

2 National Estimates Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

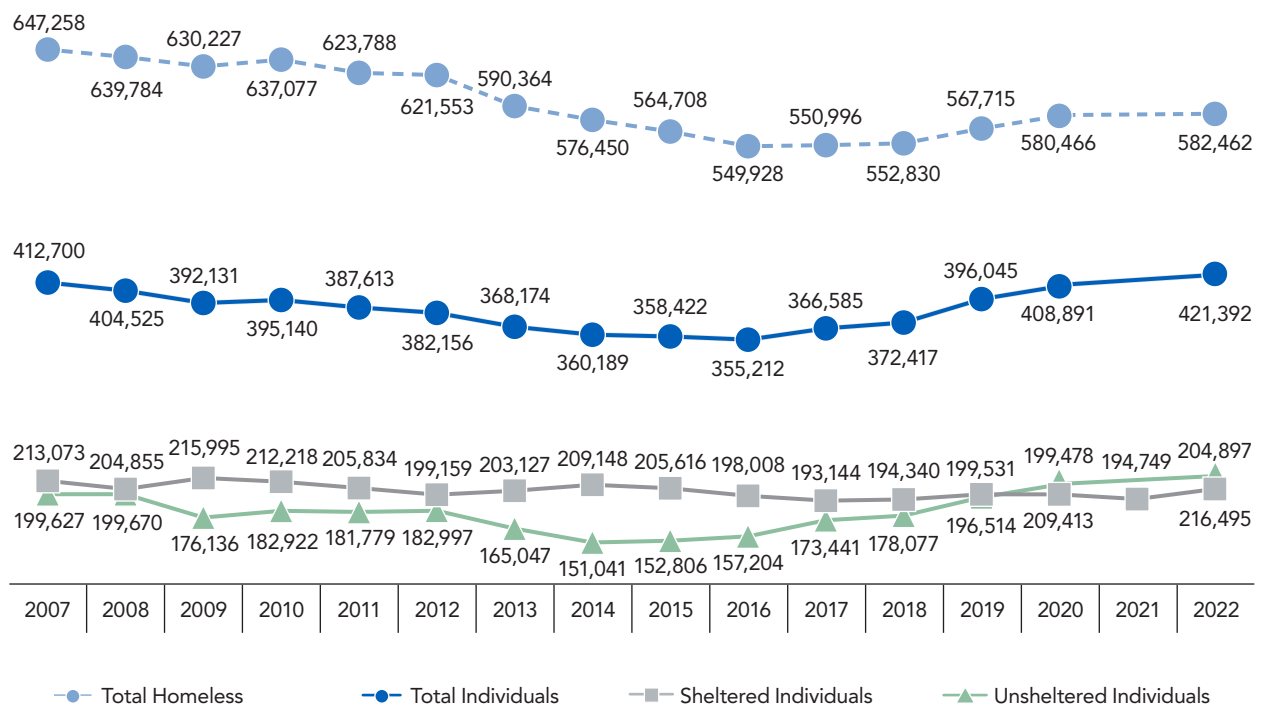
Data source: PIT 2007–2022

The 2021 national Point-in-Time (PIT) counts were considerably impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the public health crisis, HUD encouraged communities to determine whether conducting an unsheltered PIT count posed a high risk of exacerbating COVID-19 transmissions, given the lack of widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines at the time. As a result, less than half of communities conducted a full sheltered and unsheltered count. While this report includes some data on individuals in sheltered locations in 2021, incomplete unsheltered data is not included. Analysis of changes over time are generally limited to those between 2022 and 2020 or earlier. Key changes in the sheltered population between 2021 and 2022 will be included in text boxes at the end of each chapter.

On a Single Night in 2022

- 421,392 people experienced homelessness as individuals—that is, people in households that were not composed of both adults and children. Individuals made up 72 percent of the total population of people experiencing homelessness in 2022.
- Slightly over half of all people who experienced homelessness as individuals were staying in unsheltered locations, 51 percent or 216,495 people.
- Just under a third (30%) of all individuals experiencing homelessness had chronic patterns of homelessness, meaning that they experienced homelessness for extended periods of time and have a disability. (These individuals are discussed in detail in Section 6.)

