the issue remains the same – we are failing young people in this country, particularly those exiting foster care.

When surveyed during an MDHI Listening and Healing Session, young adults with lived experience were adamant about a few recurring themes:

- Being looked down on or stigmatized as "homeless" or "young"
- Racial and financial inequity
- Lack of trust in "the system" to empathize or meet their needs

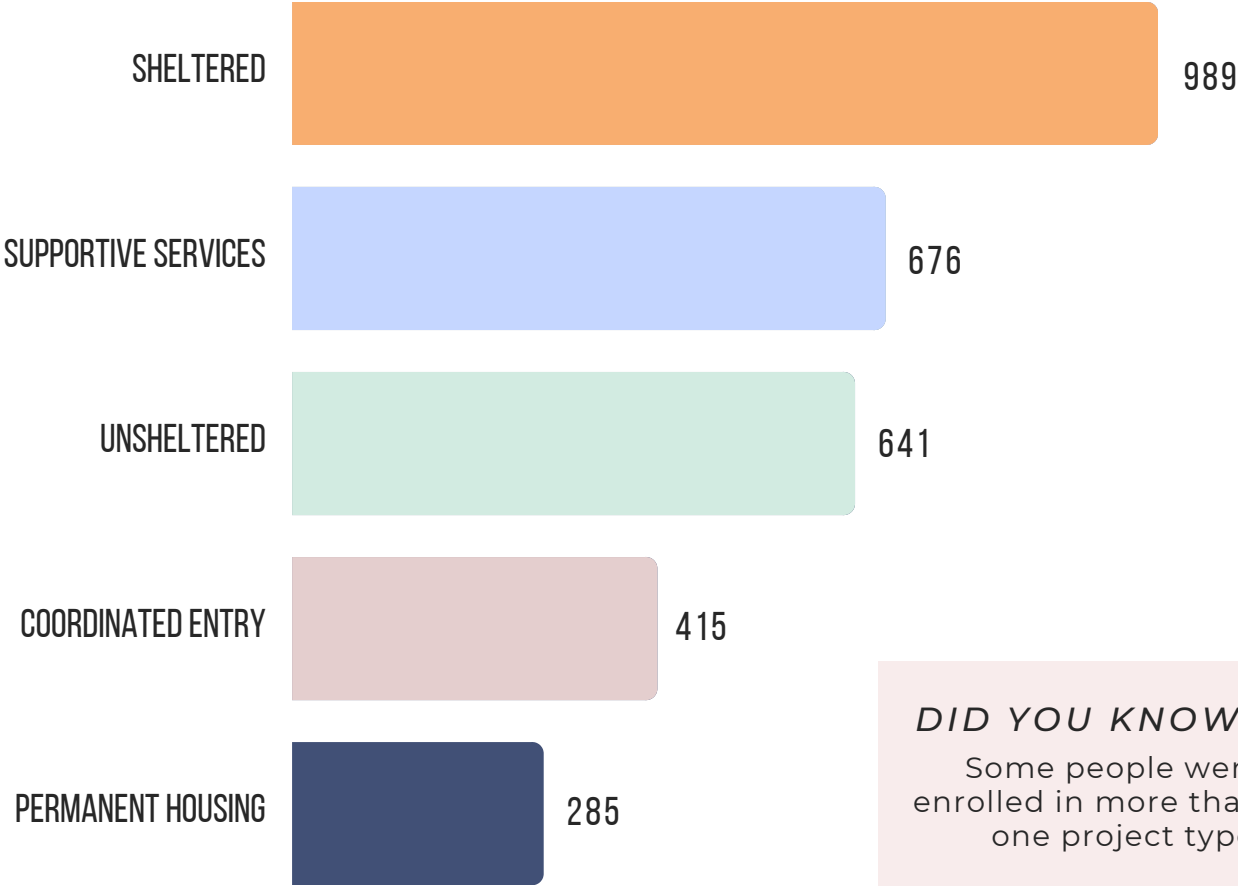
Youth also identified areas of opportunity for systems change:

- Teaching them practical life skills to prepare for adulthood
- Better, safer programs that are created with youth input
- Alternative housing solutions that meet different needs

# YOUTH HMIS DATA

**1,787 YOUTH**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE

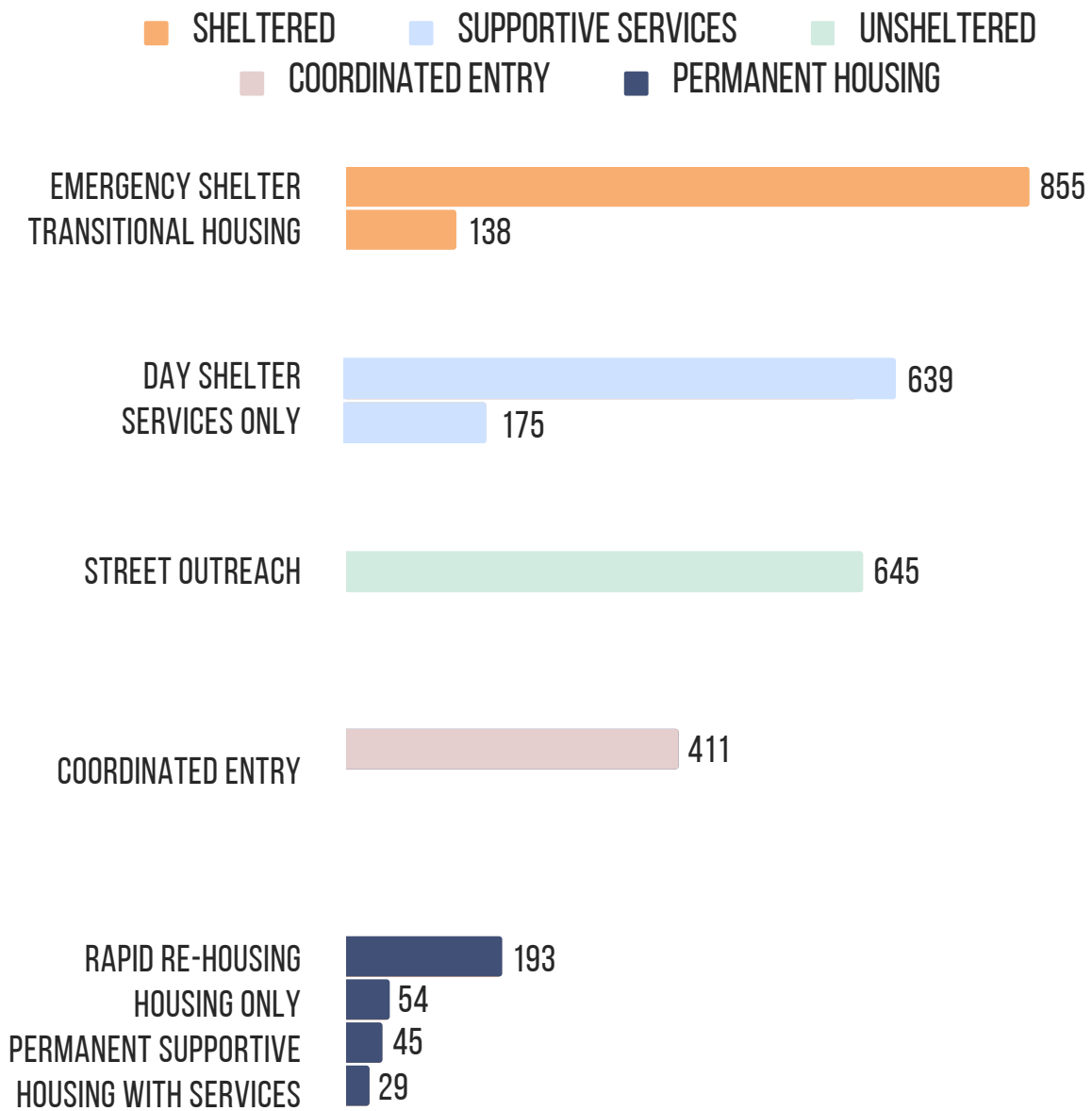


*\*While people in housing are no longer considered homeless, those in Permanent Housing were counted because they were experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.*

# YOUTH HMIS DATA

**1,787 YOUTH**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PROJECT TYPE BREAKDOWNS



# YOUTH HMIS DATA

This data represents the number of youth households accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies in Metro Denver between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

**1,787 YOUTH**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

*Exiting the foster care system is feeling and being basically homeless. The challenges? The dangers of being robbed or harm or losing the little bit we do have. The worries of where will I live and what happens if I can't afford it.*

**YOUTH WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE**

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	49.2%
Female	45.6%
Nonconforming	2.8%
Transgender	1.9%

AGE	PERCENT
0-17	16.1%
18-24	83.9%

OTHER FACTORS	PERCENT
Disabling Condition	45.3%
Chronically Homeless	21.1%



# YOUTH POINT IN TIME

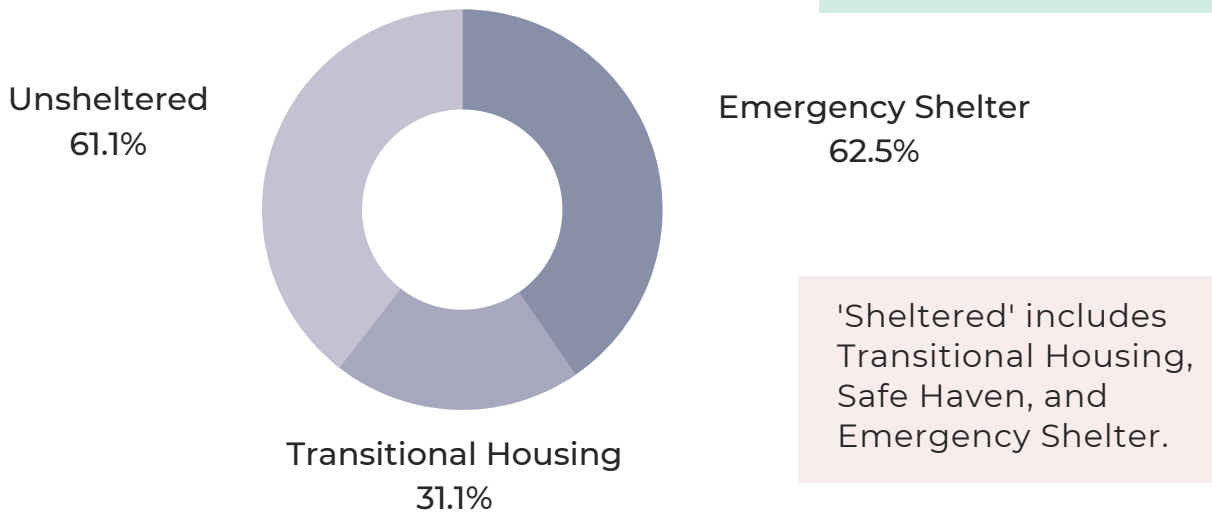
**360 YOUTH**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

This data represents the number of youth in youth-only households ages 0-24 counted during the annual Point in Time. The count took place on January 24, 2022, and includes those staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and places outside not meant for human habitation. It is a snapshot of the many youth experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not include those staying with friends, family, or in a motel.

