



COALITION FOR HOMELESSNESS
INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

BRIEF: 2024 INDIANAPOLIS PIT COUNT

JUNE 26, 2024

A SINGLE-NIGHT SNAPSHOT OF MARION COUNTY NEIGHBORS SLEEPING OUTDOORS AND IN SHELTERS

Housing is a human right.

We envision an Indianapolis where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable home and is embraced by compassionate care and an inclusive community.

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

What is the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

The PIT Count is a census of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Nationally, all Continuums of Care (CoCs) must conduct PIT Counts per the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Counts reflect individuals in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Safe Havens, and folks who are unsheltered.¹ PIT Counts exclude folks staying with others temporarily (couch-surfing) or instances where multiple households share a single living space. Counts also exclude folks in institutional settings (e.g., hospitals, jails), even if they experienced homelessness the prior night.

What does (and doesn't) the PIT tell us?

PIT data allows CoCs to see a single-night snapshot of homelessness in their community. As such, PIT data does not necessarily reflect the full, annual extent of homelessness in Indianapolis. We encourage our community to consider additional data on our website to gain a larger sense of the annual scope of homelessness. However, the PIT Count allows us to see a vital snapshot of information. For example, it shows changes in the population experiencing homelessness, utilization of shelter services, and conditions making housing stability challenging (e.g., a physical disability). Knowing where neighbors stay outdoors is also vital in connecting them to services.

How is PIT data used?

PIT Counts from every CoC in the nation are presented to Congress in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which informs national priorities on homelessness and critical funding decisions. Locally, Black individuals comprise about 30% of Marion County residents, yet over 50% of folks experiencing homelessness. In 2023, the Indianapolis CoC Blueprint Council set an 18-month goal to eliminate this disparity by reducing Black homelessness by 35%. The PIT Count is the primary tool for measuring progress toward this goal.

How is the PIT conducted?

Throughout the year, CoC agencies use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to manage program enrollments and shelter stays and collect necessary client data. These agencies provided counts of all individuals and households sleeping at their facility on the PIT night, confirming data accuracy with HMIS. Providers not utilizing HMIS input data directly into an electronic portal from the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA). Domestic violence shelters provided aggregate client data with no personally identifiable information to protect client privacy.

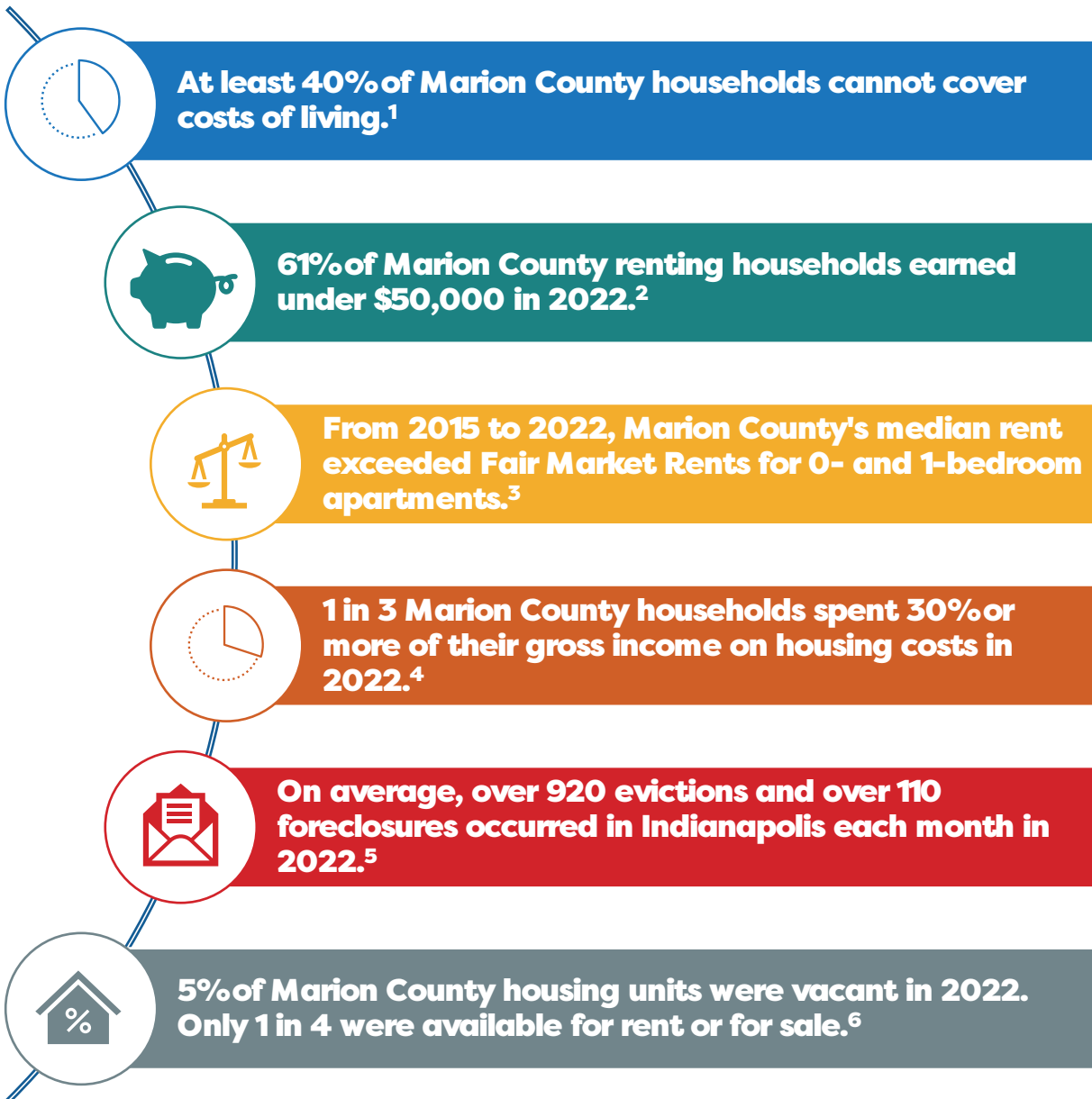
Additionally, electronic surveys were used to gather information directly from unsheltered neighbors sleeping in cars, in abandoned buildings, outside, and other places not meant for human habitation. Surveys were conducted by nearly 60 volunteers, including Professional Blended Street Outreach (PBSO) members and outreach teams and the IMPD Homeless Unit. Since the 2023 PIT Count, outreach staff collected confidential information on where neighbors could be engaged through the county. On the night of the 2024 Count, they surveyed at these locations. The next four days, volunteers surveyed at service provider locations (libraries, food pantries, etc.). Surveyed neighbors reported where they stayed on January 24. Surveys were voluntary and participants could end the survey at any time. Data was cleaned and verified before submission to HUD.