EXHIBIT 2.1: PIT Estimates of Sheltered Homeless Individuals 2007–2021



Note: The data for 2021 does not display the total count of individuals experiencing homelessness or the count of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness due to pandemic-related disruptions to counts. Additionally, estimates of the number of individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness at a point in time in 2021 should be viewed with caution, as the number could be artificially depressed compared with non-pandemic times, reflecting reduced capacity in some communities or safety concerns regarding staying in shelters.

EXHIBIT 2-2: Change in Numbers of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness 2007–2022

	Change 2020-2022		Change 2010-2022		Change 2007-2022	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Individuals	12,501	3.1%	25,252	6.6%	8,692	2.1%
Sheltered Individuals	5,419	2.7%	-7,321	-3.4%	-8,176	-3.8%
Unsheltered Individuals	7,082	3.4%	33,573	18.2%	16,868	8.4%

EXHIBIT 2-3: Changes in the Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Age and Sheltered Status 2007–2022

	All Individuals 2020-2022		Sheltered Individuals 2020-2022		Unsheltered Individuals 2020-2022	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	-794	-22.1%	-207	-11.4%	-587	-32.8%
18 to 24	-3,750	-11.4%	-327	-1.9%	-3,423	-21.9%
Over 24	17,045	4.6%	5,953	3.3%	11,092	5.8%

Changes in Individual Homelessness over Time

Given that more than half of communities did not conduct full unsheltered counts in 2021, changes over time are limited to those between 2022 and 2020 or earlier. Notable changes in the sheltered population between 2021 and 2022 are highlighted the text box at the end of this section.

- Between 2020 and 2022, individuals experiencing homelessness increased by three percent (12,501 more people). Increases were experienced across sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, which increased by about three percent each, or 5,419 more sheltered and 7,082 more unsheltered people. These increases follow a pattern of increases in homelessness among individuals over the past several years.
- The overall increase in people experiencing homelessness as individuals between 2020 and 2022 was made up entirely of adults over the age of 24. Homelessness for people 25 and older increased

by five percent (or 17,045 people). Homelessness decreased among children and young adults ages 18 to 24 (by 22% and 11%).

- The 2022 Point-in-Time count marks the first time that the number of people experiencing homelessness as individuals is higher than it was when reporting began in 2007. From 2007 to 2022, individual homelessness increased by two percent (8,692 more people). This increase is driven by an eight percent increase in the unsheltered population (16,868 more people). The sheltered population decreased by four percent.

Demographic Characteristics of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

The AHAR has been reporting demographic information on individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night since 2017. In 2022, the ways in which people identified their gender changed considerably, expanding the gender identity categories to include “questioning” and allowing people to select more than one gender.⁴ As a result, any comparisons made to prior

⁴ For more information on how gender was reported for the PIT, see: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Reporting-Gender-for-the-PIT-Count.pdf>

2 National Estimates Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Data source: PIT 2007-2022

EXHIBIT 2-4: Demographic Characteristics of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness 2022

	All Individuals		Sheltered Individuals		Unsheltered Individuals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Individuals	421,392	100.0%	204,774	100.0%	216,146	100.0%
Age						
Under 18	2,804	0.7%	1,604	0.8%	1,200	0.6%
18 to 24	29,147	6.9%	16,905	8.3%	12,242	5.7%
Over 24	389,441	92.4%	186,388	91.0%	203,053	93.8%
Gender						
Female	126,852	30.1%	65,808	32.1%	61,044	28.2%
Male	288,262	68.4%	136,755	66.7%	151,297	70.0%
Transgender	3,440	0.8%	1,510	0.7%	1,930	0.9%
A Gender that is not Singularly 'Female' or 'Male'	2,297	0.5%	719	0.4%	1,578	0.7%
Questioning	563	0.1%	105	0.1%	458	0.2%
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	328,799	78.0%	170,029	83.0%	158,770	73.3%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	92,581	22.0%	34,868	17.0%	57,713	26.7%
Race						
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	15,491	3.7%	5,626	2.7%	9,865	4.6%
Asian or Asian American	6,559	1.6%	2,624	1.3%	3,935	1.8%
Black, African American, or African	137,638	32.7%	79,180	38.6%	58,458	27.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6,429	1.5%	2,172	1.1%	4,257	2.0%
White	230,839	54.8%	105,680	51.6%	125,159	57.8%
Multiple Races	24,458	5.8%	9,615	4.7%	14,843	6.9%

