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HOMELESSNESS IN INDIANAPOLIS
2022 Marion County Point-in-Time Count

BACKGROUND

For more than a decade, the IU Public Policy Institute (PPI) and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) have collaborated with local organizations to conduct Marion County's annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. As mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the PIT Count reports the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This report highlights key findings and takeaways from the PIT Count to inform policy decisions and service provision.

METHODOLOGY

An individual must meet HUD's definition of homelessness to be counted as experiencing homelessness in the annual PIT Count. This includes individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (i.e., staying in emergency shelters or places not meant for human habitation), or individuals and families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.

The 2022 PIT Count methodology was carefully developed to provide comparisons to the 2021 PIT Count. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers in 2021 made several methodological changes to the count such as expanding the data collection period from one night to five days. Researchers also significantly shortened the survey for unsheltered people from approximately 30 questions to 10 questions. These two changes remained the same for the 2022 PIT Count methodology to ensure a more accurate count compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

Staff from Professional Blended Street Outreach, Faith-Based Street Outreach, and a small number of community volunteers conducted the PIT Count surveys during the five-day period of January 24–28, 2022. Individuals administering the survey asked people they encountered during that time where they stayed on the night of January 24, 2022. This helped to determine if they met the eligibility requirements. The individuals encountered during the count are categorized as either sheltered, unsheltered, or other (e.g., someone staying with a friend or relative). Those who fell into the third category were not included in the PIT Count.

This report combines data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), unsheltered surveys, and surveys of shelters that do not participate in the HMIS

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2022, there was a 9% decrease in Marion County's homeless population with 1,761 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Unsheltered populations decreased by 23%.
- The rate of Black people in Marion County experiencing homelessness is disproportionately high compared to other homeless populations.
    - Black individuals accounted for 56% of the homeless population, an increase from 54% in 2021.
    - About 66% of homeless McKinney-Vento eligible students were Black, an increase from 59% in 2021.
    - Eighty-two percent of people in families with minor children who were experiencing homelessness were Black.
- Homelessness among young people has continued to increase since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

system. This allowed researchers to count the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families on January 24, 2022. Shelter categories include:

- Emergency shelters: agencies with a primary purpose of providing temporary shelter to those experiencing homelessness.
- Transitional housing: agencies that provide shelter and support services for up to 24 months for households experiencing homelessness.
- Safe havens: temporary supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness and complex barriers (e.g., mental illness).[1]
- Noncongregate shelters: emergency shelters which provide private space for guests, typically for those at a high risk for COVID-19 or individuals testing positive for COVID-19. These can include hotels, repurposed schools, etc.

The report analysis focuses on demographic information, other indicators of how individuals in Marion County experience homelessness, as well as a short comparisons to previous years and trends over time. Due to methodological changes, care should be taken when comparing numbers from pre-pandemic years to 2021 and 2022 numbers.

DEDUPLICATION PROCESS AND ANALYSIS

Given the unique city-wide distribution of teams and the five-day surveying period of the 2022 PIT Count, there is a small chance that some people were double counted. This means they were captured in multiple different surveys, or they were both surveyed and included in HMIS and shelter data. To address this, PPI and CHIP researchers took careful steps to look for and remove these possible duplicate responses. The research team cross-referenced the responses of those who took the survey against HMIS and shelter data.

PPI and CHIP researchers combined all data sets and then looked for instances where two different sets of responses had the same first and last initials, date of birth, gender identity, race, and ethnicity. If two records had the same answers for all these data points, they were considered duplicates and one copy was discarded, keeping either the sheltered response with the most recent enrollment or the first completed survey. Researchers eliminated 60 duplicate records using this process.

In addition, they excluded 76 unsheltered and sheltered paper surveys due to a lack of participant consent. They removed another 34 surveys from individuals who did not meet the definition of homeless on the night of the count.

Once a singular source of cleaned data was available, researchers conducted data analyses and identified trends. The team developed charts, figures, and reports on demographic information and disabling conditions.

FINDINGS

OVERALL TRENDS

In 2022, the PIT Count recorded 1,761 individuals experiencing homelessness in Marion County (Table 1 and Figure 1). This is a 9% decrease from the 1,928 individuals experiencing homelessness reported in 2021.

Both unsheltered and sheltered populations decreased in 2022. There were 202 individuals who were unsheltered and 1,559 who were sheltered. While the number of people in shelters decreased from 2021, the percentage of people using shelters increased (Figure 2).

TABLE 1. Marion County PIT Count (2016–22)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	CHANGE 2021–22
Low temperature	23°F	37°F	27°F	-11°F	18°F	27°F	21°F	-6°F
Sheltered	1,489	1,657	1,546	1,462	1,402	1,665	1,559	-6.4%
Unsheltered	130	126	136	105	186	263	202	-23.2%
Total	**1,619**	**1,783**	**1,682**	**1,567**	**1,588**	**1,928**	**1,761**	**-8.7%**

1 Indianapolis' only safe haven was reclassified as an emergency shelter to meet HUD program guidelines. As such, Indianapolis currently does not have a safe haven shelter.

