



2025

Point-in-Time Count Report

Columbus & Franklin County, Ohio

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About CSB



Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio.

Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community-wide effort to ensure that everyone in Central Ohio and Franklin County has a place to call home.

As the system leader for the prevention and response to homelessness in Central Ohio, CSB drives strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resource allocation to achieve the best possible outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. CSB collaborates with service provider organizations across Franklin County, creating a responsive network to ensure an effective and ready use of community resources.

CSB holds the distinction of being the first Unified Funding Agency designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—one of only 15 such systems nationwide. This designation underscores CSB's leadership, credibility, and effectiveness in addressing homelessness and enhances its ability to secure critical federal resources.

CSB consistently ranks among the top performers nationally, earning #1 and #2 ratings from HUD for its ability to maximize funding and deliver impactful solutions.

PIT Count & CoC Overview



The January 2025 Point-in-Time Count, conducted by Community Shelter Board (CSB) in partnership with the Continuum of Care.

History of the PIT Count

The annual Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was conducted on January 23, 2025.

Community Shelter Board (CSB) coordinated the effort in collaboration with the Continuum of Care, a 41-member planning body committed to ending homelessness across the region. More than 250 volunteers mobilized to support this community-wide initiative.

Point-in-Time Counts are conducted nationwide in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). They serve as a critical tool for understanding the scope and nature of homelessness in local communities and informing system-level planning and resource allocation.

Columbus & Franklin County CoC

In Columbus and Franklin County, the Continuum of Care provides stewardship for all strategies developed under the community plan to address homelessness.

The CoC:

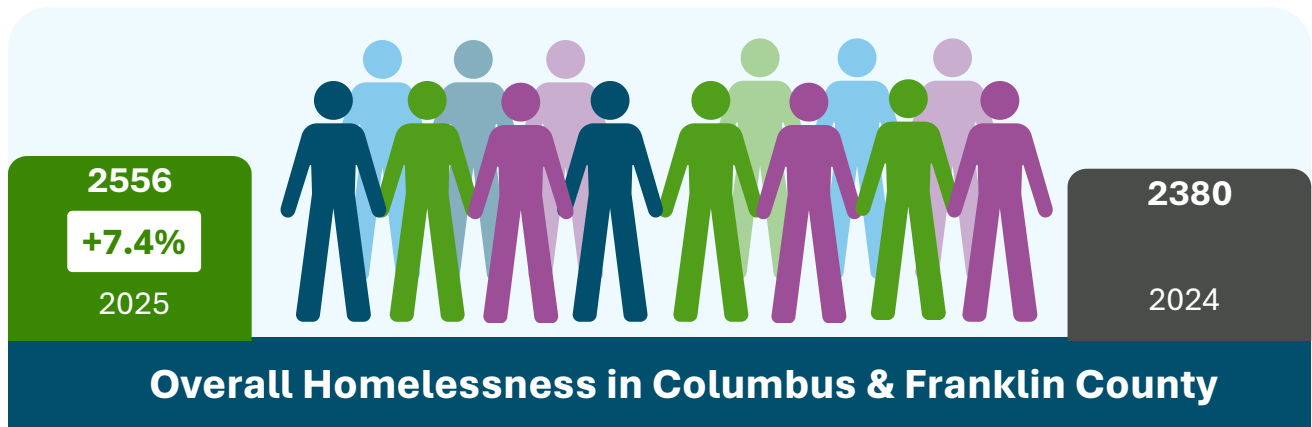
- Provides funding for the capital, services, and operations of housing across the community,
- Coordinates activities to implement the community plan to address homelessness,
- Promotes collaboration among partners to achieve shared goals and strategies, and
- Secures resources for homelessness prevention and housing programs.

The CoC is designed to engage all necessary stakeholders to further local efforts to end homelessness. Inclusive representation ensures that a full range of housing and service solutions are developed and implemented across the community. Learn more at: columbusfranklincountycoc.org.

