

## Key Numbers & Takeaways

### PPCoC 2023 Point in Time Count

During the last 10 days of January, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all Continuums of Care conduct the Point in Time (PIT) survey, an annual count of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. For 2023, the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care (PPCoC) surveyed people who were homeless on the night of Sunday, January 22 into Monday, January 23, 2023.

Below are some key numbers gleaned from the count, as well as PPCoC's takeaways. To see all the data collected for 2023, visit <https://www.ppchp.org/homelessness/coc-reports-and-resources/>.

#### 1,302: Point in Time Count Number 2023

- The lowest number since 2016 (excluding 2021 when the PPCoC did not conduct an Unsheltered count).
- It is 104 people lower than 2022 (1,406).

**Takeaway:** The total number of people experiencing homelessness went down from last year to this year.

#### 374: Number of Unsheltered People Experiencing Homelessness

- This number is up from 267 in 2022.
- It is below pre-pandemic highs in 2017-2019 (average of 471/year).

**Takeaway:** The number of people experiencing Unsheltered homelessness went up from last year but is below numbers reported in 2017, 2018, and 2019. This holds extra significance because the PPCoC believes that this is the most accurate count to date. Historically, it has been a challenge to count those experiencing Unsheltered homelessness. However, this year, the survey was able to reach more people who might have otherwise gone uncounted. This is thanks in large part to valuable volunteer surveying efforts conducted by individuals also experiencing homelessness, the non-profit- and City of Colorado Springs-led street outreach teams, and the Pikes Peak Library District social work team.

#### 928: Number of Sheltered People Experiencing Homelessness

- 555 in Emergency Shelter; utilization rate of 80%. Down from 688 (utilization of 85%) in 2022.

**Takeaway:** The number of people in Emergency Shelter beds was down from 2022, however, the utilization of available Emergency Shelter beds, meaning how many beds were in use on the PIT, was similar to the utilization of 2022.

- 373 in Transitional Housing; utilization rate of 79%. Down from 488 (utilization of 83%) in 2022.

**Takeaway:** The number of people in Transitional Housing beds was down from 2022, however, the utilization of available Transitional Housing beds, meaning how many beds were in use on the PIT, was similar to the utilization of 2022.

#### 740: Number of People in Permanent Housing Who Were Formerly Experiencing Homelessness

- Up from 639 in 2022; highest number ever reported.

**Takeaway:** This is the **largest number of people ever** in permanent housing who were formerly experiencing homelessness. The PPCoC believes one of the reasons that the PIT number is lower than previous years is due to the number of people in permanent housing beds. PPCoC asserts that permanent housing is a critical solution to making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time in El Paso County.

## Homeless Subpopulations

### 403: Number of People Who are Homeless as Part of a Family

- 130: Number of family households.
- Down from 464 people and 143 family households in 2022.

### 83: Number of Unaccompanied Youth (ages 16 – 24 years old)

- Down from 98 in 2022.

### 115: Number of Military Veterans.

- Down from 148 in 2022.

## Racial Disparities

### 4.9%: Percentage Who Reported Their Race as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous.

**Takeaway:** According to the 2022 El Paso County Census demographics by race, 1.4% of the County's population reported their race as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous. There is a 350% over-representation in the homeless population compared to the 2022 Census for El Paso County.

### 17.4%: Percentage Who Reported Their Race as Black or African American.

### 26.3%: Percentage of Families Who Reported Their Race as Black or African American.

**Takeaway:** According to the 2022 El Paso County Census demographics by race, 6.9% of the County's population reported their race as Black or African American. There is a 250% over-representation in the homeless population compared to the 2022 Census for El Paso County and a 380% over-representation of Black or African American people among Families, specifically.

### 21.8%: Percentage Who Reported Their Ethnicity as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x).

### 33.7%: Percentage of Families Who Reported Their Race as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x).

**Takeaway:** According to the 2022 El Paso County Census demographics by race, 18.4% of the County's population reported their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x). The PIT total homeless population percentage for ethnicity is similar to the 2022 County Census for El Paso County but there is a 180% over-representation of Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) people among Families, specifically.

## Other Takeaways & Observations

### PIT Count Methodology Improves; Numbers Decrease

- More than 80 volunteers participated in surveying during this year's PIT over a 5-day surveying period.
- The PPCoC surveying efforts were aided by HUD Region VIII Regional Administrator, Dominique Jackson, and Deputy Regional Administrator, Erik Amundson, who oversees Colorado and five other mountain states for HUD funding administration.
- For the first time, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness completed volunteer PIT training and actively participated as volunteers to help with surveying those who otherwise may not be surveyed.
- Even with improved methodology, the number of people experiencing homelessness decreased instead of grew, unlike many other communities.

## **Chronic Homelessness Reflects Need for Permanent Supportive Housing Solutions**

### **470: Number of People Who Reported as Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in the 2023 PIT count**

**Takeaway:** Chronic homelessness describes people who have experienced homelessness for at least one consecutive year consecutive or have had multiple episodes of homelessness in the past three years, while also having at least one disabling condition such as physical disability, behavioral health disorder, or substance use disorder.

Finding ways to reduce chronic homelessness is a priority for PPCoC. Research shows that the longer a person experiences homelessness the harder it is to rehouse them. This speaks to the need for more Permanent Supportive Housing solutions to meet the needs of this population.