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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2024

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Community Shelter Board Announces Results of Point-in-Time Count on Homelessness

Columbus, Franklin County – Community Shelter Board (CSB) today released the findings of the January 2024 point-in-time count, shedding light on the state of homelessness in the Columbus/Franklin County community. The count identified 2,380 people experiencing homelessness, marking a 1.8% increase from January 2023. This represents an all-time high in the number of people experiencing homelessness at a single point in time in Columbus and Franklin County.

Key trends from the count include a shift in sheltered vs. unsheltered homelessness, with CSB's strategy for addressing unsheltered homelessness resulting in progress. Notably, there was a 1% decrease in single adults living outside or in other inadequate spaces compared to 2023, coupled with a 4% increase in the number of single adults accessing shelter or transitional housing.

Additionally, the count revealed a significant 58% decrease in the number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 compared to 2023, indicating positive strides in addressing youth homelessness. Moreover, there was a 16% reduction in the overall number of individuals identified as victims of domestic violence compared to 2023, demonstrating progress in providing safe and supportive accommodations for individuals fleeing domestic violence situations.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the point-in-time count may not fully capture the true scope of homelessness. The displacement of families from Colonial Village in November 2023 on the heels of full housing relocation of Sawyer Tower residents in August 2023 serves as a reminder of this reality. CSB is actively involved in ensuring the 400 affected households have continued access to safe, temporary accommodations in hotels.

In response to these findings and challenges, CSB is calling for strategic actions to address homelessness in our community. These include creating family non-congregate shelter capacity, investing in permanent supportive housing, enhancing prevention and diversion efforts, and scaling effective programs like rapid rehousing.

"Every member of our community deserves a place to call home," said Shannon TL Isom, President and CEO for CSB. "While we have made strides in addressing homelessness, there is still much work to be done. By working together and prioritizing strategic actions, we can create a community where everyone has access to safe and stable housing."

For more information on the January 2024 point-in-time count and CSB's response efforts, visit <https://bit.ly/3QpKI7J>.

The annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was held on January 25, 2024. CSB worked in collaboration with the Continuum of Care, a 41-member planning body that carries out a commitment to ending homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. More than 200 volunteers mobilized to support this effort.

MORE ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a planning body made up of representatives of relevant organizations within a geographic area to carry out a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness. In Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, the Continuum of Care provides stewardship for all strategies developed under the community plan to address homelessness. The Continuum of Care:

- provides funding for the capital, services, and operations of housing in Columbus and Franklin County;
- coordinates activities for the community plan to address homelessness;
- promotes collaboration to achieve goals and strategies; and
- secures resources for programs and projects.

The Continuum of Care is designed to involve all the players required to further local efforts to end homelessness. The purpose for including stakeholder representation from a wide range of organizations within a geographic area is to ensure that all community stakeholders participate in developing and implementing a range of housing and services.

<https://www.columbusfranklincountycoc.org/>

MORE ABOUT 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. As the system leader for the prevention and response to homelessness in central Ohio, CSB collaborates with service provider organizations in Franklin County, creating a responsive network to ensure an effective and readied use of community resources for people experiencing homelessness. Over the past 10 years, CSB's system of care has housed more than 35,000 men, women, and children facing homelessness.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the State of Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and many other public and private investors. www.csb.org.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT RESULTS ON HOMELESSNESS