FIGURE 1. Marion County PIT Count population by location (2012–22)

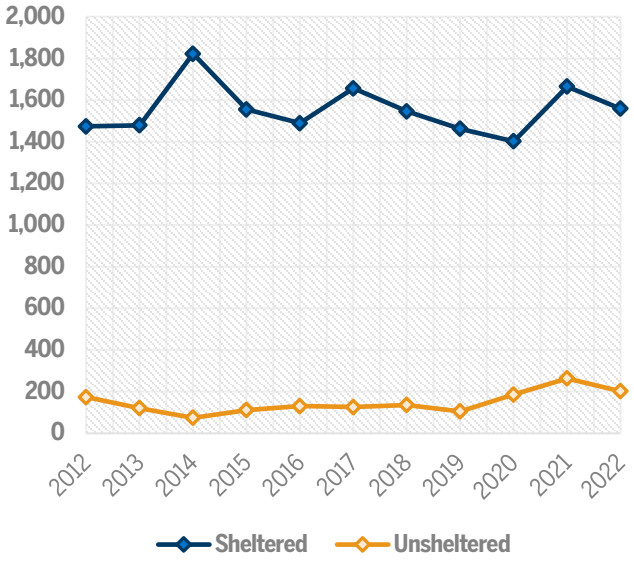


FIGURE 2. Percentage of total PIT Count population by location (2021 & 2022)

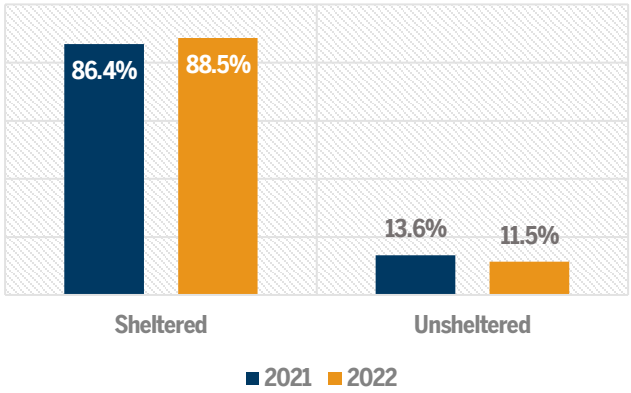
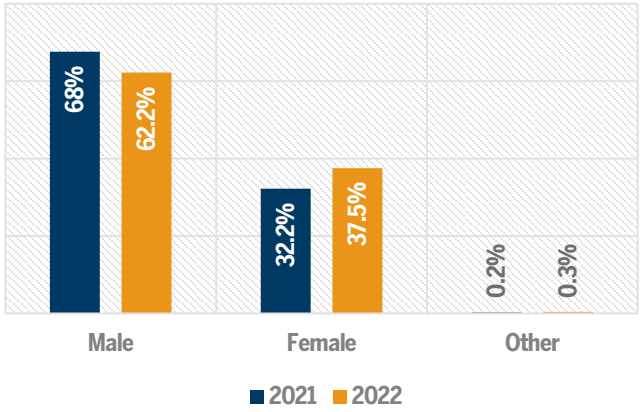


FIGURE 3. Percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness by reported gender (2021 & 2022)



The count of the sheltered population included 98 people living in noncongregate shelters. This type of shelter includes shelters managed by the city of Indianapolis, as well as noncongregate beds managed by traditional emergency shelter providers. These beds are not distinguished in the data from traditional emergency shelters. The count of sheltered individuals also included 244 people staying in transitional housing.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

In the 2022 PIT Count, 62% of individuals reported as male, 38% as female, and 0.3% as another gender identity[2] (Figure 3). A slightly higher percentage of individuals identified as female in 2022 compared to the past five years of PIT Count data, which ranged from 28–34%. Using HUD guidance,[3] researchers estimated gender for 27 people who chose not to disclose. Table 2 shows the estimated number of individuals by gender and location.

Collecting information on gender identity was performed in accordance with HUD guidance. These methods could potentially lead to undercounting individuals who do not identify as cisgender, which includes those who are gender-nonconforming, transgender, questioning, and/or nonbinary. Due to stigma and safety concerns, these individuals might choose not to share their gender identity with survey administrators, case managers, or other staff.

TABLE 2. Individuals experiencing homelessness by reported gender and location (2022)

	UNSHELTERED	SHELTERED
Male	138	957
Female	64	596
Other	0	6

2 Other gender choices included transgender, questioning, and "a gender other than singularly female or male" (e.g., nonbinary, genderfluid, agender, or a culturally specific gender). Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

3 The Department of Housing and Urban Development has developed tools to accurately assess the number of individuals by gender and race, using estimates based on known demographics.

Age

Consistent with previous years, individuals between the ages of 35–61 made up the largest homeless population in Marion County in 2022. (Figure 4). The number of people age 62 or older experiencing homelessness in Marion County declined for the first time in at least six years. Within this age range, the total homeless population decreased to 144 from a high of 206 in 2021.

Like prior years, those between the ages of 18–24 accounted for the smallest portion of people experiencing homelessness. However, that number has nearly doubled throughout the pandemic, from 66 in 2020 to 120 in 2022.

Our findings also showed a continued increase in the number of children younger than 18 who experienced homelessness during the pandemic. The homeless population in this age group increased from 207 in 2020 to 313 in 2022. All other age groups saw a decrease since reaching a decade high in 2021.