EACH NUMBER IN THE COUNT REPRESENTS A REAL, SACRED HUMAN LIFE. THEY ARE OUR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, SIBLINGS, CHILDREN, AND NEIGHBORS.

¹ Please refer to page 28 of the [FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards Manual](#) from HUD for project definitions and descriptions.

HOMELESSNESS: A SYSTEMIC ECONOMIC AND HOUSING ISSUE

There are several misconceptions surrounding homelessness. The rise in homelessness in the US is not due to individual-level factors. At its core, homelessness is a **systemic economic and housing issue**. For example, Indianapolis residents often cannot cover costs of living and the availability of affordable housing units is woefully insufficient. While certainly not exhaustive, the data below speaks to why homelessness persists in Indianapolis.



¹United for Alice, ²US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates, ³Census Bureau ACS Estimates and US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, ⁴Census Bureau ACS Estimates, ⁵SAVI and Polis Center Evictions Dashboard (as of June 20, 2024), ⁶Census Bureau ACS Estimates.

For an accessible and compelling statistical analysis of factors contributing to homelessness, consider Colburn and Aldern's book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*.

2024 PIT AT-A-GLANCE

On the night of January 24, 2024, **1,701 Indianapolis residents** slept in an Indianapolis shelter, transitional housing, or place not meant for human habitation. The tables below reflect individual neighbors' locations, demographics, household composition, veteran status, and chronic homeless status. Visit our website for historical PIT data.

<i>Location</i>	Count of Individuals	Percent of Count
<i>In Emergency Shelters</i>	1,167	69%
<i>In Transitional Housing</i>	195	11%
<i>Unsheltered</i>	339	20%
TOTAL	1,701	100%

<i>Race & Ethnicity</i>	Count	Percent (%)
<i>Black</i>	899	53%
<i>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) only</i>	51	3%
<i>Multiple Races</i>	44	3%
<i>Other Races*</i>	68	4%
<i>White, non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)</i>	639	38%

**Includes neighbors who are American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Middle Eastern or Northern African, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Both Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) and non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) neighbors are included.*

<i>Gender</i>	Count	Percent (%)
<i>Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)</i>	1	<1%
<i>Man (boy, if child)</i>	1,056	62%
<i>Multiple Genders</i>	7	<1%
<i>Non-Binary</i>	1	<1%
<i>Transgender</i>	2	<1%
<i>Woman (girl, if child)</i>	634	37%

<i>Age</i>	Count	Percent (%)
<i>Below 18</i>	278	16%
<i>18 - 24</i>	96	6%
<i>25 - 34</i>	287	17%
<i>35 - 44</i>	309	18%
<i>45 - 54</i>	310	18%
<i>55 - 64</i>	318	19%
<i>65 and Older</i>	103	6%

<i>Additional Subpopulations Status</i>	Count	Percent (%)
<i>Neighbors Experiencing Chronic Homelessness</i>	324	19%
<i>Neighbors in Families with Children</i>	419	25%
<i>Veterans Experiencing Homelessness</i>	170	10%
<i>Unaccompanied Youth (<18) and Young Adults (18 - 24)</i>	79	5%

Note: Data excludes residents couch surfing, multiple households in a single unit, and individuals who were previously experiencing homelessness but in institutional settings (e.g., hospitals), on the night of the PIT.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2024 PIT COUNT

On January 24, 2024, 1,701 neighbors were staying in Indianapolis emergency shelters, transitional housing, or were unsheltered (sleeping in abandoned buildings, outdoors, vehicles, etc.). This represents a 5% increase from the 2023 Count.