# WHERE THEY STAYED THAT NIGHT

**22 UNSHELTERED**

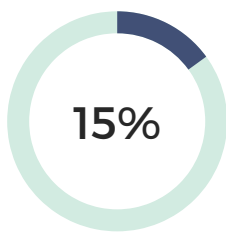
**338 SHELTERED**



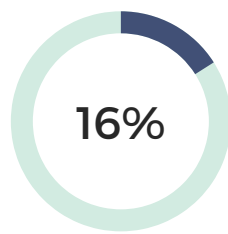
 **4 in 10 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS FOR YOUTH

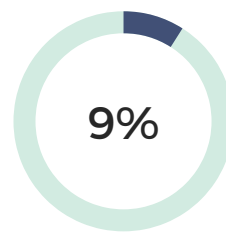
People counted during the Point in Time are asked to complete an optional survey. This survey collects information about their length of time homeless, factors contributing to homelessness, household demographics, and conditions or barriers. This data helps us understand the makeup and challenges of our local unhoused population.



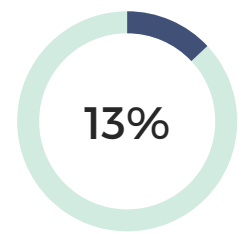
Disabling Condition



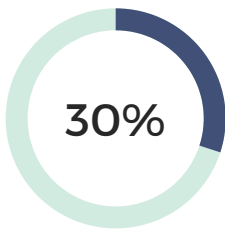
Chronic Health Condition



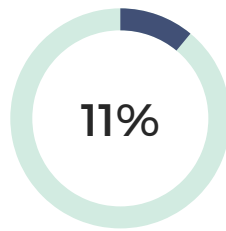
Developmental Condition



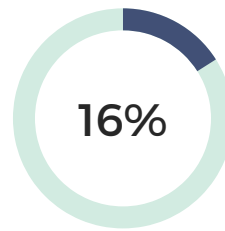
Domestic Violence



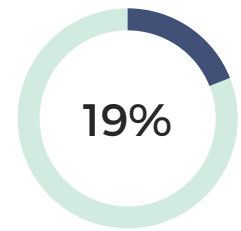
Mental Health Concern



Physical Disability



Substance Use



Chronically Homeless

*I feel angry when there is a lack of empathy for youth experiencing these barriers. You think people working in this field would want to really help. I know people had it worse, and that upsets me because I know that the outcomes are negative. When we lean on institutions for support and they don't support us, it is upsetting. They were not focusing on me as an individual, but more as a behavior problem.*

**YOUTH WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE**

# YOUTH POINT IN TIME

**360 YOUTH**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

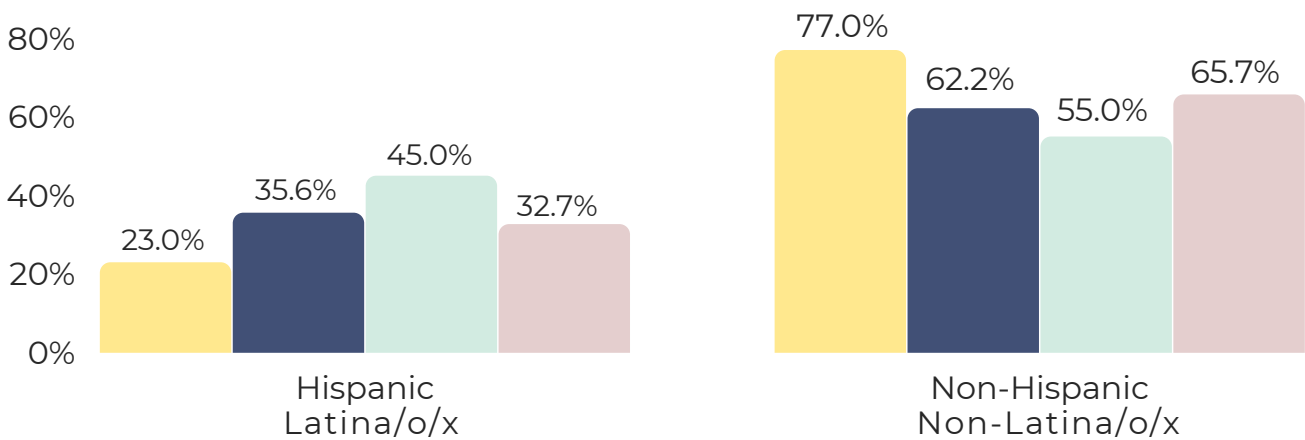
AGE	PERCENT
0-17	14.4%
18-24	85.6%

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	59.2%
Female	37.8%
Nonconforming	1.7%
Transgender	1.4%

View an [Interactive Dashboard](#) of the 2022 Point in Time Data or [one-page reports](#) at [MDHI.org/PIT](http://MDHI.org/PIT).

## ETHNICITY ACROSS SOURCES

■ Census ■ HMIS ■ PIT ■ VI-SPDAT





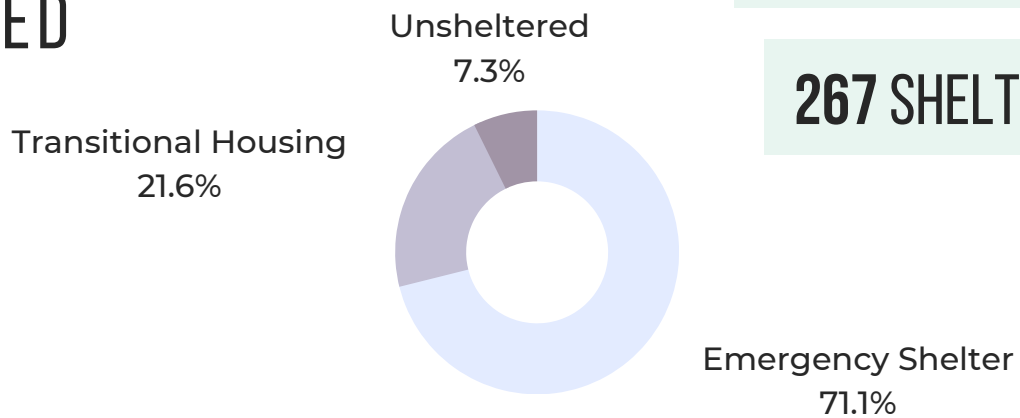
# YOUTH POINT IN TIME

**287 YOUTH**  
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

## UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

This data represents the number of youth 0-24 that were not in the presence of a parent or guardian.

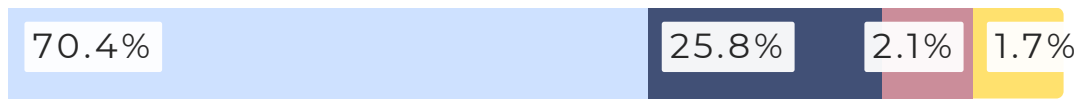
## WHERE THEY STAYED



**20 UNSHELTERED**

**267 SHELTERED**

■ Male ■ Female ■ Nonconforming ■ Transgender



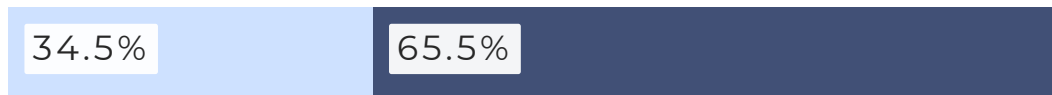
**GENDER**

■ 0-17 ■ 18-24



**AGE**

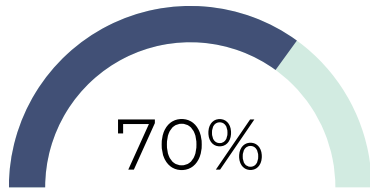
■ Yes ■ No



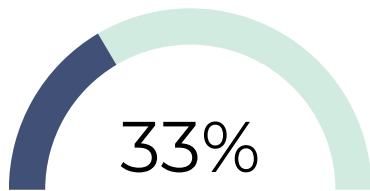
**FIRST TIME  
HOMELESS**

# YOUTH VI-SPDAT DATA

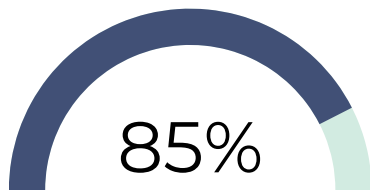
**175 YOUTH**  
ASSESSED FOR COORDINATED ENTRY



Disabling Condition



Chronically Homeless



Experienced Homelessness Before

The following data provides a deeper look into the characteristics of youth 18-24 assessed for Coordinated Entry between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. During the date range, 175 youth were identified in households with no adults 25+ present.

The TAY-VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool administered to transition-aged youth seeking housing or homelessness services. To complete an assessment and enter Metro Denver's Coordinated Entry System as a youth, one must meet HUD's literal homeless criteria and be 18-24, with or without children in the household. Young adults (age 18-24) who are at-risk of homelessness, as defined by HUD, and have been in foster care at least one day on or after their 16th birthday are also eligible.

Visit [our website](#) for full eligibility criteria and a map of Coordinated Entry Access Points.



**1 in 6 Newly Homeless**

Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# YOUTH MCKINNEY-VENTO

**8,240 STUDENTS**  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The Colorado Department of Education collects ongoing data on the number of students experiencing homelessness each year. This is a collective count that indicates the number of students who at some point during the year experienced homelessness per their definition. For some of these students, this homelessness may have been brief. For others, it may have lasted the entire school year. These students fall into one of four general categories of homelessness. As per the Department of Education's statute, the term "homeless children and youths" includes:

- A. individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and
- B. (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
  - (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
  - (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

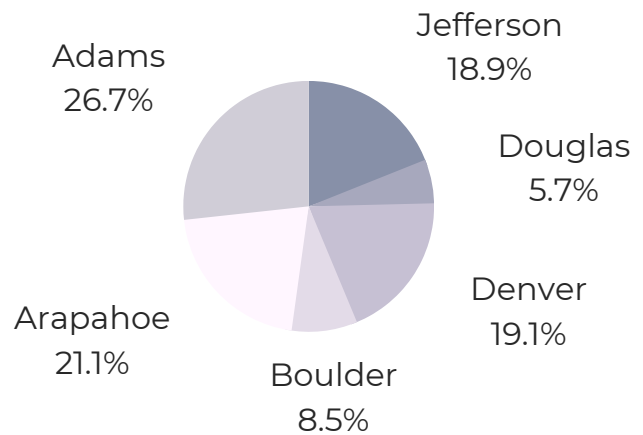
# YOUTH MCKINNEY-VENTO

**8,240 STUDENTS**  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

## STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY COUNTY IN THE REGION

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR  
LAST AVAILABLE

*Broomfield's data is included with Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson Counties.*



## TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS EXPERIENCED BY COUNTY

When we think of homelessness, we often forget about the youth that are in shelters, motels, transitional housing, awaiting foster care, or doubled up due to economic hardship. The following table breaks down these unhoused situations by type and by county with data provided by the Colorado Department of Education.

