

# THREE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE POINT IN TIME COUNT JANUARY 2023

ON JANUARY 25TH, 2023 THERE WERE  
AT LEAST **661 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS IN BERKSHIRE,  
FRANKLIN, & HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES**

The Point in Time Count is an attempt to determine how many people are experiencing homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties during a single night in January. This report presents a look at who is experiencing homelessness in our region as well as comparisons to previous point in time counts going back to January of 2020. All data gathered was either from surveys presented to people experiencing homelessness or collected by local shelter providers in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and general demographic comparisons were obtained through the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates available on [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov).

The point in time count wouldn't be possible without the efforts of street outreach providers, shelter providers, volunteers, and more social service agencies committed to the efforts to end homelessness in Western Massachusetts and the willingness of our unhoused community members to take part. If you have any questions about the Point in Time Count or this data or would like to get involved in future counts, please reach out to Michele LaFleur at [mlafleur@communityaction.us](mailto:mlafleur@communityaction.us).

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# About the Count

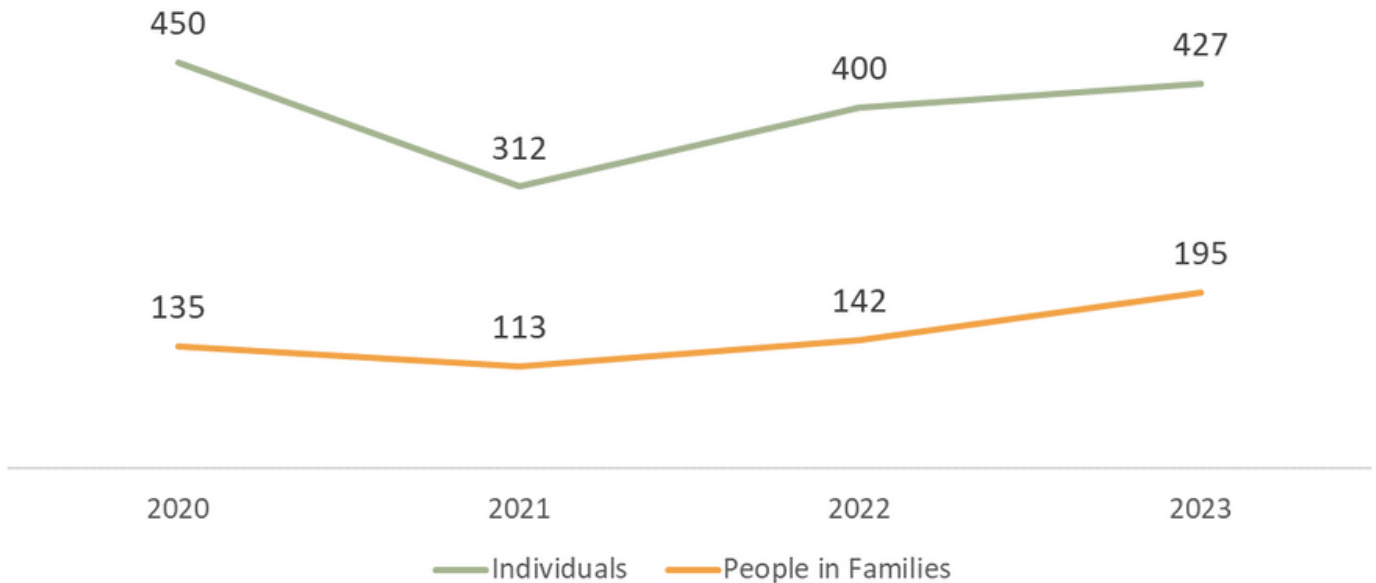
The federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care (CoCs) undertake a Point in Time (PIT) Count within the last 10 days of January. HUD specifies the ways we can conduct the count-there are some areas we have choice and others we do not. We don't always agree with the requirements but it helps us to have consistency from year to year and we do our best to find workarounds that will benefit our community. Some of the ways we do that are by conducting 'unofficial' counts and additional counts at other times of year- in 2023 we are preparing for a Summer Count on June 14th.

HUD requires that we only include people experiencing homelessness under HUD's definition- this includes someone who is literally outside or in an encampment, sleeping in a vehicle, or who is in an emergency shelter. We know that people experience homelessness in more situations, so our 'unofficial' count tries to determine how many people are experiencing homelessness in any way and is only shared with the community, although we aren't allowed to accept self reports so the number of people we identify who aren't in shelters or literally outside is much smaller than reality. Some other limitations of the count are that we are in a region with rural areas, sometimes large, and it's difficult to get a sense of how many people are experiencing homelessness outside of the larger cities and towns.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that **the number of people experiencing homelessness we identify in the count is not comprehensive of everyone experiencing homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties.** There are people who do not want to be located or who are experiencing what we sometimes call 'invisible homelessness' which means they are experiencing homelessness but not in an immediately apparent way, such as doubled up with family or friends or living in hotel or motels.

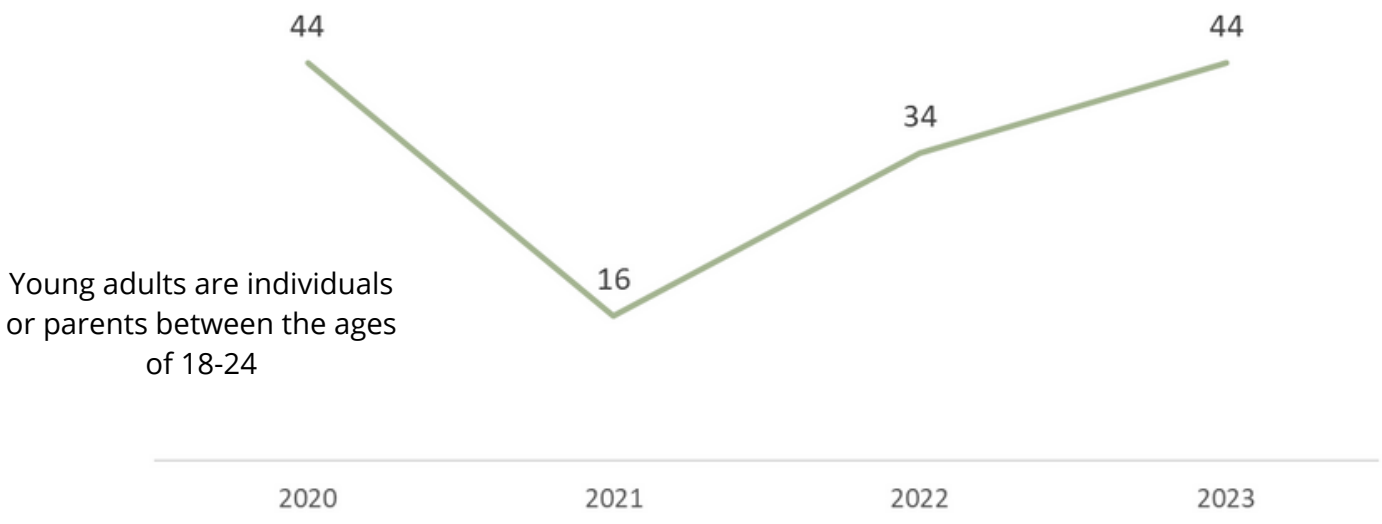
# Overall Trends

Family & Individual Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



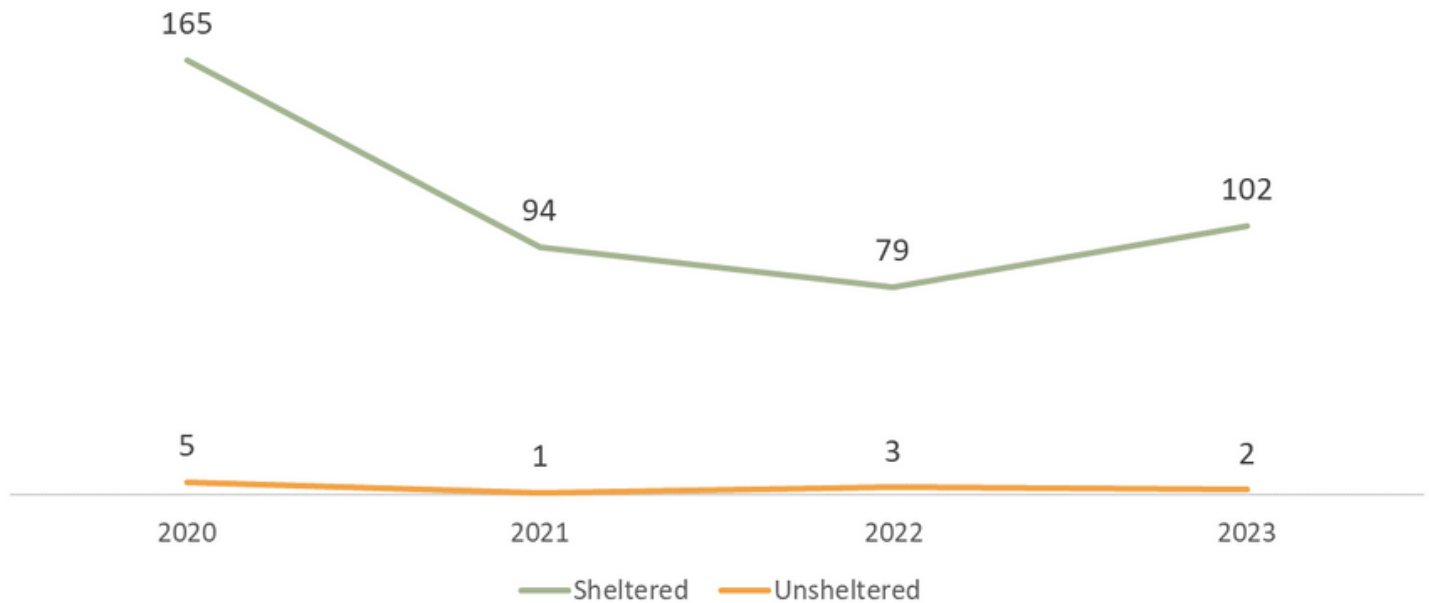
Since the end of pandemic era policies--which kept people housed and expanded faster access to housing--we have seen an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in each county. This includes an increase in both family and individual homelessness, veteran homelessness, and young adult homelessness.

Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



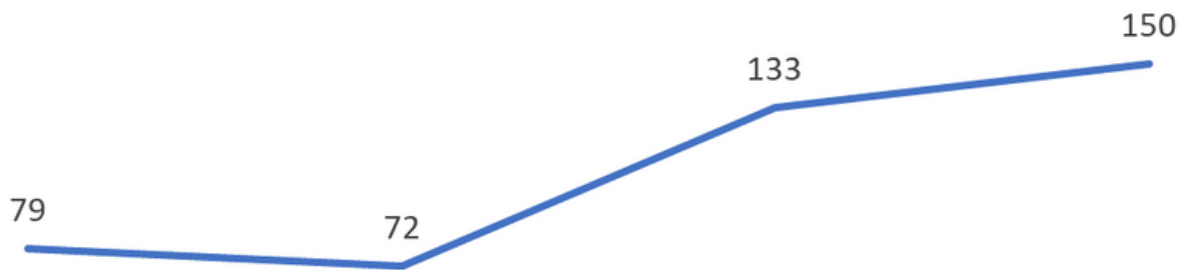
Young adults are individuals or parents between the ages of 18-24

Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020-2023 PIT Count Trend



**Increases in chronic homelessness mean that there are more people experiencing homelessness for long periods of time.**

