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COALITION FOR HOMELESSNESS  
INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

## **REPORT: 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.**

## 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.**

## CHIP AND THE INDIANAPOLIS CONTINUUM OF CARE

The **Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC)** is a collaborative and engaged group of community partners dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Indianapolis. CoC members take a comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness through outreach, intake, and assessment; prevention and diversion; emergency shelter; permanent housing; and system-wide planning initiatives to address and end homelessness. Members of the CoC recognize long-term goals can only be realized through collective action. The mission of the CoC is to coordinate stakeholders, systems, and resources to prevent and end homelessness in Indianapolis.

The **Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP)** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving as the backbone agency of the Indianapolis CoC. As the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead and Coordinated Entry System (CES) Lead for the CoC, CHIP supports partner agencies with data management and analysis, manages and refines the prioritization process for entry into permanent housing, and serves as the primary point-of-contact for required federal reporting. CHIP recognizes no single entity can end homelessness alone and actively convenes and fosters collaboration to support system-wide partnership and planning. We strive to make homelessness in Indianapolis rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

To learn more about the Indianapolis CoC and CHIP, including our Point-in-Time Data Dashboard, please visit our website at <https://www.chipindy.org>.



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## 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](#).<sup>1</sup> 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 (e.g., libraries, local churches, and food pantries). 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.**

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

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2024 PIT COUNT

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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%.

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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.

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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.

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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.

## 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>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>69%</b>
<i>In Transitional Housing</i>	<b>195</b>	<b>11%</b>
<i>Unsheltered</i>	<b>339</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

*\*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>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<i>Man (boy, if child)</i>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>62%</b>
<i>Multiple Genders</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<i>Non-Binary</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<i>Transgender</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<i>Woman (girl, if child)</i>	<b>634</b>	<b>37%</b>

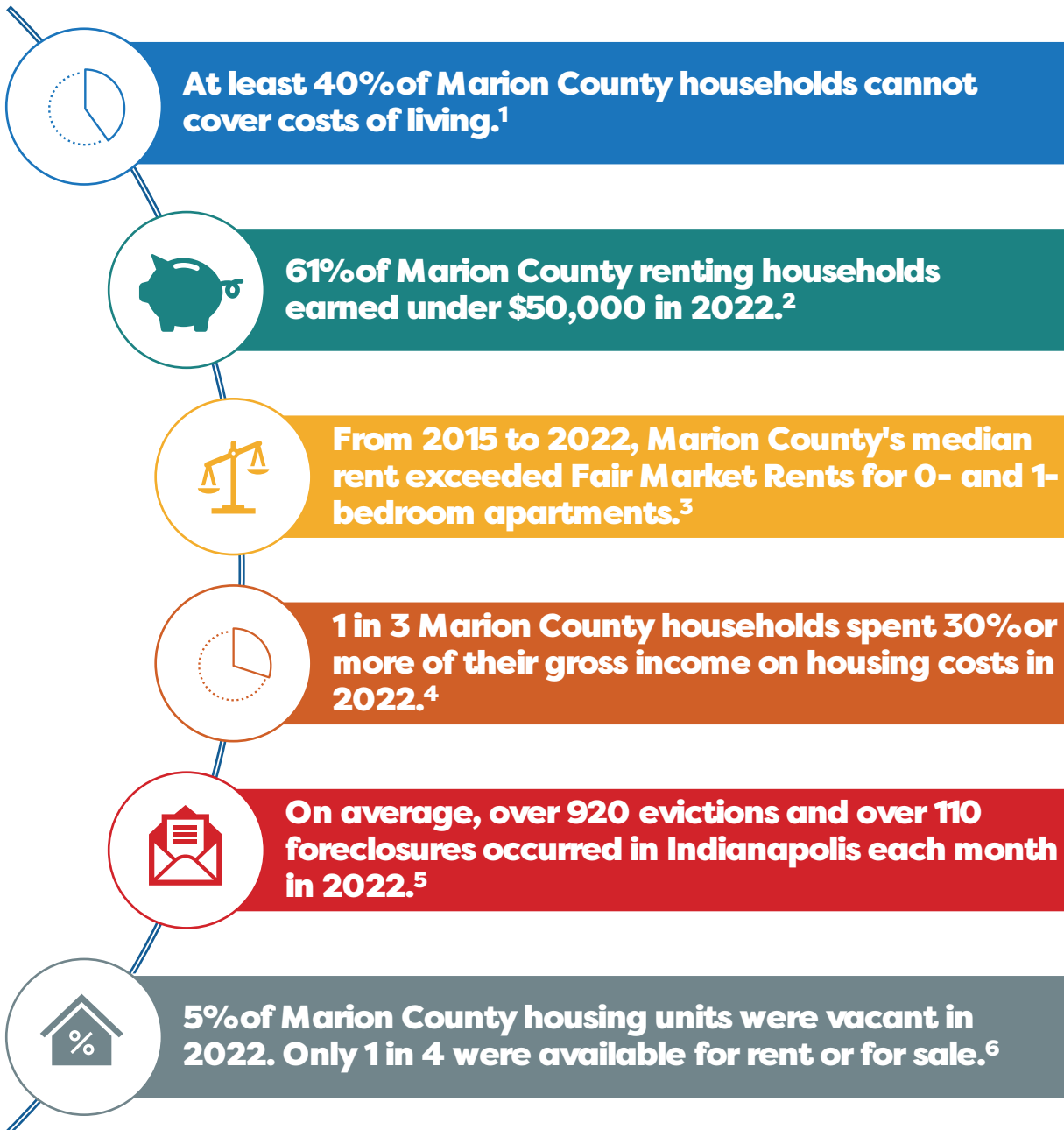
<i>Age</i>	Count	Percent (%)
<i>Below 18</i>	<b>278</b>	<b>16%</b>
<i>18 - 24</i>	<b>96</b>	<b>6%</b>
<i>25 - 34</i>	<b>287</b>	<b>17%</b>
<i>35 - 44</i>	<b>309</b>	<b>18%</b>
<i>45 - 54</i>	<b>310</b>	<b>18%</b>
<i>55 - 64</i>	<b>318</b>	<b>19%</b>
<i>65 and Older</i>	<b>103</b>	<b>6%</b>

