



# 2023 AHAR SUMMARY

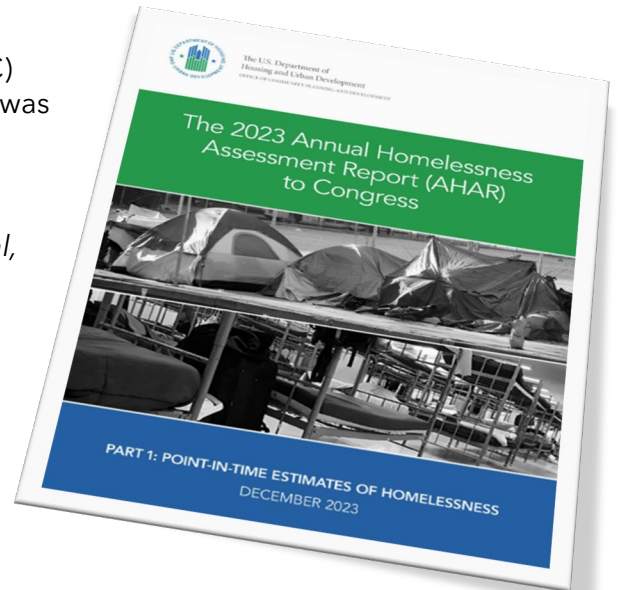
Compiled by the New Bedford Homeless Service Provider Network

## From the HUD Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)<sup>1</sup>...

The 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Part 1 provides a Point In Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. The 2023 data was released December 18, 2023.

The 2023 AHAR outlines key findings of the PIT Count and HIC conducted in January 2023. The report, itself, *“provides national, state and CoC level PIT and HIC estimates of homelessness as well as estimates of chronically homeless persons, homeless veterans and homeless children and youth.”* Key findings follow.

- Roughly 653,100 people—about **20 out of every 10,000 people in the US were experiencing homelessness in 2023.**
- Experiences of homelessness increased nationwide across all household types. **Between 2022 and 2023 homelessness increased by 12%.**
- Since reporting began nationally in 2007, **the 2023 PIT is the highest number of people reported as experiencing homelessness on a single night.**
- People identifying as Black made up 13% of the total US Population and 21% of those living in poverty but compromised 37% of all people experiencing homelessness. Worse still, those self-identifying as Black comprised 50% of all people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children. **Those identifying as Black, African American or African, Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness nationwide.**
- **People who identify as Asian or Asian American experienced the greatest percentage increase among all people experiencing homelessness.** Between 2022 and 2023 there was a 40% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness self-identifying as Asian and Asian American. Among those unsheltered, the number of Asian or Asian American increased by 64%.
- **Between 2022 - 2023, the largest numerical increase in people experiencing homelessness was among people who identify as Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x), increasing by 28 percent.** Most of this increase (33,772 people) was for people experiencing sheltered homelessness.
- **Six of every 10 people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness did so in an urban area (59%).** The remaining 41% who experienced homelessness were in largely suburban areas (23%) and rural areas (18%).



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2023-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>

- **Seven in ten people experiencing homelessness (72%) did so in households without children** present. Increases were highest for unsheltered individuals, which increased by 20 percent (39,598 more people). Experiences of sheltered homelessness also increased, by 7% or about 15,000 more individuals.
- **In 2023's PIT count, 28% of those experiencing homelessness were part of a family with children, 17% more than the previous year.** The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness increased by more than 16% between 2022 and 2023, ending a downward trend in families experiencing homelessness that began in 2012.
- **Between 2022 and 2023, the number of unaccompanied youth increased by 15%.** On a single night in 2023, over 22% of all people under age 25 experiencing homelessness were unaccompanied youth.
- **More than one in five people experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2023 was age 55 or older.** Nearly half of adults age 55 or older (46%) were experiencing unsheltered homelessness in places not meant for human habitation.
- **In 2023, 22 of every 10,000 U.S. veterans were experiencing homelessness. The number of 2023 veterans experiencing homelessness increased by 7% over the previous year.** Despite increases in experiences of veteran homelessness between 2022 and 2023, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness is 52 percent lower than it was in 2009, the baseline year for reporting veterans experiencing homelessness in the AHAR.
- **About 31% of all individuals experiencing homelessness reported having experienced chronic patterns of homelessness,** (the highest number of individuals experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness counted in the PIT count since these data were first reported), two-thirds of whom were counted in unsheltered locations (also the highest number recorded).
- **The national inventory of beds for people currently experiencing homelessness increased by seven percent between 2022 and 2023.** The largest increase in year-round inventory for people currently experiencing homelessness occurred in emergency shelters.
- **The national inventory of beds for people formerly experiencing homelessness increased by six percent between 2022 and 2023.** The largest increase in year-round inventory for people transitioning out of homelessness was among other permanent housing programs.