Note: The demographic data for unsheltered may not sum to the total because three CoCs did not report complete demographic information for the unsheltered data used in this report.

years should be viewed with caution as they are not exact comparisons.⁵

- The typical person experiencing homelessness as an individual in 2022 was 25 years of age or older (92%), male (68%), identified as White (55%), and was non-Hispanic/non-Latin(a)(o)(x) (78%).
- Very few people experiencing homelessness as individuals were young adults aged 18 to 24, just seven percent or 29,147 people. These young adults accounted for a slightly larger share of people experiencing sheltered than unsheltered

homelessness (8% vs. 6%).

- Three in ten individuals experiencing homelessness were women (30%), and just over one percent of individuals identified as transgender, a gender other than singularly female or male, or gender questioning. By comparison, six in ten people experiencing homelessness in families with children were women (60%).
- Women were a slightly larger percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in sheltered locations than in unsheltered locations (32% vs.

⁵ For example, in previous years a person might only identify as "female" when they may have also identified as "questioning." In 2022, that person was allowed to select both "female" and "questioning," which was then categorized as "questioning."

28%).

- Individuals who identified as transgender, not singularly female or male, or gender questioning were a larger percentage of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness than sheltered homelessness (2% vs. 1%).
- More than five in ten people experiencing homelessness as individuals identified their race as White (55%), and a third, 33 percent, identified as Black, African American, or African. Black, African American, and African individuals accounted for a higher percentage of sheltered individuals (39%) than of unsheltered individuals (27%).
- Twenty-two percent of all people experiencing homelessness as individuals in 2022 were Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x). Hispanic individuals were more likely to be in unsheltered locations than in sheltered locations, making up 27 percent of unsheltered individuals compared with 17 percent of sheltered individuals. In contrast, among people experiencing homelessness in families with children, people who were Hispanic made up a higher percentage of the sheltered population (30% sheltered vs. 22% unsheltered).

Changes in Demographics over Time

- Between 2020 and 2022, the population of individuals experiencing homelessness became slightly older, slightly more Hispanic or Latin(o)(a)(x), with a higher percentage of people identifying as a gender other than male.
- The increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness between 2020 and 2022 was driven by the increase in unsheltered individuals ages 25 and older, which increased by five percent (or more than 17,000 people).
- Both the number and percentage of women experiencing homelessness as individuals increased at a greater rate than men between 2020 and 2022. Homelessness increased among women by 6,837 people or six percent (compared to an increase of 3,663 men or 1%).
- Sixteen percent more people identifying as Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x) experienced homelessness as

individuals in 2022 than in 2020 (12,410 more people). This overall increase reflects an 18 percent increase in unsheltered Hispanic individuals and an 11 percent increase in sheltered Hispanic individuals.

- The number of people experiencing homelessness as individuals who identified as White increased by five percent overall and by three percent for individuals staying in unsheltered locations.
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders experienced a 23 percent rise in individual homelessness (or 1,201 more people) and a 31 percent rise in unsheltered individual homelessness (or 1,003 people).
- Asians and Asian Americans also experienced a large percentage increase in sheltered and unsheltered individual homelessness, both of which rose by 13 percent (or 768 people). Individuals who identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous experienced the largest percentage increase in sheltered homelessness, at just over 11 percent (or 571 people).
- The number of Black, African American or African individuals experiencing homelessness decreased in sheltered locations by 2,246 people (or 3%). This was offset by an increase in the number of unsheltered individuals who identified as Black (by 2,170 people or 4%).