Results Overview

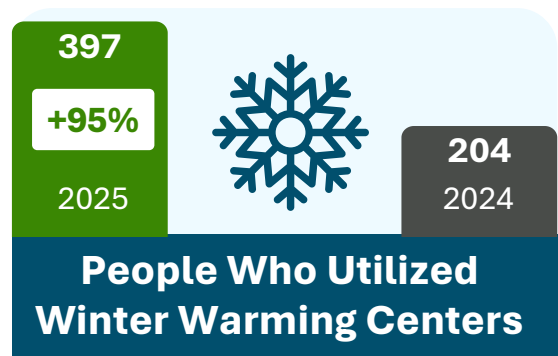
The January 2025 Point-in-Time Count, conducted by Community Shelter Board (CSB) in partnership with the Continuum of Care, identified **2,556 people experiencing homelessness** in Columbus and Franklin County. This marked a **7.4% increase (Sheltered & Unsheltered)** from January 2024, when 2,380 people were counted—an all-time high for our community.

The rise in individual homelessness was largely due to an increase in the number of people counted. In total, **individual sheltered homelessness increased by 14%** (228 people). The number of **sheltered individuals grew by 26%** (288 people) compared to calendar year 2024 (1,125 people), while the **number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased by 12%** (60 people).



Key Reasons

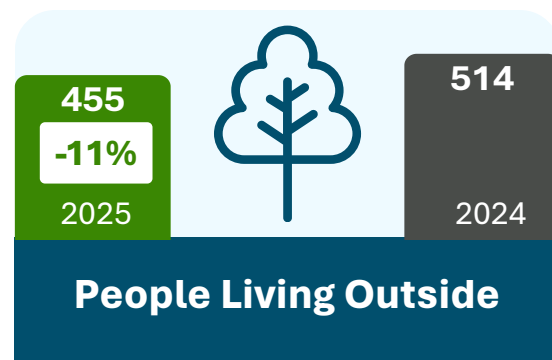
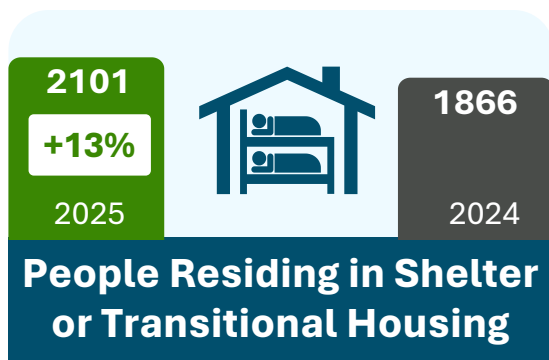
Key reasons for these shifts include (1) the reclassification of 24-hour non-HMIS participating facilities as sheltered programs, which moved individuals who would have previously been counted as unsheltered into the sheltered system, and (2) the expanded use of Winter Warming Centers, which provided critical temporary shelter during the winter months. Utilization of Winter Warming Centers nearly doubled, increasing by **95% (193 more people)**, rising from 204 people in 2024 to **397 people in 2025**.



Results Overview

Meanwhile, total sheltered homelessness increased significantly. A total of **2,101 people were residing in shelter or transitional housing**, representing a **13% increase** from 1,866 people in 2024.

Within this broader trend, **families in emergency shelters decreased by 16%**, falling from 202 families to 169 families, resulting in 33 fewer households needing emergency shelter services compared to 2024. However, **unsheltered families increased by 80%**, growing from 4 to 9 families, and the **total number of unsheltered households increased by 9%**, rising from 23 people in 2024 to 25 people in 2025.