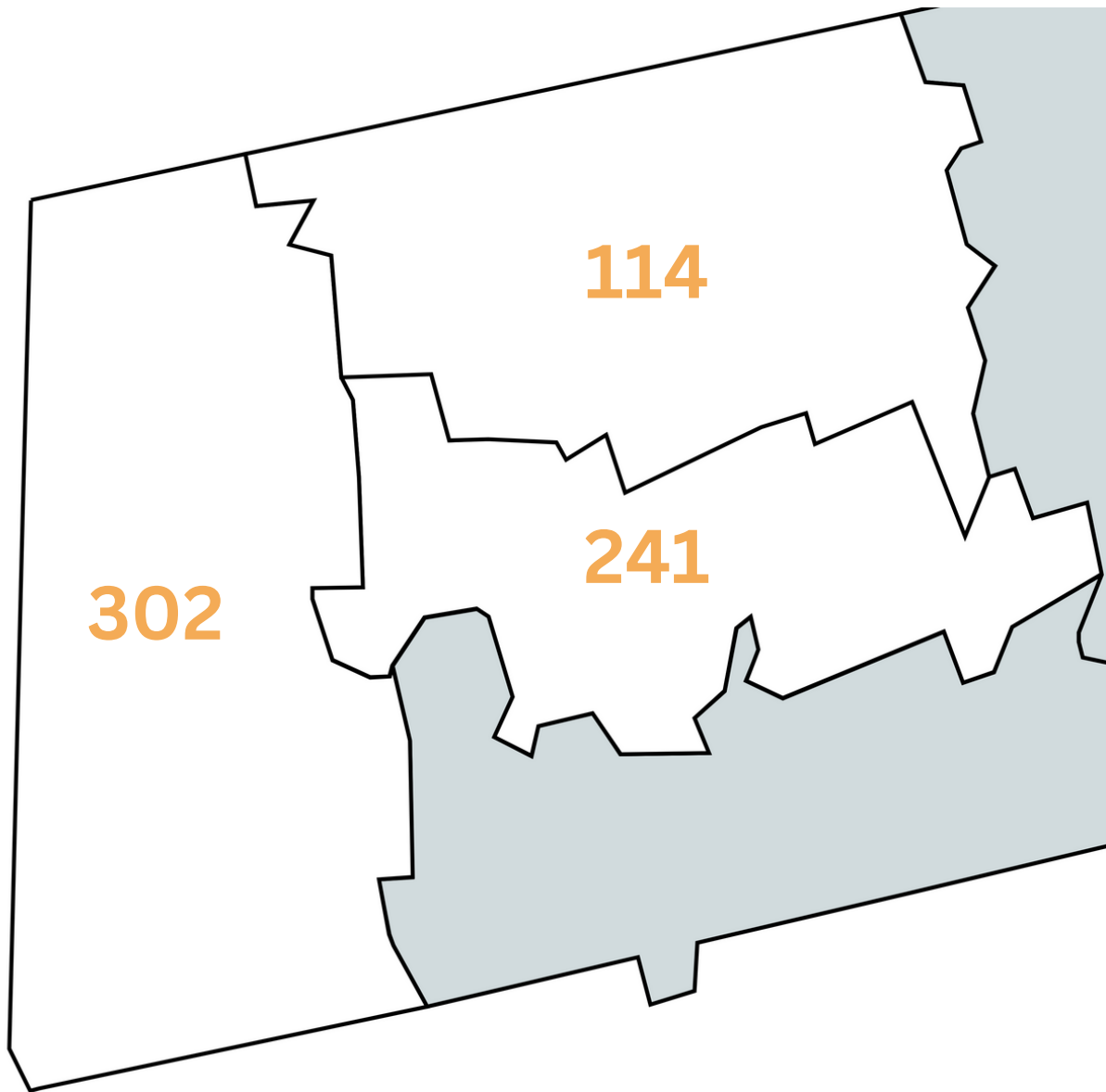
Chronic Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



Chronic homelessness involves experiencing homelessness for more than a year as well as having a disabling condition

2020 2021 2022 2023

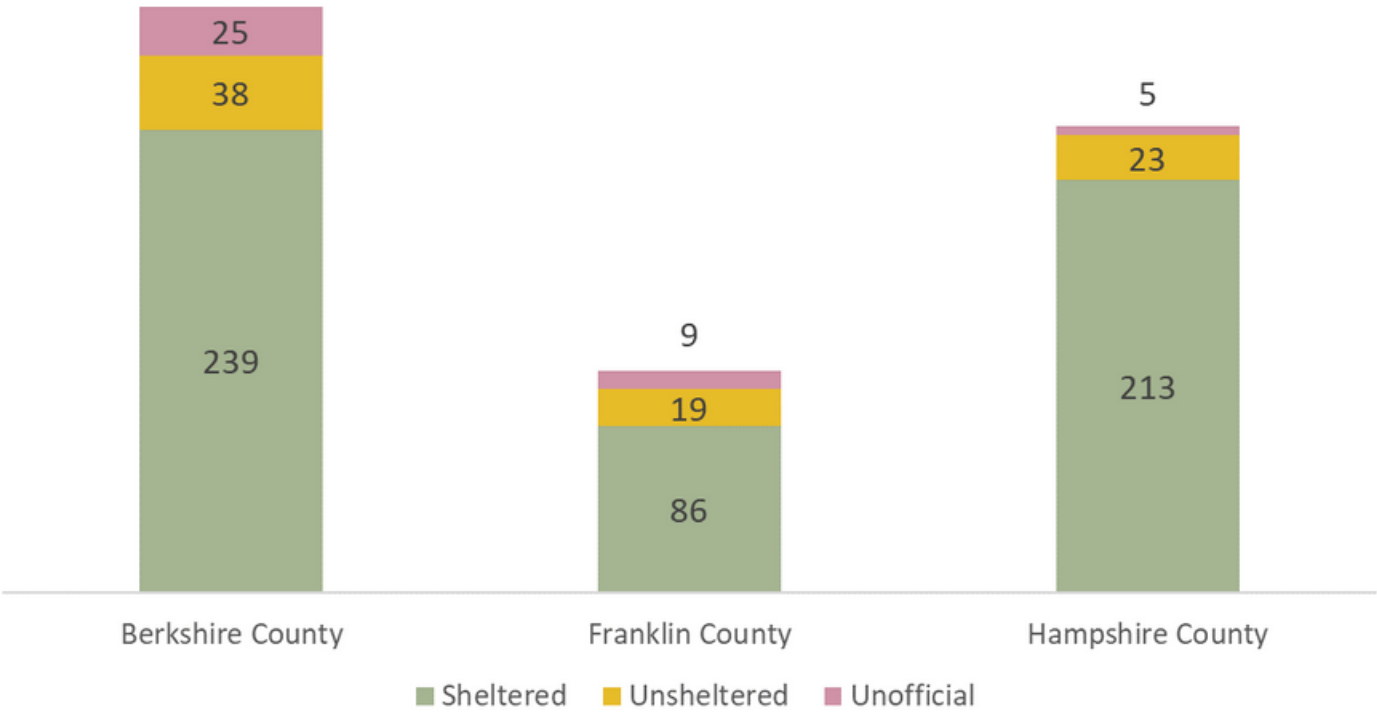
# County Breakdown



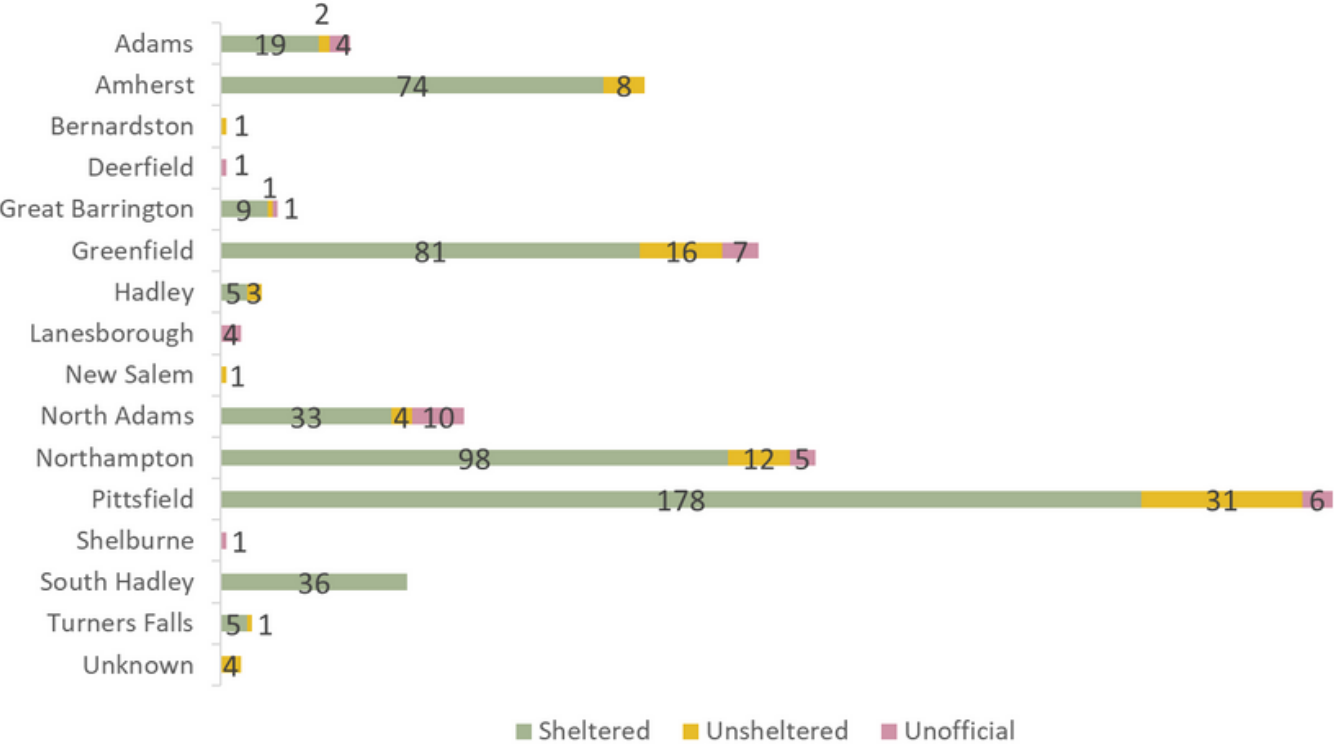
Of those experiencing homelessness in the Three County region, **622** were experiencing homelessness per the HUD definition of being in shelter or literally outside and **39** people were experiencing homelessness not under HUD's definition. This includes people who were couch surfing or doubled up, living at a hotel or motel paid for with their own funds, and people in institutional facilities who otherwise do not have a place to stay.

# Regional Counts

Three County CoC Persons Experiencing Homelessness by County  
January 25th, 2023



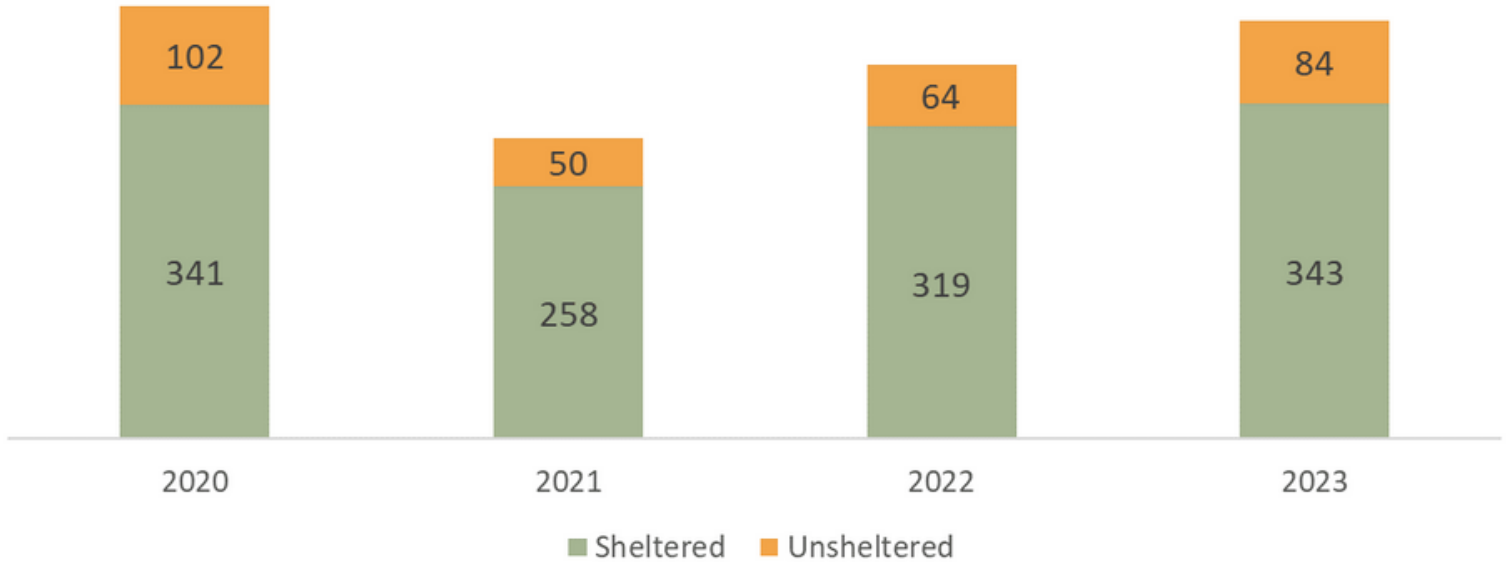
Three County CoC Persons Experiencing Homelessness by Town  
January 25th, 2023



# Individuals

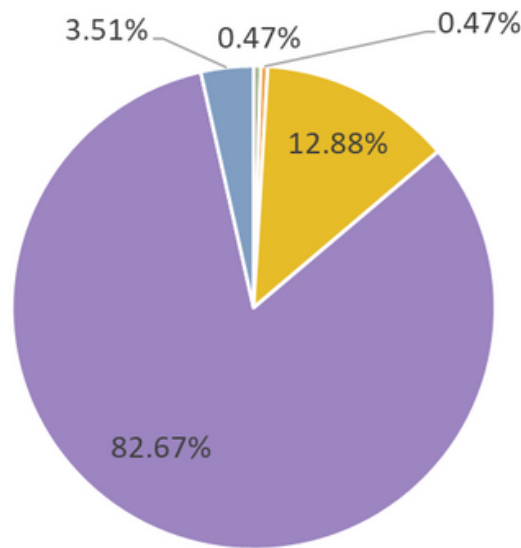
## Sheltered & Unsheltered Individuals in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties 2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend

'Unsheltered' homelessness includes sleeping outside or 'rough', in a vehicle, or in an unsafe structure



# Race

## Race of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties January 25th, 2023

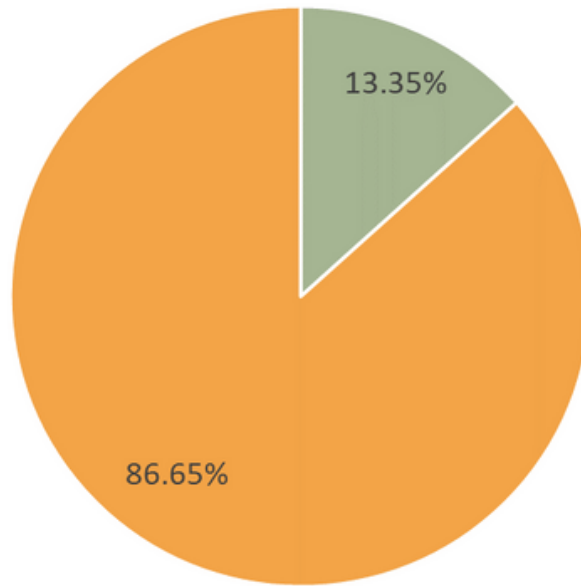


Individuals	
AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	<10
Asian/AsianAm	<10
Black/AfricanAm/African	55
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	353
Multiple Races	15



# Ethnicity & Gender

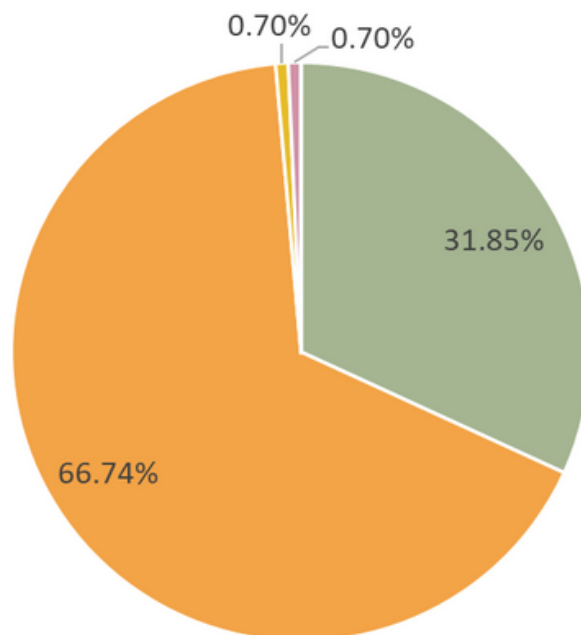
Ethnicity of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



Individuals	
Hispanic	57
Non-Hispanic	370

■ Hispanic ■ Non-Hispanic

Gender of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

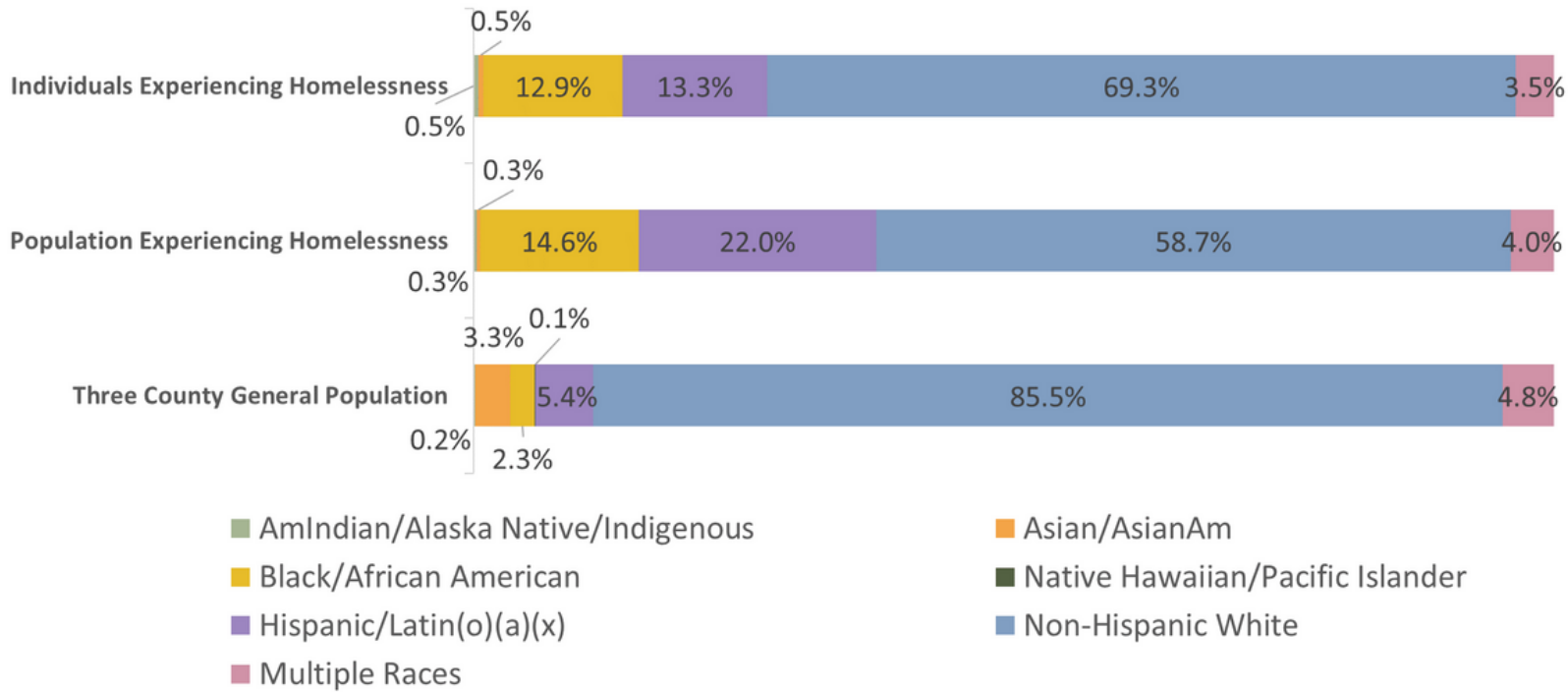


Individuals	
Female	136
Male	285
Non-Binary	<10
Transgender	<10
Questioning	0

■ Female ■ Male ■ Non-Binary ■ Transgender ■ Questioning

# Disparities

Disparities Among Who is Experiencing Homelessness by Race & Ethnicity in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

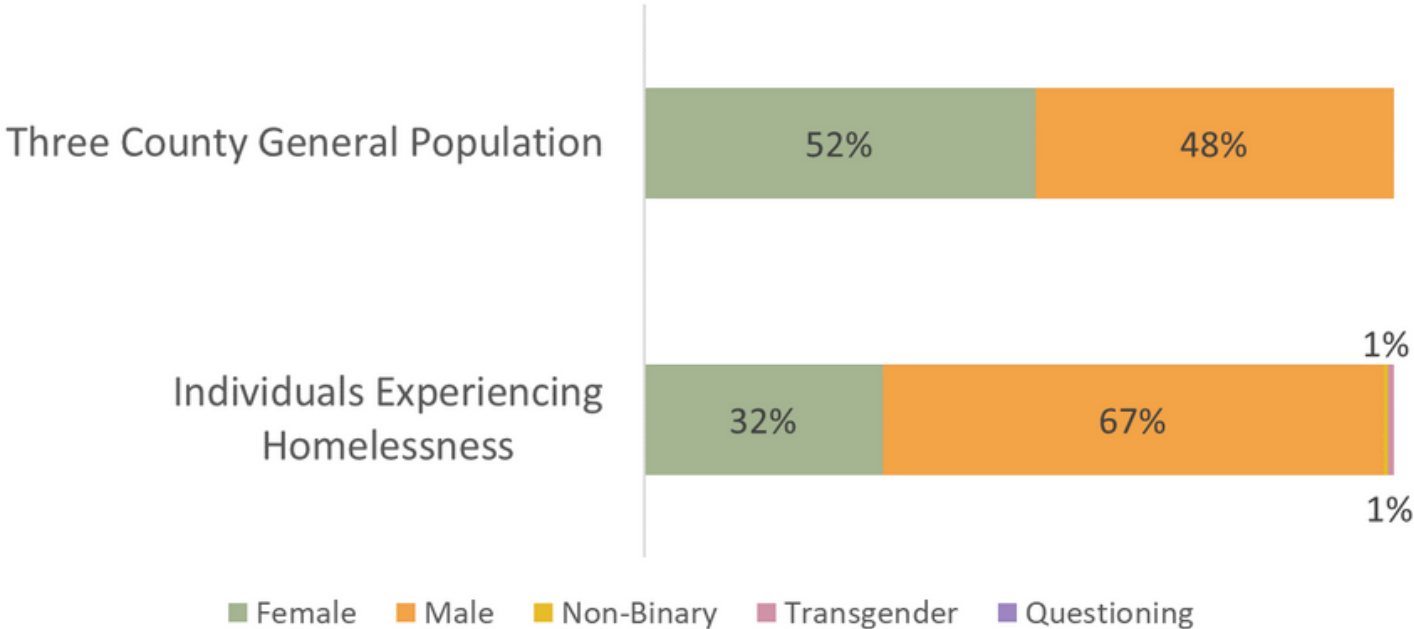


	AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	Asian/AsianAm	Black/African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x)	Non-Hispanic White	Multiple Races
Three County General Population	0.2%	3.3%	2.3%	0.1%	5.4%	85.5%	4.8%
Population Experiencing Homelessness	0.3%	0.3%	14.6%	0.0%	22.0%	58.7%	4.0%
Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness	0.0%	0.0%	18.5%	0.0%	41.0%	35.4%	5.1%
Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	0.5%	0.5%	12.9%	0.0%	13.3%	69.3%	3.5%

As you can see in the graph and table above, individuals who are Black or African American or Hispanic or Latino/a/x make up a greater proportion of all individuals experiencing homelessness than the general population. For example, Black or African American individuals account for ~13% of all individuals experiencing homelessness, but only 2.3% of the total population in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties combined and Hispanic or Latina/o/x individuals make up over 13% of the population experiencing homelessness compared to 5.4% of the general population.

These disparities should primarily be attributed to structural racism and inequality in addition to the individual factors which contribute towards anyone experiencing homelessness. Non-Hispanic White individuals make up a smaller proportion of the population experiencing homelessness than they do the general population because they benefit from the inequalities which harm everyone who is not White and Non-Hispanic. This leads to a greater chance that they will have assistance or supports to avoid entering homelessness.

Gender of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

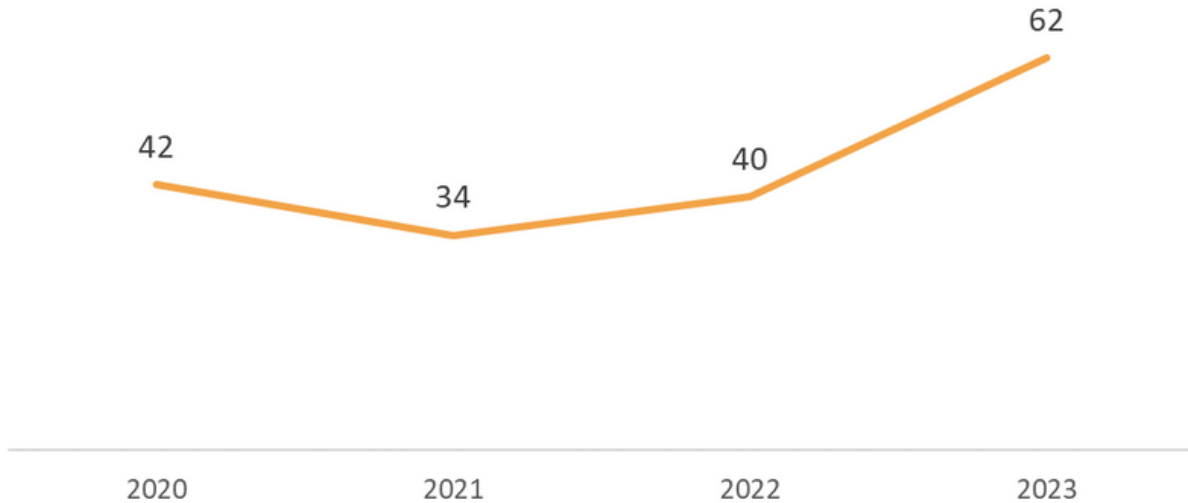


Unfortunately, we have no general population data on the number of people in each county who identify as transgender or with a gender other than Male or Female. Data was obtained from Census.gov and this information is not collected.