A total of 84 individuals—5% of those counted in the 2022 PIT Count—chose not to disclose their age. Based on additional information provided by partner organizations, researchers determined more than half of these people were older than 24. These individuals are not included in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4. Individuals experiencing homelessness by reported age (2016–22)

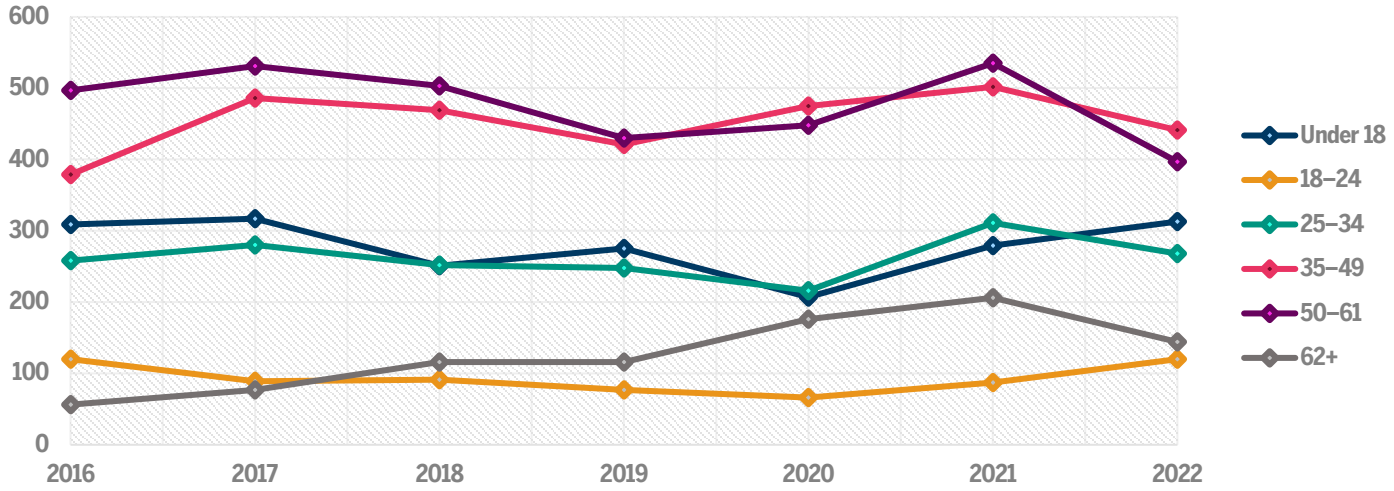
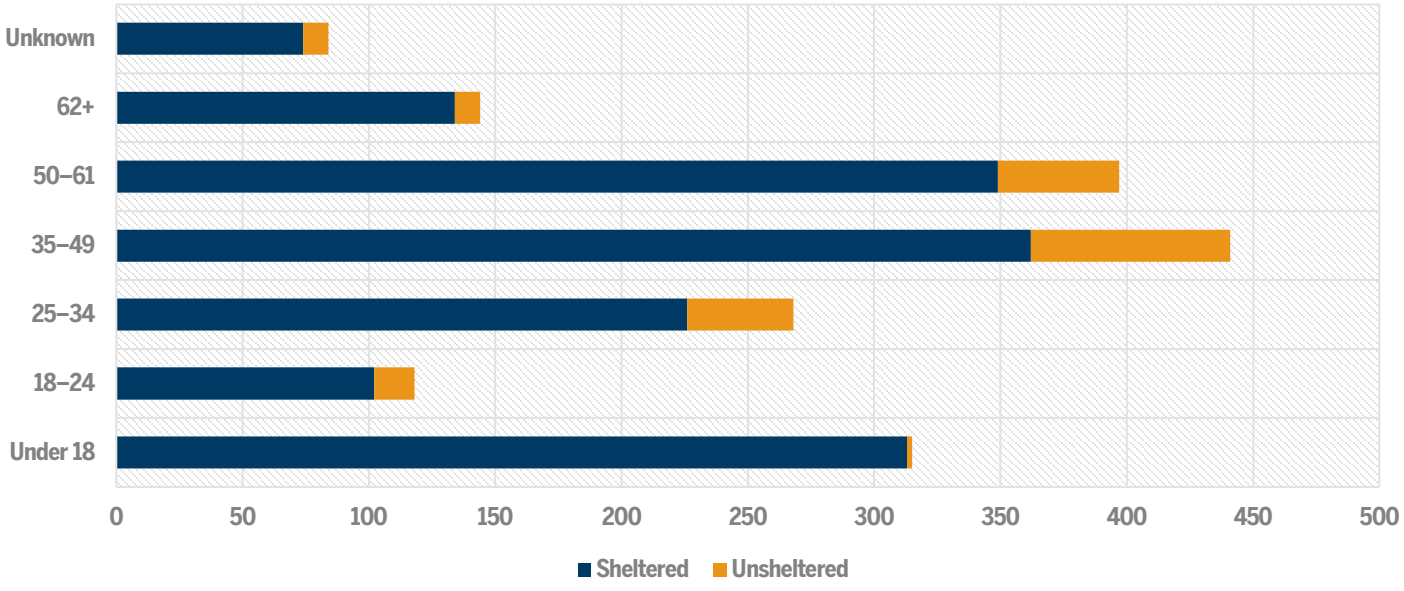


FIGURE 5. Individuals experiencing homelessness by reported age and location (2022)



As shown in Figure 5, most individuals across all age groups were sheltered on the night of the count. As with the last two Point-in-Time reports, those between the ages of 35–49 comprised the largest portion of unsheltered individuals (Figure 6).

