

# 2022 Homeless Count & Survey Analysis



The Way Home

**WHAT:** The Point-in-Time (“PIT”) Count is a count of people experiencing homelessness – both sheltered and unsheltered – on a single night in January. It is a snapshot of homelessness in our community at a moment in time.

**WHERE:** Throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas.

**WHO:** Organized by the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the lead agency to The Way Home, our local homeless response system. Conducted by 480 volunteers.

**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 was the “night of record” and the night of the Sheltered Count. The Unsheltered Count was conducted Jan. 25-27.

**WHY:** The Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) funding process. In the 2020 funding cycle, the Houston region received more than \$42.5 million in CoC funding for homelessness interventions including permanent housing, supportive services, and planning funds. The Count illustrates trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness and provides insights into the effectiveness of our community’s housing programs and homeless services.

## 2022 Key Findings

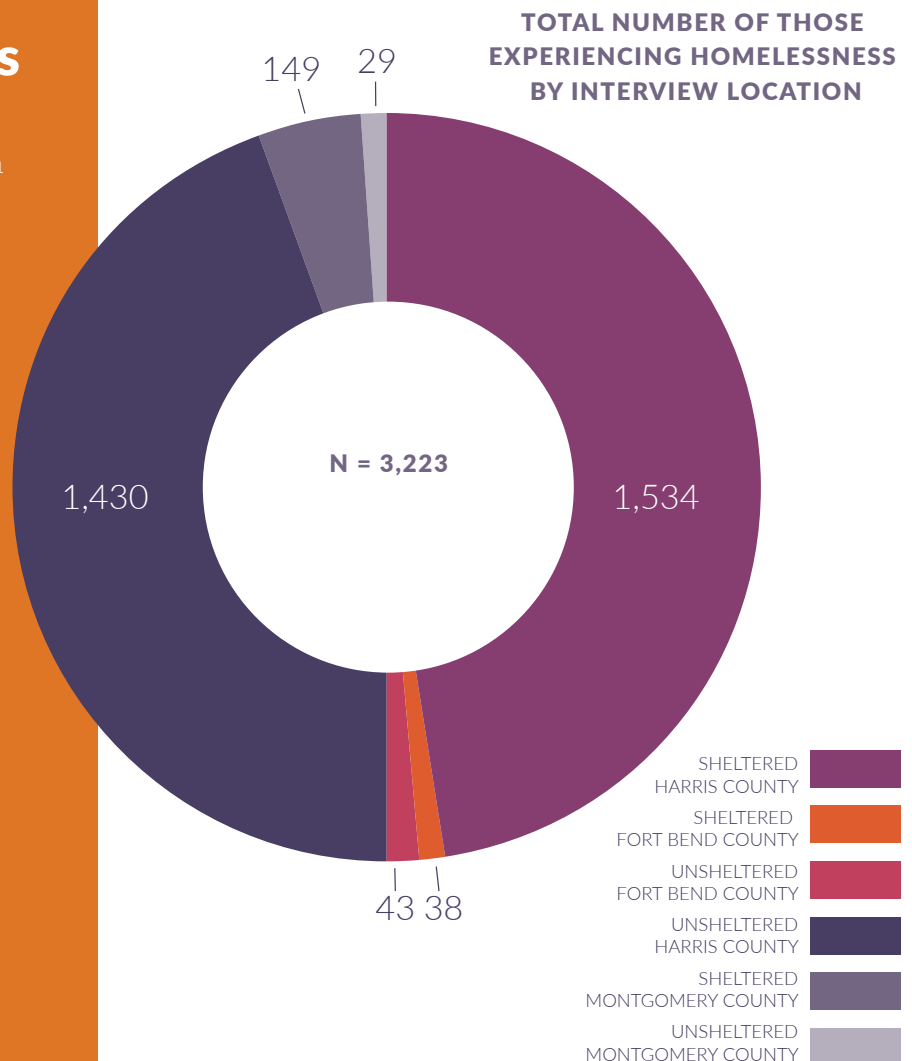
64% DECREASE  
in overall homelessness since 2011.<sup>1</sup>

3,223 PEOPLE  
were experiencing homelessness  
in the three-county area on the  
night of Jan. 24, 2022.