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

**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.

## 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.



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

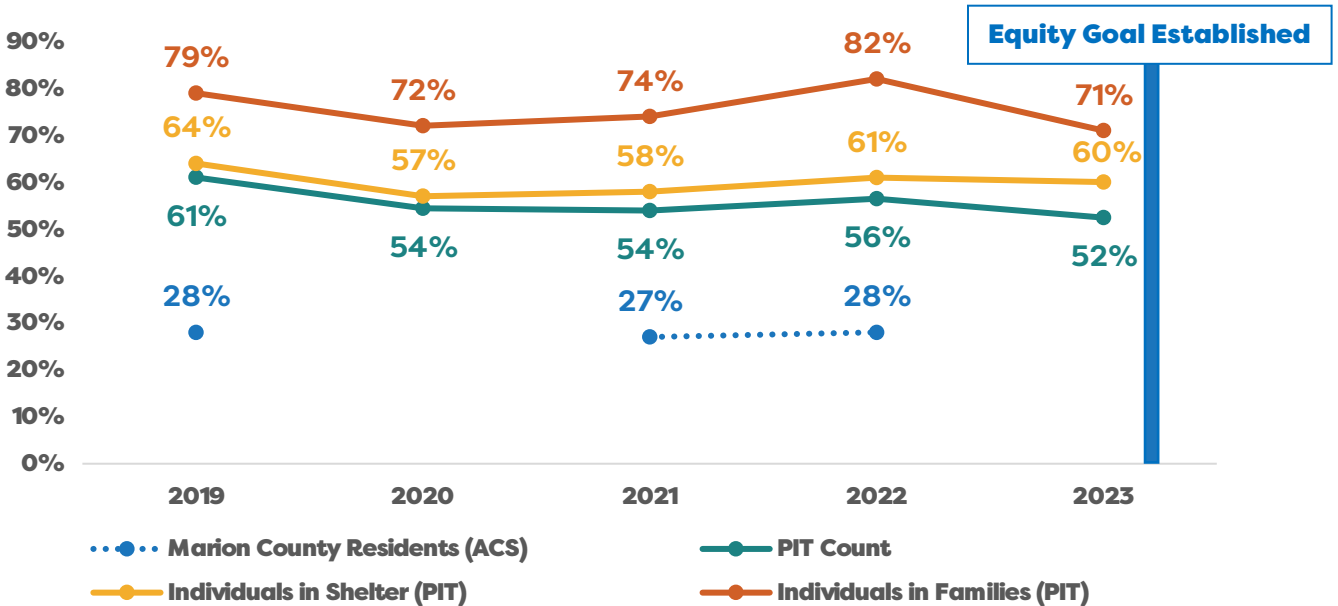
For an accessible and compelling statistical analysis of factors contributing to homelessness, consider Colburn and Aldern's book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*.



## ADDRESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES

As a result of structural racism and historic disinvestment, Black Indianapolis residents are continuously overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness. Estimates from the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) show about **30% of all Marion County residents** are Black. Consistently, however, **over half the individuals experiencing homelessness** are Black, a disparity even worse among **folks in shelters** and **families** (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Comparison between Black Residents in ACS Estimates and PIT Counts



Note: American Community Survey 1-year estimates for 2020 are excluded due to impacts of COVID-19.

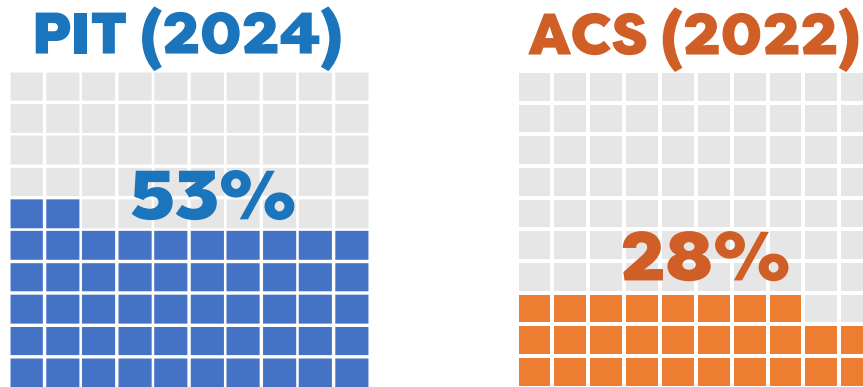
As a result, in 2023 the Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC) Blueprint Council announced an 18-month goal to eliminate this racial disparity by reducing the number of Black Indianapolis residents experiencing homelessness by 35%. The goal aligns with the CoC’s Community Plan to End Homelessness by emphasizing families, veterans, youth and young adults, and people experiencing chronic homelessness. As of January 24, 2024, 23 organizations and 76 individuals have formally signed agreements acknowledging their commitment to this work.

Using 2023 as the baseline, the PIT Count is the primary tool for measuring progress toward this goal. Achieving this goal would mean nearly **300 fewer Black neighbors** will be experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2025 PIT Count. If applied directly to shelters, there would be **over 260 fewer Black neighbors in shelters** by 2025. While shelter populations are not an explicit goal of the CoC equity work, they ought to be watched, as Black neighbors are even more disproportionately represented in shelters.

This report disaggregates data by race and ethnicity wherever possible to inform our community's racial equity work.

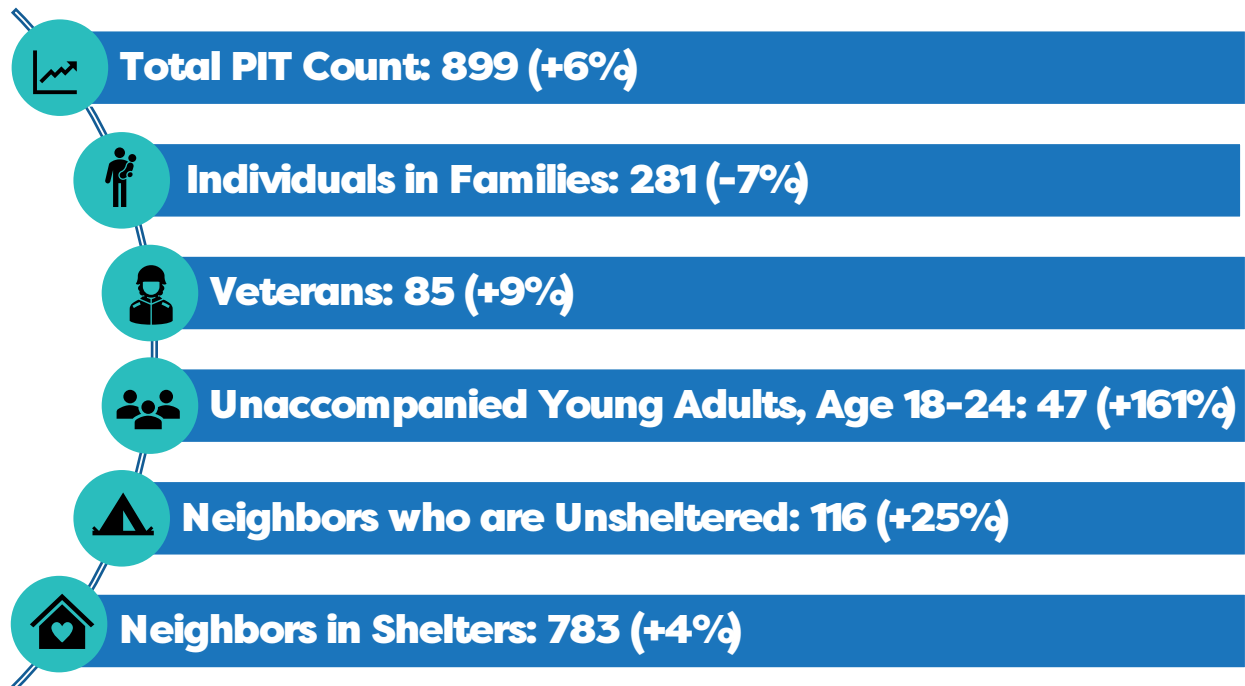
## Progress to Date

In 2024, 53% of individuals experiencing homelessness were Black on the night of the Count, compared to 52% in 2023. The most recent ACS estimates found just under 30% of Marion County residents were Black in 2022. This reflects a continued need to eliminate the overrepresentation of Black residents among our neighbors experiencing homelessness.



