

Each person is a branch of strength within the community.

Strong branches make a strong community!

**2023 Summit County
Homelessness Report**



**Summit County
Continuum of Care**

2024 STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness increased 12% across the US from 2022 to 2023 and is also increasing locally in Summit County. Below is a summary of some of the key data from this year's Homelessness Report:

- According to the Point in Time (PIT) Count, **690 people** were experiencing homelessness in Summit County on January 22, 2024, a **56% increase** since the 2022 PIT Count. The growth in homelessness reflects the challenge individuals are facing in making ends meet given the increased costs of housing and the expiration of pandemic-related benefits and housing support.
- **Unsheltered homelessness is higher than observed at any time during the last decade.** The number of individuals who were unsheltered, living in encampments, abandoned buildings or their cars, **increased by nearly 300%** from the 2022 to 2024 PIT Count whereas sheltered homelessness increased by 24% during the same period. As the overall number of individuals who are homeless increases, there has not been a corresponding increase in shelter bed capacity, driving the increase in unsheltered homelessness.
- In 2023, **over 6,700** individuals experiencing homelessness or severe housing instability were served by one or more SCCoC funded programs. Detailed data on these individuals is included in this report.
- Efforts to redesign the central intake process to increase racial equity are showing positive results. There was a **9% increase in successful referrals** for clients identifying as Black/Brown in 2023 compared to 2022. In 2023, 65% of clients in Centralized Intake identified as Black/Brown and represented 67% of successful referrals.

2023 SCCoC HIGHLIGHTS

EXPANSION OF TEMPORARY SHELTER CAPACITY DURING EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER

The Summit County CoC continues to lead efforts to ensure that anyone in need of shelter can access it during extremely cold weather. During the 2023-2024 winter, the Emergency Overnight Shelter provided 714 bed nights over 12 days of operation to individuals experiencing homelessness. We sheltered a record 81 individuals on a single night. It is a partnership with Community Support Services and Peter Maurin Center that accommodates individuals regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, justice involvement, as well as those with medical, psychiatric, or addiction-related service needs.

TARGETED REFERRAL AND HOUSING PLACEMENT USING HOUSING VOUCHERS

The SCCoC continued to partner with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority in 2023 to effectively utilize housing vouchers (ongoing income-based housing subsidies) to assist households with a history of multiple episodes of homelessness. During 2023, AMHA and SCCoC worked to secure 105 additional vouchers including 30 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, 50 Mainstream Vouchers, and 25 New Incremental vouchers.

2023 SCCoC HIGHLIGHTS

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES

The SCCoC worked closely with grassroots organizations to form the Akron Coalition for the Homeless, a collaboration focused on partnering to address gaps within the existing system for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Collaboration included the following:

- Connecting individuals living in the former The Word Church to services prior to its demolition.
- Partnering with Akron Police Department to ensure that homelessness is not criminalized.
- Coordinating additional outreach to support formerly unsheltered individuals once they have secured permanent housing.

HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Housing is a key social determinant of health. People experiencing homelessness have diabetes, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS at rates up to six times higher than the general population. The SCCoC has established Memoranda of Understanding with seven Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide them with information about their members who present as homeless in our system. Centralized Intake has received \$150,000 in funding from CareSource to resolve homelessness among their members with high health needs and Community Health Center launched New Genesis Health Homes, partially funded by the SCCoC and MCOs, to house homeless, medically fragile individuals.

RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVES

By integrating a focused racial equity lens, the SCCoC continues to identify systemic issues and disproportionate local effects of homelessness on minority households in collaboration with our Lived Experience members. In addition to monitoring improved access to services as a result of redesigning Central Intake, we did the following:

- In 2023, the SCCoC increased funding for newly developed programs led by Black/Brown organizations that directly serve Black/Brown persons experiencing homelessness by \$582,500.
- To ensure our leadership reflects the populations we serve, the SCCoC increased the diversity of the board of directors by 22%, bringing its total diversity to 42%.
- The SCCoC is developing a Racial Equity Committee as a part of our strategic plan.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION FOR SCCoC

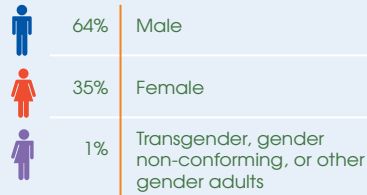
In August, the SCCoC held an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony for our new office at 23 South Main Street. Our new location places us in the center of downtown Akron and provides a more visible presence for our work. We received congratulatory proclamations from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, former Mayor Dan Horrigan and the City of Akron, and US Senator Sherrod Brown.