Race and ethnicity

Table 3 shows the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness by race, ethnicity, and location in 2022. Black or African American individuals made up the largest percentage of those experiencing homelessness, accounting for 56% of the total PIT Count. White individuals experiencing homelessness were the second largest group. These trends are consistent across previous PIT Count reports (Figure 7). Multiracial individuals comprised 4% of the population and all other racial identities made up 1% or less. Only 4% of people of any race identified as being Hispanic or Latinx across all locations, with the largest number residing in emergency shelters. As in previous

FIGURE 6. Percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness by reported age and location (2022)

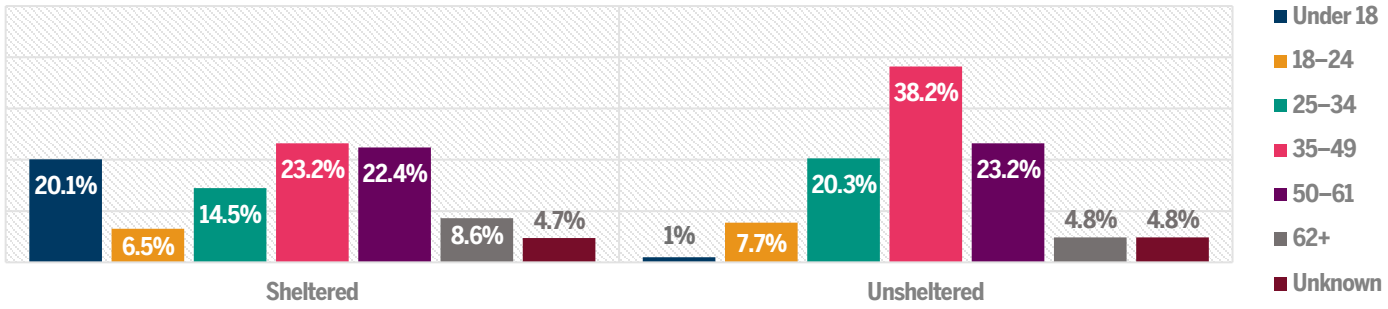


TABLE 3. Individuals experiencing homelessness by reported race/ethnicity and location (2022)*

	EMERGENCY SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	UNSHELTERED	2022 TOTAL	% OF TOTAL POPULATION
Black or African American	821	133	40	994	56.4%
White or Caucasian	421	91	144	656	37.3%
Multiracial	45	11	10	66	3.7%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	8	5	5	18	1%
Asian	11	4	3	18	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	0	0	9	0.5%
Total	**1,315**	**244**	**202**	**1,761**	**100%**
Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity [any race]	60	6	8	74	4.2%

* *A total of 249 individuals chose not to report their race with specificity. Researchers estimated the demographic breakdown of these individuals using HUD guidance.*

FIGURE 7. Racial trends in homeless populations (2018–22)

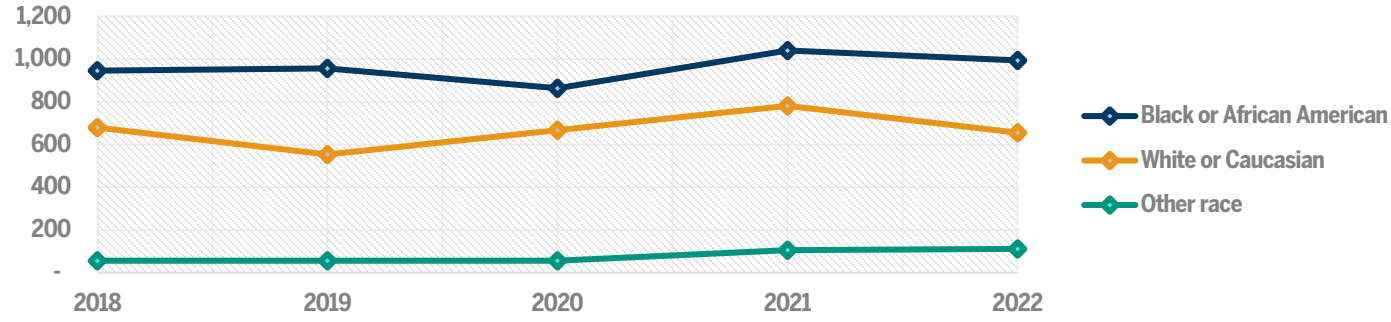
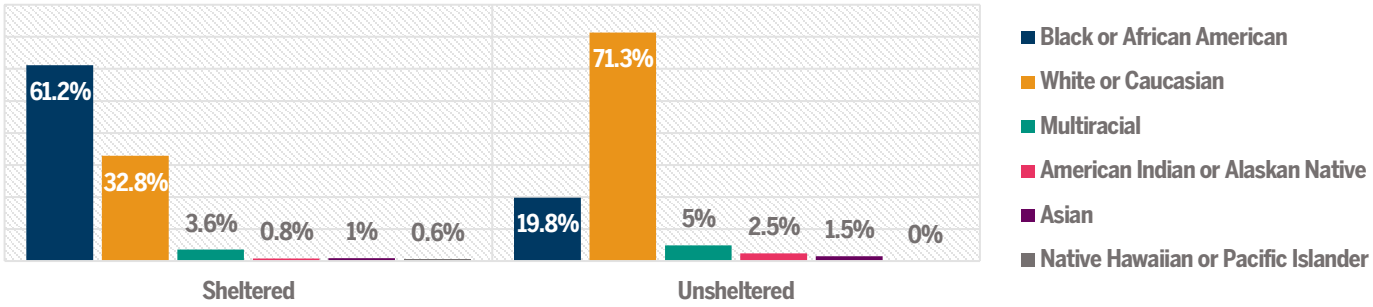


FIGURE 8. Racial disparities in sheltered and unsheltered populations (2022)



years, white individuals accounted for a larger percentage of the unsheltered population while Black or African American accounted for a larger percentage of sheltered individuals (Figure 8).