While work to address inequities must continue, the 2024 PIT showed decreases among Black neighbors in families, where inequities have historically been the highest. The number of Black individuals experiencing homelessness in families with minor children decreased 7% between the 2023 and 2024 PIT Counts. Opportunities for additional improvement over the next year are among veterans, unaccompanied young adults, and unsheltered neighbors, which saw increases in Black neighbors experiencing homelessness this year. Additionally, while the number of Black neighbors in shelters increased 4% since the last PIT, Black neighbors comprised 57% of the total shelter population in 2024, compared to 60% in 2023 (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Count of Black Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness in 2024 (1-Year Change)**



## Spotlight on Success

As we strive to address inequities, we want to recognize programs successfully pushing our community towards racial equity. Table 1 highlights the five Indianapolis programs from which the most significant number of Black neighbors exited homelessness to permanent housing. Table 2 reflects the five programs with the highest number of Black households being housed in their program. Both tables reflect neighbors in our system a year (June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024). This data is captured in the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) throughout the year, not the PIT.

**Table 1. Programs with Highest Counts of Exits to Permanent Housing for Black Neighbors**

Program	Exits to Permanent Housing for Black Households
<i>HIP Holistic Housing Diversion</i>	405
<i>Outreach Youthlink System Navigation</i>	109
<i>Damien Center HOPWA Short Term</i>	106
<i>HIP Intensive Case Management</i>	75
<i>Family Promise Apartment Shelter Program</i>	71

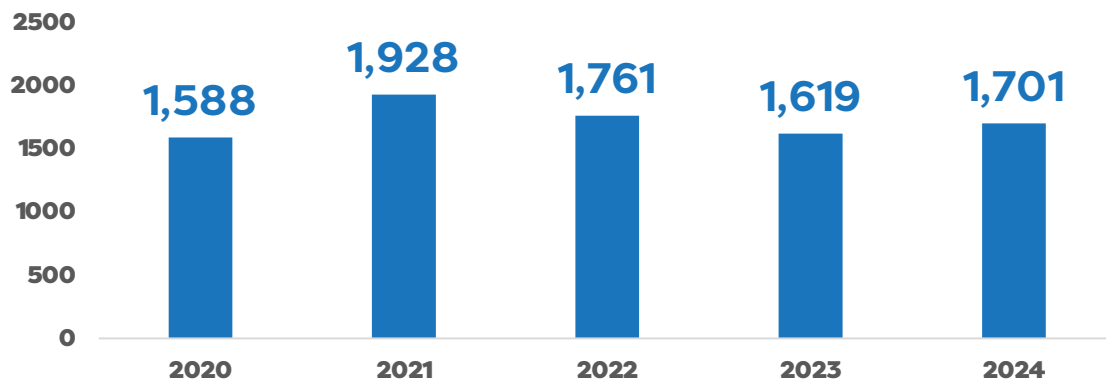
**Table 2. Housing Programs Housing Black Households**

Program	Count of Black Households Housed
<i>HVAF SSVF RRH (Cat 2 &amp; 3)</i>	61
<i>InteCare Indy SSVF RRH (Cat 2 + 3)</i>	51
<i>VOA Indy RRH SSVF (Cat 2 &amp; 3)</i>	28
<i>HIP CoC RRH</i>	24
<i>Horizon House CES Housing Support Vouchers</i>	20

## THE PIT COUNT: 2020 TO TODAY

The 2024 PIT Count found 1,701 individuals experiencing homelessness. This is an increase of 82 individuals (5%) from 2023. The 2024 count ends the two-year streak of decreases in the overall count total, following a high in 2021 fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Individuals Experiencing Homelessness on the Night of the PIT Count**



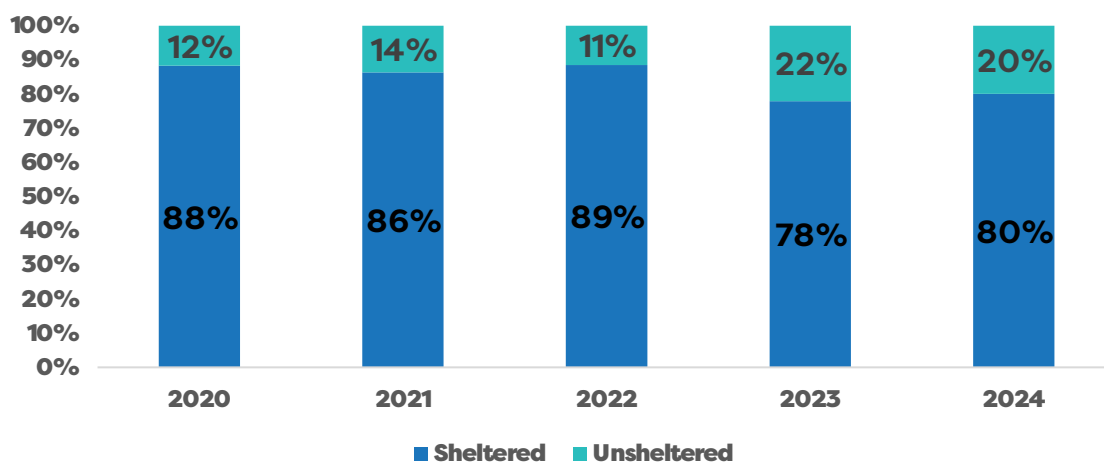
**Note:** In 2021, pandemic-related funding enabled the provision of additional, non-congregate beds. This funding has since ended, and non-congregate beds are no longer available.

## Location of Neighbors

Individuals experiencing homelessness face unique challenges depending on whether they are sheltered or unsheltered, and daily experiences can differ depending on the shelter or program in which they stay. In the 2023 PIT Count, the portion of unsheltered individuals in the PIT Count doubled from 11% to 22% (Figure 4). This may have been due, in part, to including more volunteers and additional surveying at service-based sites (e.g., libraries and food distribution sites) during the unsheltered count).

Professional Blended Street Outreach (PBSO) staff were instrumental in expanding the reach of Indy's unsheltered count in 2024. Throughout the year, PBSO staff maintained a list of locations to connect with neighbors on the night of the PIT. This culminated in the most comprehensive unsheltered count to date and allowed outreach staff to connect with 80% more households on the night of the PIT than in 2023. Unsheltered neighbors continue to make up a historically high portion of the PIT Count, at 20% of the 2024 Count.

