Point In Time | Take Aways
2023

- **Overall Count**: The 2023 PIT Count identified 373 people, both sheltered and unsheltered, a figure consistent with the previous two years but below the 14 year PIT Count average of 385. Although the count of those in <u>shelter</u> reflects the second lowest number on record, the number of <u>unsheltered</u> persons continued to increase in 2023.

- **Unsheltered**: Poor weather on the night of the 2023 Count meant the cold weather overflow shelter was open so those typically unsheltered were able to stay indoors that night. When combining numbers of those unsheltered with those in the overflow shelter, the true number of unsheltered rises to 97, doubling counts recorded in previous years.

- **Sheltered**: The sheltered count (emergency and transitional) of just 306 reflected the second lowest census since 2010. Over the past 14 years the average number in shelter has been 344; the 2023 total is roughly 12% below that average. The majority (56%) of single adult households in shelter were living in emergency shelter rather than transitional settings, a ratio that is expanded upon when considering that 88% of all individuals living in family households were in emergency shelter rather than transitional settings.

- **Individual versus Family Households:**
    - <u>All Households in Shelter:</u> The ratio of single adult-only households to family households with children is almost 5:1.
    - <u>Individual Households in Shelter</u>: The number of sheltered individual households increased by 34% from 2022's total 111 to 149 from the 2023 PIT Count.
    - <u>Individual Households Unsheltered</u>: One hundred percent of unsheltered individuals in the 2023 Count were in Adult-only (single) households.
    - <u>Family Households in Shelter</u>: The number of sheltered family households in 2023 (46) was 26% less than the (58) sheltered family households recorded in 2022.
    - <u>Family Households Unsheltered</u>: There were zero family households living unsheltered during the 2023 Count.

- **Self-Identified Subpopulations**. As has historically been the case, among both sheltered and unsheltered adults, severe mental illness and substance use disorder were the most prevalent self-identified subpopulations in 2023 followed by domestic violence. Of the 198 sheltered and unsheltered adults, 75% most frequently self-identified as being severely mentally ill (149) while 56% self-identified as suffering from substance use disorder (110).
    - <u>Adults in Shelter</u>: Individuals in shelter settings self-identifying as severely mentally ill slightly declined between 2022 (116) and 2023 (110) as compared with those self-identifying as having a substance use disorder in 2022 (69), a figure that sharply increased to 110 in 2023. That same cohort remained fairly consistent between 2022 and 2023 when self-identifying as victims of domestic violence between those two years.
    - <u>Adults Unsheltered</u>: In 2023 the number of those who were unsheltered and self-identifying as having a severe mental illness and/or substance use disorder was at its highest level since the count has been undertaken; the 2023 figures were triple that of 2021's count.

Among both sheltered and unsheltered people, those self-identifying as having a serious mental illness and/or a substance use disorder are at their highest levels in the past seven years.

- **Domestic Violence.** In 2023, 63 unsheltered and sheltered adults (32%) identified as fleeing/surviving domestic violence, a figure higher than the 14 year average of 60.

- **Veterans.** For the third successive year, New Bedford had zero veterans living on the streets.

- **Chronic Homelessness.** In 2023, roughly half those who were unsheltered met the federal definition of being "chronically homeless" while only 15% of the 306 individuals who were sheltered met that definition, an indication that the most vulnerable populations remain unhoused.
  - Sheltered Chronic: For those in shelter, the overwhelming majority of people are not considered chronically homeless (85%). Consistent with federal expectations, the 2023 trending shows a slight increase in those sheltered and meeting the definition of chronic homelessness over the previous year, positioning them for movement into permanent housing.
  - Unsheltered Chronic: Data shows that the numbers of those who were unsheltered and considered chronically homeless rose significantly compared with 2022. Of the 67 individuals who were unsheltered in 2023, 52% were identified as being chronically homeless, higher than the 36% level in 2022, meaning those most vulnerable to repeated incidences of homelessness are disproportionately remaining unhoused.

- **Unaccompanied Youth.** The number of sheltered and unsheltered unaccompanied youth (those aged 18-24) increased in 2023 by 80% over the previous year and reflects a total that is almost 30% over the 10-year average. In the 2023 count, exactly half of the unaccompanied youth were living in shelter while the remaining 50% (9 individuals) were living on the streets, two of whom were under the age of 18.

- **New Bedford Residency**. As has been the case since such data was collected, over three-quarters of those counted in the 2023 PIT have lived in New Bedford for three or more years. Of those responding to questions about their residency, 95% have lived in New Bedford for over a year while 76% reported that they have lived in New Bedford for over 3 years. None of the respondents indicated they had been living in the City for six months or less.

- **Utilization.** During the 2023 PIT, emergency shelter utilization was 83% (227 of 274 beds), transitional housing was 64% (79 of 123 beds) and permanent housing utilization was 84% (367 of 438 beds). Although emergency shelter utilization in 2023 surpassed the previous year's rate, both transitional housing and permanent housing utilization fell below 2022 rates by 12% and 13%, respectively. The low utilization rate for permanent housing has fallen below the federal 85% threshold for PH projects requiring careful review and correction to ensure New Bedford is filling its PH units as quickly as possible and reducing homelessness.