# Families

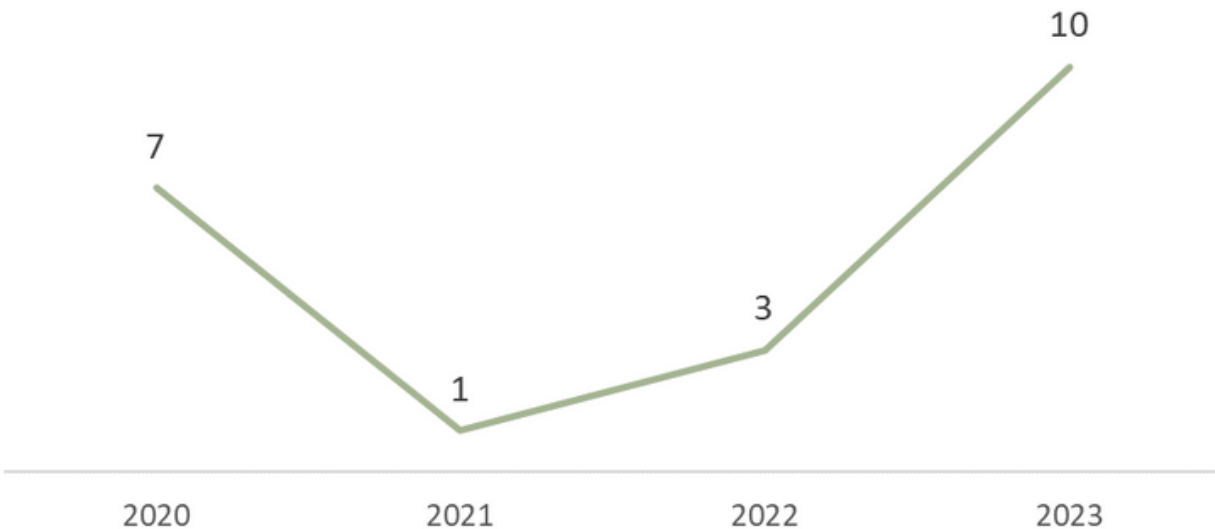
**Family homelessness has been increasing in general and specifically among young adults**

Families Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



**We generally do not capture the number of families experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the point in time count because families that are living in cars, motels, or with friends and family fear speaking to social workers about their situation because it may put them at risk of losing their children to DCF; often referred to as invisible homelessness.**

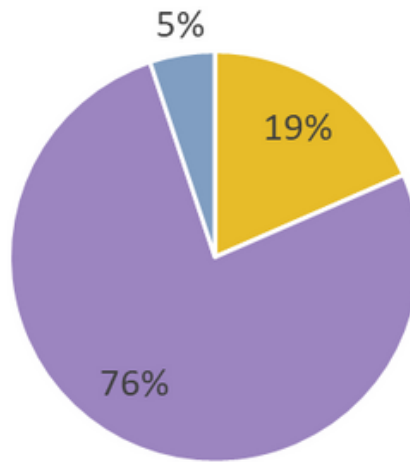
Young Adult Families Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



# Race & Ethnicity

## Race of Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023



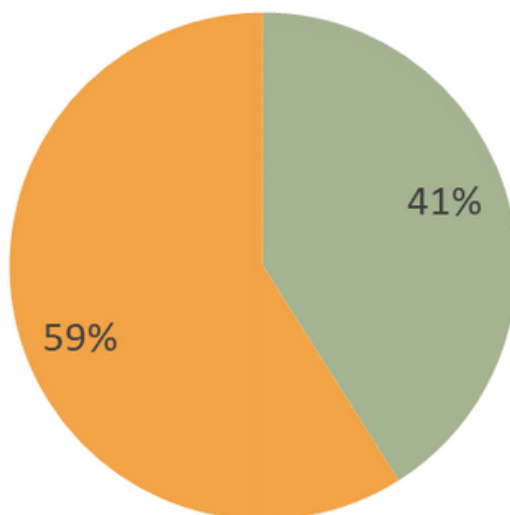
- AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Asian/AsianAm
- Black/AfricanAm/African
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiple Races

Persons in Families	
AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Asian/AsianAm	0
Black/AfricanAm/African	36
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	149
Multiple Races	10

## Ethnicity of Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023

Persons in Families	
Hispanic	80
Non-Hispanic	115



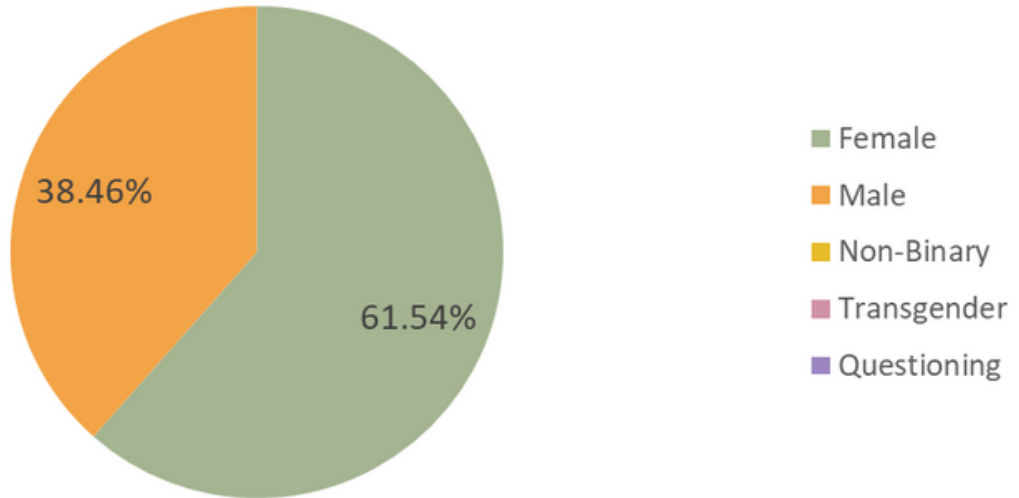
- Hispanic
- Non-Hispanic

# Gender & Disparities

Gender of Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness  
in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

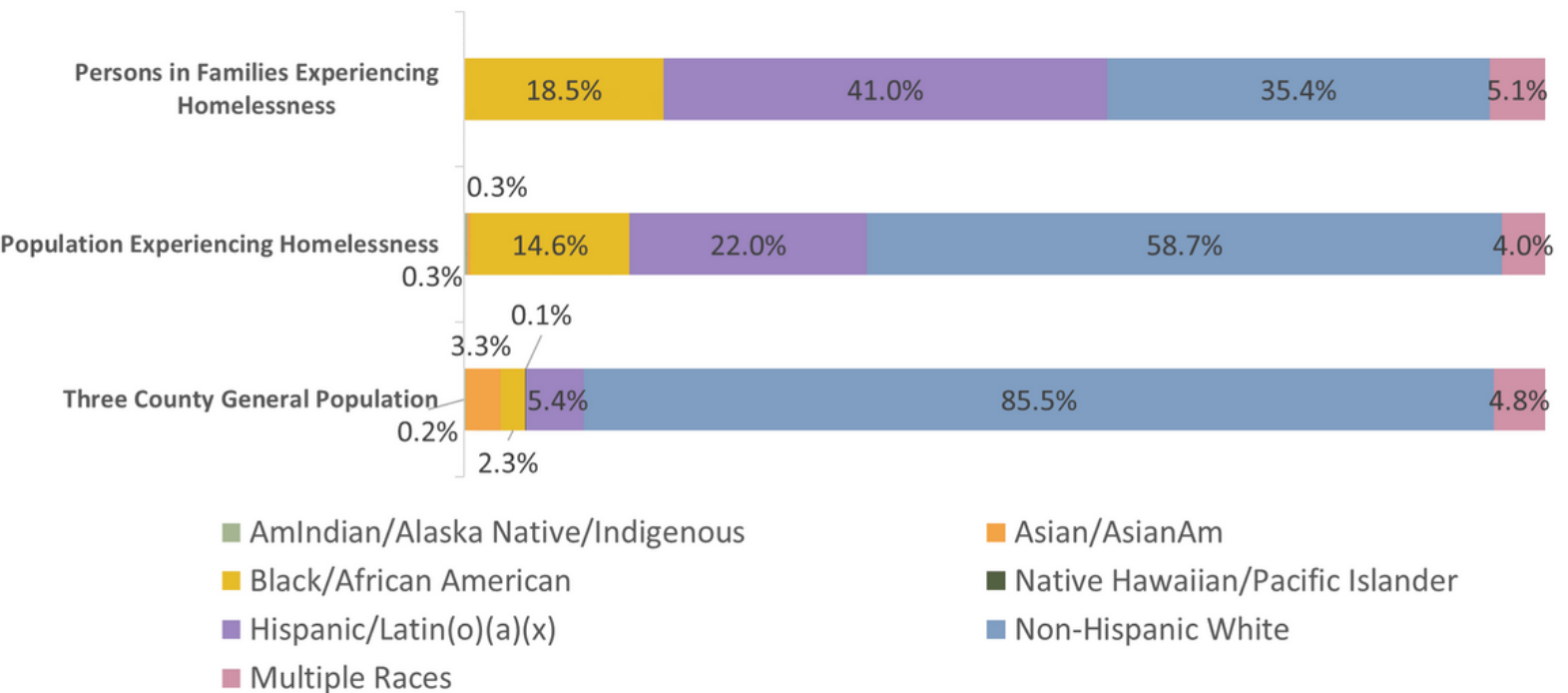
January 25th, 2023

Persons in Families	
Female	120
Male	75
Non-Binary	0
Transgender	0
Questioning	0



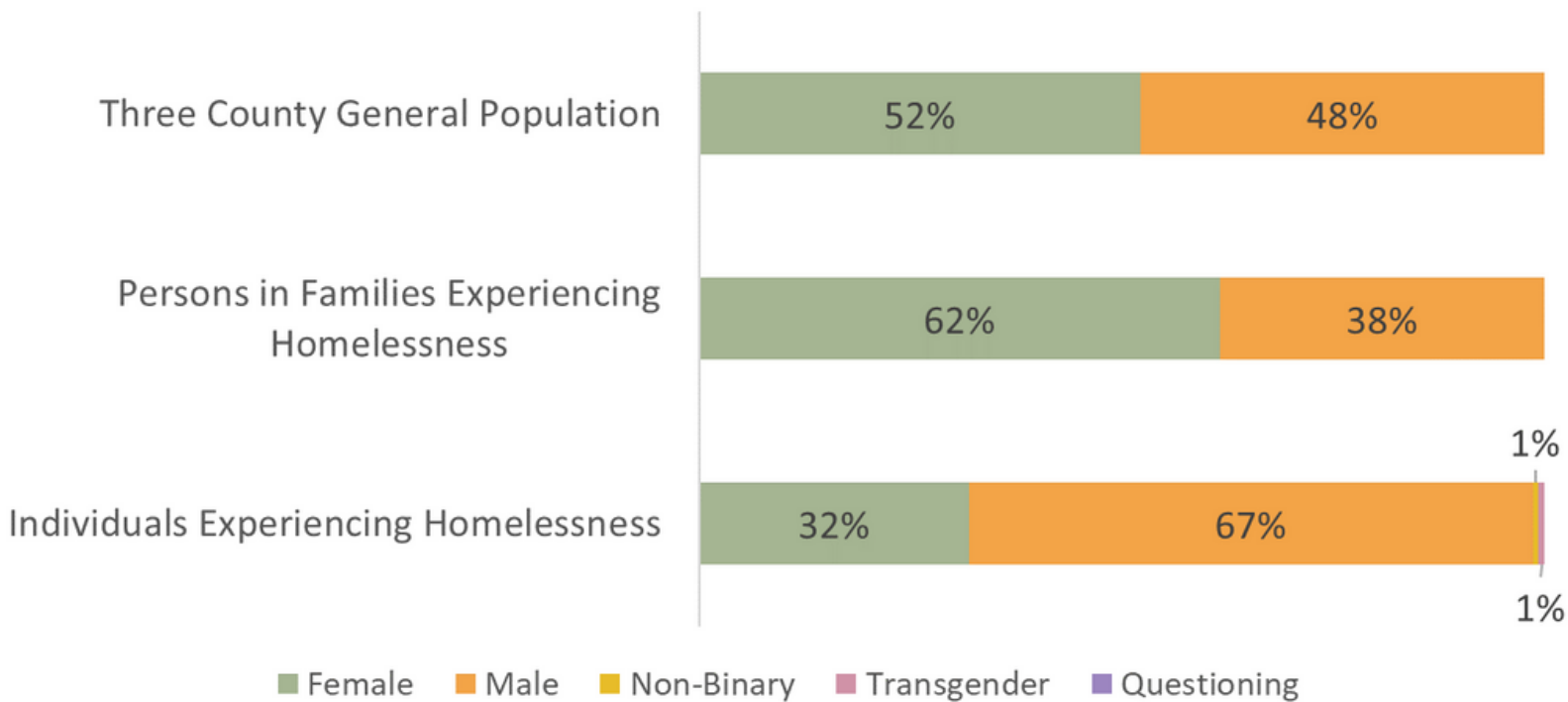
As seen below, Hispanic or Latino/a/x persons are drastically overrepresented among families experiencing homelessness. 41% of everyone in families experiencing homelessness identifies as Hispanic or Latino/a/x, compared to 5.4% of the general population. Black or African American persons are also very overrepresented compared to the general population, making up over 18% of everyone in families experiencing homelessness compared to 2.3% of the general population.