**Figure 4. Percent of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Sheltered Status**

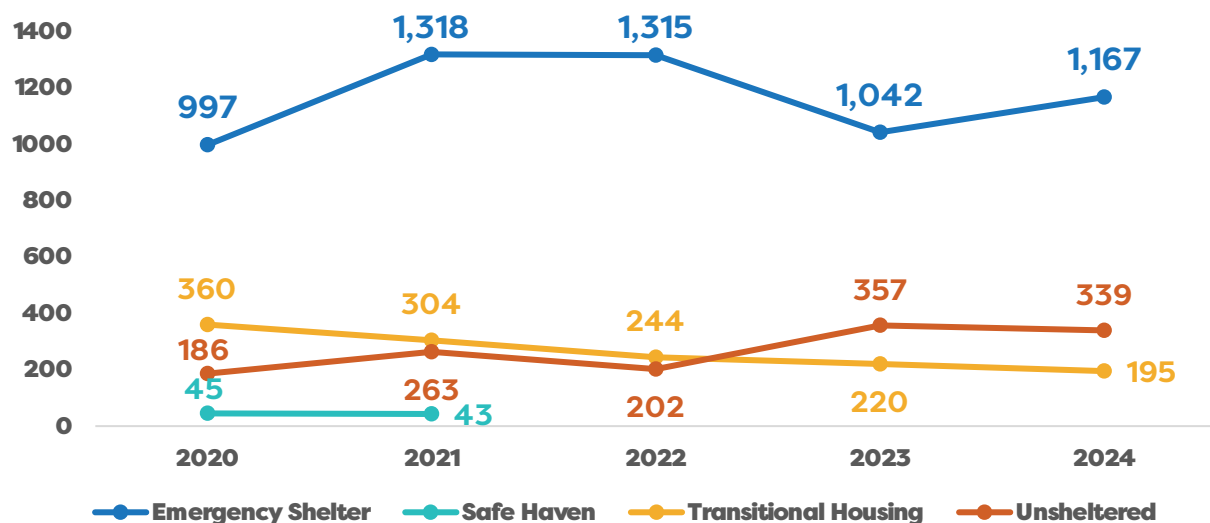


Among neighbors staying in shelters, there is a continued decline in Transitional Housing enrollment over the last few years, reaching a low of 195 in 2024. Additionally, after pandemic-related increases in 2021 and 2022, emergency shelter enrollment returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2023, then to 1,167 individuals in 2024 (Figure 5).

Compared to the 2023 PIT Count, the 2024 Count showed a decrease in unsheltered neighbors and an increase in neighbors in emergency shelters. It must be noted, however, this was influenced by the weather on the night of the Count, where cold, foggy, and rainy weather likely made individuals typically sleeping outdoors seek more sheltered areas. In fact, volunteers noted that neighbors reported the weather on the night of the PIT Count meant they sought to couch-surf on the night of the PIT, which was not their norm. Additionally, outreach staff visited multiple outdoor locations with evidence of folks living there, but no one was home on the night of the PIT.

**“A number of folks said it was so gross out that they ended up going to a shelter or doubling up instead of sleeping outside.”**  
**-2024 PIT Volunteer**

**Figure 5. Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, by Location**



Note: Indianapolis' Safe Haven project was recategorized after the 2021 PIT to align with HUD standards and definitions.

### Race & Ethnicity of Neighbors

On the night of the PIT Count, the majority (53%) of individuals identified were Black. Like previous years, this disparity was most prominent within shelters (Table 3). Unsheltered neighbors are often more visible to other residents during the day. This can result in inaccurate assumptions about who experiences homelessness, and these assumptions can mask racial inequities.

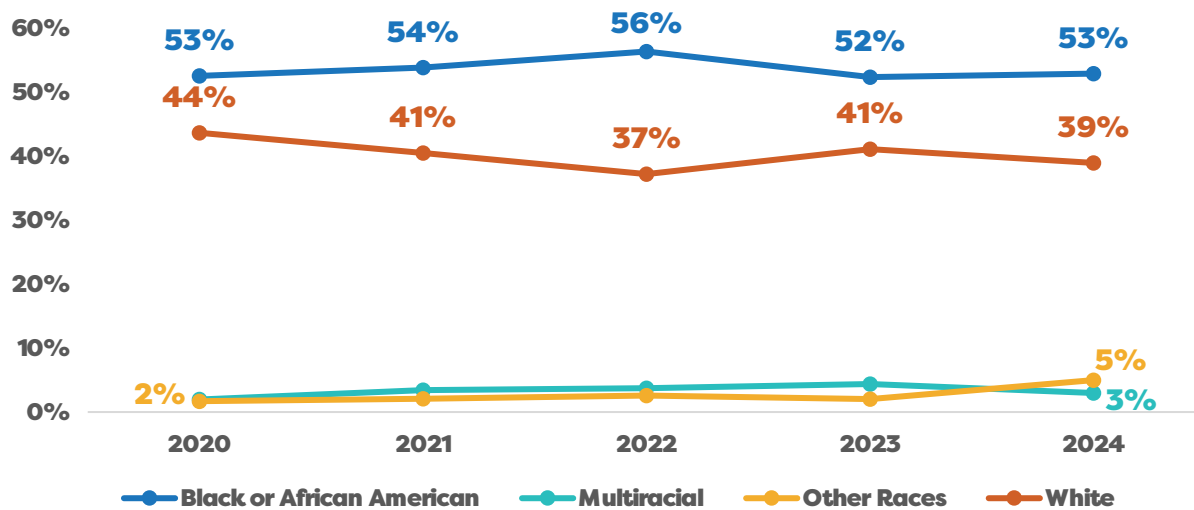
**Table 3. Race and Ethnicity of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, 2024**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>In Shelters</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>All Individuals</b>
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25 (1%)</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12 (1%)</b>
<b>Black or African-American</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>899 (53%)</b>
<b>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) alone</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>51 (3%)</b>
<b>Middle Eastern or Northern African</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>Multiple Races</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44 (3%)</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9 (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>660 (39%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,362 (80%)</b>	<b>339 (20%)</b>	<b>1,701 (100%)</b>

Note: In 2024, HUD data collection standards added the option for “Middle Eastern or Northern African” and combined “Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)” with the other race options instead of recording them separately.

The 2024 PIT Count found a continued overrepresentation of Black individuals among neighbors experiencing homelessness. Approximately 53% of individuals in the PIT Count were Black in 2024. While the percentage of neighbors counted in the annual PIT Count who are Black is relatively unchanged since 2020, the percentage of neighbors who are white has slightly decreased. This is due in part to an increase in neighbors who are non-Black residents of color (Figure 6).

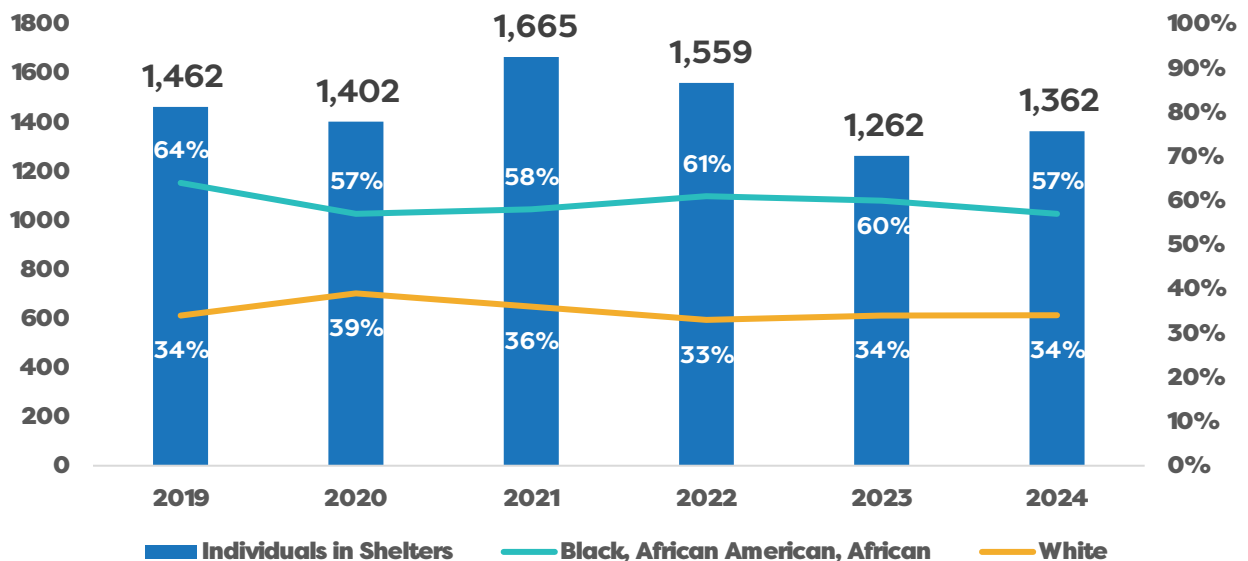
**Figure 6. Race of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**



**Note:** Prior to 2024, “other race” includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. For 2024, “other race” also includes Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) and Middle Eastern or Northern African.