Columbus/Franklin County, Ohio

April 30, 2024



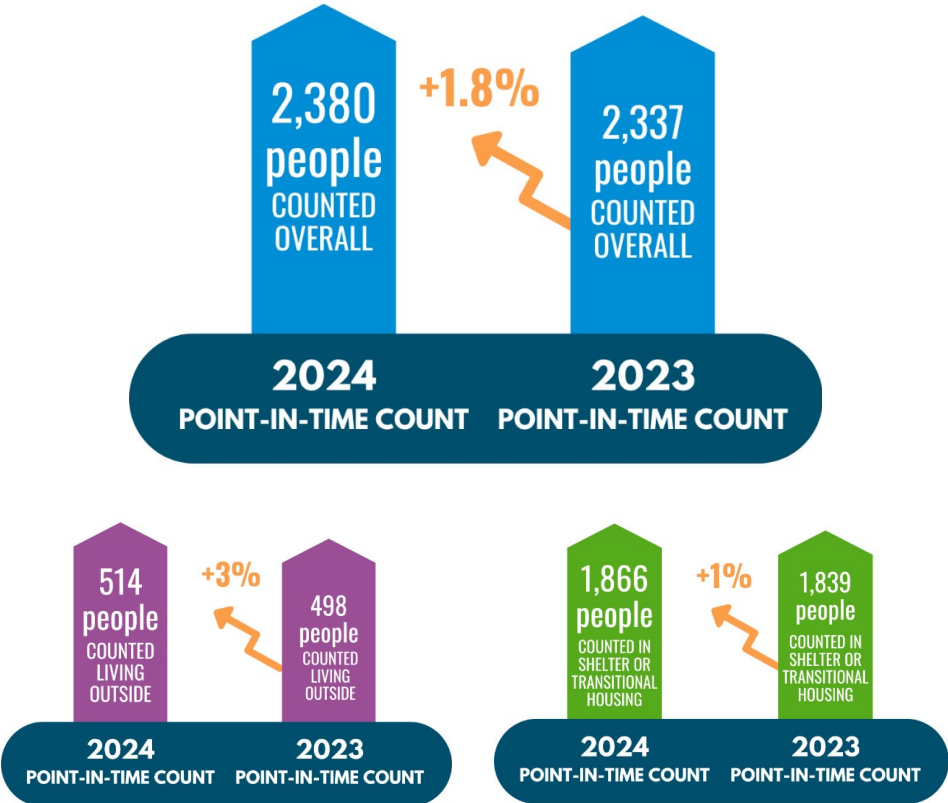
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RESULTS

The January 2024 point-in-time count, conducted by Community Shelter Board (CSB) in partnership with the Continuum of Care, identified 2,380 people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County, marking a 1.8% increase from January 2023. Of these, 1,866 individuals were staying in shelter or transitional housing, representing a 1% increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, 514 people were living outside or in other spaces not meant for habitation, reflecting a 3% increase from 2023.

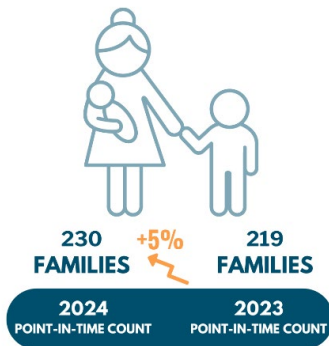


DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

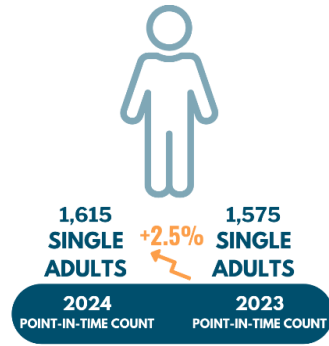
Various demographic groups were affected by homelessness, each with distinct vulnerabilities and needs:



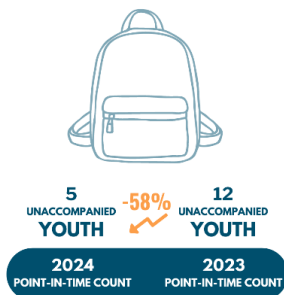
DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS continued



The count identified 230 families experiencing homelessness, a 5% increase from 2023. While five families were living in inadequate conditions, 225 families were accessing shelter or transitional housing.



There were 1,615 single adults experiencing homelessness, marking a 2.5% increase from the previous year. Notably, 490 single adults were unsheltered, a 1% decrease from 2023, while 1,125 were accessing shelter or transitional housing, a 4% increase from 2023.



The count identified five unaccompanied youth under age 18, reflecting a significant 58% decrease from 2023. Of these, one youth was living in inadequate conditions, while four were accessing shelter or transitional housing.



