

2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Youth Count of People Experiencing Homelessness in Philadelphia

The PIT Count is an annual measurement required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for nationwide data gathering purposes. HUD requires specific methodology for the count so that nationwide data collection is consistent. The count is a snapshot in time performed in a distinct manner using HUD's definition of homelessness and one of many data points communities use to measure homelessness.

Every year, Philadelphia, with the support of hundreds of volunteers, conducts a PIT Count of all persons experiencing homelessness on the streets, in shelter, and in other temporary housing. The encompassing goal of the count is to provide the most precise estimate of the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the city of Philadelphia. Given the all-inclusive nature of the count, the results are used extensively on both the local and national levels to inform vital budget and planning decisions and to advocate for more resources.

The PIT Count is planned for and executed by the Office of Homeless Services (OHS), the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services, Project HOME, Valley Youth House, and the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center. This year's PIT Count began at 10:30 p.m. on the night of January 22 and concluded at 7 p.m. on the evening of January 23. This year's count included hundreds of volunteers, many of which were adults and youth with lived experiences with homelessness. In addition, city officials, city employees, homeless service providers, and homeless advocates gathered to perform the count throughout the city of Philadelphia.

"We can and do measure homelessness in a variety of ways. The PIT Count is one tool in our overall measurements toolbox. It, along with other data, helps us develop an even more nuanced, holistic, and comprehensive view of homelessness in Philadelphia," said OHS Director Liz Hersh.

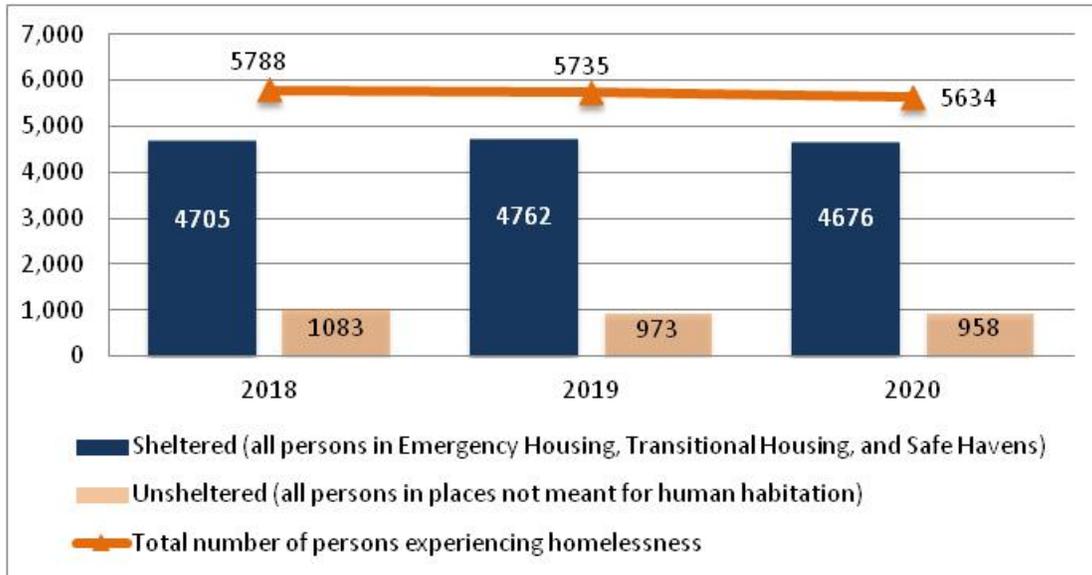
2020 Philadelphia PIT Count Results: Philadelphia shows a continuous reduction in the growth of street homelessness

The final tallies for the 2020 PIT Count indicate that Philadelphia's street homelessness decreased from 2019. The 2020 street count of 958 unsheltered persons, which does not include cafes, is a 2 percent decrease from last year's count.

Of the 958 unsheltered persons reported, volunteers counted 117 youth age 24 and under.

The 2020 PIT Count had a 6 percent decrease in the number of Veteran Households counted. This decrease is the result of the successful implementation of one new

Permanent Supportive Housing program and two new Rapid Rehousing programs designed for veterans experiencing homelessness.



“While the Point-in-Time Count is just one of many ways we measure homelessness, these numbers show that despite unprecedented pressures across the nation — a widening gap between rich and poor, a lack of affordable housing, the opioid crisis, and America’s 30-year homelessness crisis — Philadelphia is ahead of the curve developing compassionate, effective solutions.”

“We need to slow the train before we can eventually stop it,” Hersh added, “and the momentum right now is in our favor. It is critical that we continue to do everything we can to keep progress going. The fact that, despite all the work going on, we’re still seeing even small increases in our totals shows the inordinate amount of pressure our partners and our neighborhoods are under.”

The Office of Homeless Services submitted final tallies along with other reports to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in late June. National results will be posted on [HUD’s website](#).