Disparities Among Who is Experiencing Homelessness by Race & Ethnicity in  
Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



	AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	Asian/AsianAm	Black/African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latin(o)(a) (x)	Non-Hispanic White	Multiple Races
Three County General Population	0.2%	3.3%	2.3%	0.1%	5.4%	85.5%	4.8%
Population Experiencing Homelessness	0.3%	0.3%	14.6%	0.0%	22.0%	58.7%	4.0%
Persons in Families Experiencing Homelessness	0.0%	0.0%	18.5%	0.0%	41.0%	35.4%	5.1%

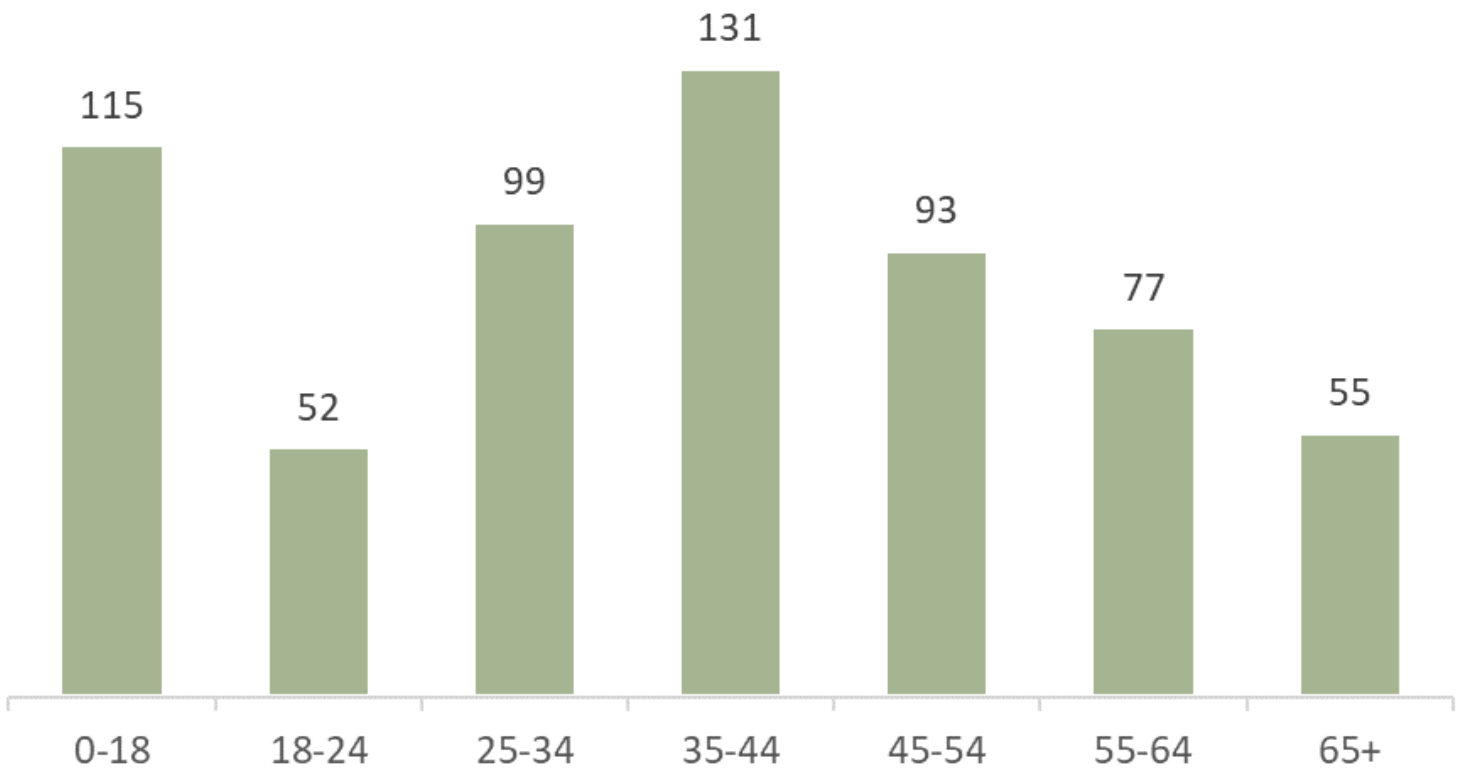
Gender of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



**Even though men are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness, women are overrepresented in the population of families with children experiencing homelessness. This includes parents and children and leads us to believe that most families experiencing homelessness are either a couple with children or a single mother with children, although these are not the only two scenarios we see.**

# Age

Ages of People Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire,  
Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

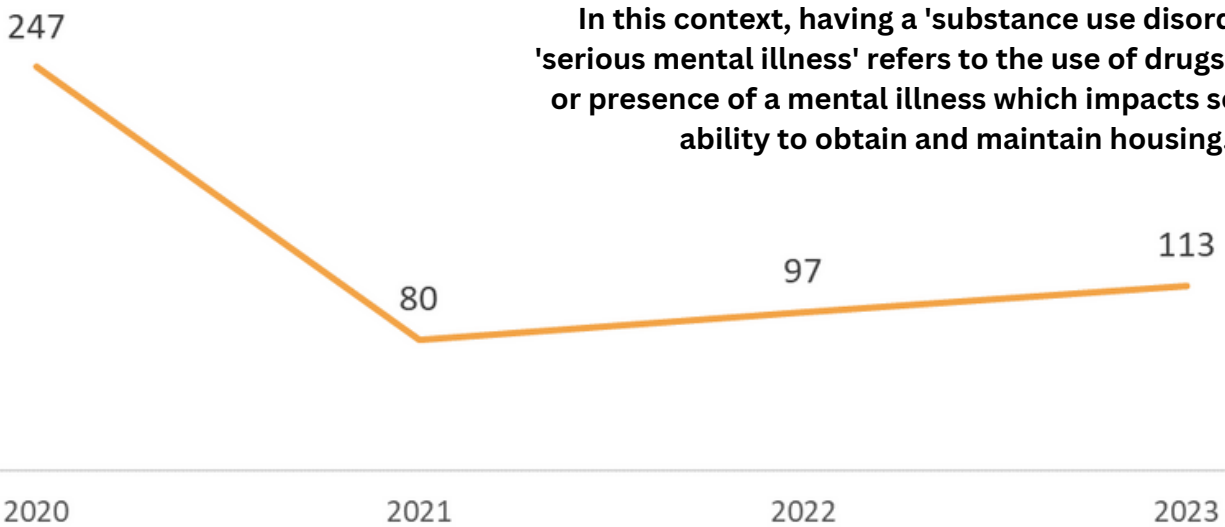




# Additional Populations

Adults with a Substance Use Disorder Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties

Jan 25th, 2023



Adults with a Serious Mental Illness Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties

Jan 25th, 2023



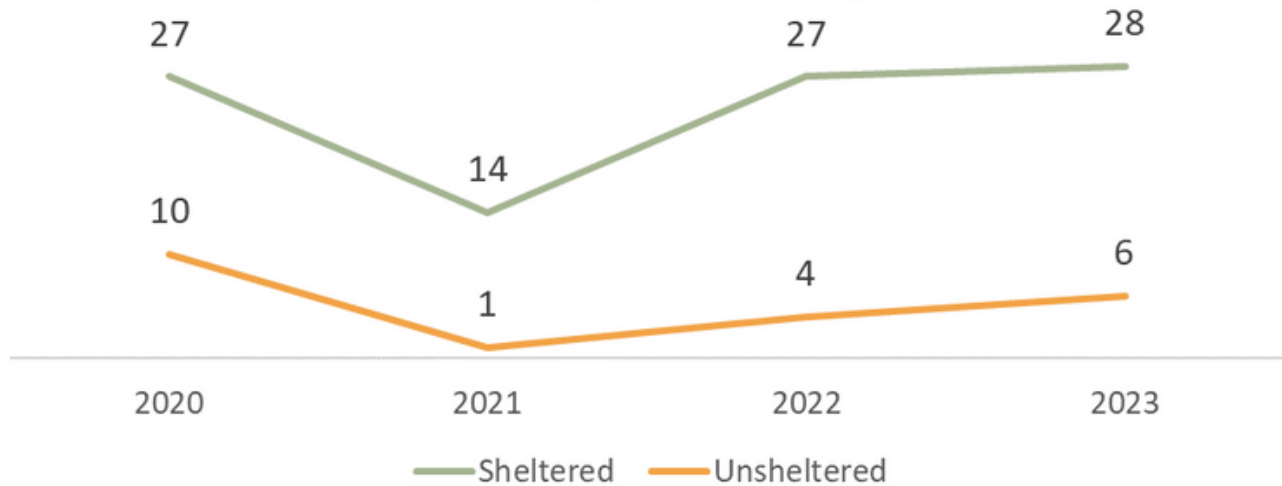
# Youth & Young Adults

## Adults

'Youth and Young Adults' refers to anyone between the ages of 18 through 24 years old.

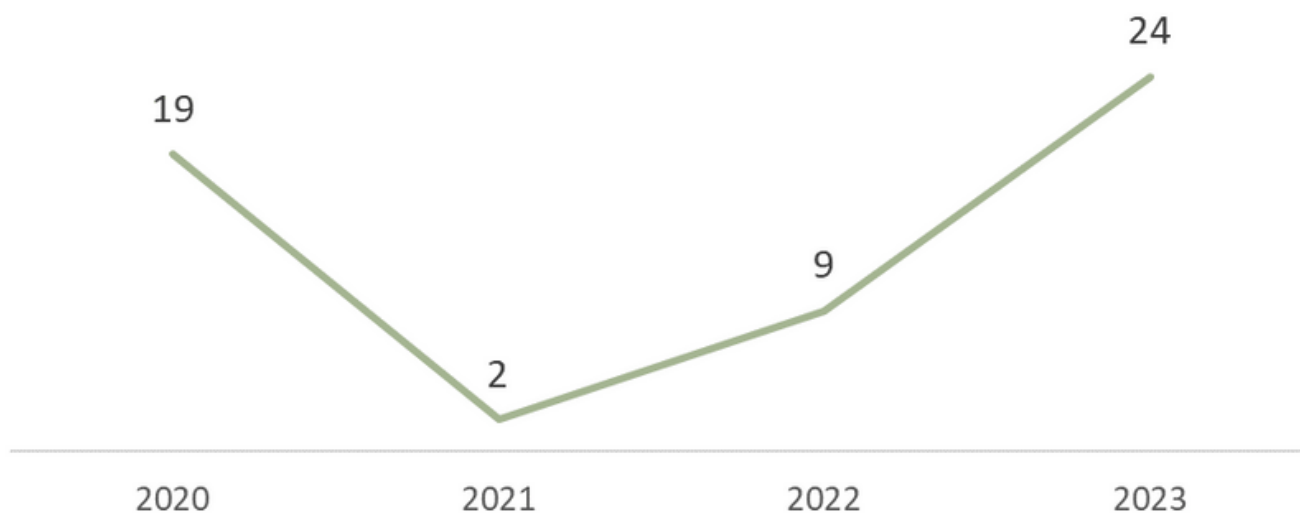
Unaccompanied Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



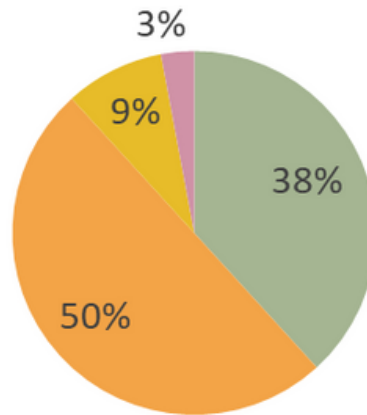
Persons in Young Adult Families Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



# Gender

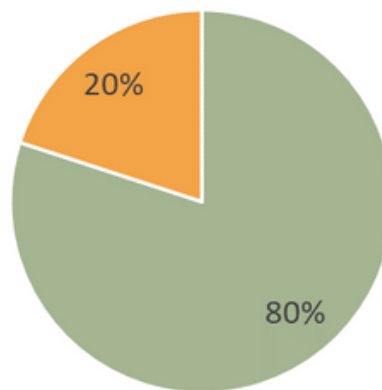
Gender of Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



Individuals	
Female	10
Male	13
Non-binary	<10
Transgender	<10
Questioning	0

■ Female ■ Male ■ Non-binary ■ Transgender ■ Questioning

Gender of Young Adult Parents Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

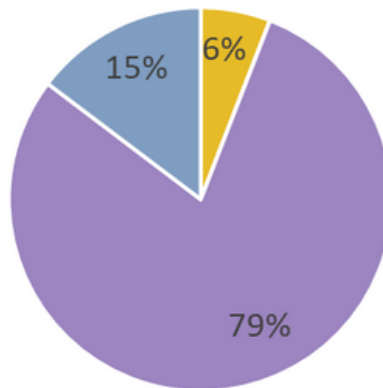


■ Female ■ Male

Young Adult Parents	
Female	<10
Male	<10
Non-binary	0
Transgender	0
Questioning	0

