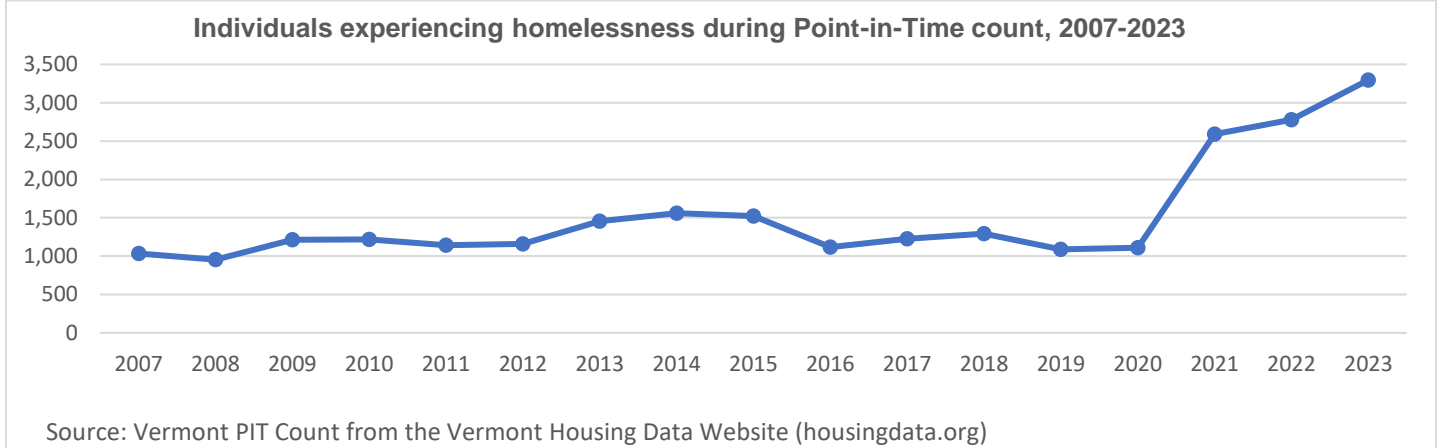


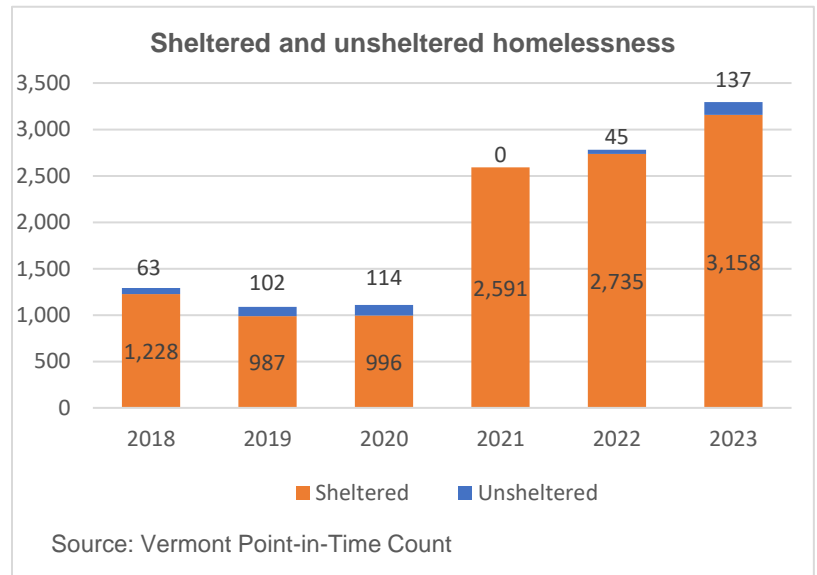
Homelessness

In the U.S. and Vermont, more people experiencing homelessness were counted by the 2023 Point-In-Time (PIT) count than any previous collection of such data. A total of 3,295 Vermonters experienced homelessness during this count, putting Vermont at the second-highest state rate of homelessness in the country.¹ This count also suggests that the number of people without homes in Vermont has increased by roughly 19% since 2022 and tripled since 2019.