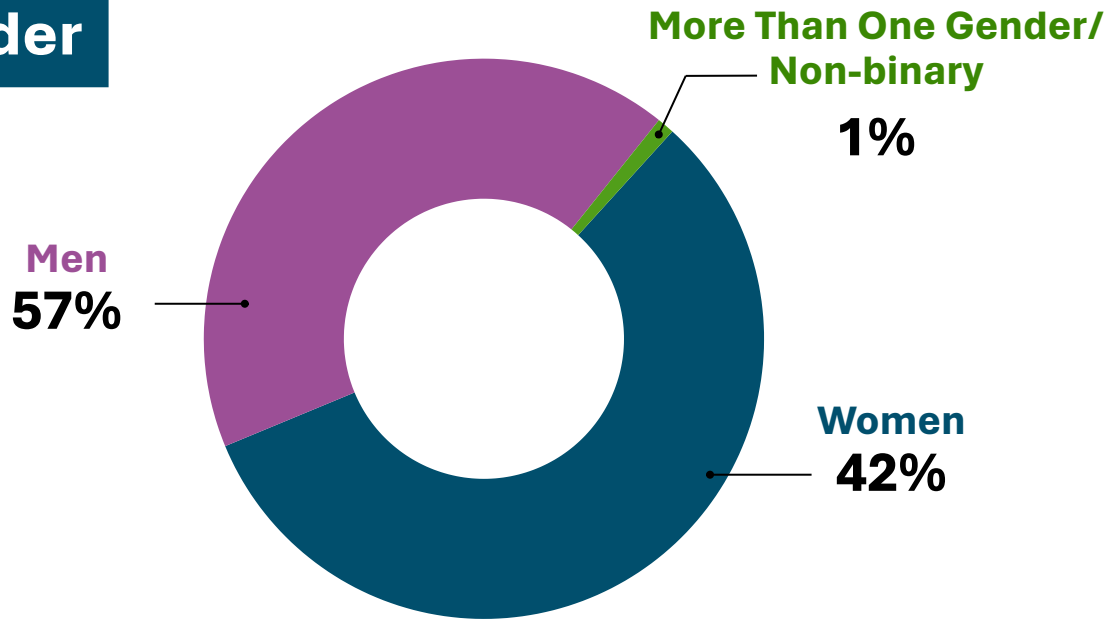


Together, these trends reflect a system facing urgent challenges—expanding shelter access and reducing unsheltered homelessness in some areas, while still navigating rising needs and pressures across the community.

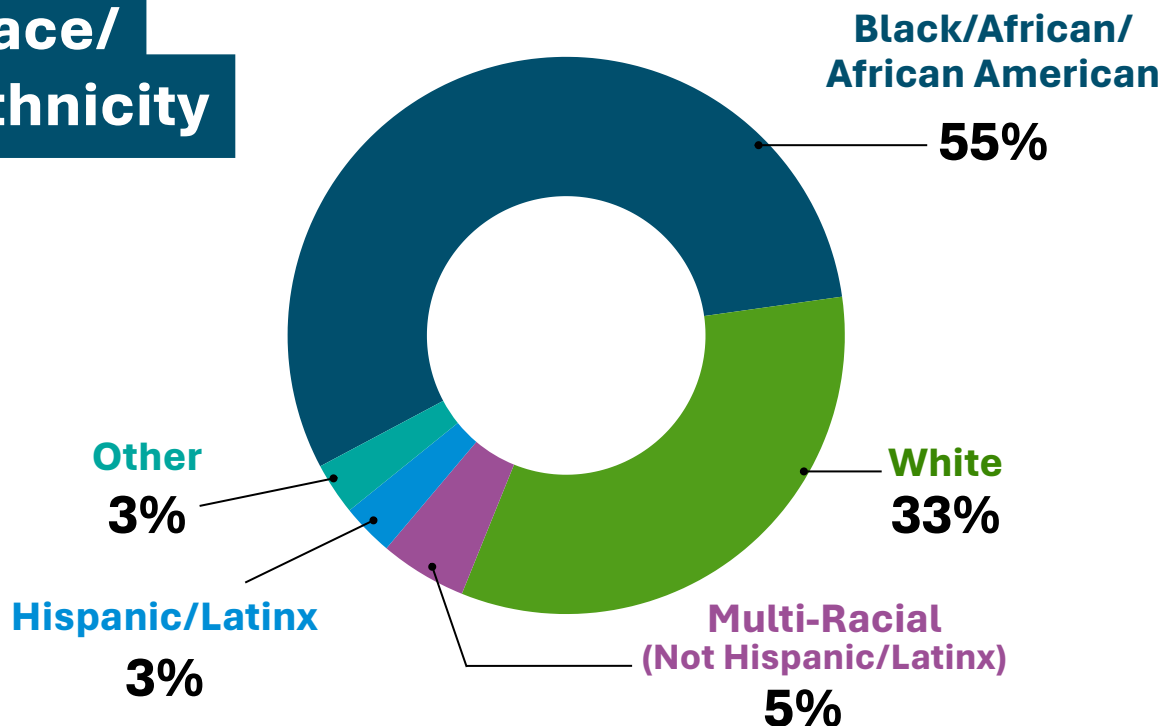
Demographic Groups

Various demographic groups were affected by homelessness, each with distinct vulnerabilities and needs:

Gender



Race/Ethnicity



Demographic Groups

Various demographic groups were affected by homelessness, each with distinct vulnerabilities and needs:



Families experiencing homelessness decreased by 9%, with 210 families identified in the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, down from 230 families in 2024. Of these, 201 families were staying in shelter or transitional housing, while 9 families were living in inadequate conditions, an increase of 4 families compared to last year.

