

CHICAGO 2023 SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESSNESS IN CHICAGO

Every year, the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services and its partners tally the number of residents experiencing homelessness in homeless shelters, encampments, and unsheltered areas not meant for human habitation. The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count follows the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) methodology and is reported to HUD annually. The Count serves as a one-night snapshot of homelessness in Chicago and is one data point out of many that helps to guide homeless services and funding. The 2023 PIT Count occurred on Thursday, January 26, 2023. As of May 9, 2023, over 8,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Chicago since August 2022, many bused from Texas. In response, the City has opened emergency shelters for asylum seekers, which are included as part of this year's Count.

Total Residents Experiencing Homelessness 6,139



5,149

Individuals residing in homeless shelters



990

Individuals residing on the street or other locations not meant for human habitation

Demographics Among Residents Experiencing Homelessness

Non-Asylum Seekers

73% IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN

27% IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Household Composition

37% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

62% IDENTIFY AS MALE

Gender Identity

HISPANIC OR LATINO/A/X 14%

BLACK NON-HISPANIC LATINO/A/X 69%

WHITE NON-HISPANIC LATINO/A/X 14%

Racial and Ethnic Makeup

Asylum Seekers

68% IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN

32% IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Household Composition

21% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE

79% IDENTIFY AS MALE

Gender Identity

Background: Since August 31, 2022, Chicago has received an influx of Asylum Seekers coming from the Southwest border of the United States. 98% of individuals counted during the PIT Count originate from Latin American countries like Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Trends and Takeaways

Increase in shelter bed utilization: From 2022 to 2023, there was a 14% increase in the number of Chicago families and individuals accessing shelters across the City. This increase was likely driven by the decreased prevalence of COVID-19 in shelters in January 2023 compared to January 2022; change in economic conditions for families as federal COVID-relief resources ended; and monthly monitoring to improve shelter bed utilization rates.

Decrease in unsheltered homelessness: The estimated number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased from 2022 (1,263) to 2023 (990). The one-night nature of the Count makes this estimate sensitive to weather and visibility of individuals on the night of. Chicago has also invested in housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness: Since October 2020, the Expedited Housing Initiative's rapid rehousing efforts housed over 330 unsheltered households, including 117 individuals in 2022.

Implications: Overall, 2,196 asylum seekers were counted in this year's Count. Asylum Seekers accounted for 42% of the people counted in shelters in the 2023 PIT Count: 1,921 Asylum Seekers residing in designated Asylum Seeker shelters and an additional 255 residing in the existing Chicago homeless shelter system.

The PIT Count was organized and led by the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services in collaboration with All Chicago and in consultation with the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement of the University of Illinois at Chicago. A full summary of the 2023 results will be released soon and made available at www.cityofchicago.org/fss. Previous years' reporting and information on Chicago homeless services can be found at that same link.

The PIT Count captures a sample of people experiencing homelessness in Chicago on night of the year. It is not an estimate of the total number of people who experience homelessness in a year nor an estimate of all people who experience housing instability in Chicago.