COUNTY	SHELTERS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AWAITING FOSTER CARE	DOUBLED UP DUE TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIP	UNSHELTERED	HOTEL OR MOTEL	TOTAL
ADAMS	132	1,869	52	149	2202
ARAPAHOE	214	1141	109	274	1738
BOULDER	238	415	4	41	698
DENVER	261	1079	47	187	1574
DOUGLAS	86	298	30	53	467
JEFFERSON	114	1220	60	167	1561

# STUDENTS MCKINNEY-VENTO

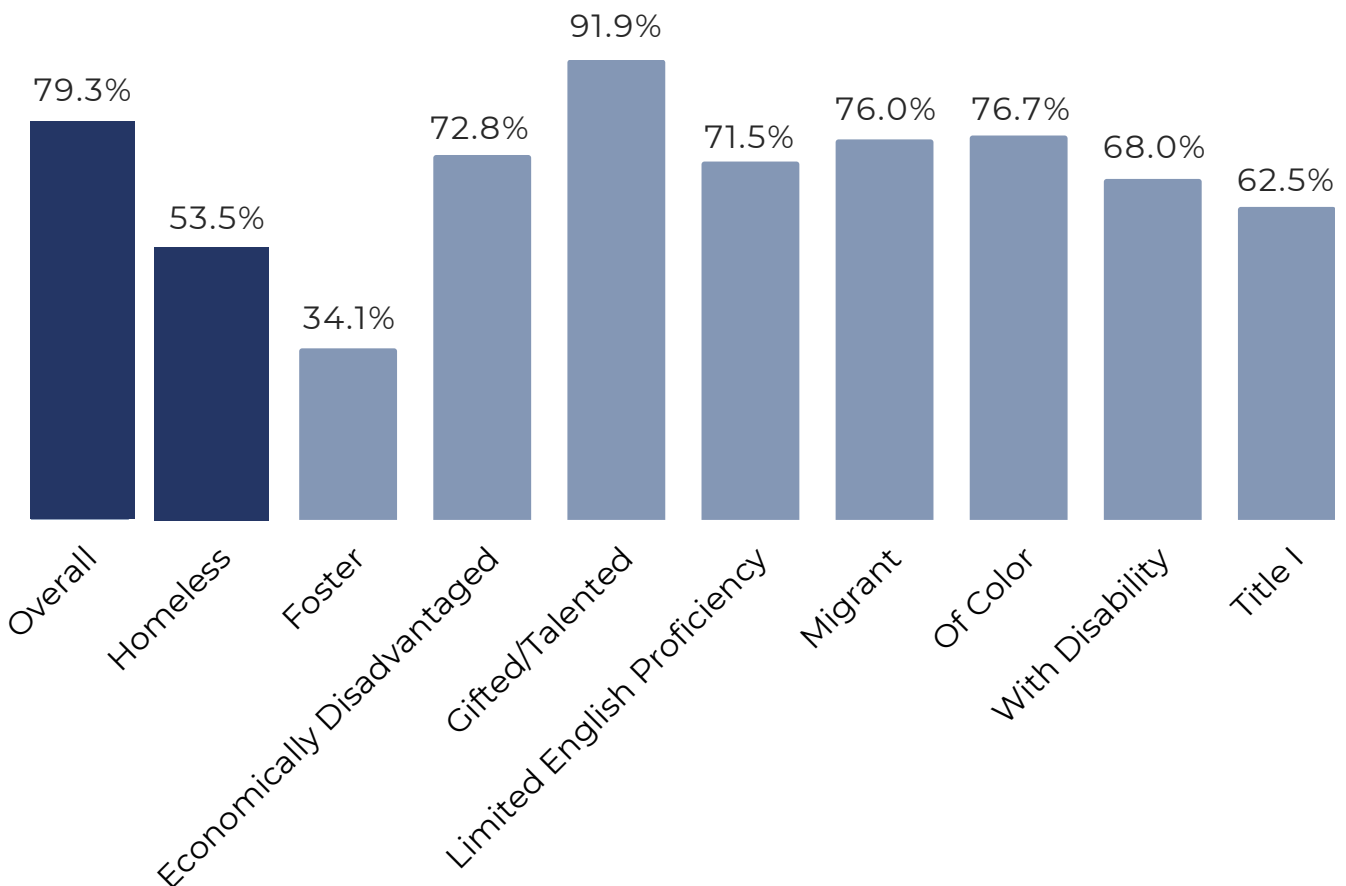
**8,240 STUDENTS**  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Colorado was one of the first states in the nation to begin collecting and releasing data on the graduation and completion rates of students experiencing homelessness. According to the Colorado Department of Education, the average four-year graduation rate for students was 79.3%.

This rate plummets to 53.5% for students experiencing homelessness.

## GRADUATION RATES

The following data compares graduation rates for different student/demographic groups, including those experiencing homelessness in Metro Denver.



# UNACCOMPANIED MCKINNEY-VENTO

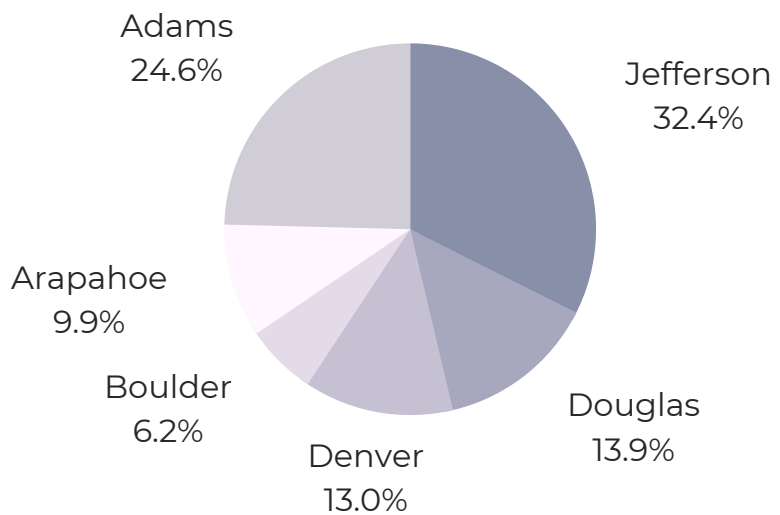
**832 YOUTH**  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Unaccompanied youth are included in this count and must also fit the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness to qualify for assistance. Under this definition, homeless refers to lacking a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)(a)]. The term “unaccompanied” refers to a youth “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian” [42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)].

## TOTAL COUNT OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH BY COUNTY

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

A total of 832 unaccompanied youth experienced homelessness in Metro Denver.



“My biggest problem with me personally experiencing homelessness is mental health as well as family issues. I was constantly kicked out every time I was allowed back home with no care about my well-being at all. The mental health part of it was not getting the right treatment or any treatment at all and addiction also played a part in that story.”

YOUNG ADULT WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

# RACIAL DISPARITIES FOR STUDENTS

One statistically significant disparity that has remained consistent across data sources over time is the overrepresentation of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI), and multiracial people experiencing homelessness. This means these groups experience higher rates of homelessness compared to their relative makeup of the general population.

**4.0 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR  
PACIFIC ISLANDER

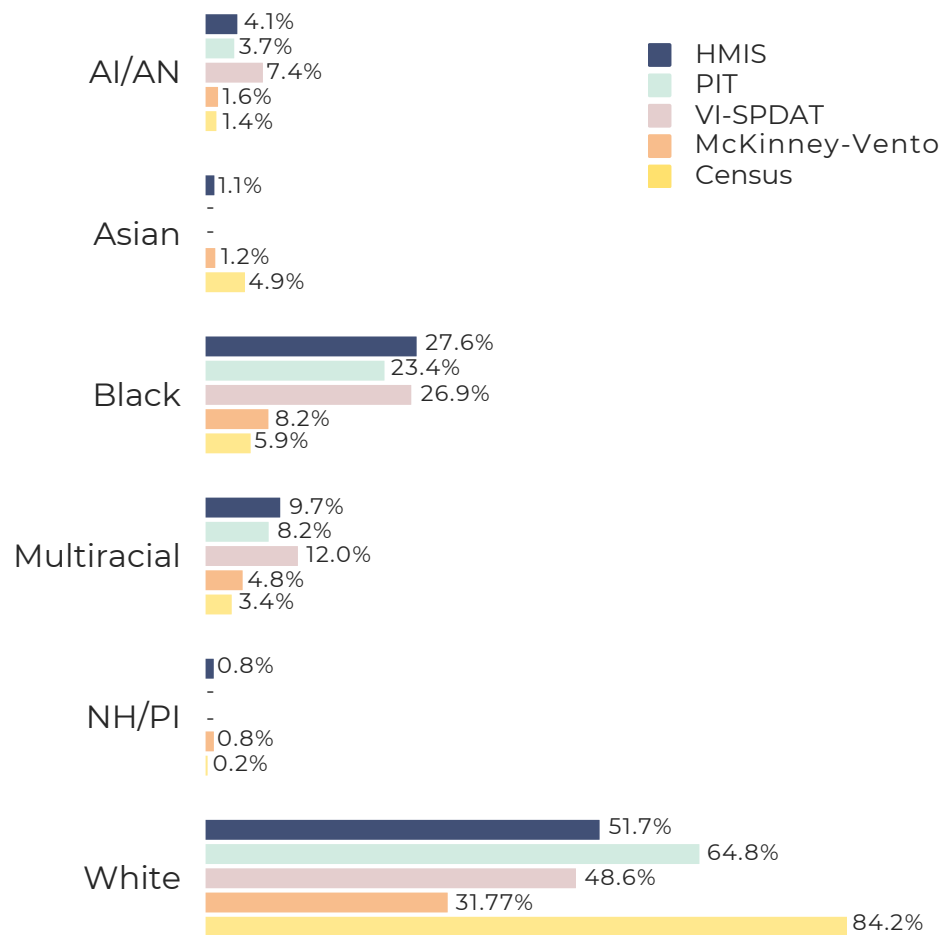
**3.0 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
OR INDIGENOUS

**3.6 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
BLACK OR AFRICAN

**2.6 X**  
OVERREPRESENTED  
IN HOMELESSNESS  
MULTI-RACIAL

## RACE DATA

The following chart compares the representation of different racial groups experiencing homelessness to their makeup of the census population in Metro Denver.



## VETERAN DATA

*“I became homeless through no fault of my own, and that should not even matter. I made my move to Colorado with investments, savings and a plan, all of the things Suzy Orman says you should have. I even had a paralegal degree under my belt, excellent letters of reference and years of good experience. All of the things that kept me from gaining employment were beyond my control. I have no drug use, no alcohol abuse. I had never missed a day of work due to my PTSD.”*

MICHELLE (VETERAN), JOURNEYS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

The following section outlines data on veteran households for both sheltered and unsheltered living situations. This includes individuals aged 18+ who served in the active military, naval, or air service.

Approximately 15% of all adults surveyed with the VI-SPDAT are veterans, and the majority identify trauma as contributing to their homelessness.