# Race

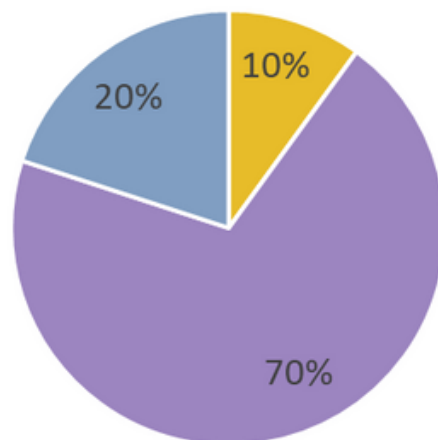
Race of Unaccompanied Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness  
in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



- American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Asian/Asian American
- Black/African American/African
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiple Races

Individuals	
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Asian/Asian American	0
Black/African American/African	<10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	27
Multiple Races	<10

Race of Parenting Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in  
Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

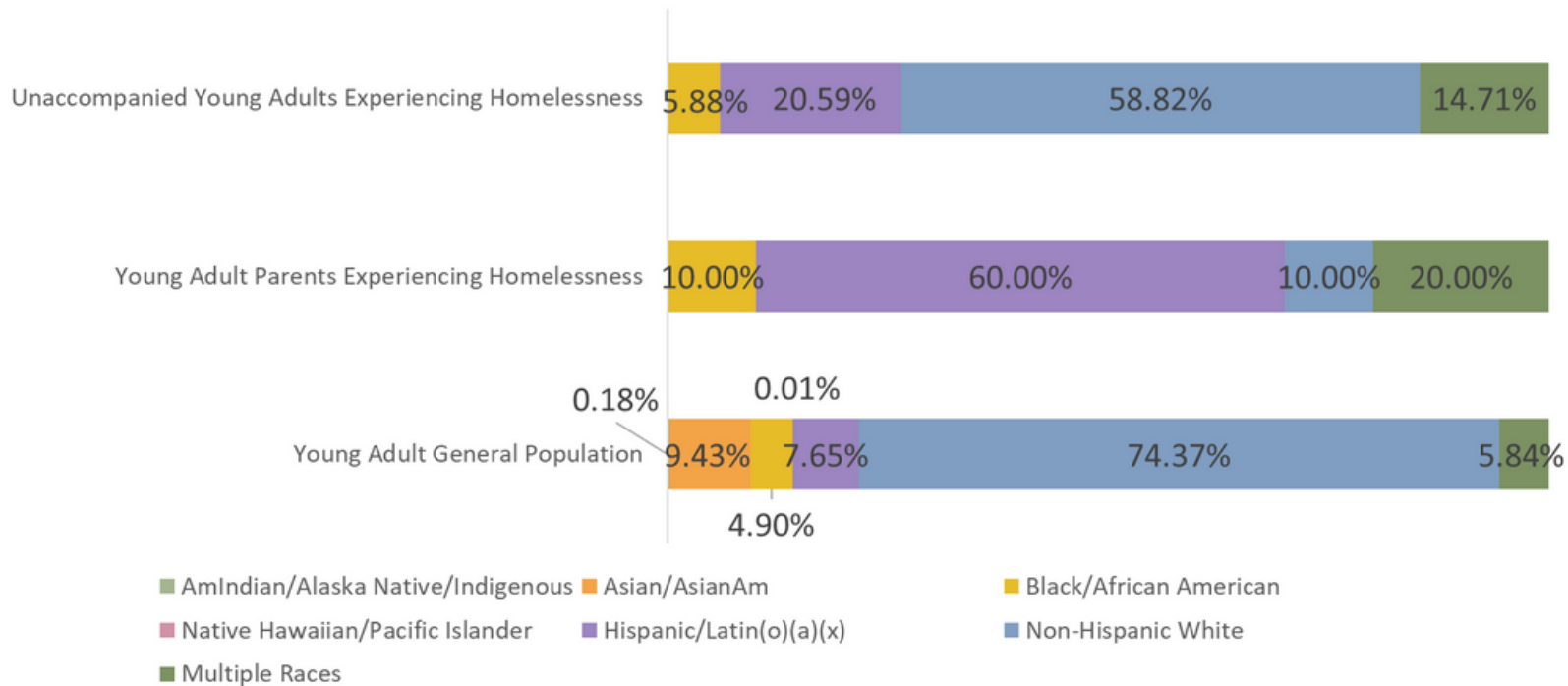


- American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Asian/Asian American
- Black/African American/African
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiple Races

Parenting Young Adults	
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Asian/Asian American	0
Black/African American/African	<10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	<10
Multiple Races	<10

# Disparities

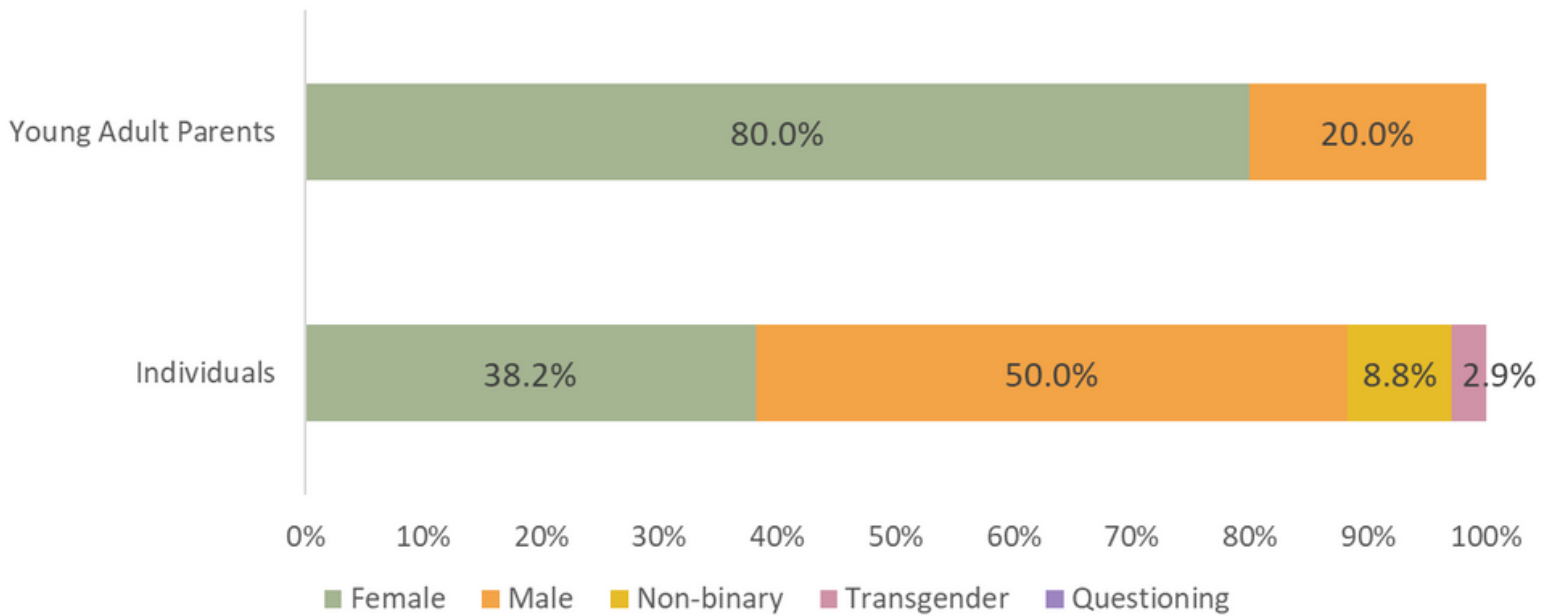
Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
by Race  
January 25th, 2023



We also see racial and ethnic disparities among subpopulations such as Young Adults as represented in this graph and the accompanying chart below. Particularly, Young Adults who identify as Hispanic or Latino/a/x are overrepresented when compared to the general population of 18–24-year-olds in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties- making up over 20% of unaccompanied young adults and 60% of young adult parents. Young adults of more than one race are also overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness, almost 15% of unaccompanied young adults and 20% of parenting young adults compared to almost 6% of the general population.

	AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	Asian/AsianAm	Black/African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latin (o)(a)(x)	Non-Hispanic White	Multiple Races
Young Adult General Population	0.18%	9.43%	4.90%	0.01%	7.65%	74.37%	5.84%
Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness	0.00%	0.00%	6.82%	0.00%	29.55%	45.45%	15.91%
Young Adult Parents Experiencing Homelessness	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	60.00%	10.00%	20.00%
Unaccompanied Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	0.00%	20.59%	58.82%	14.71%

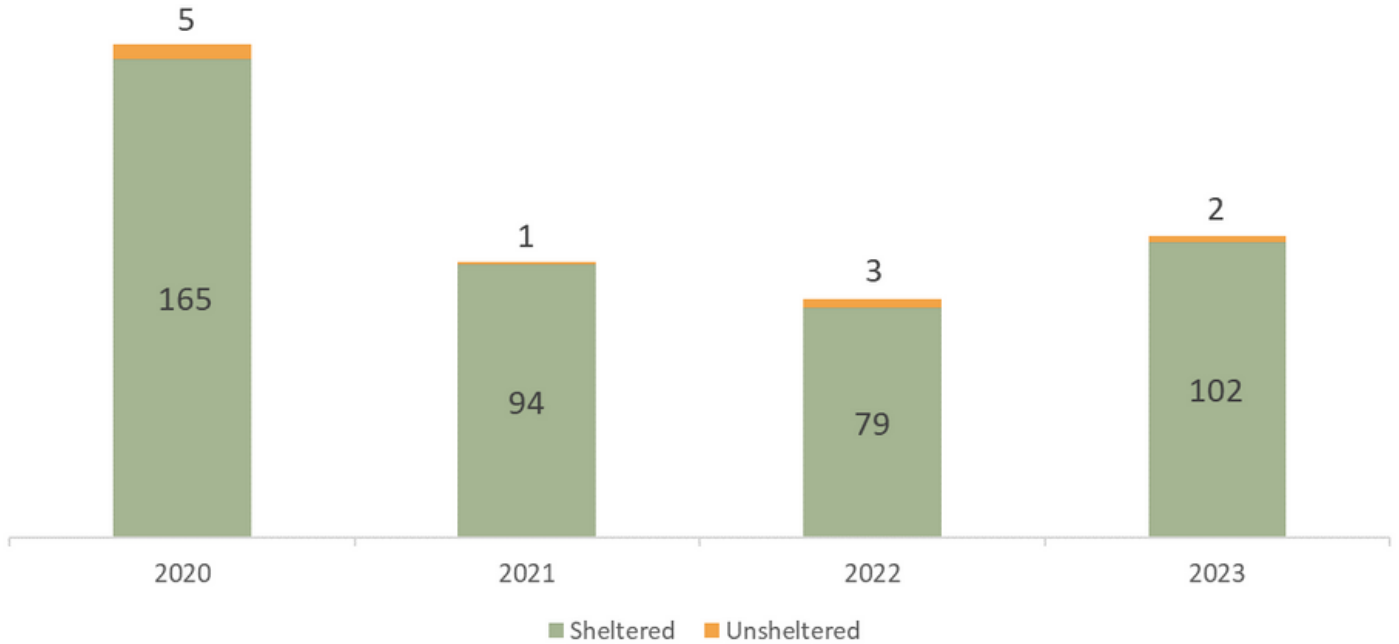
Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness by Gender in Berkshire,  
Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



**In addition to racial and ethnic disparities, although the graph above does not contain the gender breakdown for 18-24 year olds, young adult parents are 80% female compared to almost 40% of unaccompanied young adults, and the general population (age aside) is close to 50/50 male and female. We can also see that Unaccompanied/Individual young adults have a greater representation of those who identify as Non-Binary (8.8%) or Transgender (2.9%) than the total population experiencing homelessness (0.70%) or parenting young adults (0%).**