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

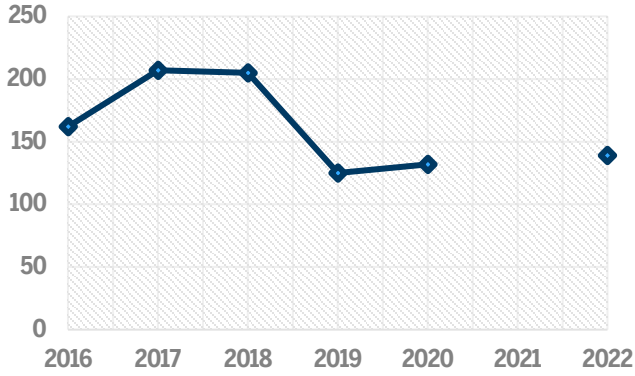
An individual experiencing homelessness must meet the following HUD criteria to be considered chronically homeless:

1. Has experienced at least one disabling condition[4]
2. Has experienced homelessness for at least one consecutive year OR has experienced homelessness at least four times in the past three years, adding up to a cumulative time of one year or more
3. Is experiencing unsheltered homelessness or is residing in an emergency shelter/safe haven

In 2022, 139 individuals met these requirements compared to the 132 in 2020. In both years, this group accounted for 8% of the total homeless population but still represents a 2% increase in the number of people from the 2020 PIT Count. Chronic homelessness data was not available for the 2021 PIT Count due to pandemic-related limitations.

Figure 9 describes trends in chronic homelessness in Indianapolis over time. The overall number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has decreased since 2015 but there has been a slight and steady increase since 2019. As seen in Table 4, 54% of those experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered, while the remaining 46% stayed in emergency shelters. This is a major demographic shift and continues a trend seen in previous years when the percentage of unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals continued to rise (Table 4).

FIGURE 9. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness (2016–22)



** Chronic homelessness data was not available for the 2021 PIT Count due to pandemic-related limitations.*

TABLE 4. Chronic homelessness by location (2016–22)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	CHANGE 2020–22
Chronically homeless (sheltered)	76	139	159	73	68	64	-5.9%
Chronically homeless (unsheltered)	52	42	46	52	64	75	+17.2%
Chronically homeless (total)	**128**	**181**	**205**	**125**	**132**	**139**	**+5.3%**

** Chronic homelessness data was not available for the 2021 PIT Count due to pandemic-related limitations.*

4 Disabling conditions are common factors that may make it more difficult to find or keep housing. This can include, but is not limited to, experiencing disabilities, substance use, and physical or mental health conditions.

Additionally, there is a major difference between chronically and nonchronically homeless individuals by race. While the majority of the homeless population identifies as Black or African American, most chronically homeless individuals are white or Caucasian (Table 5).

TABLE 5. Chronic homelessness by race (2022)

	CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION
Black or African American	30.6%	56.4%
White or Caucasian	59%	37.3%
Other race	10.4%	6.3%

BARRIERS & DISABLING CONDITIONS

PPI researchers analyzed trends related to the 1,639 people who reported on disabling conditions they were experiencing. Nine percent of individuals did not share their disabling conditions for privacy reasons. Some individuals refused to answer questions regarding conditions in their lives or felt uncomfortable sharing this information. As such, some information may be undercounted. Stigma, safety concerns, and other factors could affect whether an individual chooses to disclose this information to outreach or shelter staff.

Many individuals reported experiencing more than one disabling condition at a time (e.g., both alcohol and illicit substance use). This is especially true for chronically homeless individuals, as most reported experiencing two or more of these conditions at once (Figure 10). While these conditions can make it harder to address housing stability, this information can help organizations better understand the additional challenges these individuals face.

As seen in Figure 11, the most reported disabling condition for those experiencing any form of homelessness was a mental health condition (e.g., depression, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, or bipolar disorder). The second most common disabling condition for both groups was a chronic physical health condition, such as cancer, diabetes, or hepatitis.

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were 5 times more likely to report having a problem with drugs, as

FIGURE 10. Number of disabling conditions reported by chronic status (2022)