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**From Gordie Calkins, Director of Individual Homelessness Systems, MA Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities<sup>2</sup>...**

The AHAR specifically called out two states (Oregon and Massachusetts) and offered explanations for changes in Family Homelessness as follows:

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### **“Understanding Changes in the Number of Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness:**

As a part of the PIT data submission and cleaning process, CoCs were asked to submit notes explaining any large shifts in their sheltered and unsheltered counts, large changes across household types, and any irregularities (oddness) in their data compared with the prior year. To help provide context for the findings from the 2023 PIT count, the authors of this report conducted a review of the CoCs notes. This section profiles two states with large changes in their overall PIT counts and the reasons for those changes reported by the CoCs.

Massachusetts is composed of 12 CoCs. It has one major city (Boston) and one other largely urban CoC (Cambridge); the remaining 10 CoCs are largely suburban. Two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts were doing so in families with children, the highest share in the country. Historically, very few people in families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered there, and in 2023 only one family was found sleeping outdoors, Massachusetts has a “right-to-shelter” law in force since 1983, requiring that no family household be denied shelter. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 29 percent. Communities in the state identified several factors that contributed to this increase. Out of the 12 CoCs, 11 explicitly identified the worsening housing affordability crisis, with more families priced out of housing and needing emergency housing options. In addition, migrant families arriving in Massachusetts have no place to go other than to shelter programs. Additional factors related to the recent increases in family homelessness included the easing of pandemic-era restrictions on capacity and the opening of additional shelters to meet the expanding demand...”

## **From SchoolHouse Connection, Washington DC<sup>3</sup>...**

### **New HUD Data Show Dramatic Increase in Families and Youth in Homeless Shelters, Even While Significantly Undercounting Families and Youth Experiencing Homelessness.**

“The report shows a 12% increase in the overall number of people in homeless shelters, or people who were in a visibly unsheltered situation, on a single night in January, as compared with the previous year’s HUD data.

Among all populations, the greatest increases were:

- Families with children - a 16% increase over the previous year
- Unaccompanied youth - a 15% increase over the previous year



<sup>3</sup> A more detailed analysis on the increase in families and youth in homeless shelters is available from the SchoolHouse Connection at: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/2023-hud-data/?emci=7e98a16a-689d-ee11-bea1-002248223f36&emdi=164bfa60-be9d-ee11-bea1-002248223f36&ceid=11624748> SchoolHouse Connection, 4401A Connecticut Ave. NW, #145 Washington, DC 20008

These increases are all the more concerning because HUD data represent a very small fraction of the number of children, youth, and families who experience homelessness. The takeaway from the HUD data is clear: without urgent action now to remove barriers to existing resources, and to prioritize children, youth, and families for new resources, homelessness will continue to skyrocket for all populations.

When reviewing the new HUD report and media coverage, it's important to keep three key facts below in mind:

1. HUD data exclude most children, youth, and families who experience homelessness, including many of the most vulnerable.
2. Despite HUD claims, family homelessness has been on the rise for years.
3. HUD claims that the dramatic increase in homelessness in 2023 is due in part to the winding down of pandemic-era relief measures. Many families with children experiencing homelessness were either not eligible for, or not prioritized for, housing-related pandemic aid. Families with children and unaccompanied youth continue to be excluded from or face barriers to available HUD housing and homelessness assistance.

The bottom line is that if urgent action is not taken *now* to amend existing programs and policies to remove barriers, and to prioritize children, youth, and families for new resources, homelessness will continue to skyrocket for *all* populations. There is a [strong correlation between childhood homelessness and adult homelessness](#). Thus, ignoring children and youth now is a recipe for continued adult homelessness far into the future.”

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*The complete AHAR is available from HUD online at:*  
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

*Additional AHAR Resource links for 2007-2023 by state and by coc, along with 2023 housing inventory data is available online at:*  
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2023-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us.html>