The racial disparity within shelters decreased slightly, with 57% of individuals in shelters being Black in 2024, compared to 60% in 2023 (Figure 7). Historically, even as the number of individuals in shelters fluctuates, there is little change in the percentage who are Black.

**Figure 7. Race of Individuals in Indianapolis Shelters**



## Gender of Neighbors

During the 2024 PIT Count, 62% of individuals experiencing homelessness were men or boys and 37% were women or girls. 11 individuals reported a gender identity other than solely woman or man (Table 4). Notably, while the overall PIT Count increased 5%, the number of individuals who reported being a woman or girl increased 8%.

There are also noticeable differences by location. For example, while women and girls made up 37% of the overall PIT Count, they accounted for 40% of the sheltered count and 25% of the unsheltered count. Additionally, 7 of the 11 individuals reporting an identity other than solely woman or man were in sheltered locations.

Historically, few individuals on the night of the PIT Count report a gender identity other than woman or man. However, providers say this is a substantial undercount. Providers report stigma and safety concerns as reasons neighbors – particularly youth and young adults – elect not to disclose gender-diverse identities.

**Table 4. Gender of Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness, by Location (2024)**

<i>Gender</i>	In Shelters	Unsheltered	All Individuals
<i>Woman (Girl, if child)</i>	<b>548</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>634 (37%)</b>
<i>Man (Boy, if child)</i>	<b>807</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,056 (62%)</b>
<i>Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Transgender</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Non-Binary</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Questioning</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Multiple Gender Identities</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Different Identity</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1,701 (100%)</b>

Note: in 2024, HUD updated how gender identity was captured. “Female” was changed to “Woman (Girl, if child),” “Male” was changed to “Man (Boy, if child),” and the option “Gender identity beyond singularly male or female” was changed to the options “Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)” and “Non-Binary.” Additionally, the option to select multiple gender identities was added.

## Age of Neighbors

On the night of the 2024 Count, one in four (25%) of neighbors were age 55 and over, while about one in five (22%) were children and young adults aged 24 and younger (Table 5). There are notable differences in neighbors’ age by location. For example, 95% of folks under age 25 were in shelters.

**Table 5. Age Distribution of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, 2024**

<i>Age Group</i>	In Shelters	Unsheltered	All Individuals
<i>Under 18</i>	<b>278</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>278 (16%)</b>
<i>Age 18-24</i>	<b>79</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>96 (6%)</b>
<i>Age 25-34</i>	<b>221</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>287 (17%)</b>
<i>Age 34-44</i>	<b>214</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>309 (18%)</b>
<i>Age 45-54</i>	<b>228</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>310 (18%)</b>
<i>Age 55-64</i>	<b>253</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>318 (19%)</b>
<i>Age 65 and over</i>	<b>89</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>103 (6%)</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1,701 (100%)</b>

2023 was the first year HUD required the above age groupings. The age breakdown of neighbors experiencing homelessness did not substantially change between the 2023 and 2024 Counts. Individuals under age 25 comprised 2 percentage points less of the 2024 Count, while individuals aged 25 – 34 and age 45 –54 comprised an additional 1 percentage point each in 2024 (Figure 8).

It should be noted the number of young adults aged 18-24 is likely an underestimate. Providers note that this age group is particularly transient, often going between shelters and temporary stays with friends, family, and others (e.g., couch-surfing). As such, the number of neighbors aged 18-24 should be interpreted with caution. CHIP will continue to work with providers to improve data collection for these young adults.

**Figure 8. Age Group Comparison between 2023 and 2024 PIT Counts**

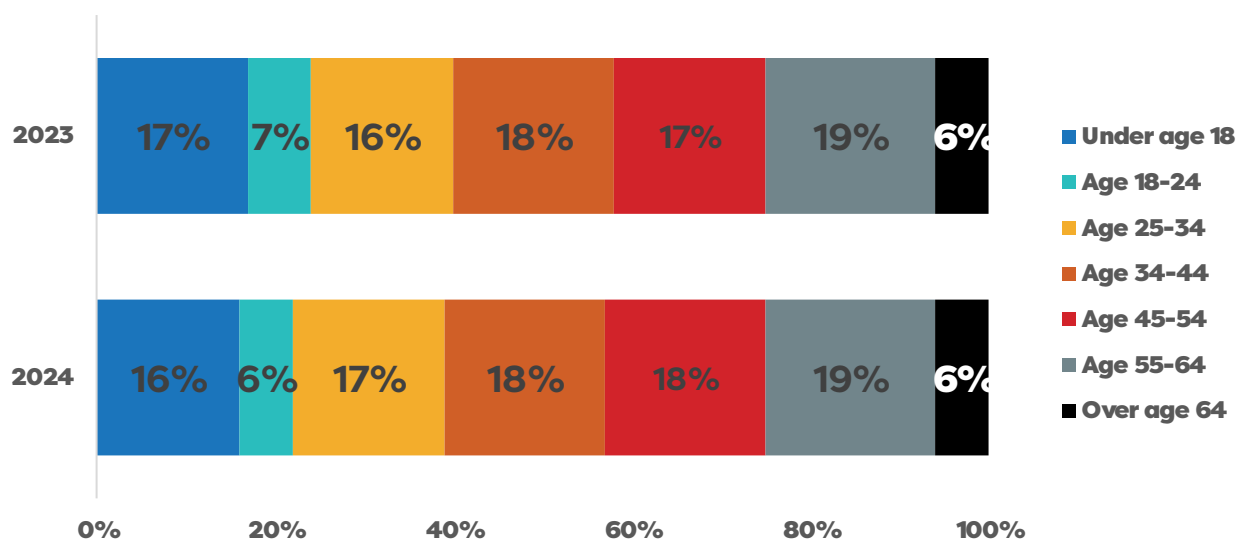


Table 6 below shows the number of youth (under 18) and young adults (age 18-24) who were unaccompanied, meaning they were not with any children or other adults, on the night of the PIT Count. The majority (81%) were sheltered on the night of the Count. Additionally, unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness on the night of the Count were predominantly Black (62%).

**Table 6. Race/Ethnicity of Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) and Young Adults (18 - 24) Experiencing Homelessness, 2024**

<b><i>Race/Ethnicity</i></b>	<b>In Shelters</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><i>Black or African-American</i></b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>47 (62%)</b>
<b><i>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 (&lt;1%)</b>
<b><i>Multiple Races</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 (&lt;1%)</b>
<b><i>White</i></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29 (38%)</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>76</b>

Note: to protect client privacy, data in this table excludes neighbors staying at domestic violence shelters. Data reflects young adults age 18 to 24.