52,000 PEOPLE  
touched HMIS in 2021,  
INCLUDING 21,000  
who accessed a homeless program.

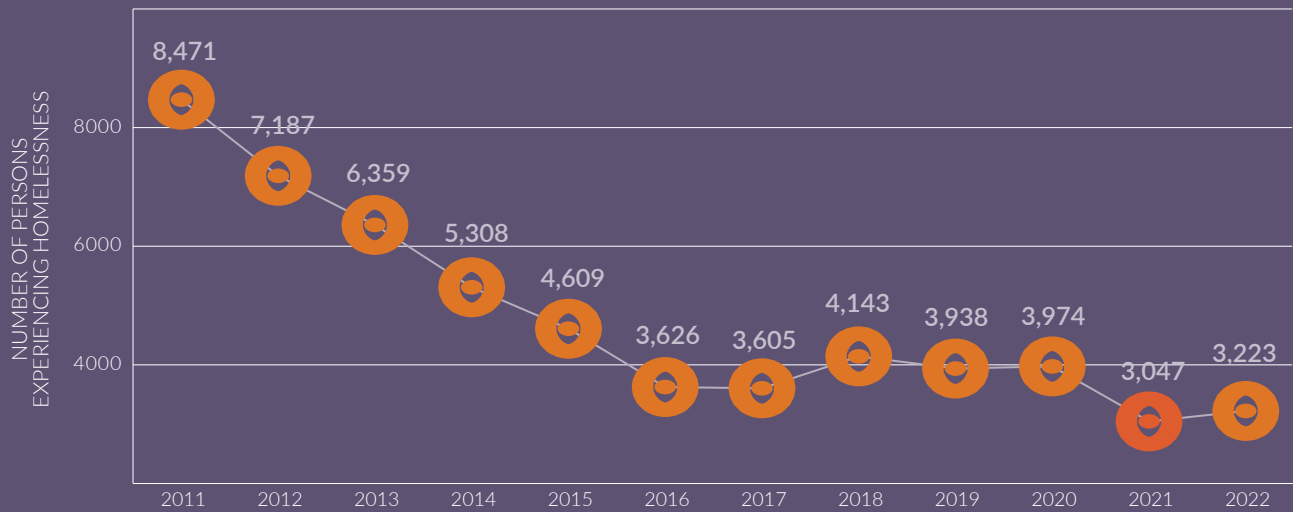
MORE THAN  
8,500 PEOPLE  
were living in a housing program of  
The Way Home on the night of  
Jan. 24, 2022.

MORE THAN  
25,000 PEOPLE  
have been placed in permanent  
housing since 2011.



<sup>1</sup> Comparing Count results for Harris County and Fort Bend County only. Montgomery County was not included in the Count until 2017.

## COMPARING THE COUNTS: 2011 - 2022



## COVID AND HOMELESSNESS

One of eight people (13%) experiencing unsheltered homelessness indicated they were homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Likely more people would have been experiencing homelessness, if not for the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP), Houston and Harris County's housing-focused response to the pandemic.

With phase one announced in July 2020 and phase two announced in January 2022, the CCHP is a housing-focused response to the pandemic for people experiencing homelessness. Led by the Coalition and implemented by about a dozen homeless service provider agencies, the CCHP pioneered the use of housing as a pandemic response. It has become a model for other cities and counties across the country looking to use federal COVID relief funding for maximum impact for people experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to the additional funding, in 2021 the partners of The Way Home placed more than 3,870 people into permanent housing, which includes permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid rehousing (RRH). Including diversion — preventing people “on the verge” from falling into homelessness — more than 6,630 people were rehoused through the CCHP in 2021.



Photos courtesy of The Salvation Army of Greater Houston

## UNDERSTANDING THE PIT COUNT

### WHAT THE COUNT CAN'T TELL US

- The total number of people who experienced homelessness in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties for any period of time over the course of the past year
- How many people are precariously housed, e.g., couch surfing, on the verge of eviction, or others who do not meet HUD's definition of literal homelessness<sup>2</sup>
- How many people are living in poverty

### WHAT THE COUNT DOES TELL US

- Approximately how many people were experiencing homelessness in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties on the night of Jan. 24, 2022
- Trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness
- Insights into the effectiveness of our community's housing programs and homeless services

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-bindings/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-1/>