

2024 Estimate of People Experiencing Homelessness in Chicago, IL

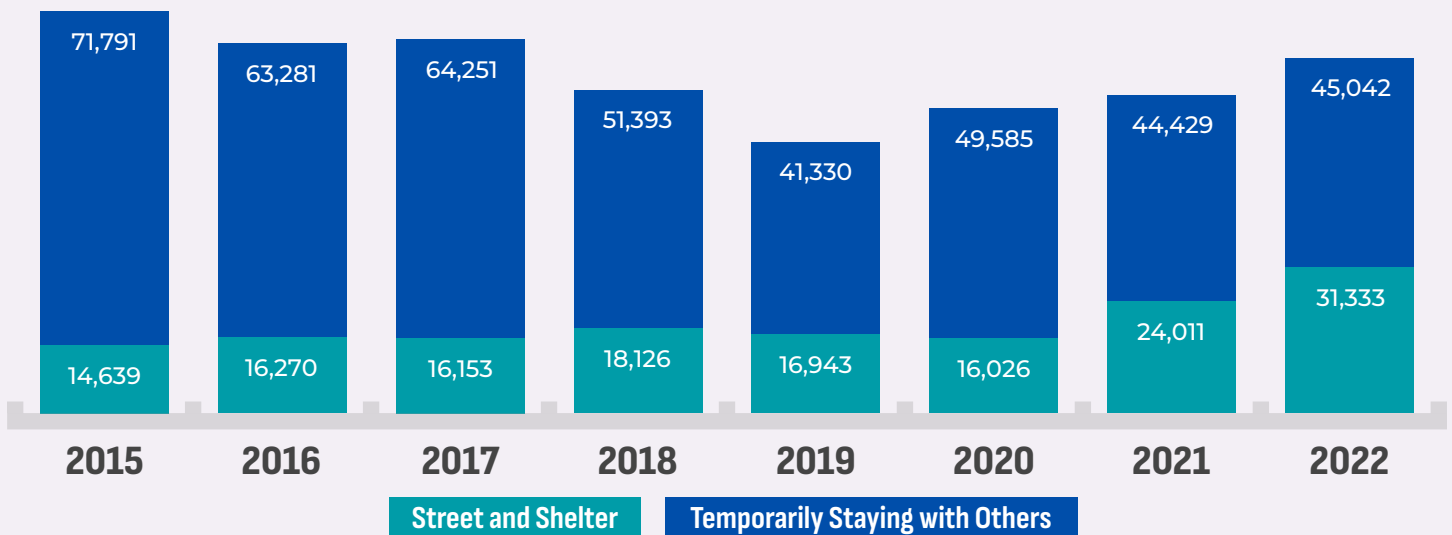
CHICAGO COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Reporting data 2015-2022

Since August 31, 2022, the City of Chicago has welcomed over 46,000 new arrivals from the southern border. Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness recognizes the pressing refugee crisis in Chicago, where many new Chicagoans find themselves without a place to call home. No matter when or how someone arrives in this city, all Chicagoans experiencing homelessness needing help should be able to get help. We firmly believe that sustainable solutions require adequate funding to support initiatives that provide shelter, resources, and assistance to those who are displaced from their homes. **Whether facing homelessness for two days, two months, or two years, all Chicagoans deserve a place to call home.**

City and Census data suggest roughly **76,375** Chicagoans experience homelessness in 2022. Today, another **5,501** new Chicagoans are seeking asylum and residing in temporary shelters.

HERE'S HOW WE GOT THERE: 31,333 people experienced street or shelter homelessness in 2022, 45,042 people experienced homelessness by doubling up (per an analysis of the U.S. Census American Community Survey) in 2022, and 5,501 new arrivals are currently residing in a migrant shelter. Refer to Methodology for more information.