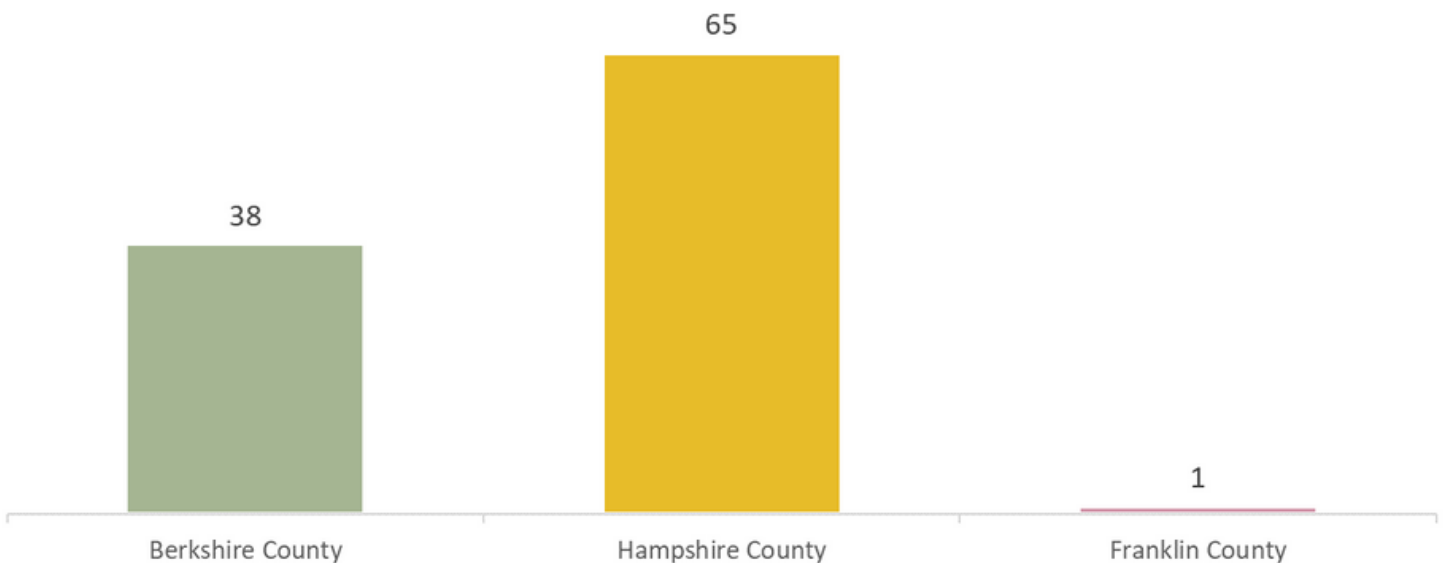
# Veterans

Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020-2023 PIT Count Trend



**After a sharp decline in veterans experiencing homelessness when the COVID-19 pandemic began and VA programs expanded eligibility, we are now seeing an increase in veteran homelessness, although not up to 2020 levels. Veteran service providers have worked hard to house large numbers of veterans in past years and the increase is likely at least partially due to the end of some COVID-19 expansions or programs.**

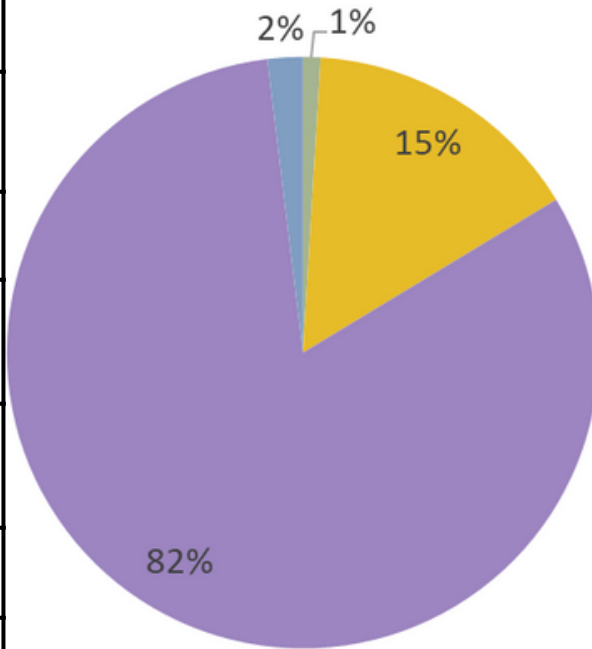
Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
Jan 25th, 2023



# Race & Ethnicity

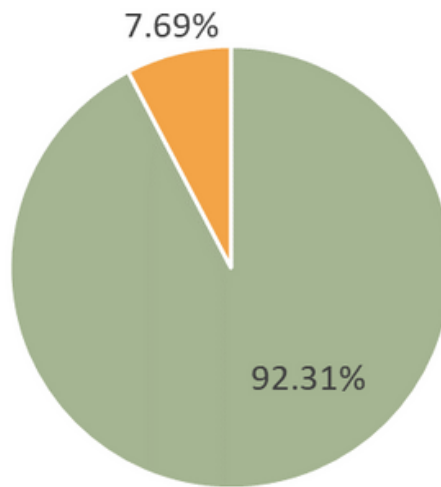
Race of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
Jan 25th, 2023

Veterans	
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	<10
Asian/Asian American	0
Black/African American/African	16
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	85
Multiple Races	<10



- American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Asian/Asian American
- Black/African American/African
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiple Races

Ethnicity of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
Jan 25th, 2023



Veterans	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	96
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	<10

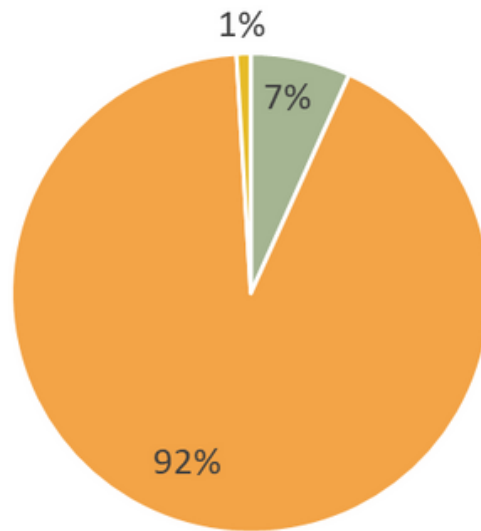
- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)
- Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)



# Gender & Chronic Homelessness

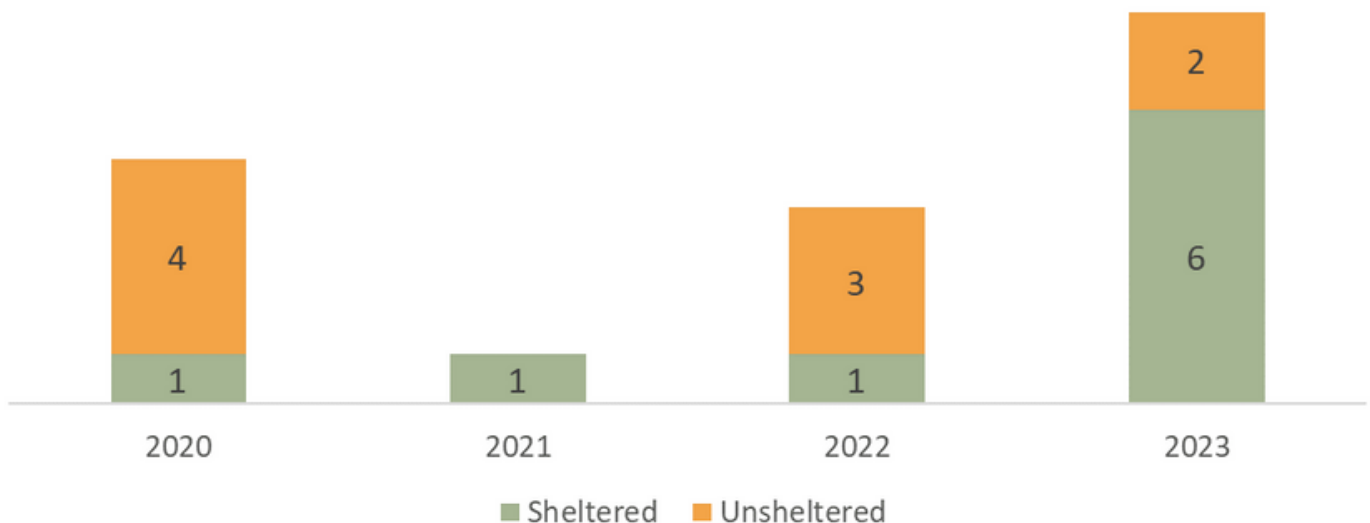
Gender of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
Jan 25th, 2023

Veterans	
Female	<10
Male	96
Transgender	<10



■ Female ■ Male ■ Transgender

Veterans Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
2020 - 2023 PIT Count Trend



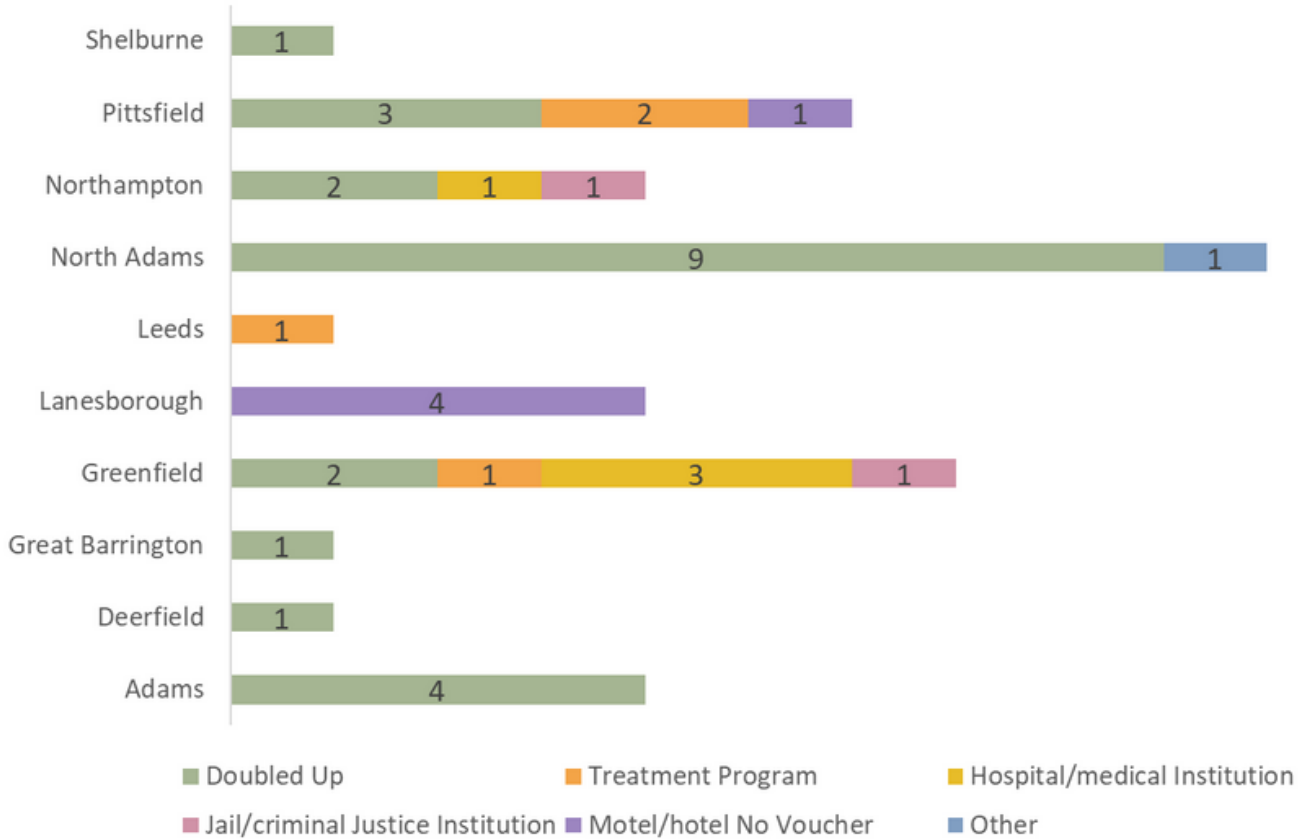
# 'Unofficial' Count

For the 'official' Point in Time count report which we submit to HUD every year, we can only include people who are experiencing homelessness under HUD's definition. The 'official' Point in Time count **excludes** anyone who is couch surfing or staying with family/friends temporarily, anyone living in a hotel or motel they are paying for out of pocket, and anyone temporarily in an institution of any kind without a place to stay otherwise.

We know that people are experiencing homelessness even if they are not in one of the specific situations HUD considers to be an experience of homelessness, so we try to get a sense of how many people are experiencing homelessness in the ways listed above through what we call the 'unofficial' count. Unless specified, the numbers and charts in the sections above do not include everyone who did not meet the HUD definition of homelessness on the night of the count, January 25th 2023.