Veterans experiencing homelessness overwhelmingly identify as:

- Male
- Disproportionately BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- Not experiencing homelessness for the first time
- Having higher rates of physical or mental disabilities, chronic health conditions, and/or substance abuse compared to other subpopulations

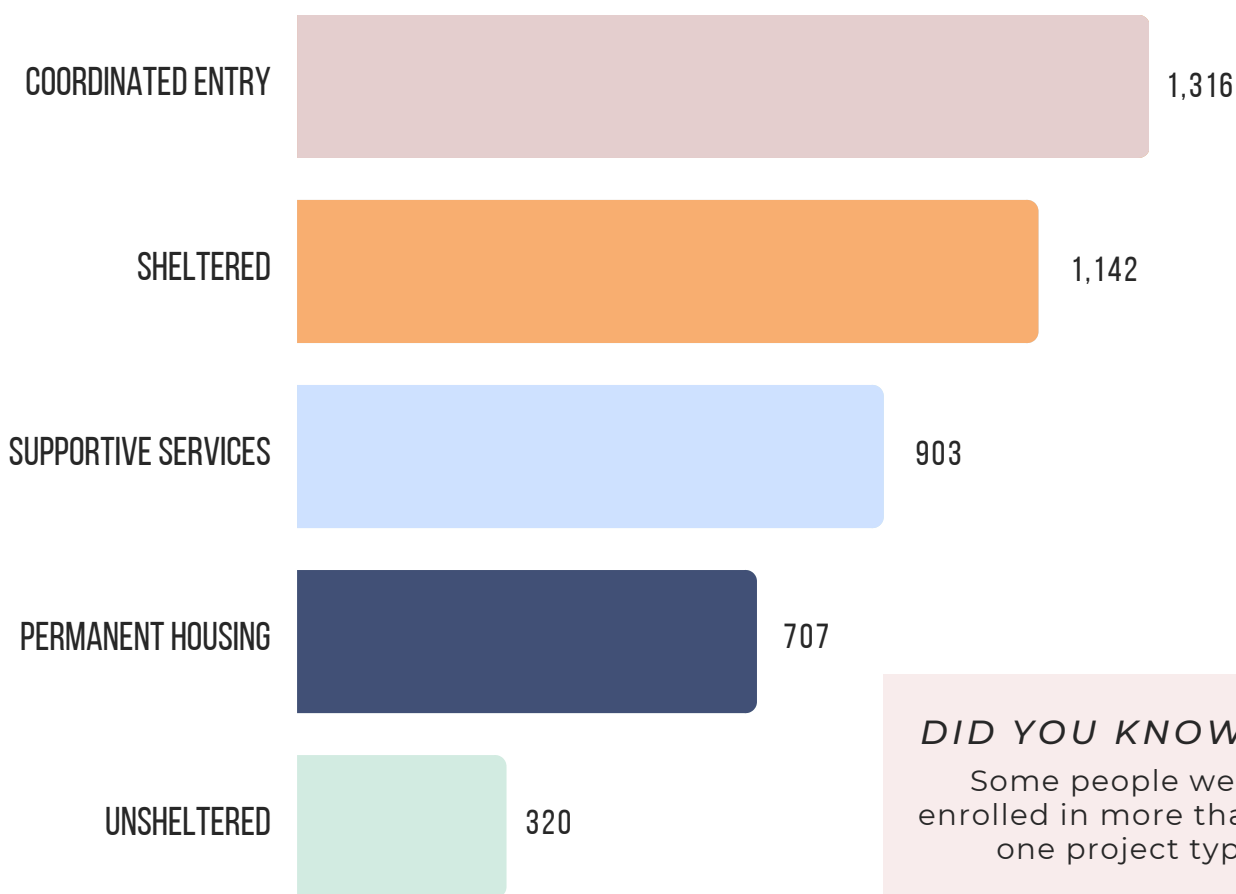
It is important to note that veterans assessed for housing resources are entered into the Veterans Affairs (VA) database instead of our Coordinated Entry System, which has its own process for prioritization and resource allocation.



# VETERAN HMIS DATA

**2,134 VETERANS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PEOPLE SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE

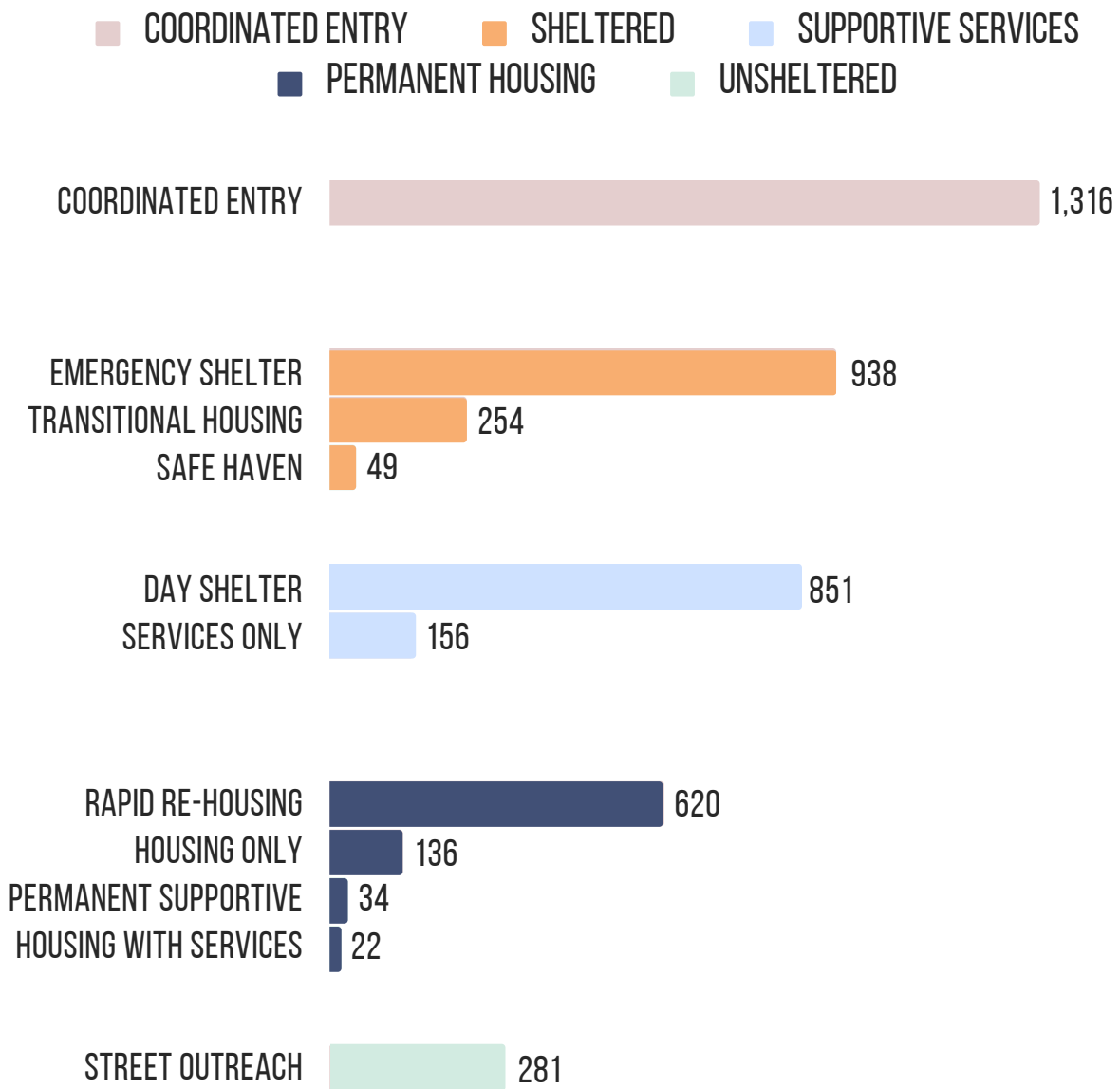


*\*While people in housing are no longer considered homeless, those in Permanent Housing were counted because they were experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.*

# VETERAN HMIS DATA

**2,134 VETERANS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

## PROJECT TYPE BREAKDOWNS



# VETERAN HMIS DATA

**2,134 VETERANS**  
ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

This data represents the number of veterans accessing services or housing related to homelessness at HMIS Partner Agencies in Metro Denver between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	91.9%
Female	7.4%
Transgender	0.5%

**HOUSING STABILITY FLEXIBLE FUND**

A Veteran with a family of five was facing eviction. They were able to identify new housing but were unable to afford the security deposit fee. The Flex Fund provided security deposit assistance to ensure the household did not become literally homeless and was able to maintain their housing stability.

[SHOW YOUR SUPPORT](#)

AGE	PERCENT
18-24	0.8%
25-34	10.0%
35-44	19.1%
45-54	18.7%
55-64	30.3%
65+	21.2%



**1 in 10 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# VETERANS POINT IN TIME

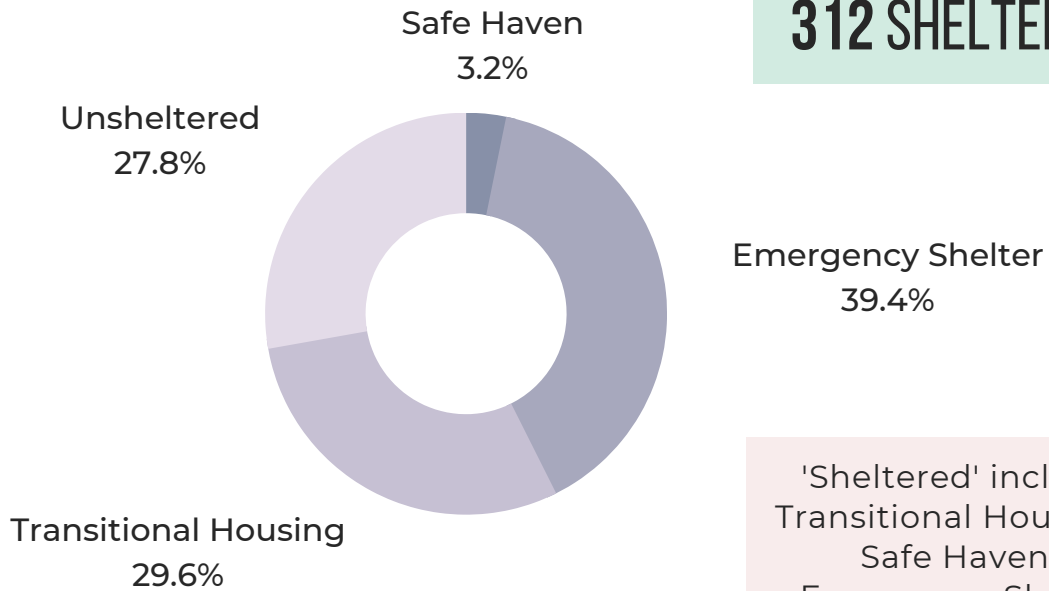
**432 VETERANS**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

This data represents the number of veterans counted during the annual Point in Time. The count took place on January 24, 2022 and includes those staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and places outside not meant for human habitation. It is a snapshot of the many people experiencing homelessness on a single night and does not include those staying with friends, family, or in a motel.

# WHERE THEY STAYED THAT NIGHT

**120 UNSHELTERED**

**312 SHELTERED**



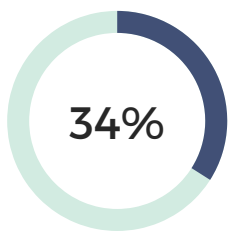
'Sheltered' includes Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, and Emergency Shelter.