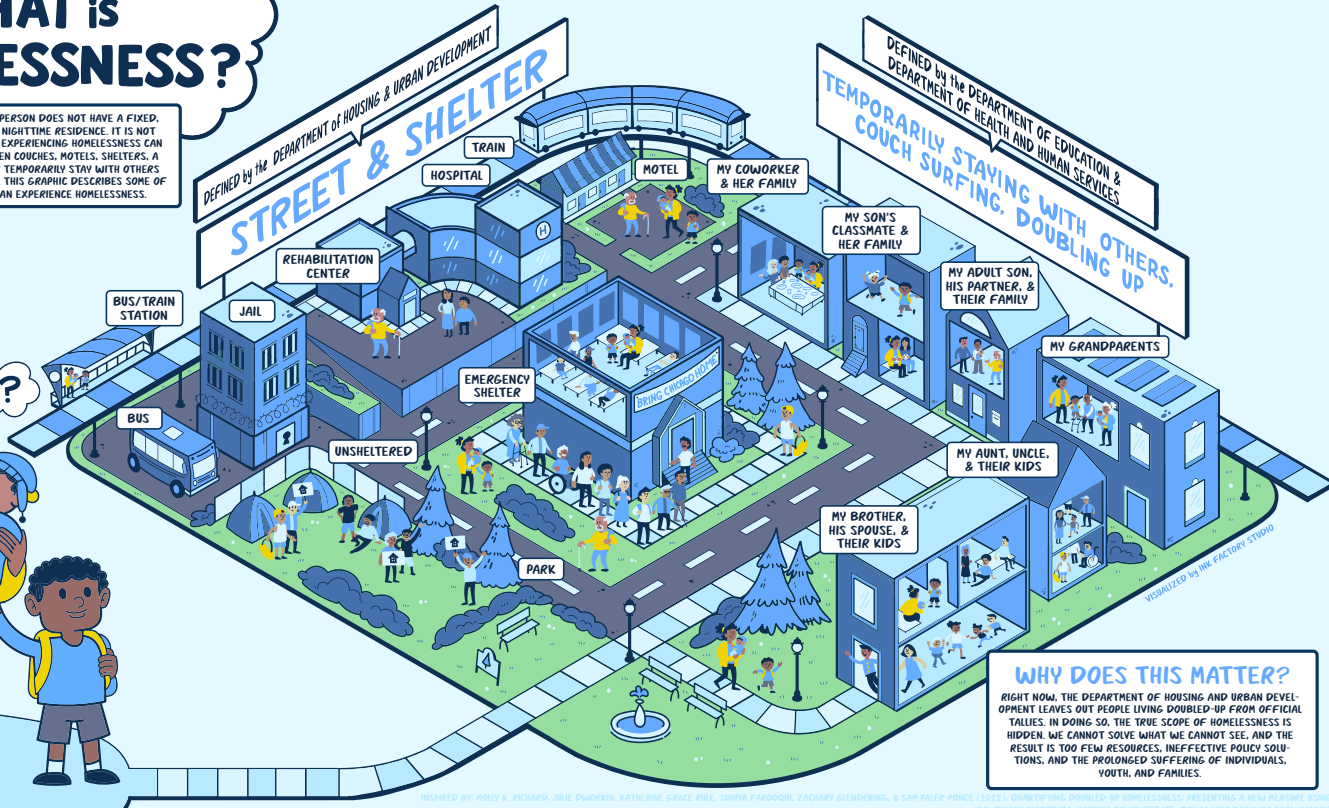


WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

HOMELESSNESS IS WHEN A PERSON DOES NOT HAVE A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE. IT IS NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL. PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS CAN MOVE FREQUENTLY BETWEEN COUCHES, MOTELS, SHELTERS, A CAR, OR THE STREET. MANY TEMPORARILY STAY WITH OTHERS DUE TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. THIS GRAPHIC DESCRIBES SOME OF THE WAYS ONE FAMILY CAN EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS.

DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
STREET & SHELTER

DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
TEMPORARILY STAYING WITH OTHERS, DOUBLING UP



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

RIGHT NOW, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT LEAVES OUT PEOPLE LIVING DOUBLED-UP FROM OFFICIAL TALLIES. IN DOING SO, THE TRUE SCOPE OF HOMELESSNESS IS HIDDEN. WE CANNOT SOLVE WHAT WE CANNOT SEE, AND THE RESULT IS TOO FEW RESOURCES, INEFFECTIVE POLICY SOLUTIONS, AND THE PROLONGED SUFFERING OF INDIVIDUALS, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

What is Homelessness?

Homelessness describes a situation where a person does not have a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence—but what is *fixed, regular, and adequate* depends on who you ask. Homelessness is not one-size-fits-all and there are many ways one person can experience it.

Someone may sleep in a shelter, on the street, at a train station, and double up with family or friends all in one week. All these living situations should be considered homeless.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a person as homeless when they do not have a permanent home and sleep in a shelter, on the street, or in other places that are not meant for living. This includes people fleeing domestic violence. With this definition, people that are doubling up cannot receive housing assistance from HUD. However, doubling-up is the way most people experience homelessness in Chicago.

The Department of Education affirms that doubling up

should be included in definitions of homelessness. The Department of Education knows that a student might be staying in a shelter, motel, car, or doubling up all in one week. This definition better reflects how most people experience homelessness in Chicago.