## Household Composition of Neighbors' Experiencing Homelessness

When people think about the experience of homelessness, they often think of single adults. However, a substantial number of families (with minor children) experience homelessness together. In 2024, **419 of the individuals in the PIT Count** were experiencing homelessness as a family with adults and children. This accounts for 25% of all the neighbors (Table 7).

**Table 7. Household Composition on the Night of the 2024 PIT Count**

<i>Household Composition</i>	In Shelters	Unsheltered	All Households
<i>Adult Only Households</i>	<b>940</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1,279 (75%)</b>
<i>Households with Adults and Children</i>	<b>419</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>419 (25%)</b>
<i>Child Only Households</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 (&lt;1%)</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1,701 (100%)</b>

Black neighbors are disproportionately represented among neighbors experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis, a disparity worse among families. On the night of the 2024 PIT Count, 419 neighbors were experiencing homelessness with family members, including minor children. Of these neighbors, 67% were Black, 20% were white, and 13% were other people of color (Table 8).

**Table 8. Race and Ethnicity of Individuals in Families Experiencing Homelessness, 2024**

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	In Shelters	Unsheltered	All Individuals
<i>American Indian or Alaska Native</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11 (3%)</b>
<i>Asian</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Black or African-American</i>	<b>281</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281 (67%)</b>
<i>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22 (5%)</b>
<i>Middle Eastern or Northern African</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Multiple Races</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21 (5%)</b>
<i>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>White</i>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84 (20%)</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>419</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>419 (100%)</b>

## Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

In 2024, there were **170 veterans experiencing homelessness** on the night of the PIT Count., a slight decrease from 182 veterans during the 2023 PIT Count. The decrease was driven by a decrease in veterans in shelters. From the 2023 PIT Count to the 2024 PIT Count, the number of veterans in shelters decreased from 155 to 142, while unsheltered veterans increased by 1.

In 2024 50% of veterans experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT Count were Black. This is an increase from the 2023 PIT Count, during which 43% of veterans were Black. Additionally, 54% of veterans in shelters were Black, and 61% of unsheltered veterans were white (Table 9).

**Table 9. Race and Ethnicity of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness, 2024**

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	In Shelters	Unsheltered	All Individuals
<i>American Indian or Alaska Native</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Asian</i>	-	-	-
<i>Black or African-American</i>	<b>76</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>85</b>
<i>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o)</i>	-	-	-
<i>Middle Eastern or Northern African</i>	-	-	-
<i>Multiple Races</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</i>	-	-	-
<i>White</i>	<b>63</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>170 (100%)</b>

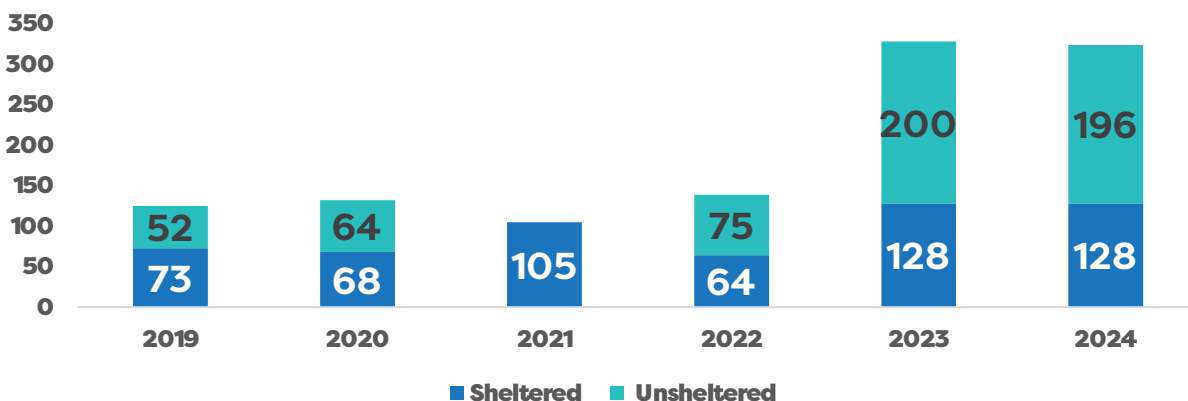
### Neighbors Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Individuals with chronic conditions experiencing homelessness for a year or more are considered “chronically homeless.” Specifically, HUD considers a neighbor “chronically homeless” if:

- They report experiencing homelessness for at least 12 months uninterrupted (continuous homelessness) OR at least four episodes of homelessness over three years, which total to at least 12 months (episodic homelessness); and,
- They report one or more disability or vulnerability (e.g., physical disability, chronic health condition, substance use disorder); and
- They are unsheltered OR staying in an emergency shelter or a safe haven.
- If a neighbor is in a household where one member is chronically homeless, the whole family is considered chronically homeless.

These folks often face additional barriers to accessing and sustaining adequate housing. In 2024, 324 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness on the night of the PIT Count. The majority (60%) were unsheltered. Starting in 2023, expanded reach of the unsheltered count likely resulted in a more accurate count of unsheltered neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness. This expanded count was continued in 2024, when 196 unsheltered neighbors were experiencing chronic homelessness on the night of the PIT Count (Figure 9).

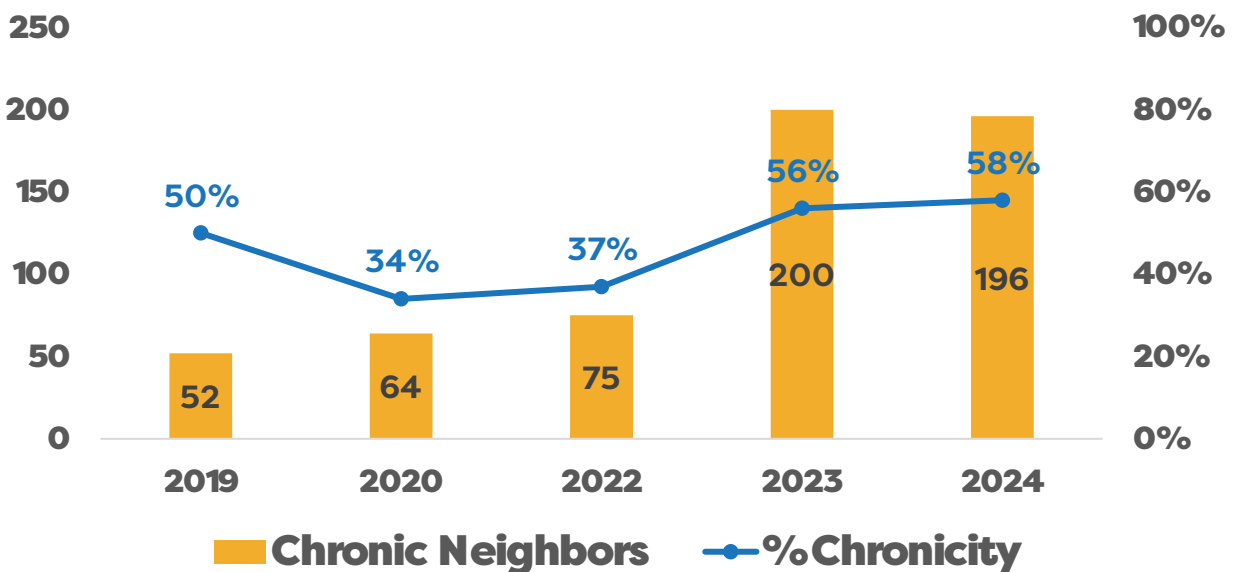
**Figure 9. Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness, by Sheltered Status**



Note: COVID-19 precautions in 2021 included an abbreviated unsheltered survey, which prohibited collection of chronicity data.