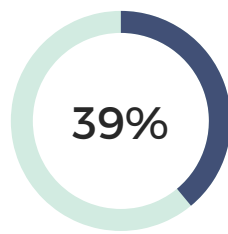
**1 in 3 Newly Homeless**  
Experiencing homelessness for the first time

# CONDITIONS AND BARRIERS FOR VETERANS

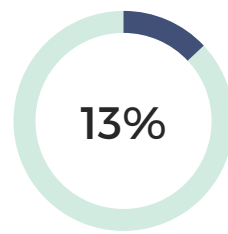
People counted during the Point in Time are asked to complete an optional survey. This survey collects information about their length of time homeless, factors contributing to homelessness, household demographics, and conditions or barriers. This data helps us understand the makeup and challenges of our local unhoused population.



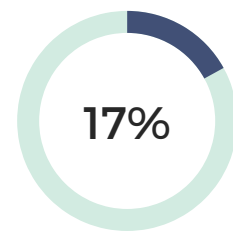
Disabling Condition



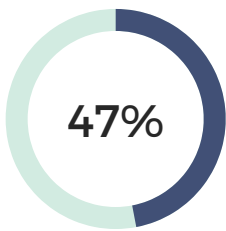
Chronic Health Condition



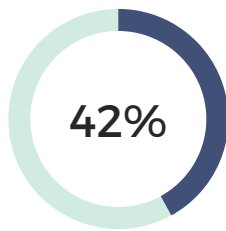
Developmental Condition



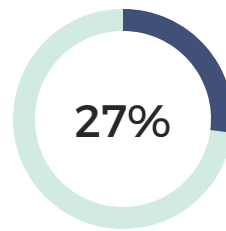
Domestic Violence



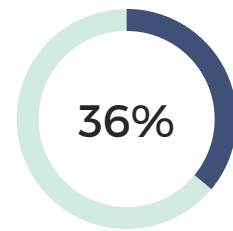
Mental Health Concern



Physical Disability



Substance Use



Chronically Homeless

*A lot of Veterans who are out on the streets, have a deep sense of honor that has been harmed, they have a deep sense of dignity that's been stripped from them, and they need to understand that they're valuable, they need to understand that they deserve much more than violence on the streets.*

REX, [DENVER 7 NEWS](#)

# VETERANS POINT IN TIME

**432 VETERANS**  
COUNTED ON 01/24/22

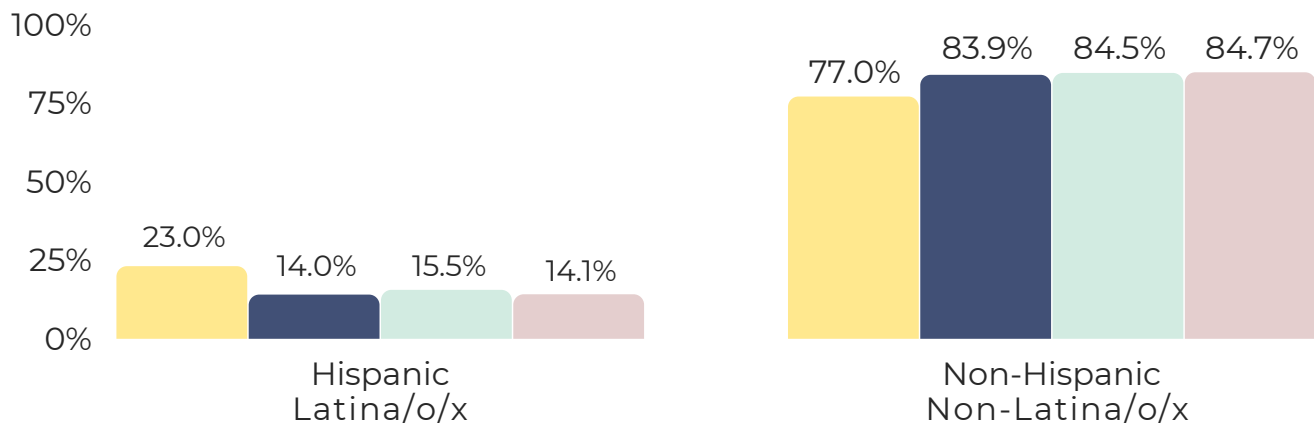
AGE	PERCENT
18-24	1.6%
25-34	7.6%
35-44	17.1%
45-54	19.2%
55-64	37.3%
65+	17.1%

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	83.6%
Female	13.2%
Transgender	2.1%
Nonconforming	1.2%

View an *Interactive Dashboard* of the 2022 Point in Time Data or *one-page reports* at [MDHI.org/PIT](http://MDHI.org/PIT).

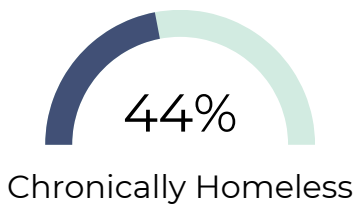
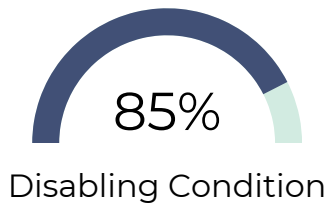
## ETHNICITY ACROSS SOURCES

■ Census ■ HMIS ■ PIT ■ VI-SPDAT



# VETERAN VI-SPDAT DATA

**516 VETERANS**  
 ASSESSED FOR COORDINATED ENTRY



AGE	PERCENT
18-24	0.1%
25-34	8.5%
35-44	15.0%
45-54	16.3%
55-64	46.4%
65+	13.7%

The following data provides a deeper look into the characteristics of the 516 veterans assessed for Coordinated Entry between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool administered to households seeking services that meet HUD's definition of 'literally homeless.' This tool is only administered because of the scarce supply of permanent housing resources in our community and is one of the factors used to determine housing placement. Prioritization for veterans is defined and managed by Veterans Affairs (VA) rather than our Coordinated Entry System, so the criteria are different from other subpopulations. Veterans with higher acuity that are a good match for the VA's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) are typically selected for assessment. The VA does not typically assess veterans that are ineligible for PSH or their other housing resources.

Visit [our website](#) for full eligibility criteria and a map of Coordinated Entry Access Points.

# RACIAL DISPARITIES FOR VETERANS

One statistically significant disparity that has remained consistent across data sources over time is the overrepresentation of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI), and multiracial people experiencing homelessness. This means these groups experience higher rates of homelessness compared to their relative makeup of the general population.

**6.5 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR  
 PACIFIC ISLANDER

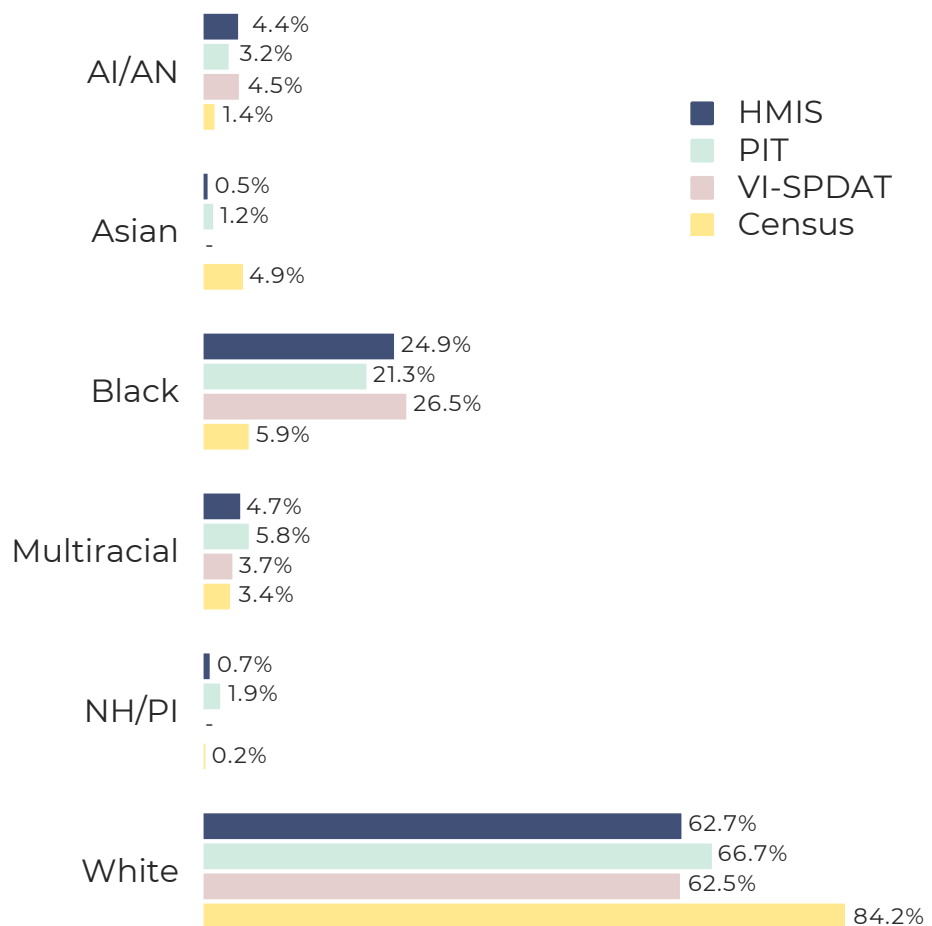
**4.1 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 BLACK OR AFRICAN

**2.9 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 NATIVE AMERICAN  
 OR INDIGENOUS

**1.4 X**  
 OVERREPRESENTED  
 IN HOMELESSNESS  
 MULTI-RACIAL

## RACE DATA

The following chart compares the representation of different racial groups experiencing homelessness to their makeup of the census population in Metro Denver.





## 05

# CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Time and again, studies show a large disconnect between the public's perception and the actual causes of homelessness. While it is easy to place blame on the individual for experiencing homelessness, the problem ultimately stems from systemic failures.

A poll conducted by The Denver Foundation underscores this misperception ([Close to Home Campaign](#)). Housed residents of the region cited unemployment, substance use, and mental health as the most common causes of homelessness. However, systemic causes such as inaccessible housing, economic inequality, and racial inequities are the root causes of homelessness. Continuing to blame the individual rather than the system will not solve homelessness in its current state nor prevent it in the future.

The following section details the systemic and self-reported causes of homelessness in Metro Denver.

## LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

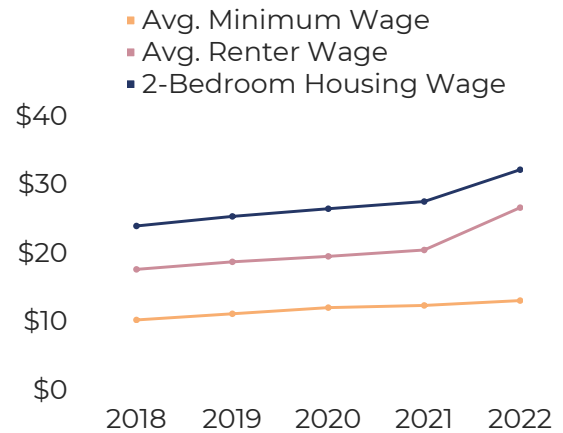
Housing is the solution to homelessness. However, maintaining stable housing has become increasingly difficult when Colorado has the 7th highest housing shortage<sup>1</sup> and 8th highest housing wage<sup>2</sup> in the nation. The Denver metro area ranks 16th out of 300+ metropolitan areas with an estimated shortage of nearly 70,000 units. And with an average Fair Market Rent of \$1,671 for a 2-bedroom and a median home price of \$599,000, renting or owning a home in the metro Denver area is becoming more and more out of reach.