The Point-in-Time (PIT) method is the traditional way the Department of Housing and Urban Development counts people that are unhoused. The PIT counts how many people are sleeping on the street or in shelters on one cold January night every year. This method only counts people that are visible, and it does not include people doubling up. Point-in-Time counts are used to fund solutions to homelessness, but this method is only a snapshot of a very small population of people that are unhoused.

To understand the housing service needs of people experiencing homelessness, the City of Chicago, All Chicago, and the Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) use a variety of sources of data. These sources include the Point-in-Time count, annual records and demographics of people accessing services, and information directly from people with lived experience and their service providers.

For every **1 person reported as homeless** in the city Point-in-Time count, **10 more people accessed city homeless services**¹ in 2022.

Methodology

DOUBLED-UP DATA

To better understand how many people are doubling-up, Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness (CCH) created a new method. CCH worked with researchers from Vanderbilt University and the Social IMPACT Research Center of Heartland Alliance to create this new way of estimating homelessness. This method is published in the Housing Policy Debate journal and the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series dataset is open to anyone to view and use for their own research.

This estimate aims to not count the same person twice by removing duplicate entries whenever possible. Given the limits of all the data sources, there may still be some duplicates within the data. In 2022, CCH found that 5,545 people in HMIS used homeless services and stayed with friends or family at some point during the year. CCH removes this population from the street and shelter estimate, assuming that they would be captured in the doubled-up estimate.

Source: Molly K. Richard, Julie Dworkin, Katherine Grace Rule, Suniya Farooqui, Zachary Glendening, & Sam [Paler-Ponce] (2022), Quantifying Doubled-Up Homelessness: Presenting a New Measure Using U.S. Census Microdata, Housing Policy Debate, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2021.1981976

WHO IS INCLUDED IN HMIS DATA?

To count people experiencing street and shelter homelessness throughout the year, CCH asked for a count of everyone who accesses certain types of services recorded in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The HMIS data includes all people served, anytime during the specified time period, by one or more of the project types: Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing, and Coordinated Entry. In addition, if a person can be identified as having lived doubled up in the past year, that person is excluded from the HMIS data. While this report refers to all HMIS data as “streets and shelter homeless”, some people enrolled in the Transitional Housing and Coordinated Entry project types meet other categories of homelessness, if those people were unable to be excluded from the HMIS data.² The data also excludes people who were served exclusively by enrollment in a Rapid Rehousing program. Although temporary, Rapid Rehousing programs are

considered permanent housing by HUD and by the Chicago Continuum of Care.

These estimates do not include people who are experiencing street-based homelessness but have not used homeless services. It also does not include people who are homeless but may not want anyone to know, like those who do sex work and cannot safely report their income. This does not include people who were in jail the entire year and were experiencing homelessness before they entered the carceral system. Finally, people who were in healthcare institutions the entire year are also not included.

Source: Chicago Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), All Chicago Making Homelessness History. All Chicago was not involved in the data analysis included in this report, and the conclusions in this report do not represent the views of All Chicago.

NEW ARRIVALS DATA

To estimate new arrivals that are now under the care of the City of Chicago, CCH asked the Department of Family and Support Services for an unduplicated and de-identified line list of new arrivals to Chicago. Tracking mechanisms have been challenging and have evolved over time. Some shelters that have closed during the requested timeframe are consequently not included in this data. These households, many of which were families, were transferred to state-funded hotels.

Definition of Homelessness

WHO IS CONSIDERED STREET AND SHELTER HOMELESS?

The term “literal homeless” as defined by HUD includes the following conditions:

- an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- an individual who has a primary residence that is—
 - › a shelter providing temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
 - › a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Or, an individual residing in an institution (such as a hospital or jail) for 90 days or less if that individual met the other elements of this definition prior to entering that institution.

¹ Please see the *Who is included in HMIS data?* section below for a full definition of *people accessed city homeless services*.

² HUD defines 4 categories of homelessness, https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

While the majority of people included in the HMIS data meet the definition of literal homelessness, some people meet other HUD definitions of homelessness.

WHO IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS BY TEMPORARILY STAYING WITH OTHERS?