The number of neighbors who are unsheltered remains historically high. 339 of the neighbors surveyed on the night of the PIT were sleeping outdoors. **While this is a slight decrease (5%) from 2023**, it is still 72% higher than the number of unsheltered neighbors counted in 2022, and triple the number of neighbors surveyed in 2019.

Black residents remain overrepresented among neighbors experiencing homelessness. On the night of the 2024 PIT Count, 53% of neighbors counted were Black, compared to about 30% of Marion County's population. This disparity was particularly high among individuals in shelters and families with children under 18, where 57% and 67% of neighbors were Black, respectively.

634 women and girls were staying in shelters or outdoors on the night of the PIT, representing 37% of all neighbors. The number of women and girls included in the 2024 PIT was 8% higher than in 2023, despite an overall PIT Count increase of 5%.

79 unaccompanied young adults (age 18 - 24) were counted in the 2024 PIT. 59% of these young adults were Black, compared to 45% in 2023, reflecting another area of racial disparity among neighbors experiencing homelessness.

90% of unsheltered neighbors reported living in Indianapolis when their experience of homelessness began. They most frequently cited lack of income (39%) and job loss (29%) as a main contributing factor to their current homelessness experience.

On the night of the PIT, 86% of transitional housing beds and 76% of emergency shelter beds were occupied. There were 28 available beds in transitional housing and 370 available beds in emergency shelters. Of the 370 open emergency shelter beds, 193 were seasonal and 177 were available year-round.

Note: Data excludes residents couch surfing, multiple households in a single unit, and individuals who were previously experiencing homelessness but in institutional settings (e.g., hospitals), on the night of the PIT.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CHIP extends our deepest gratitude to the many individuals and organizations whose time, dedication, and resources made the PIT Count possible. Our partners' collaborative effort and commitment are critical to shedding light on the political failure that is homelessness and help ensure we maintain eligibility for nearly \$12 million in federal support to both house our neighbors and ensure they do not experience homelessness again. Without their tenacity, compassion, and empathy, our community could not progress toward making homelessness in Indianapolis rare, brief, and nonrecurring. We extend our thanks to the following:

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS. You provide critical resources to our neighbors daily, and helped us better connect with them during the PIT. We appreciate your dedication.

FREDDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD AND MHS: Your sponsorship for the PIT Lunch and Learn and Kickoff Party provided volunteers with food and snacks to keep them fueled for the day. Thank you for your support of the local community!

INDYGO FOUNDATION. Your grant allowed us to provide 1,000 bus passes to our unhoused neighbors. Affordable and reliable transportation is especially critical for our most vulnerable neighbors. We appreciate your generosity and commitment to equitable public transit.

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ALLIANCES (ICA). You helped minimize the burden on providers, and your guidance and technical assistance ensured data accurately reflects our neighbors' stories. We are thankful for your partnership (and patience amidst our flurry of emails).

MERCHANTS BANK & HOOPS. Your generous contributions allowed us to provide much-needed care for our neighbors, including food, blankets, clothing, and other essentials most of us too often take for granted. Your sponsorship and gifts for the PIT Packs are greatly appreciated.

OVERDOSE LIFELINE. Your expertise ensured our volunteers were trained to reverse potential drug poisonings, and your gifts of Narcan are lifesaving. We are grateful for you and your work.

PIT PLANNING WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS. Your thoughtful engagement helps us continue to evolve the PIT. Your thoughts and expertise are vital, and we are excited to continue working with you to expand the PIT's utility in your work.

PIT VOLUNTEERS. Time is a precious resource, and your engagement is invaluable. Thank you for the gift of your time in ensuring a successful PIT. Without you, this report could not be done.

PROFESSIONAL BLENDED STREET OUTREACH: Your leadership ensures our unsheltered neighbors are compassionately reached during the PIT and every day. Thanks to you, we had our most comprehensive unsheltered Count to date. Your empathy and care are seen and admired.

SHELTER AND HOUSING STAFF. Thank you for diligently collecting and reviewing the data in this report and responding to our flurries of data questions. Quality data means quality care for our neighbors, and your work and diligence are greatly appreciated.

Most importantly, we extend our deepest gratitude to our unhoused neighbors. Your trust and willingness to contribute to this endeavor are an invaluable reminder of the urgent need for compassionate, comprehensive, and evidence-based solutions and the resources to make them a reality.