The following wage and housing data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition average totals from each county of Metro Denver: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson.

## PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD THE COST OF HOUSING

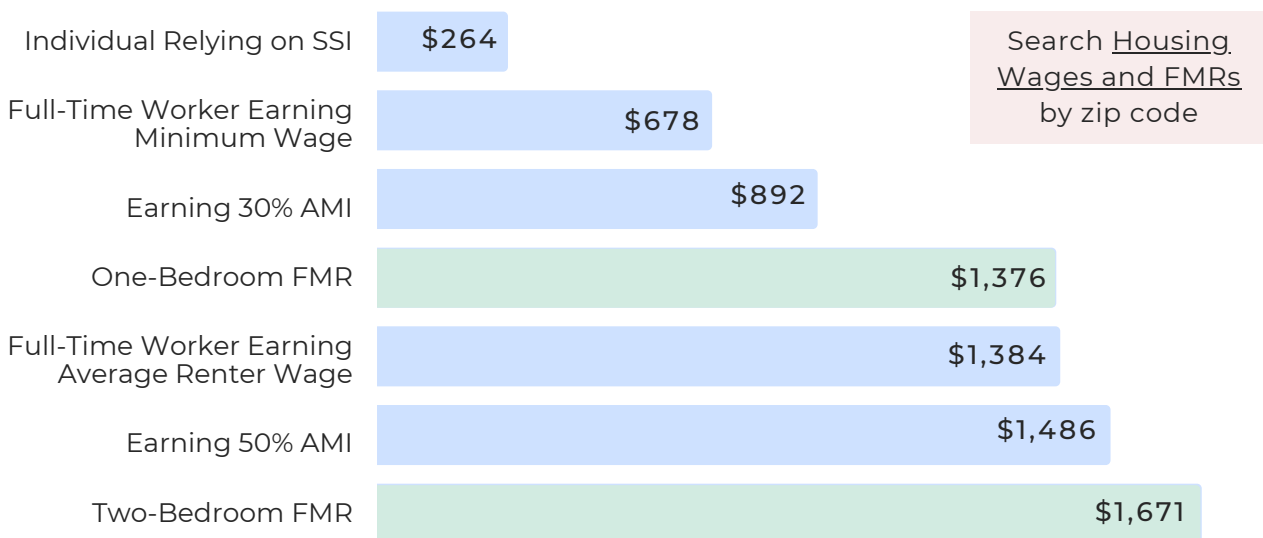
In 2022, the average minimum wage in Metro Denver was **\$13.03** and the average renter wage was **\$26.61**, yet the housing wage for a 2-bedroom Fair Market rental is **\$32.15**.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition<sup>4</sup>



## HOW FAIR IS 'FAIR MARKET RENT'?

About 34% of households in Metro Denver are renters.<sup>4</sup> The **blue** represents the rent people can afford at different incomes, and the **green** is the 2022 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for 1 and 2-bedroom rentals in Metro Denver. Anyone relying on Social Security Income (SSI), working full-time and earning minimum wage, or earning 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) is at risk of homelessness due to housing affordability. Those earning 30% AMI account for 22% of all renters.<sup>4</sup>



*Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the seven-county Denver metro area is \$1,671. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn \$5,572 monthly or \$66,869 annually. Assuming 40 hours a week, 52 weeks per year, this translates to a housing wage of \$34.83 an hour.<sup>4</sup>*

**\$34.83**  
PER HOUR  
METRO DENVER  
HOUSING WAGE

## ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Low wages create barriers to affording our basic needs, and while the cost of living in metro Denver has risen rapidly, wages have not. This has made it increasingly difficult for people to afford the housing available. This is how many hours per week someone would have to work making the \$13.03 minimum wage to afford housing:

- 99 Work Hours/Per Week to Afford a 2-Bedroom FMR Rental<sup>4</sup>
- 82 Work Hours/Per Week to Afford a 1-Bedroom FMR Rental<sup>4</sup>

This is one reason why someone can have one or more jobs and still experience homelessness. Many full-time positions do not pay a wage in which people can afford the housing available.

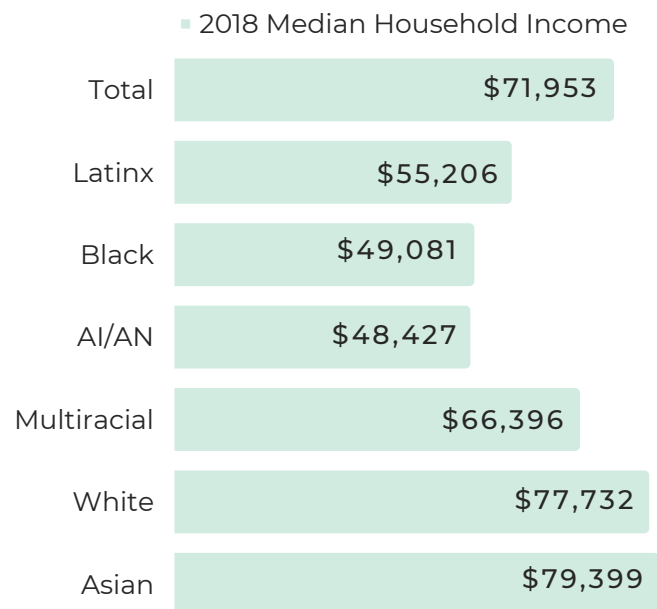
*“[We need] more funding to create affordable housing. We have gentrified poor neighborhoods and left many low-income and lower-middle-class citizens homeless. As we create more housing for the rich when they are only 2 percent of this nation. Nonetheless, a better housing market that helps specifically African Americans and doesn’t operate under the umbrella of minority.”*

YOUNG ADULT WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

## RACIAL INCOME INEQUALITY

Household incomes in Colorado vary tremendously depending on race or ethnicity. The median incomes for Latinx, Black/African, American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN), and multiracial households were significantly less than the state median, while White and Asian households were slightly above.

*Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP).<sup>5</sup>*



While middle-income Coloradans tends to hold constant across racial and ethnic groups, the highest and lowest income categories have a strong correlation with race and ethnicity. For example, while over 20% of Asian and White households fell into the upper-income category, less than 10% of Black/African and American Indian/Alaska Native households were upper-income.<sup>5</sup> Nearly half of Black households were considered lower income, even though they only represent one-third of Colorado households overall.<sup>5</sup> These disparities demonstrate the relationship between race and income that make it difficult to rent or purchase housing.

## SYSTEMIC RACISM

In metro Denver and across the country, people of color continue to experience homelessness and housing instability at disproportionate rates. The overrepresentation of Black and Indigenous people in the homeless population results from a centuries-long history of oppression, ongoing systemic racism, and inequitable public policy decisions in healthcare, criminal justice, education, housing, child welfare, and income. The following section offers some insight into the scope of systemic racism and how it directly contributes to people experiencing homelessness.

## ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Healthcare systems are not responsive to the specific needs of people of color and often lack cultural competence.

*"Disparities in health outcomes and access to quality health care by race and ethnicity are well-documented. Recent research examining health status by both income and race has found that some of the largest health disparities exist between high and low-income people within the same racial and ethnic group."*<sup>7</sup>

People of color also experience higher rates of trauma, mental health, stress, and substance abuse.

## GENTRIFICATION, SEGREGATION, & REDLINING

Gentrification makes historically redlined communities susceptible to renovations that sharply increase home values and property taxes.

*Denver is the second most gentrified city in the US. This forces long-term residents and businesses out of historically Black neighborhoods like Five Points. Long-term residents of color are typically displaced by white residents who can afford the high cost of housing.*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

Individuals with a criminal history have a harder time securing a job with a living wage and maintaining housing, leading to higher rates of homelessness.

*The incarceration rate for individuals born into low-income families is 20 times that of those born into high-income families. Colorado spends \$1 billion annually on its prison system, which has 'housed' more people than affordable housing programs have in the state.*<sup>9</sup>

## POVERTY

People of color are more likely to experience poverty.

*Nearly half of Black/African Americans, and Hispanic/Latinx, and American Indian/Alaskan Native, Coloradans live in or near poverty, compared to 20% of their white counterparts.*<sup>10</sup>

# SELF-REPORTED CAUSES HMIS DATA

A total of 12,241 unique individuals who accessed services or housing related to homelessness at an HMIS Partner Agency from 07/01/21-06/30/22 responded to the optional question: *Would you like to share the reasons or factors you feel contributed to your homelessness?*

**1** RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS OR FAMILY BREAK-UP

**2** LOST A JOB OR COULD NOT FIND WORK

**3** UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE

**4** ASKED TO LEAVE OR EVICTED

**5** ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS

While clients had the option to choose multiple responses, only one positive response was recorded per client, even in instances with multiple enrollments for the same client.

This data set does not include a field for the 'Marshall Fire.'

# SELF-REPORTED CAUSES

## POINT IN TIME DATA

A total of 6,884 unique individuals were counted on the night of 01/04/22 and had a chance to respond to the optional question: *Would you like to share the reasons or factors you feel contributed to your homelessness?*

**1** UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE

**2** ASKED TO LEAVE OR EVICTED

**3** LOST A JOB OR COULD NOT FIND WORK

**4** RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS OR FAMILY BREAK-UP

**5** ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS

While clients had the option to choose multiple responses, only one positive response was recorded per client.

This data set includes a field for the 'Marshall Fire.'

There are many causes of homelessness, and no list is exhaustive. The following table represents the full available data set from our HMIS and Point in Time data on self-reported causes of homelessness.

Fields	HMIS	PIT
Unable to Pay Rent Mortgage	25.68%	29.91%
Asked to Leave or Evicted	21.09%	25.84%
Lost a Job Could Not Find Work	25.84%	24.11%
Relationship Problems or Family Breakup	27.38%	23.85%
Alcohol Substance Abuse Problems	20.18%	20.82%
Abuse or Violence in My Home	19.34%	19.45%
Mental Illness	18.10%	16.05%
Disabling Conditions	13.64%	12.27%
Unable to Pay Utilities	12.71%	12.07%
COVID-19	13.66%	11.98%
Family Member or Personal Illness	13.26%	9.46%
PTSD	12.85%	9.25%
Legal Problems	7.69%	9.22%
Moved to Find Work	7.52%	8.41%
Client Choice	5.56%	7.44%
Bad Credit	8.64%	6.54%
Discharged from Jail	7.77%	6.32%
Discharged from Prison	5.74%	4.81%
Problems with Public Benefits	5.87%	4.43%
Medical Expenses	4.22%	3.49%
Language Barrier	0.98%	3.37%
Traumatic Brain Injury	4.45%	3.02%
Reasons Related to my Race or Ethnicity	2.21%	2.02%
Reasons Related to my Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity	1.94%	0.97%
Discharge from Foster Care	1.03%	0.83%
Marshall Fire	N/A	0.39%



## 06

# REALITIES OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a complex, systemic issue that is unique to each individual experiencing it. While this report cannot speak to every individual's experience of homelessness, it can use data to shape our collective understanding of the issue. There are many misconceptions that focus on individual causes of homelessness rather than systemic ones. Some misconceptions include:

- People move to Colorado due to the legalization of cannabis and become unhoused
- Homelessness is a choice

We hope that all conversations about homelessness in our community center around the data we have available and the stories of the people with lived experience.