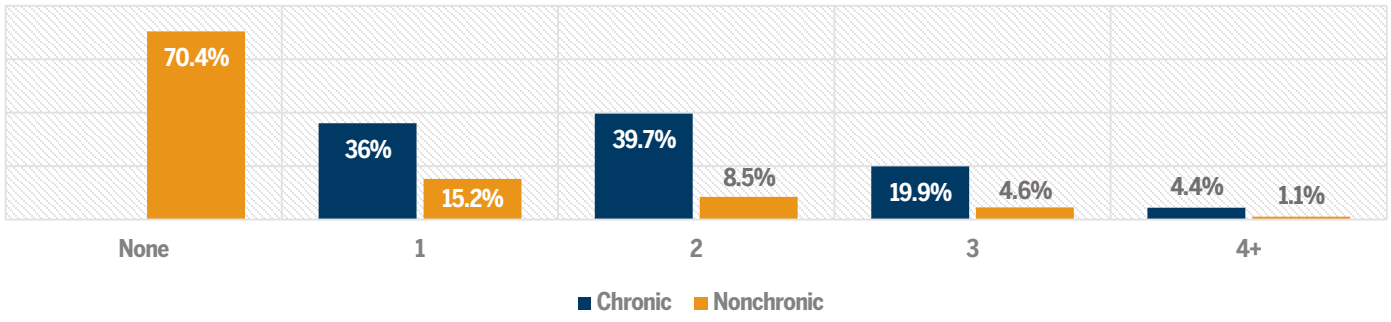
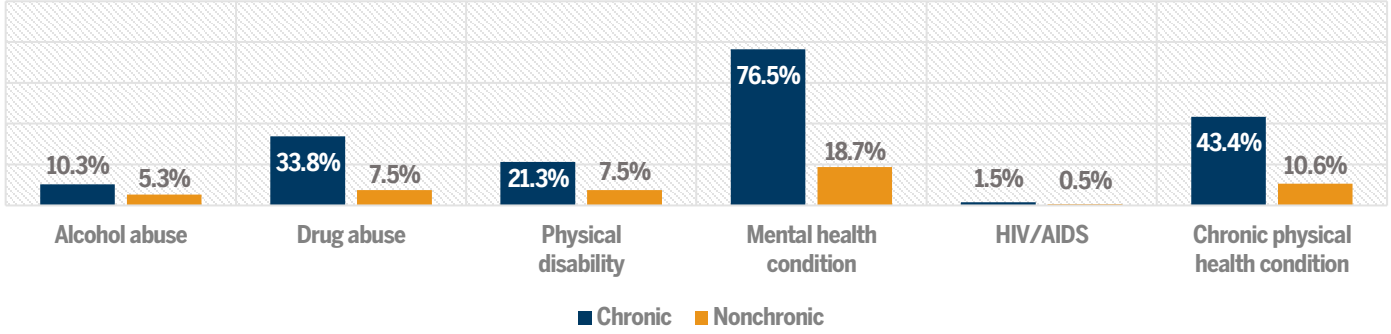


FIGURE 11. Type of disabling conditions reported by chronic status (2022)



well as 2 times more likely to report having a problem with alcohol.

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were more likely to report all types of disabling factors at a higher rate than nonchronic individuals. This is due in part to the fact that the state of being chronically homeless requires experiencing at least one chronic condition.

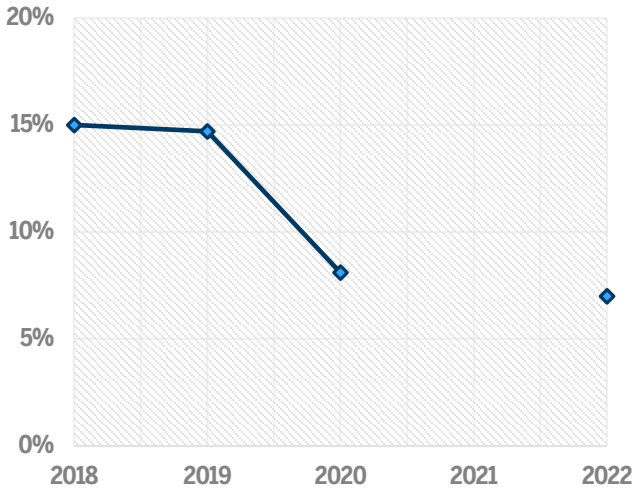
Additionally, 101 individuals reported they were actively fleeing domestic violence. This represents 6% of those counted (7% of all adults). However—as seen in previous years—there has been a decrease in the percentage of people who report having experienced homelessness because of domestic violence (Figure 12). This information was not tracked in 2021 and—for privacy reasons—is not broken down at a chronic or nonchronic level.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

There were a total of 1,414 households counted in the 2022 PIT Count, most of which included children (1,254). However, this category also included 155 households that had at least one adult and one child, as well as five households containing only children. These five children were all in emergency shelters.

For the first time since the 2019 PIT Count, surveyors found children in unsheltered situations. These two children were both younger than 18 and were unsheltered with a parent. This indicates major increases from the number of children and the number of families with children counted in 2021—except for chronically homeless families with children who saw a decrease (Table 6). This is in line with the trends from 2021's count which saw major increases after 2020 (Figure 13).

FIGURE 12. Percentage of adults experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence (2018–22)



** Chronic homelessness data was not available for the 2021 PIT Count due to pandemic-related limitations.*

FIGURE 13. Households with children experiencing homelessness (2016–22)

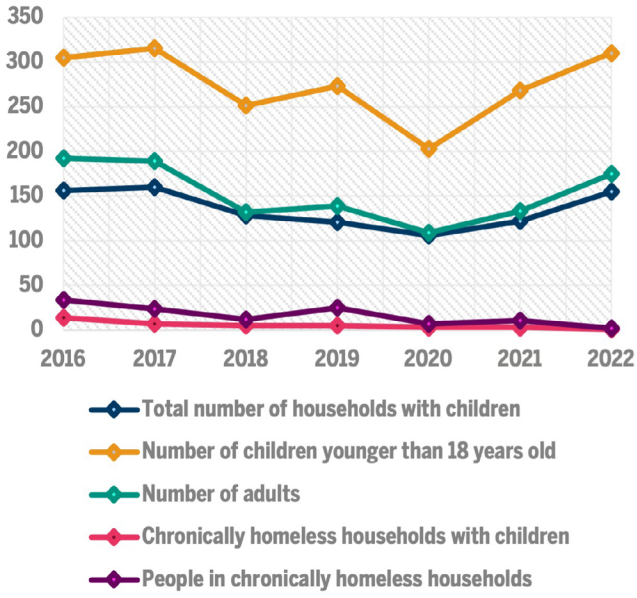


TABLE 6. Households with children experiencing homelessness by location (2022)