Figure 10 below reflects the demographic information of individuals experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness on the night of the PIT since 2020. In 2023, this number jumped from 75 to 200. This number remained high in 2024, with 196 individuals (nearly 60% of all unsheltered neighbors) experiencing chronic homelessness. This was a 2% decrease in the number of unsheltered neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness, despite a 5% decrease in the total unsheltered population.

**Figure 10. Unsheltered Individuals Experienced Chronic Homelessness**



**Note:** COVID-19 precautions in 2021 included an abbreviated survey, which prohibited chronicity data collection.

Table 10 reflects the race and ethnicity of unsheltered neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness. While Black neighbors make up 34% of the overall unsheltered population, they comprise 29% of unsheltered neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness. For white neighbors, these rates are 58% and 65%, respectively. While the number of unsheltered neighbors who are American Indian or Alaska Native is comparatively low, 75% of these neighbors were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Demographic data for sheltered neighbors is not shown here because a large portion of emergency shelters submit data in aggregate for privacy concerns (i.e., chronicity could not be broken down by demographics).

**Table 10. Race of Unsheltered Neighbors Experiencing Chronic Homelessness**

<i><b>Race/Ethnicity</b></i>	<b>Chronically Unsheltered</b>	<b>All Unsheltered</b>
<i><b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b></i>	<b>6</b>	<b>8 (2%)</b>
<i><b>Black or African-American</b></i>	<b>56</b>	<b>116 (34%)</b>
<i><b>Hispanic/Latin(a)(e)(o) alone</b></i>	<b>3</b>	<b>8 (2%)</b>
<i><b>Middle Eastern or Northern African</b></i>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 (&lt;1%)</b>
<i><b>Multiple Races</b></i>	<b>4</b>	<b>9 (3%)</b>
<i><b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b></i>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 (&lt;1%)</b>
<i><b>White</b></i>	<b>127</b>	<b>196 (58%)</b>
<i><b>Total</b></i>	<b>196</b>	<b>339 (100%)</b>

## THE HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT (HIC)

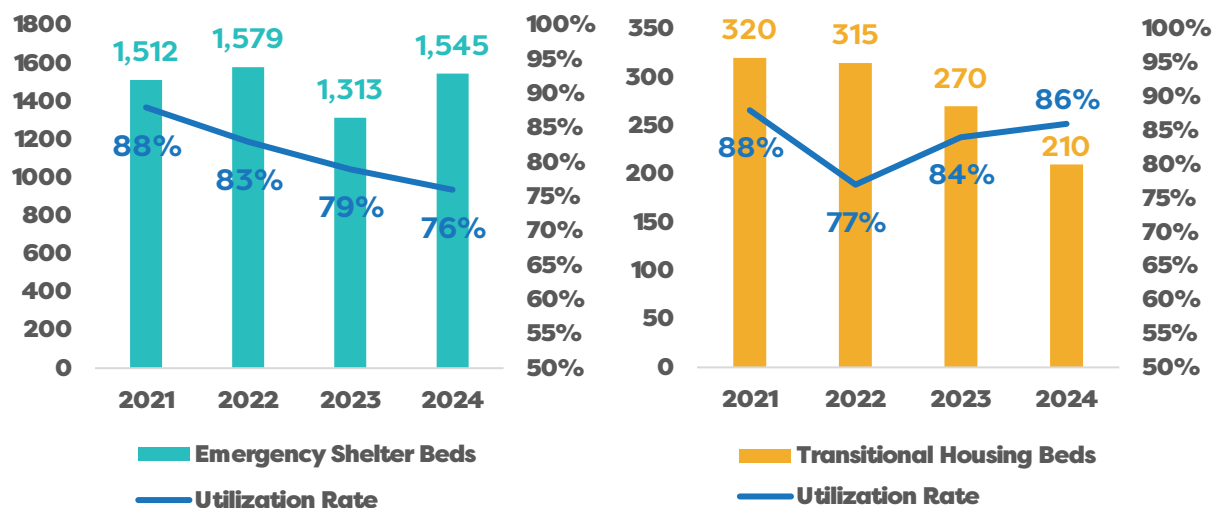
In addition to the PIT Count, HUD requires CoCs to conduct a Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This count reflects the total number of reported beds available to neighbors experiencing homelessness (“bed inventory”) and the percent of which were occupied by neighbors on the night of the PIT (“utilization rate”).

When folks think of “shelters,” they often envision **emergency shelters**. These programs tend to focus on providing urgent access to people needing a roof over their heads and a meal, typically for shorter periods. Essentially, emergency shelters provide a kind of immediate help when someone needs a place to sleep.

**Transitional housing** is also available, which typically allows clients to stay longer and often offers additional services (e.g., employment searching, life-skill development, and housing search assistance). Essentially, transitional housing is considered a stepping-stone to permanent housing.

Indianapolis historically has more emergency shelter beds than transitional housing beds. In 2024, there were **1,545 emergency shelter beds (390 of which were seasonal beds)** compared to **210 transitional housing beds**. However, in both 2023 and 2024, transitional housing had a higher portion of their beds occupied than emergency shelters. In 2024, the utilization rate for emergency shelters was **76%** compared to **93%** for transitional housing. On the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 370 emergency shelter beds and 28 transitional housing beds were unoccupied.

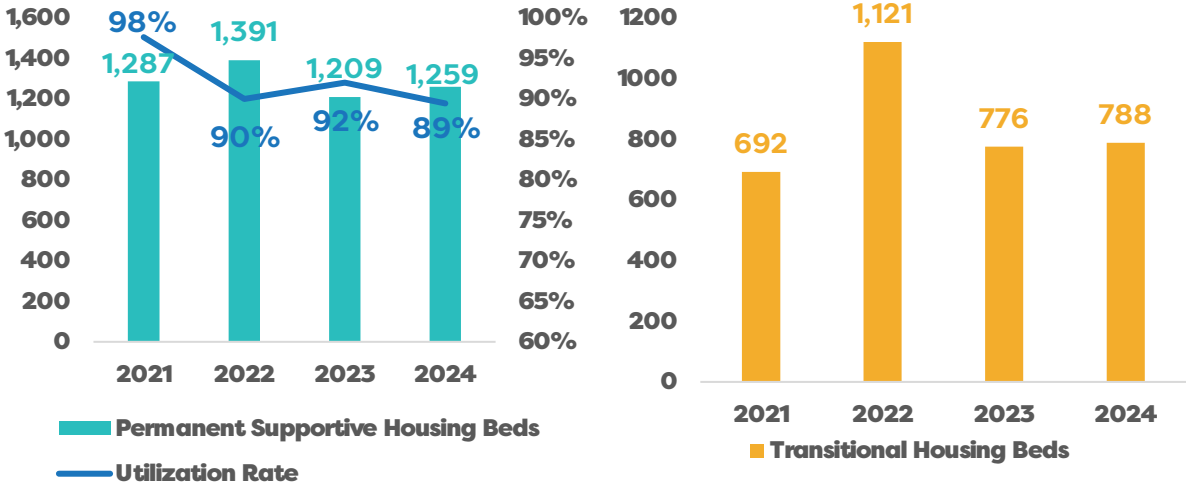
**Figure 11. Inventory & Utilization Rates, Emergency Shelters & Transitional Housing**



Two other types of housing offer more long-term support to individuals who have experienced homelessness. **Permanent supportive housing** couples housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services for households where at least one individual has a disability. The combination of housing and supportive services is intended to increase the longevity of housing stability. **Rapid rehousing** provides short-term (up to three months) and long-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness. HUD does not require individuals to have a disability to qualify for Rapid Rehousing.