The following section challenges some common misconceptions about homelessness in Metro Denver with the most recent available data. The quotes throughout this report from people with lived experience are meant to add context to these numbers and are by no means exhaustive of the many experiences of homelessness.

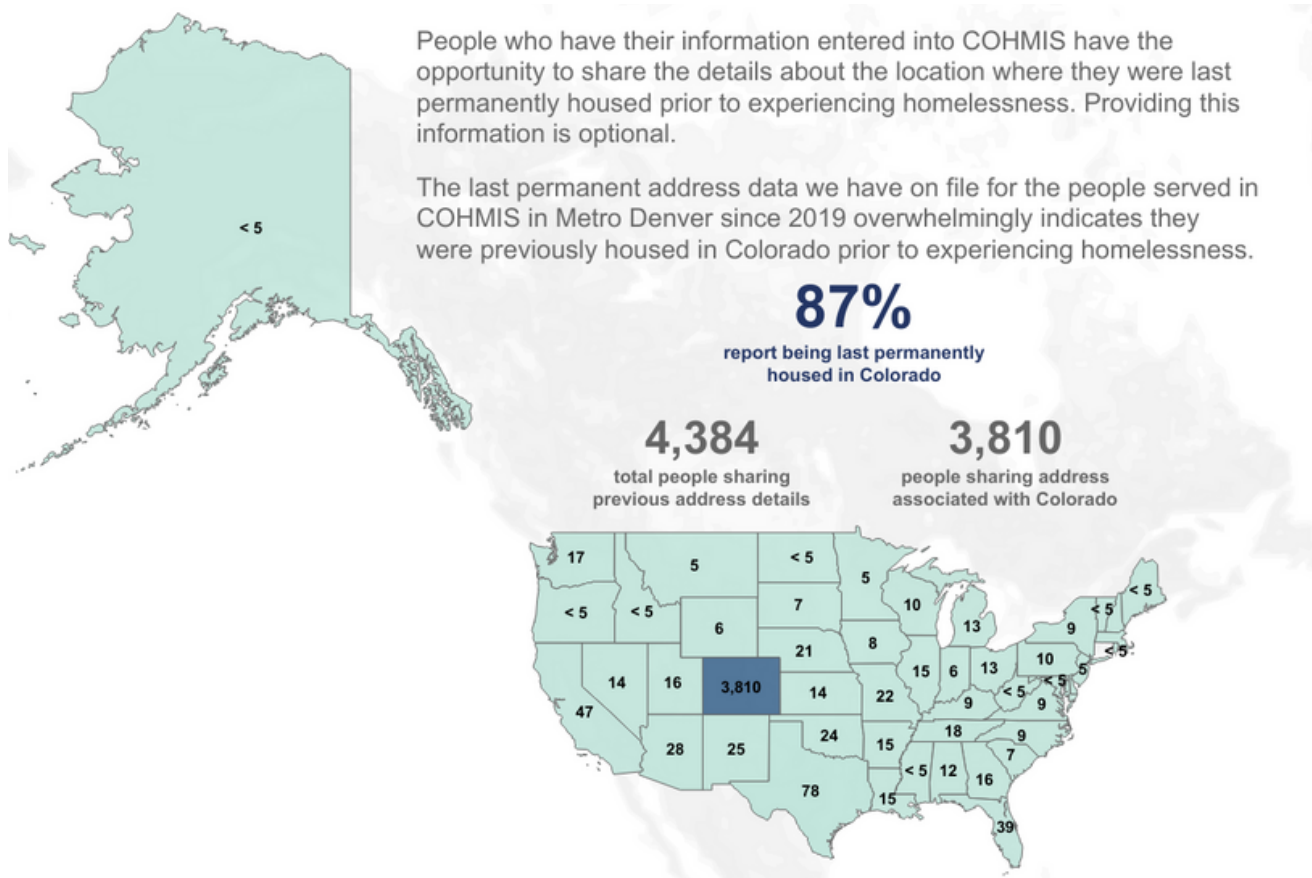
*I did everything right, I graduated early from high school and even graduated from trade school by the age of 16. I lived life to the fullest potential, and I still ended up experiencing something so life-changing. I guess all I really want others to know is that the Universe already has set paths for us, and some things are inevitable, and those paths are no ideal to the unspoken standards we hold each other to as a society. Which is absolutely okay. You can start helping those experiencing homelessness by realizing that it is just an experience, not an identification.*

**SAVANNAH, YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

# PEOPLE ARE NOT MOVING TO COLORADO AND BECOMING HOMELESS

*Of the 4,384 people who shared previous address information in HMIS, 87% report a last permanent address in Colorado.*

**87%**  
LAST HOUSED  
IN COLORADO



While there has been a perception in our community since the legalization of cannabis that people experiencing homelessness have moved to Colorado from other states, our HMIS data indicates otherwise: the vast majority of respondents (87%) were previously housed in Colorado prior to

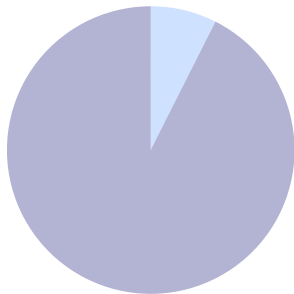
experiencing homelessness. We must unroot these beliefs that promote Nativism and the otherization of people experiencing homelessness. Regardless of this fact, no one should be excluded from safe and stable housing because of their place of origin.

## HOMELESSNESS IS RARELY A CHOICE

*There is also a misconception about homelessness being a matter of 'personal choice.' However, our HMIS and Point in Time data indicate otherwise: the vast majority of respondents did not choose to experience homelessness.*

**PIT  
DATA**

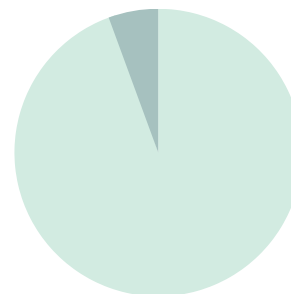
CLIENT'S CHOICE  
7.4%



NOT CLIENT'S CHOICE  
92.6%

CLIENT'S CHOICE  
5.6%

**HMIS  
DATA**



NOT CLIENT'S CHOICE  
94.4%

In our recent Point in time and HMIS data, 92.6% and 94.4% of respondents did not choose to experience homelessness, respectively.

It is important to note that respondents were allowed to select multiple reasons or factors they feel contributed to their homelessness. So while some indicated that 'Client Choice' was a factor, this does not necessarily mean that it was the sole or primary cause of their homelessness. Homelessness may have been the safer option. There are many reasons people do not trust the system, specifically those who have been historically harmed by it. If rent were more affordable, higher wages were more attainable, and family units were more stable, then maybe fewer people would have to experience homelessness.

Visit page 65 for a detailed breakdown of data on systemic and self-reported causes of homelessness in Metro Denver.

## 07

## SOLVING HOMELESSNESS LOCALLY

*Homelessness is complex, but it is solvable. When we approach homelessness as a solvable issue, we shift from attempting to manage the problem to creating a system that ensures it is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. A common-sense approach to homelessness adheres to a data-driven methodology rooted in equity and lived expertise.*

In March 2021, MDHI partnered with Community Solutions, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the Metro Mayors Caucus to convene hundreds of elected officials and discuss the need for a comprehensive regional strategy on homelessness. Since then, nine sub-regions of Metro Denver have been working to establish the Built for Zero framework in their communities. Built for Zero is a framework that aligns quality, real-time data, local planning, and regional coordination around a shared, measurable aim: a functional end to homelessness.

MDHI serves as the umbrella organization for these efforts, coordinating with each subregion to achieve quality data and drive measurable reductions in homelessness. Regional coordination provides a benefit to local communities by offering data management and training, support from Built for Zero Improvement Advisors, Coordinated Entry System access, strategic resource allocation, and transparent communication for non-duplicative coordination of services.

MDHI and its partners are working towards real-time quality data to inform Metro Denver's local and regional efforts to end homelessness.

## REGIONAL PROGRESS TO DATE

### 31% DECREASE IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Communities that have successfully ended homelessness have done so one subpopulation at a time. Starting with Veterans, Metro Denver is proving that we can drive measurable reductions in homelessness. In fact, our recent Point in Time Data Shows the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 31% from 2020 to 2022 despite overall increases in homelessness, a reduction rate of nearly three times the national average.

“While we did see overall increases in homelessness, the region’s emphasis on reducing Veteran homelessness is yielding results. The overrepresentation of people of color, specifically Black and Native Americans, among those experiencing homelessness is critical to the response. Homelessness is an issue of race and must be approached through this lens.”

DR. JAMIE RIFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### KNOWING EVERY VETERAN BY NAME, IN REAL-TIME

As of September 2022, we have operationalized the Active Veteran By Name List reports, which share identifying information about each Veteran experiencing homelessness along with their contact information. Subregional leaders receive this data weekly. The data includes all Veterans enrolled in the Veteran By Name List project in HMIS, as well as those specific to their subregion. These reports support care coordination across the region so that unhoused veterans can be connected to housing and services more quickly as we move toward functional zero for this population.

## BOULDER ACHIEVES QUALITY, REAL-TIME DATA

In August 2022, Boulder County was the first of metro Denver's nine subregions to achieve Quality Data for veterans, a necessary milestone for reaching a functional end to veteran homelessness (and eventually all homelessness). Quality Data means we can account for every single veteran experiencing homelessness by name, in real-time. This Quality By-Name List (BNL) helps us understand the scope of homelessness in Boulder County, describes the inflow and outflow on an ongoing basis, gives us accurate information to reduce homelessness, and helps us measure our progress toward ending it. With quality data, Boulder can now track changes in the composition and dynamics of veterans experiencing homelessness, information needed to identify gaps, test changes, and prioritize resources. Several other subregions are on track to have quality data in 2023.

## COLLABORATION IS KEY TO OUR RESPONSE

Communities that have reached the milestone of Functional Zero have strong partnerships and know those experiencing homelessness by name, in real-time. Metro Denver and Boulder were recently featured by Community Solutions for engaging collaboratively to reach quality data. To learn more about these efforts, click [here](#).

## SOLVING HOMELESSNESS WITH BUILT FOR ZERO

Homelessness is a solvable issue. Built for Zero is an operating system that aligns quality, real-time data and local planning around a shared, measurable aim: functional zero. Over 100 communities across the country are participating in Built for Zero, with 14 communities having reached functional zero for one or more populations. Metro Denver is part of the Large City Cohort and has received significant investments from Community Solutions, their MacArthur *100andChange* grant, and Kaiser Permanente to accelerate this work.

# STEPS TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Here’s how our communities are solving homelessness, beginning with Veterans before moving onto other populations:

1. Adopt the Built for Zero methodology for ending homelessness.
2. Assess the community with a Scorecard to establish their baseline for their work to reach functional zero, a functional end to homelessness.
3. Turn each NO to YES on the Scorecard. Each YES means we are one step closer to quality, real-time data.
4. Achieve quality data and by-name list so that we are 100% sure we know everyone experiencing homelessness in by-name, in real-time.
5. Set aim for Functional Zero, or when your community projects it will end Veteran homelessness.
6. Homeless Coordination Teams in each subregion focus on improving processes and securing resources to reach Functional Zero.
7. Functional Zero for veterans is achieved and must be sustained. Homelessness for veterans becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring.
8. Move on to the next subpopulation.