The actual number of Vermonters without homes is likely even higher than this. The PIT count tends to be conservative due to its inability to count hidden homelessness, such as people living in their cars or in jails or hospitals at the time of the count, as well as the generally transitory nature of homelessness.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of people experiencing homelessness counted during the PIT increased by 133%, likely reflective at least in part of the results of the COVID-19 pandemic.² To prevent the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness, Vermont dramatically expanded eligibility and availability in its non-congregate hotels and motels through the General Assistance Emergency Housing program. In addition to keeping Vermonters safe and sheltered, this expansion may also have improved the accuracy of the PIT counts since 2021. People who would have otherwise been in less stable housing situations more likely to escape the scope of the count may have been more easily counted.³

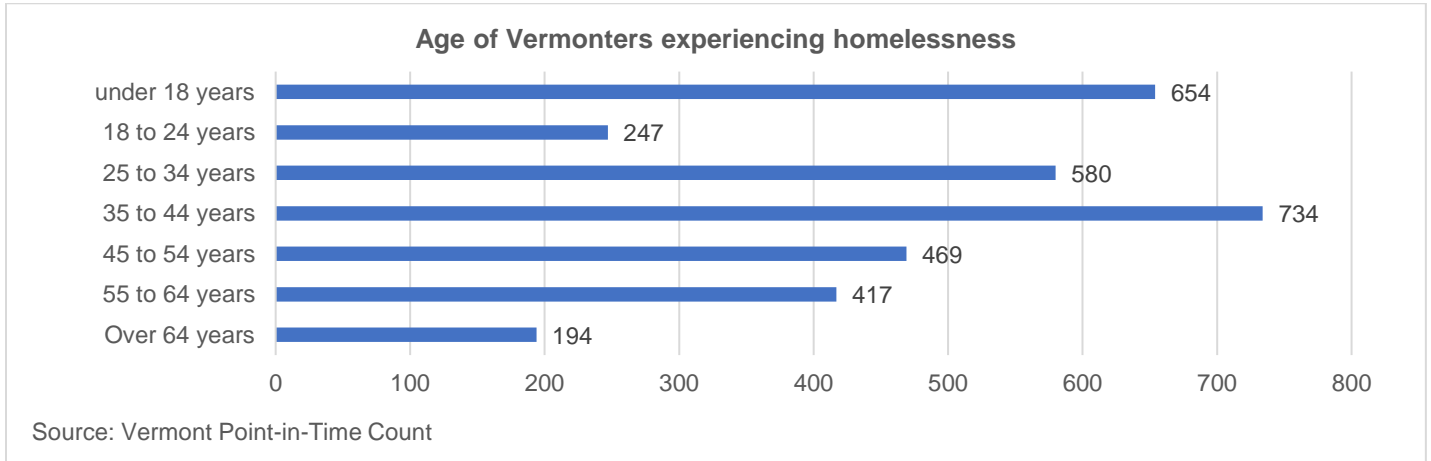


2023 was the second year in a row in which Vermont had the second highest rate of people experiencing homelessness of all states. With 51 people per 10,000 experiencing homelessness in 2023, only New York had a higher rate with 52 people per 10,000. Vermont also has a higher rate than any other state of sheltering people experiencing homelessness. Shelters include emergency housing and transitional housing. During the 2023 PIT count, 109 people, or 3% of the total experiencing homelessness, were unsheltered. This is a stark contrast with states like California and Washington, which each have over 50% of their homeless population living without shelter, according to HUD's 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report.⁴

Children and Youth

The physical, emotional, and economic trauma associated with homelessness is amplified when the people experiencing it are children. Homeless children typically experience inadequate nutrition, frequently interrupted education, and domestic violence. Children who are homeless are sick twice as often as those with homes, have twice the incidence of learning disabilities, and three times the rate of behavioral problems.

As of the 2023 PIT count, there were 654 homeless children under the age of 18 living in Vermont. Of that population, 440 were living in transitional housing, 205 were living in an emergency shelter, and 9 were living without any shelter. Since 2020, the number of children in Vermont experiencing homelessness has increased at a greater rate than that of the adults, with an increase of over 200% since the January 2020 low of 216, according to PIT counts.



Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Black, Hispanic, and Native American Vermonters are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness, according to the most recent data. While Black Vermonters represent 1% of the state population, they comprised 8% of the people experiencing homelessness as of the 2023 PIT. Similar disparities existed for Hispanic Vermonters and Native American Vermonters, who were disproportionately likely to experience homelessness.