On the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, Indianapolis had an inventory of 1,195 permanent supportive housing beds, 94% of which were occupied. There were also 788 clients staying in rapid-rehousing beds (RRH projects always operate at 100% utilization).

**Figure 12. Inventory & Utilization Rates (Permanent Supportive Housing & Rapid-Rehousing)**



## MOVING FORWARD

The Point-in-Time Count captures data for neighbors staying in shelters or outdoors on a single night. However, the conclusion of the Count does not mean an end to neighbors’ experience of homelessness. As we use PIT data to inform calls for resources and policy to end homelessness, we must continue to show up and support our neighbors experiencing housing instability.

### ADVOCATE

Policymakers need to hear from us. We encourage everyone to contact representatives at the federal, state, and local level. Voice your support for policies and programs that work to increase housing stability and make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Indiana residents can find their election districts via the Indiana Voter portal (<https://indianavoters.in.gov>).

### ENGAGE

The Indianapolis Continuum of Care has a network of organizations and individuals committed to serving neighbors experiencing homelessness. We encourage our community to engage in these amazing programs as advocates, volunteers, partners, donors, and supporters. CoC members can be viewed online (<https://www.chipindy.org/our-partners/>).

### SUPPORT

The Indianapolis Handbook of Help is full of organizations and resources supporting neighbors experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Handbooks are available on the CHIP website in English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish. Additionally, Street Reach Indy allows case managers to provide direct financial assistance to neighbors to overcome barriers to permanent housing. Information on Handbooks of Help and Street Reach Indy is on our website (<https://www.chipindy.org/what-we-do/>).

## ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

**ACS:** The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual survey from the US Census Bureau that provides vital information about the US and its residents. It generates data to inform trillions of dollars annually in federal fund distribution.

**Adults:** For this report, “adults” refers to individuals aged 18 or over.

**Blueprint Council:** the delegated authority and decision-making body for the Continuum of Care, responsible for setting strategy and defining annual system implementation priorities, among other leadership duties. [Link to CoC]

**Children:** For this report, “children” refers to individuals under 18.

**Chronic Homelessness:** Neighbors are considered chronically homeless if they (a) have been homeless for at least a year OR experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over three years which add up to one year, (B) report a disability or vulnerability (e.g., physical disability, fleeing domestic violence), and (c) are unsheltered OR staying in emergency shelters or safe havens. If someone is in a household where one member is chronically homeless, the whole household is considered chronic.

**CoC:** The Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaborative and engaged group of community partners dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Indianapolis. CoCs are required by HUD for communities nationwide.

**Disabling Condition:** also referred to as “vulnerability,” these are diagnosed medical conditions or other conditions (e.g., fleeing domestic violence) impacting one’s daily life, including accessing and maintaining housing.

**Emergency Shelter:** facilities with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness or specific populations experiencing homelessness. Emergency Shelters typically have shorter stays than other shelter/housing options and generally do not provide wraparound services beyond basic needs.

**Eviction Filing:** an eviction filing is a legal process landlords initiate to regain possession of a rental property. In some cases, eviction filings do not result in eviction.

**Family:** For this report, “family” typically refers to households with at least one adult and one child unless otherwise noted.

**Foreclosure:** foreclosure is a legal process that occurs when a homeowner fails to make mortgage payments and, as a result, their lender takes ownership of the property. This typically involves the sale of the property to pay off the debt.

**HIC:** the Housing Inventory Count is a federally required annual census of the number of available beds for individuals experiencing homelessness within a CoC.

**HIV/AIDS:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) damages one’s immune system and interferes with the body’s ability to fight infection and disease. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a chronic immune system disease caused by HIV.

**HMIS:** Homelessness Management Information System is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data by homeless shelters and service providers. CoCs are required to select an HMIS compliant with HUD standards.

**Homelessness:** As defined by HUD, this report refers to “homelessness” as (a) individuals staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing, (b) individuals staying in areas not meant for human habitation, such as cars, abandoned buildings, or outside, or (c) individuals fleeing domestic violence.

**Housing Choice Vouchers:** a program providing eligible households vouchers to help pay the rent on privately owned homes of their choosing. A family with a voucher must spend at least 30 percent of its monthly adjusted gross income on rent and utilities.

**HUD:** the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for national policy and programs that improve and develop US communities and enforce fair housing laws. HUD provides funds to state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

**Indiana 211:** 2-1-1 is a free, confidential service helping Hoosiers across Indiana find local resources. Dialing 2-1-1 connects callers to resource navigators.

**Latin(a)/(e)/(o):** refers to individuals of Latin American descent. “Latine” is a newer, gender-inclusive term. Some organizations use “Latine” instead of “Latinx” to be gender-inclusive yet fit more naturally into the Spanish language.

**Non-Congregate:** particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, these are shelters and units allowing individuals to access shelter while maintaining a set distance from other clients.

**Other Permanent Housing:** Permanent housing that is not defined as Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing.

**Parenting Youth:** youth age 24 or below living with children for whom they are the sole caregivers.

**Permanent Housing:** a community-based housing model aimed at providing housing without a designated length of stay. Clients in permanent housing must be tenants of a lease or sublease, which must (a) have an initial term of at least one year, (b) be renewable for a minimum term of one month, and (c) be terminable only for cause.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability.

**Rapid Rehousing:** permanent housing projects providing short-term (up to three months) and long-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness. HUD does not require individuals to have a disability to qualify for Rapid Rehousing.

**Safe Haven:** a form of supportive housing serving hard-to-reach individuals experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services. These facilities (a) have 24-hour residence for eligible persons who may reside for an unspecified duration, (b) provide private or semi-private accommodations, (c) have overnight occupancy limited to 25

persons, (d) have low-demand services and referrals, and (e) provide supportive services to eligible persons who are not residents on a drop-in basis. Indianapolis does not currently have any Safe Haven projects in operation.

**Sheltered Homelessness:** In this report, “sheltered homelessness” refers to individuals staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe havens.

**Transitional Housing:** provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim and stability to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. These projects can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months. Clients must have a signed lease, sublease, or occupancy agreement, which (a) has an initial term of at least one month, (b) is automatically renewable upon expiration, except by prior notice by either party, and (c) has a maximum term of 24 months.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** individuals under 18 years old who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

**Unsheltered Homelessness:** individuals experiencing homelessness and staying in cars, outside, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for human habitation except for emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other HUD-recognized housing programs.

**Veterans:** refers to individuals who have served in the US military. This report does not include folks who were in the National Guard but were not deployed. Additional details on veteran status are available in the [VA Data Guide](#).

**Youth and Young Adults:** For this report, “youth and young adults” refers to individuals experiencing homelessness who are either under age 18 (youth) or 18 – 24 (young adults).