## METRO DENVER'S SCORECARD

[View our Scorecard](#) (titled 'Metro Denver By-Name List') to see your community's progress toward quality, real-time data for veterans.

	ADAMS	AURORA	BROOMFIELD	DOUGLAS	TRICITIES
1. ADOPT BUILT FOR ZERO					
2. ASSESS COMMUNITY (SCORECARD)					
3. TURN NO'S TO YES ON SCORECARD					
4. QUALITY DATA & BY-NAME LIST					
5. SET AIM FOR FUNCTIONAL ZERO					
6. REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD AIM					
7. FUNCTIONAL ZERO FOR VETERANS					
8. MOVE ONTO NEXT SUBPOPULATION					
	ARAPAHOE	BOULDER	DENVER	JEFFERSON	

## CENTERING EQUITY & LIVED EXPERTISE

There is no roadmap nor a one-size-fits-all approach to solving racial inequity. We understand the homeless services community is at various points of knowing, learning, and implementing more equitable and inclusive practices. Systemic improvements will require partners at all levels to understand and address disparities using a racial equity lens. Increasing engagement with communities of color and partnering with lived experts of homelessness brings focus back to people and puts them at the center of the solution.

### 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT ADVANCE EQUITY

- Strengthened our Young Adult Leadership Committee (YALC), the CoC's youth action board, which:
  - Met with US Representatives during Hill Day
  - Participated in a listening session with the Executive Director and regional representative from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
  - Contributed to Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant application and State of Homelessness report
- Cultivated relationships with BIPOC-led service organizations, increasing participation and membership in the CoC
- Formed the Results Academy working group including individuals with lived expertise, community leadership, and front-line staff to evaluate the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for racial inequities
- Secured funding to launch a pilot project with Pulse for Good in 2023 to collect real-time qualitative data from individuals and families experiencing homelessness

### ON THE HORIZON FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

- Form an adult Lived Experience Advisory Committee to partner in the planning and decision-making of improving our systems
- Continue the work of the Results Academy; create an action plan for a racially equitable redesign of our CES
- Implement ongoing lived expertise listening sessions throughout the CoC to expand qualitative data collection.



## HISTORIC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several unprecedented funding opportunities at the state and federal levels to support transformational changes in the way our region addresses homelessness.

Several funding opportunities address the need for more attainable housing. Homelessness ends in a home, and the rising costs of rent and home prices continue to be the largest contributing factor to homelessness. Additionally, several funding streams will provide needed resources for the homelessness response, including the creation of a navigation campus in the metro region. Coordination and collaboration are key to maximizing these resources and targeting where they are most needed. The following pages outline key investments in housing and homelessness.

## FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS

Last year's legislative session created historic levels of resources to meaningfully address homelessness and housing instability. This is a hopeful time for the region. This funding is an opportunity to create transformational change and demonstrate impact.

However, the majority of this funding is one-time and will be exhausted in a few short years. Without additional action, the transformational efforts of the next few years will be jeopardized due to a lack of an ongoing, sustainable funding stream. This funding stream must not only provide support for the homelessness response and attainable housing, but it must also create the necessary resources to *assist households in remaining housed*. This includes a substantial investment in supportive service dollars to ensure those placed in housing have adequate case management and the wrap-around supports needed to be successful and stable. These supports are core to a successful Housing First approach. Contrary to the recent narrative on Housing First, this evidence-based practice is not "housing only" and requires individualized support to be a critical component in its implementation.

Here are some of the funding opportunities our community hopes to leverage in this work, summarized by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Annual CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity	Annual Federal Homelessness Funding	\$30 Million	Region's largest source of continuous federal funding for homelessness resolution
Unsheltered Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity	Grants for Projects Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness	Approx. \$13 Million if awarded by HUD	Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH), Permanent Housing – Rapid Re-housing (PH-RRH), Joint TH and PH-RRH, and Supportive Service Only (Coordinated Entry, Street Outreach, Standalone)
HB22-1304	Grants for Investments in Affordable Housing	\$138 Million	Provides grant funding for Local Governments and Community Partners (Non-Profits). Housing development funding for acquisition, rehab & new construction.
SB22-159	Revolving Loan Fund for Investments in Transformational Affordable Housing	\$150 Million	Loans for Local Governments, For Profit Developers, Community Partners (Non-Profits), or Political Subdivisions made directly by DOH as well as 3rd party lending partners. Eligible for supportive housing investments.
HB22-1377	Grant Program Providing Responses to Homelessness	\$105 Million	Create proven responses to homelessness that are designed to connect people without stable housing to services, care, and housing through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Development</li> <li>• Direct Assistance</li> <li>• Capacity Building</li> </ul>

NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
SB22-1378	Denver-Metro Regional Navigation Campus Grant	\$50 Million	<p>Grant program to build or acquire, and facilitate a regional navigation campus to respond to and prevent homelessness. Available to Local Governments in Denver-Metro Area or a Community Partner (Non-Profit) in conjunction with local governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral Health and Recovery-Oriented Services and Treatment</li> <li>• Medical and Dental Care</li> <li>• Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Supportive Housing</li> <li>• Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Skills Training and Services</li> <li>• Benefits Enrollment</li> <li>• Services for Exiting Residential Facilities or At-risk of Homelessness</li> </ul>
SB22-211	Repurpose The Ridge View Campus	\$45 Million	<p>Converting the Ridge View Campus into a recovery-oriented community for individual adults without stable housing who wish to focus on recovery from a substance use disorder will provide low-barrier access to comprehensive care and treatments and will allow people to recover and heal in a safe and stable environment.</p>
HB22-1389	Financial Literacy Exchange Program (FLEX)	\$60 Million	<p>Create the Colorado Financial Literacy and Equity Exchange (FLEX) Program, a voluntary program with the goal of granting financial security through education, employment, investment, housing stability, and social maturity for State Housing Voucher participants.</p>
HB22-1083	Colorado Homeless Contribution Income Tax Credit		<p>Tax expenditure intended to encourage taxpayers to make contributions to approved nonprofits providing certain qualifying activities to leverage financial contributions from Colorado residents and businesses to support providing appropriate housing and services to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness.</p>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our partners throughout the region. This includes the dozens of agencies, direct-service staff, people with lived expertise, elected officials, and local stakeholders working each day to create real solutions to the issue of homelessness.

Throughout the document, there are perspectives from individuals either currently or formerly experiencing homelessness. A special thanks to MDHI's Young Adult Leadership Committee for helping collect these quotes and Lynne Rienner Publishers for the rights to reprint excerpts. We'd also like to thank our CoC members whose services and data collection contributed to these perspectives, which provide valuable insight and humanity to the data and metrics contained within this report.

Additionally, we would like to thank each of the organizations that participate in data collection

for our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), OneHome Coordinated Entry System, as well as our partners in each county who assisted in completing the region's Point-in-Time count in January of 2022.

MDHI would also like to thank the Colorado Department of Education for their data contribution on the number of students experiencing the educational definition of homelessness, as well as our partners at Community Solutions for their investments in our region.

With each of these key partners and interested readers like you, we are hopeful for a future where homelessness is solvable. Thank you for your support.

*In community,*

THE METRO DENVER  
HOMELESS INITIATIVE

*Was this report helpful? If so, we hope you'll consider supporting our work by visiting [mdhi.org/donate](https://mdhi.org/donate).*

# CRITICAL DEFINITIONS

**Built for Zero (BFZ)** - A movement of more than 100 cities and counties using data to radically change how they work and the impact they can achieve -and proving that it is possible to make homelessness rare and brief.

**Child(ren)** - Includes anyone 17 and under (not yet 18). \*Please note, this can include both accompanied and unaccompanied youth; this report does not include parents/guardians of accompanied children.

**Chronic Homelessness** - HUD defines persons experiencing chronic homelessness as those who (a) are homeless, (b) are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, (c) have been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless across those occasions is at least 12 months, and (d) have a disability.

**Continuum of Care (COC)** - A Continuum of Care is a regional or local planning body that leads and advances collaboration and coordinates housing and services funding for households experiencing homelessness so that it is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. This includes street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, prevention, diversion, and supportive housing. MDHI is the Metro Denver CoC for Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties.

**Coordinated Entry (CE)** - Coordinated Entry is a coordinated system whereby all providers allocate housing and services through a single process and according to shared protocol. A coordinated entry system must contain three core components; 1) Access – must be access points by which people experiencing homelessness can enter a shared response system. 2) Assessment – must be standardized assessment/data collection across the system. 3) Prioritization – must have shared prioritization policies in place to enable matching to housing supports and services.

**Cumulative** - Describes a methodology of counting that occurs continuously where people can be included in the count as soon as they are identified as homeless. The data provided generally represents a year time period.

# CRITICAL DEFINITIONS

**Literal Homelessness (HUD Homelessness)** - An Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter (including safe haven or transitional living program).

**McKinney-Vento Homelessness (US Department of Education)** - Includes anyone meeting the Literal Homelessness definition and children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; and migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described herein.

**Newly Homeless** - Defined as a person who has been experiencing homelessness for less than one year and this was their first episode of homelessness.

**Point in Time (PIT)** - Describes a methodology of counting that occurs at a singular point in time, generally over the course of only a few days. The data presented only provides data on those that were identified as homeless during that point in time.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** - Offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist persons experiencing homelessness who have a disabling condition (either individuals with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability) to live independently.

**Safe Haven** - A project that offers supportive housing that (1) serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; (2) provides 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period; (3) has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons; and (4) provides low demand services and referrals for the residents.

# CRITICAL DEFINITIONS

**Shelter** - A project that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. In metro Denver, there are variations of shelter types, including family shelters where households may stay for 14- 90 days on average, and nightly

**Regional Coordination** – MDHI serves as the umbrella organization for the sub-regional coordination efforts within Metro Denver. Each sub-region is equipped with a local improvement team with leads who are responsible for achieving quality data and driving measurable reductions in their own community. Regional coordination allows sub-regions to implement strategies that consider local context while aligning themselves with a framework for implementation and measurable success.

**Transitional Housing** - A project that provides temporary lodging and is designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a specified period of time, but typically no longer than 24 months. In transitional housing, there are generally higher eligibility and program requirements than in an emergency shelter. Participants may be asked to pay rent or fees to stay in these programs.

**Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** (HUD Definition) - a person below the age of 25 who is experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian. For purposes of this report refer to the data source for the definition of homelessness.

**Unsheltered** (HUD Definition) - With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

**Veteran** - A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable, as defined by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs

# ACRONYMS

AI/AN - American Indian or Alaska Native

BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, People of Color

CoC - Continuum of Care

CDE - Colorado Department of Education

CE - Coordinated Entry

CES - Coordinated Entry System

HMIS - Homeless Management Information System

HUD - Department of Housing and Urban Development

LEA - Local Education Agency

NAI - Native American or Indigenous

NH/PI - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

PIT - Point in Time

PSH - Permanent Supportive Housing

VI-SPDAT - Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool



# APPENDIX

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