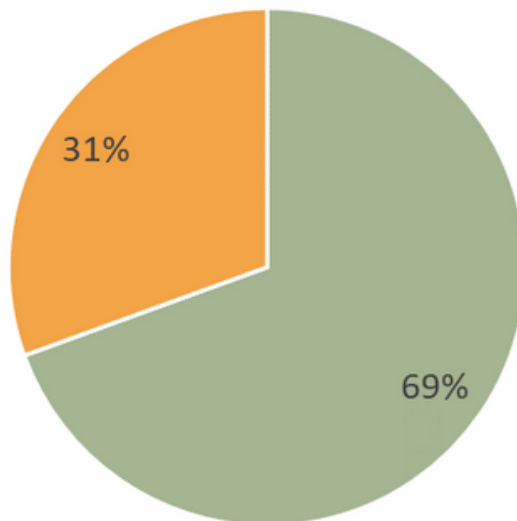
**On January 25th, 2023 there were at least 39 people experiencing homelessness across Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties either through couch surfing, living in a hotel or motel, or who were temporarily in an institution without a place to go when they leave. This is in addition to the 622 people experiencing homelessness through staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program or who are sleeping rough, in an encampment, on the street, or in a vehicle.**

# Town Count & Gender



Persons Experiencing Homelessness Other Than Through HUD Definitions by Gender in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023

Gender	
Male	25
Female	11

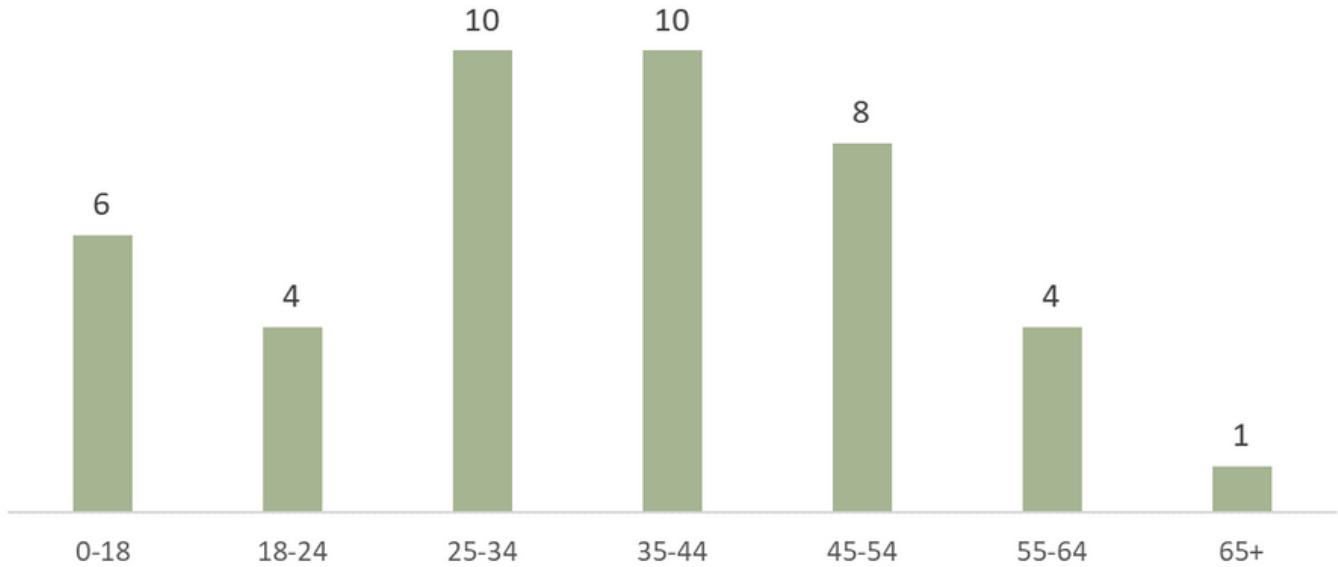


■ Male ■ Female

# Age & Household Type

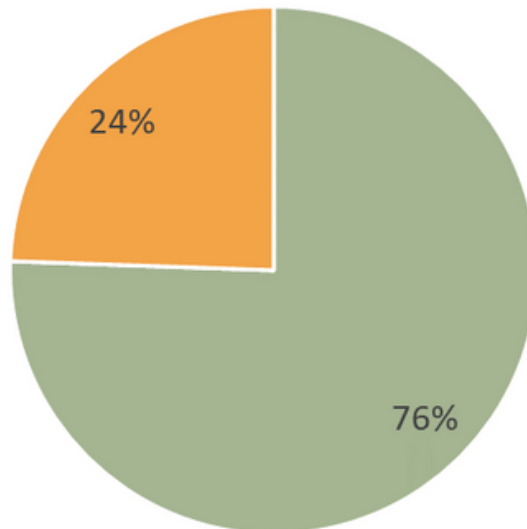
Persons Experiencing Homelessness Other Than Through HUD Definitions by Age in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023



Persons Experiencing Homelessness Other Than Through HUD Definitions by Household Type in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023



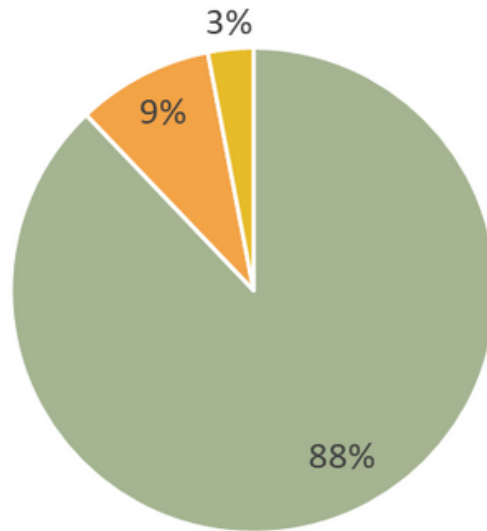
Household Type	
Individuals	34
Persons in families with children	11

■ Individuals    ■ Persons in families with children

# Race & Ethnicity

Persons Experiencing Homelessness Other Than Through HUD Definitions by Race in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023

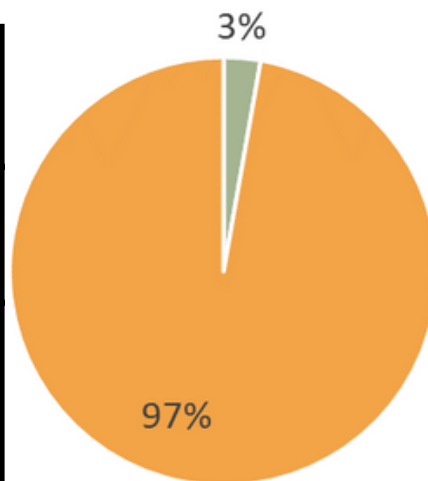


Race	
AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Asian/AsianAm	0
Black/AfricanAm/African	<10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	29
Multiple Races	<10

■ White ■ Black/African American/African ■ Multiple Races

Persons Experiencing Homelessness Other Than Through HUD Definitions by Ethnicity in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties

January 25th, 2023

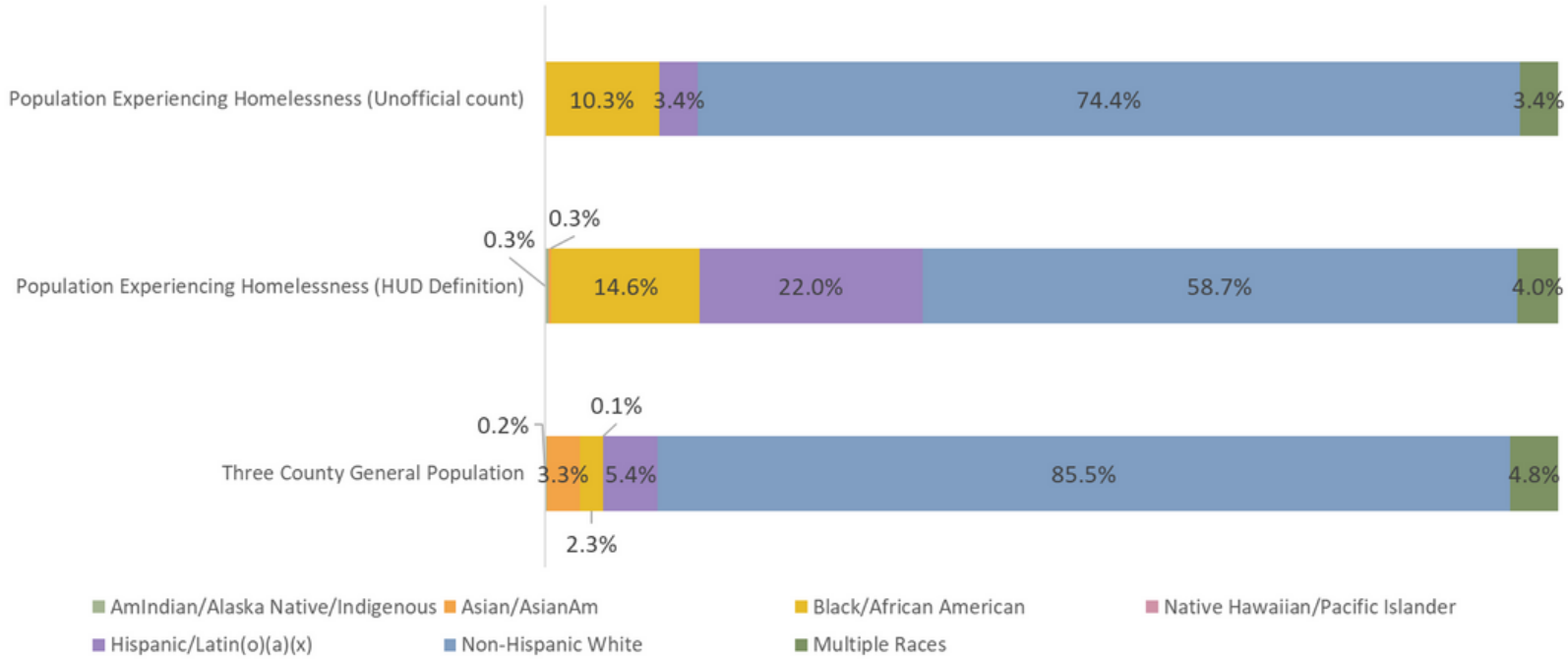


Ethnicity	
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	<10
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(o)(a)(x)	35

■ Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) ■ Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(o)(a)(x)

# Disparities

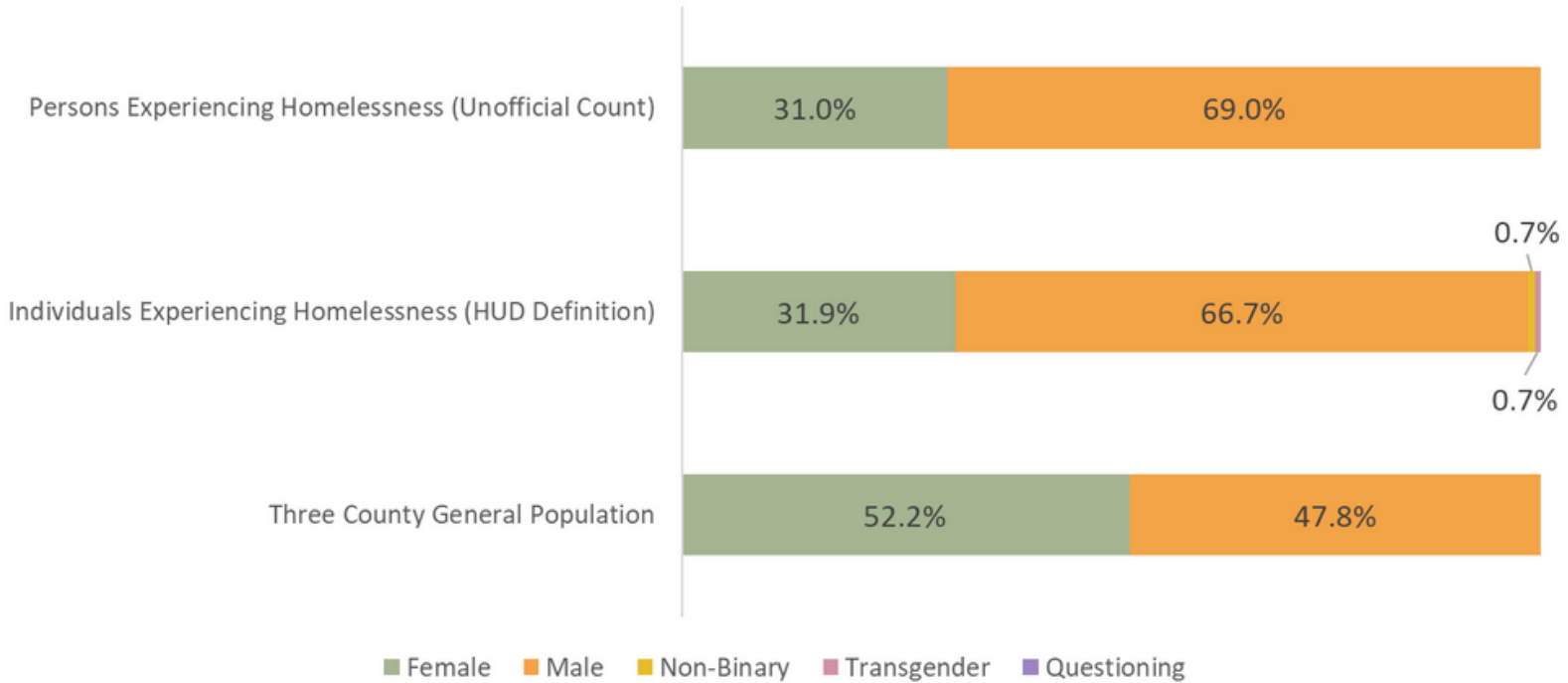
Disparities Among Who is Experiencing Homelessness by Race & Ethnicity in Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



	AmIndian/Alaska Native/Indigenous	Asian/AsianAm	Black/African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic /Latin(o) (a)(x)	Non-Hispanic White	Multiple Races
Three County General Population	0.2%	3.3%	2.3%	0.1%	5.4%	85.5%	4.8%
Population Experiencing Homelessness (HUD Definition)	0.3%	0.3%	14.6%	0.0%	22.0%	58.7%	4.0%
Population Experiencing Homelessness (Unofficial count)	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	0.0%	3.4%	74.4%	3.4%

# Disparities- Gender

Disparities Among Who is Experiencing Homelessness by Gender in  
Berkshire, Franklin, & Hampshire Counties  
January 25th, 2023



# Additional Populations