	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL	CHANGE 2021–22
Total number of households with children	153	2	155	+27%
Number of children younger than 18 years old	308	2	310	+15.7%
Number of adults	173	2	175	+31.6%
Chronically homeless households with children	1	0	1	-66.7%
Persons in chronically homeless households	2	0	2	-81.8%

Homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) also monitors housing instability among students. The DOE uses an expanded definition of homelessness which goes further than the traditional HUD definition of literal homelessness used by the Point-in-Time Count. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Act uses this definition to collect information on student homelessness across the country, including in Indianapolis and Marion County. Because of the differing definitions of homelessness between the DOE and HUD, some individuals experiencing homelessness under one definition may not be included in the other. This report analyzes data from McKinney-Vento liaisons serving 33 Marion County school systems to understand important local trends surrounding youth and family homelessness and housing insecurity. Four school systems did not respond to requests for this data. According to the Indiana Department of Education, these four school corporations had a total enrollment of 968 students in the 2020–21 school year.

This year, McKinney-Vento liaisons reported there were 2,772 students experiencing homelessness on January 24, 2022. This is nearly a 4% increase from the 2,655 students reported in 2021. About 77% of the students reported as homeless were doubled up,[5] 12% were staying in a hotel or motel, and 8% were living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing (Table 7). Eight students were listed as being in unsheltered situations. However, survey teams only encountered two children younger than age 18 during the week of the 2022 PIT Count. Location data was not collected for 38 students.

Notably, Indianapolis Public Schools—the largest school corporation in Marion County with 22,928 students total—did respond to requests for data this year unlike in 2021. This data was missing in 2021, which could account for the increase.

About 66% of homeless students in Marion County were Black, up from 59% in 2021. Rates for both Black students and Black adults experiencing homelessness are disproportionately high compared to other homeless populations in Marion County. For reference, only 29% of residents in Marion County identify as Black.

It is important to note, the McKinney-Vento program administrators and HUD categorize Hispanic or Latinx individuals differently. McKinney-Vento administrators categorize Hispanic or Latinx as a race while HUD defines it as an ethnicity. Given the difference, there may be discrepancies when comparing the two rates directly. In Marion County, about 11% of residents are Hispanic or Latinx. While only 4% of individuals counted in the total 2022 PIT Count chose to identify as Hispanic or Latinx, 12% of McKinney-Vento students fell into this category (Table 8). This is equal to the percentage who identified as Hispanic or Latinx in last year's report. In total, 86% of students experiencing homelessness in Marion County were not white.

TABLE 7. Student homelessness by location (2021–22)

TYPE OF HOMELESSNESS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	CHANGE 2021–22
Doubled up	2,142	77.3%	-57
Sheltered	209	7.5%	65
Hotel/motel	332	12%	97
Unattached*	33	1.2%	0
Other temporary living situation	10	0.4%	-22
Unsheltered	8	0.3%	0
Data not collected	38	1.4%	34
Total	**2,772**	**100%**	**117**

** The McKinney-Vento Act defines unattached or unaccompanied youth as "a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian".*

TABLE 8. Student homelessness by race/ethnicity (2022)

RACE/ETHNICITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS
Black or African American	1,831	66.1%
White or Caucasian	388	14%
Hispanic/Latinx	331	11.9%
Asian	44	1.6%
Multiracial	144	5.2%
Native American	7	0.3%
Other	8	0.3%
Data not collected	19	0.7%
Total	**2,772**	**100%**

5 Doubled up refers to individuals who are temporarily living with friends or family members.

VETERANS

There were 167 adults experiencing homelessness who indicated they had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. This is a 35% decrease from last year's count (Table 9).

While this decrease is notable, it falls roughly in line with the declining trend of veteran homelessness in Indianapolis since 2016 (Figure 14). There are major differences in demographics for these veterans compared to the total population experiencing homelessness. Generally, people experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis are more likely to be Black than any other race, but veterans experiencing homelessness are most likely to be white (Table 10). Additionally, veterans experiencing homelessness are much more likely to be male than female (Table 11).

FIGURE 14. Veterans experiencing homelessness (2016–22)

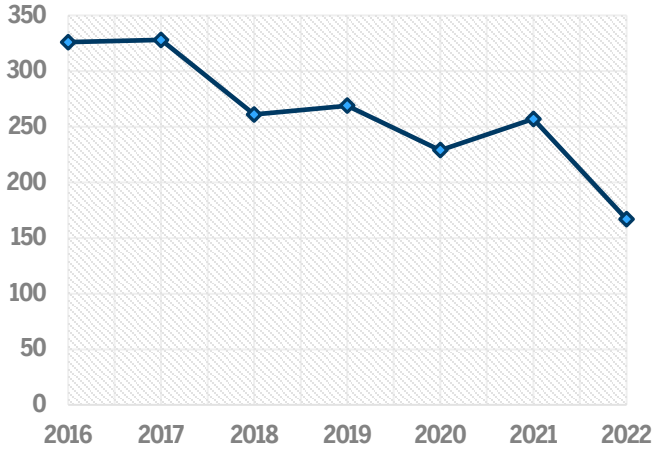


TABLE 9. Veteran homelessness by location (2016–22)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	CHANGE 2021–22
Sheltered	317	313	249	261	205	244	155	-36.5%
Unsheltered	9	15	12	8	16	13	12	-7.7%
Total	326	328	261	269	221	257	167	-35%
Percentage of adult PIT Count population	**20.1%**	**18.4%**	**15.5%**	**20.8%**	**16%**	**15.6%**	**11.5%**	**-4.1%**