This analysis defines poor individuals and families in poor households as “temporarily staying with others” when they fall outside of the conventional household composition and cannot afford to live in housing of their own or formally contribute to housing costs. For the purposes of this estimate, individuals who meet the following conditions are considered homeless:

- Adult children and children-in-law of the household head who have children of their own, are married, or are single but live in an overcrowded (more than two people per bedroom) situation.
- Minor and adult grandchildren of the household head, excluding:
 - › Minor grandchildren of the household head when the household head claims responsibility for their needs.
 - › Minor grandchildren whose single parent is living at home and is under 18 (i.e., children of teenage dependents).
- Other relatives of the household head:
 - › Parents/parents-in-law, siblings/siblings-in-law, cousins, aunts/uncles, and other unspecified relatives of the household head who are under the age of 65, excluding:
 - › Minor siblings of the household head when the minor’s parent is not present (so the household head may assume responsibility for minor siblings).
 - › Single and childless adult siblings of the household head, when the household head is also single with no children—resembling a roommate situation.
 - › Parents/parents-in-law, siblings/siblings-in-law, cousins, aunts/uncles, and other unspecified relatives of the household head who are over age 65 and in an overcrowded situation.
- Non-relatives of the household head such as friends, visitors, and “other” non-relatives, excluding:
 - Roommates/housemates, roomers/boarders, and unmarried partners or their children.



TOTAL	TEMPORARILY STAYING WITH OTHERS		STREET AND SHELTER	
76,375	45,042	YEAR CHANGE +613	31,333	YEAR CHANGE +7,322

AGE

AGES 0 – 4**	6,916	3,713	-1,294	3,203	+886
AGES 5 – 13	10,300	6,730	+1,085	3,570	+1,043
AGES 14 – 17**	3,522	2,465	+374	1,057	+305
AGES 18 – 24	9,567	9,567	-2,502	23,503	+4,315
AGE 25 AND OLDER	22,567	22,567	+2,950		

RACE

BLACK, AFRICAN AMERICAN	41,858	21,292	+1,150	20,566	+4,374
WHITE	12,236	7,485	+2,212	4,751	+1,418
ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER	2,100**	1,705**	-446	395	+189
AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE	481**	26**	-1,428	455	+173
OTHER/MULTI-RACIAL	14,563**	14,534**	-875	29	+8
UNKNOWN RACE	5,137	n/a	n/a	5,137	+1,160

ETHNICITY

NON-HISPANIC NON-LATINO/A/X	52,247	29,102	+2,773	23,145	+4,820
HISPANIC LATINO/A/X	19,230	15,940	-2,160	3,290	+1,420
UNKNOWN ETHNICITY	4,898	n/a	n/a	4,898	+1,082

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT DATA (2021-22)

MCKINNEY-VENTO ENROLLMENT	17,773	16,036	1,453
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** indicates this total should be used with caution (coefficient of variation ≥ 30).

Sources: *Street and Shelter Data:* Chicago Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), All Chicago Making Homelessness History. All Chicago was not involved in the data analysis included in this report, and the conclusions in this report do not represent the views of All Chicago. *Temporarily Staying with Others Data:* Extracted from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series. Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 10.0 [dataset]. *Methodological Source:* Richard, M.K., Dworkin, J., Rule, K.G., Farooqui, S., Glendening, Z., & [Paler-Ponce], S. *Quantifying Doubled-Up Homelessness: Presenting a New Measure Using U.S. Census Microdata.* Housing Policy Debate.



About this project

Doubling up is the way that most people—particularly families with children—experience homelessness. The traditional “Point-in-Time” method for enumerating homelessness tallies those experiencing street and shelter homelessness on a designated night of the year, but it fails to account for those temporarily staying with others. Point-in-Time methodology dramatically undercounts homelessness and, worse, points to the wrong policy solutions.

To better understand the scope of homelessness and advocate for the resources most appropriate to your community, researchers at Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness, Vanderbilt University, and the Heartland Alliance Social IMPACT Research Center developed a model to estimate people experiencing homelessness by doubling-up. Our hope is that with a better understanding of the scope of the problem, local groups can advocate for the resources to address all forms of homelessness and work collectively to broaden the federal definition of homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE

TEMPORARILY STAYING WITH OTHERS	
COUPLED PARENT	535
CHILD OF COUPLED PARENTS	2,801
SINGLE PARENT	6,882
CHILD OF SINGLE PARENT	12,910
ADULTS ONLY	1,404
SINGLE ADULT	14,671
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH	5,839
STREET AND SHELTER	
ADULT HOH (25+, FAMILY)	8,679
YOUTH HOH (UNDER 25, FAMILY)	2,012
ADULTS ONLY	434
SINGLE ADULT (25 AND OVER)	16,288
SINGLE YOUTH (UNDER 25)	1,915
UNKNOWN FAMILY TYPE	2,005

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Suggested citation: Samuel Paler-Ponce (July 2024). *Estimate of People Experiencing Homelessness in Chicago, IL* (2023). Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness. Available at www.chicagohomeless.org/estimate.