Within sheltered programs, 9 more families were in transitional housing, while the number of families in emergency shelters decreased by 33.



Single adult homelessness increased by 14%, with 1,843 people identified in the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, up from 1,615 people in 2024.

Notably, **unsheltered homelessness among single adults decreased by 12%** (60 fewer people), dropping from 490 people in 2024 to 430 in 2025. Meanwhile, **1,413 single adults were staying in shelter or transitional housing, representing a 26% increase** (288 more people) compared to 1,125 people in 2024.



In 2025, the number of **unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness increased by 31%**, rising from 158 individuals in 2024 to 207 individuals.

Emergency shelter use among youth more than doubled, increasing by 145%, while **transitional housing placements rose by 30%**.

Notably, there was a **68% decrease in unsheltered youth**, largely driven by the reclassification of 24-hour non-HMIS participating facilities as sheltered programs. This adjustment shifted many youth who would have previously been counted as unsheltered into emergency shelter or transitional housing placements.



Parenting youth households experienced a 26% decrease in 2025.

Emergency shelter use among parenting youth dropped by 130%, and there was a **complete elimination of unsheltered parenting youth**.

Transitional housing placements for parenting youth increased by 29%, indicating a positive shift toward more stable shelter options. These changes reflect a significant reduction in unsheltered homelessness among parenting youth, while modest gains in transitional placements have provided critical continuity of support.

Demographic Groups

Various demographic groups were affected by homelessness, each with distinct vulnerabilities and needs:



The number of **people experiencing homelessness with a severe mental illness decreased by 21%**, dropping from 550 people in 2024 to 432 people in 2025—a reduction of 118 people.

This decline included a significant reduction among unsheltered community members and a slight reduction among those in shelter or transitional housing.



Chronic or repeated homelessness decreased by 1.8%, with 220 people identified in 2025 compared to 224 people in 2024.

Among them, **129 people were living in inadequate conditions, a 14% decrease** from the previous year, while **91 people were staying in shelter or transitional housing, reflecting a 23% increase.**



The 2025 count identified 209 survivors of **domestic violence experiencing homelessness, a 31% decrease** from 302 people in 2024.

Sheltered survivors decreased significantly, dropping from 217 to 113 people, while **unsheltered survivors increased by 11 people** compared to the previous year.



A total of **97 veterans were experiencing homelessness, reflecting a 7% increase** from the previous year.

Of those, 13 veterans were living in inadequate conditions, a **decrease of 10 people** compared to 24 in 2024, while 84 veterans were staying in shelter or transitional housing, an **increase of 12 people** from the previous year.

Key Trends

Several key trends emerged from the Point-in-Time Count:

Overall Increase

The 2025 Point-in-Time Count revealed a **7.4% increase in homelessness** compared to January 2024, reaching an all-time high of 2,556 people experiencing homelessness.



Shift in Sheltered vs. Unsheltered

CSB's strategy to address unsheltered homelessness showed significant progress, with a **12% decrease in single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness** and an **increase in single adults accessing shelter or transitional housing in 2025**.

This shift highlights the effectiveness of expanding access to shelter and Winter Warming Center beds and strengthening community partnerships, ultimately leading to fewer people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered conditions.



Chronic Homelessness is Decreasing

There was a **slight 1.8% decrease in chronic homelessness in 2025**, primarily affecting individuals living in unsheltered conditions. This decrease corresponds with an increase in effectiveness of specialized system services (Team USHS), street outreach and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs. The system is focusing on breaking down barriers in the PSH process. The decrease in chronic homelessness also corresponds to the decrease in Severe Mental Illness.



Key Trends

Several key trends emerged from the Point-in-Time Count:

Shifts in Family Homelessness

Family homelessness decreased by 9% in 2025, although there was a notable rise in unsheltered families, increasing from 5 to 9, alongside a 16% decrease in families staying in emergency shelter.