TABLE 10. Veteran homelessness by race (2022)

	HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION	TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION
Black or African American	41.3%	56.4%
White or Caucasian	55.7%	37.3%
Other race	3%	6.3%

TABLE 11. Veteran homelessness by gender (2022)

	HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION	TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION
Male	91.6%	62.2%
Female	8.4%	37.5%
Other	0%	0.3%

IMPLICATIONS

RACIAL DISPARITIES

As seen in Table 12, racial disparities in the Indianapolis homeless population persist. Existing research shows that circumstances leading to a loss of housing for Black residents are different than those for white residents. This is due to issues like systemic racism in housing as well as disparate access to health care, economic, and educational opportunities.

Overall, Indianapolis' homeless community is disproportionately Black. The persisting racial disparities in youth experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition could provide some clues into the racial disparity in the PIT Count. To prevent homeless students—listed under the McKinney-Vento definition—from becoming HUD's definition of literally homeless as they age out of school, it is imperative to create programs and

policies that increase the accessibility and affordability of housing for Black residents. This includes—but is not limited to—reducing rent burden and addressing other systemic barriers that lead to disproportionate rates of homelessness among the Black population.

Additionally, the experience of homelessness itself differs between white and Black adults as it relates to the household type, conditions, location, and whether they are chronically homelessness. This could indicate the threshold for becoming homeless may involve a differing degree of compounding barriers and risk factors for white residents than for Black residents. Examining these differences by race and further investigating the factors that contribute to homelessness among Black and white populations might provide meaningful insights into developing and implementing responsive and culturally appropriate programs and policies.

FURTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Previous Point-in-Time surveys and reports examined the effects of a wider variety of contributing factors of homelessness. These included:

- Experiences in the foster care system
- Experiences in the criminal justice system
- Educational attainment
- Employment status
- Owning pets while being unsheltered

Including these contributing factors in evaluating the lived experiences of people experiencing homelessness can help organizations and policy makers better understand the additional challenges these individuals face. This would necessitate asking more specific questions on the Point-in-Time Count survey since this information is not tracked accurately in data management platforms like HMIS. As such, this could result in data that is less useful, harder to obtain, and more difficult to clean. Researchers and partnering organizations would have to balance survey length with usefulness of information gathered.

METHODOLOGY

Survey administration

As mentioned in the 2021 report, COVID-19 impacted data collection, quality, and analysis in several ways for the 2021 PIT Count. Researchers attempted to replicate the five-day survey period used in 2021 to maintain consistency between the years and to provide a level of public health safety for survey administrators and participants.

Previously, it was unclear whether the exceptionally high count in 2021 resulted from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the methodological changes that increased the populations surveyed, or a combination of both. The 9% reduction in total PIT Count population seems to indicate that the 2021 count was primarily influenced by the pandemic. However, more research is needed to confirm this finding.

Going forward, researchers and community partners will have to weigh the implications of returning to a single-night count or continuing with the multiday methodology.

Data quality

Improvements in data quality in general would improve the usefulness of the PIT Count and PIT Count report. It could also provide more reliable and important information to key decision makers at shelters, CHIP, or the city of Indianapolis. For example, data quality issues surrounding missing demographic information or low response rates on certain questions surrounding disabling factors limit the

TABLE 12. Racial disparities in homeless populations (2022)

	CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	HOMELESS VETERANS	MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS STUDENTS	TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION (PIT/ HUD DEFINITION)	INDIANAPOLIS CENSUS DATA
Black or African American	30.6%	41.3%	66.1%	56.4%	29.1%
White or Caucasian	59.0%	55.7%	14.0%	37.3%	63.5%
Other race	10.4%	3.0%	19.9%*	6.3%	7.4%

** This number may be affected by the fact that McKinney-Vento liaisons record Hispanic/Latinx as a race, while HUD treats it as an ethnicity.*

accuracy of the data and can always be improved, both in physical surveys and in HMIS.

Participating in physical surveys for the PIT Count is voluntary and requires participant consent. Obtaining informed consent before interviewing a client is essential. More time should be spent explaining and stressing the importance of the consent portion of the survey. This type of survey relies on self-reporting data, which imposes an inherent limitation on data quality.

Moving forward, standardizing the wide variety of data collection strategies used during the PIT Count could facilitate future analysis. Access to data that is as clean, accurate, and uniform as possible makes analysis easier, faster, and prone to less error.

The Point-in-Time Count is only one data point that communities should look at to better understand homelessness.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Center for Research on Inclusion & Social Policy

The Center for Research on Inclusion & Social Policy (CRISP) was created to address complex social issues and the effects of social policy through applied, data-driven, and translational research. CRISP analyzes and disseminates community-relevant research about social disparities and policy issues.

Our faculty, researchers, and analysts partner with community leaders and organizations to deliver policy guidance, unbiased research, and data-driven, objective, expert analysis to help public, private, and nonprofit sectors in Indiana and throughout the nation make important decisions that directly impact quality of life. CRISP is housed within the IU Public Policy Institute (PPI), which also supports the Center for Health & Justice Research (CHJR), and the Manufacturing Policy Initiative (MPI).

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