There was a substantial 47% increase in individuals experiencing chronic or repeated homelessness, with 224 people identified. Among them, 150 were living in inadequate conditions, while 74 were accessing shelter.



The count identified 302 people who were victims of domestic violence, marking a 16% reduction from 2023. While 85 were living in inadequate conditions, 217 were accessing shelter or transitional housing.



A total of 91 Veterans were experiencing homelessness, reflecting a 10% reduction from the previous year. While 24 were living in inadequate conditions, 67 were accessing shelter.

KEY TRENDS

Several key trends emerged from the point-in-time count:

<p>1. Overall Increase The count revealed a 1.8% increase in homelessness compared to January 2023, reaching an all-time high of 2,380 individuals.</p>	
<p>2. Shift in Sheltered vs. Unsheltered CSB's strategy for addressing unsheltered homelessness resulted in progress, with a decrease in the number of unsheltered single adults and an increase in single adults accessing shelter or transitional housing. This shift underscores the effectiveness of expanding access to shelter beds and warming center beds, ultimately leading to fewer single adults experiencing homelessness in unsheltered conditions.</p>	
<p>3. Chronic Homelessness is Rising There was a concerning 47% increase in chronic homelessness, primarily affecting individuals living in unsheltered conditions. The rise in chronic homelessness is a marker of the community's affordable housing crisis with low vacancy rates at 3.8%, increased rent burden at 70%, and depressed development.</p>	
<p>4. Family Homelessness is Rising The count identified a 5% increase in families experiencing homelessness, with a notable rise in families living in unsheltered conditions.</p>	
<p>5. Youth Homelessness is Decreasing A significant 58% decrease in unaccompanied youth under age 18 was observed, indicating positive strides in addressing youth homelessness.</p>	
<p>6. Homelessness Among Domestic Violence Victims is Decreasing There was a 16% reduction in domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness, with a substantial improvement in housing stability.</p>	
<p>7. Homelessness Among Veterans is Decreasing Despite challenges, there was a 10% reduction in veterans experiencing homelessness, with a notable decrease in unsheltered veterans.</p>	






DETERIORATING HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE ADDS RISK



While the point-in-time count provides valuable insights into the extent of homelessness in our community, it is important to recognize that it may not fully capture the true scope of the issue. The displacement of families from Colonial Village in November 2023 on the heels of full housing relocation of Sawyer Tower residents in August 2023 serves as a reminder of this reality. CSB is actively involved in ensuring the 400 affected households have continued access to safe, temporary accommodations in hotels.

CALL TO ACTION

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

<p>1. Create Family Non-congregate Shelter Capacity: Allocate resources to increase shelter capacity through the establishment of non-congregate shelter options, specifically tailored to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness. This strategic shift will help address the projected 86% increase in unsheltered homelessness over the next five years, as highlighted by the ongoing Community Assessment on Homelessness. Three hotels would decrease homelessness among families by 48% in five years.</p>	
<p>2. Invest in Permanent Supportive Housing: Prioritize the development and expansion of permanent supportive housing inventory for adults experiencing homelessness that have chronic mental and physical disability. By developing 375 units over five years, increasing our footprint by 12%, we can achieve a 4% reduction in unsheltered adults – representing a long-term investment in deeply affordable housing.</p>	
<p>3. Enhance Prevention and Diversion Efforts: Implement a high-performing diversion model for single adults to reduce entries into homelessness by 25%. Reducing inflow for adults, even in the face of population growth, can achieve a 42% reduction in unsheltered homelessness in five years.</p>	
<p>4. Scale Effective Programs - Rapid Rehousing: Adding 250 rapid rehousing slots for single adults can achieve a 10% decrease in unsheltered homelessness over the next five years. Rapid Rehousing programs, when used effectively, create a rapid replacement for youth, those that are experiencing domestic violence, families, and elderly.</p>	
<p>5. 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.</p>	

ABOUT THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

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Point-in-time counts are conducted in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an important method to better understand the extent and nature of homelessness in communities across the nation.

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