Race and ethnicity of Vermonters experiencing homelessness compared to total population

	Vermont Population	% total	Homeless Population	% homeless
Asian	10,824	2%	36	1%
Black	8,000	1%	266	8%
Hispanic	13,793	2%	154	5%
Native American	1,336	0.2%	83	2%
Two or More Races	25,809	4%	69	2%
White	594,131	91%	2,835	82%
Total	653,893		3,443	

Source: U.S. Census ACS 2022 5-year Estimates, Table DP05; 2023 HUD Point In Time Count

Veterans

The 2023 PIT count found 122 veterans experiencing homelessness in Vermont, one of the lowest per capita rates in the country. Of this number, 36 were living in emergency housing, 66 were living in transitional housing, and 9 had no shelter at all.

Emergency, Transitional, and Supportive Housing Inventory

People experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing an unsafe situation need to find a place to stay quickly. Emergency shelters and transitional housing can fill this crisis response role. These interventions are generally low-barrier and aligned with the State’s homelessness system goals, including making homelessness brief and non-repeating with a focus on transition to permanent housing.

As of 2023, Vermont had 2,857 total emergency and transitional housing beds. Vermont’s 765 emergency housing beds in 2023 are intended for use temporarily, and residents are typically not permitted to stay for an extended period. The state’s 2,092 transitional housing beds are used for a broader range of purposes. Transitional programs aim to establish part of the stability required for homeless people to regain their independence and role within the community. Programs typically couple housing with support services while providing more privacy and a greater semblance of home life than an emergency shelter. Examples of transitional housing providers include the Dismas Houses, Capstone Community Action, and the Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth.

Statewide housing inventory count of beds available for people experiencing homelessness

	Family Units	Family Beds	Adult-Only Beds	Child-Only Beds	Total Year-Round Beds	Seasonal	Overflow / Voucher	Chronic Beds	Veteran Beds	Youth Beds
Temporary Housing	359	1,158	1,686	13	2,857	39	569	n/a	47	50
Emergency Shelter	99	339	418	8	765	39	569	n/a	3	19
Transitional Housing	260	819	1,268	5	2,092	n/a	n/a	n/a	44	31
Permanent Housing	80	226	508	0	734	n/a	n/a	n/a	199	28
Permanent Supportive Housing	21	57	273	0	330	n/a	n/a	305	185	0
Rapid Re-Housing	17	46	76	0	122	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	28
Other Permanent Housing	42	123	159	0	282	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Grand Total	439	1,384	2,194	13	3,591	39	569	305	246	78

Source: Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [2023 Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count Report](#)

According to HUD’s definition of permanent housing, Vermont had a total of 734 beds in this category as of 2023, with 330 categorized as permanent supportive housing, 122 for Rapid Re-Housing, and 282 in other permanent housing.⁵ Vermont has steadily increased its supply of permanent rental housing with services for those exiting homelessness, largely in apartment buildings that have been publicly subsidized to enable serving lower income renters. As of January 2024, there were 287 apartments in these buildings.⁶

After identifying the creation of more affordable housing units as the primary homelessness prevention measure, Vermont’s Council on Housing and Homelessness made a series of recommendations regarding removing barriers to housing development and supporting new and current initiatives.⁷ With the launch later this year of a pilot for the Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing Assistance Program⁸ for 100 Vermont households exiting homelessness, the state will move effectively forward toward addressing complex needs.⁹ This program is being designed by the Vermont Agency of Human Services to provide a Medicaid/Agency of Human Services Supportive Housing Assistance benefit to expand services for Medicaid enrollees ages 18 and over who meet specific eligibility and health- and risk-based criteria.



Notes

- ¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Annual Homeless Assessment report (AHAR), [2023 report](#)
- ² Vermont annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, from housingdata.org
- ³ Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, [2023 Vermont's Annual Point-In-Time Count of Those Experiencing Homelessness](#).
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Annual Homeless Assessment report (AHAR), [2023 report](#)
- ⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [2023 Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count Report](#)
- ⁶ Vermont Directory of Affordable Rental Housing, from housingdata.org
- ⁷ Vermont Council on Housing and Homelessness, [2023 Report](#)
- ⁸ Technical Assistance Collaborative, [Vermont's Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing Program: Research and Housing Policy Alignment Strategy Report](#), Nov. 2023.
- ⁹ Vermont Agency of Human Services, [Request for Information, Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing \(PSH\) Assistance](#), Feb. 2024.

This fact sheet is part of the **Vermont Housing Needs Assessment 2025-2029** completed in June 2024 for the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. Related information is available in companion fact sheets and the comprehensive, more detailed report.

Fact Sheets:

- Executive Summary
- Demographic Trends
- Housing Stock
- Renters
- Homeowners
- Older Vermonters
- Race and Ethnicity
- Large and Small Households
- Homelessness
- Households with Special Needs & Challenges