This shift reflects the impact of the Homelessness Prevention Network, Targeted Homelessness Prevention programs, and improved outcomes from emergency shelters and rapid rehousing programs, including reduced recidivism rates.

Within the sheltered system, the number of **families residing in transitional housing increased by 39%, rising from 23 families in 2024 to 32 in 2025**. Conversely, families staying in emergency shelters decreased by 16%, dropping from 202 families in 2024 to 169 in 2025—indicating a positive shift toward more stable housing options for families.

However, to maintain this positive momentum, there is an urgent need to invest further in prevention services, as Emergency Rental Assistance funds are set to expire in September 2025 and eviction rates in Franklin County are already on pace to surpass 2024 levels.

Both factors could have major implications on the progress observed in the 2025 Point-in-Time Count.



Significant Decrease in Individuals Reporting Severe Mental Illness

The number of people experiencing homelessness with a severe mental illness decreased by 21% in 2025.

This reduction reflects the system's increased focus on addressing unsheltered and chronic homelessness, both of which often impact community members living with a severe mental illness.



Key Trends

Several key trends emerged from the Point-in-Time Count:

Homelessness Among Domestic Violence Survivors is Decreasing

There was a **31% reduction in survivors of domestic violence experiencing homelessness in 2025**, reflecting a substantial improvement in housing stability and an increase in access to transitional housing services.



Homelessness Among Veterans Increased Slightly

Veteran homelessness increased by 7% in 2025, with a decrease in unsheltered veterans and an increase in veterans accessing shelter or transitional housing. A key system goal for 2025 is to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue improving housing outcomes for veterans experiencing homelessness.



Call to Action

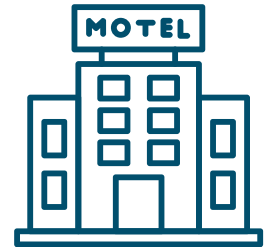
These actions will contribute to reducing homelessness and ensuring every member of the community has a place to call home:

Create Family Non-congregate Shelter Capacity

Invest in expanding shelter capacity by establishing non-congregate shelter options specifically designed to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness.

This strategic shift is essential to address the projected 86% increase in unsheltered homelessness over the next five years, as identified in the ongoing Community Assessment on Homelessness.

Securing just three hotel-based non-congregate shelter sites could reduce family homelessness by 48% within five years—a transformative opportunity for our community.



Invest in Permanent Supportive Housing

Prioritize the development and expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for adults experiencing homelessness who live with chronic mental and physical disabilities.

By developing 375 new PSH units over the next five years—a 12% increase in system capacity—we can achieve an estimated 4% reduction in unsheltered adults, representing a long-term investment in deeply affordable housing.

While the 2025 Point-in-Time Count reflects a significant decrease in unsheltered adults, many were housed temporarily through innovative shelter solutions. This strategy builds on that momentum by transitioning these community members into permanent, stable housing.



Enhance Prevention and Diversion Efforts

Implement a high-performing diversion model for single adults to reduce entries into homelessness by 25%.

Reducing inflow—particularly for single adults—even as the overall population grows, can lead to a projected 42% reduction in unsheltered homelessness over five years.

Diversion is a proactive, cost-effective strategy that strengthens system capacity by keeping people from entering homelessness in the first place.



Call to Action

These actions will contribute to reducing homelessness and ensuring every member of the community has a place to call home:

Scale Effective Programs - Rapid Rehousing

Add 250 Rapid Rehousing slots for single adults to achieve a projected 10% reduction in unsheltered homelessness over the next five years.

When used strategically, Rapid Rehousing creates timely housing solutions for youth, survivors of domestic violence, families, and older adults—providing a critical bridge to stability for people facing housing crises.



Advocate for Policy Change

Advocate for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels that prioritize affordable housing, zoning, tenant protection, eviction court, address systemic inequalities, and provide adequate funding for homelessness prevention and intervention efforts.



Thank You



Community Shelter Board extends sincere gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers, community partners, service providers, and system leaders who made the 2025 Point-in-Time Count possible.

Your commitment, compassion, and collaboration are critical to understanding and addressing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. Together, through shared effort and focused action, we move closer to a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

Thank you for your dedication to building a stronger, more equitable future for all.

For more information learn more at [csb.org](https://www.csb.org).