2023

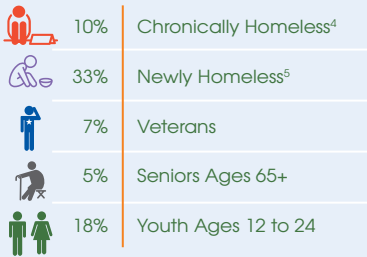
Profile of Homelessness in Summit County¹

PEOPLE SERVED²



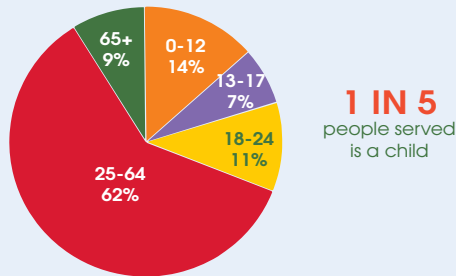
6,763 total people served

SPECIAL POPULATIONS³



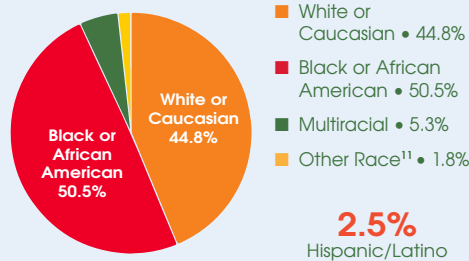
AGE

Total: 6,721

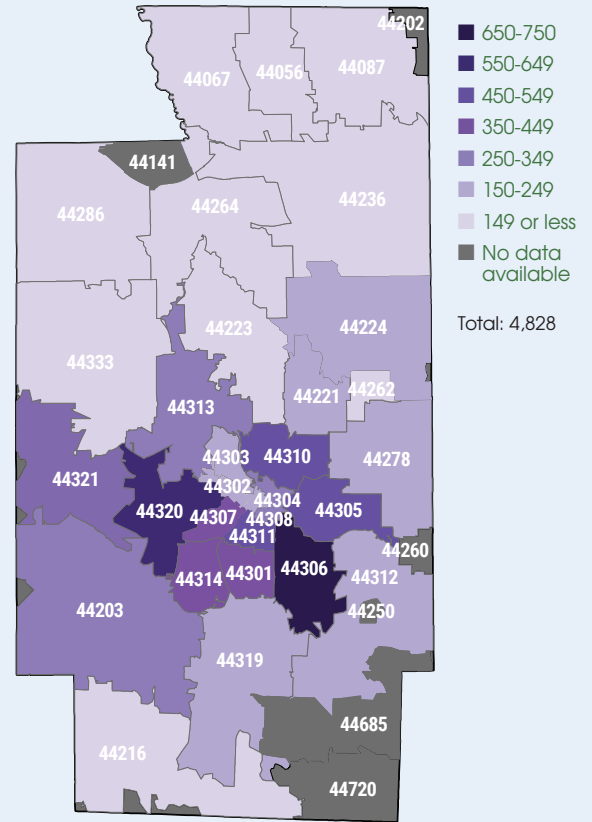


RACE AND ETHNICITY⁷

Total: 6,247



SUMMIT COUNTY HOMELESS BY ZIP CODE



LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS

Total: 6,055

70.3%	Akron	80% Summit County
3.8%	Barberton	
2%	Cuyahoga Falls	15% Out of County
1%	Tallmadge	
1.1%	Stow	
1.4%	Other Cities in Summit County	5% Out of State

KEY INDICATORS



1,917

persons assisted by the SCCoC exited to a permanent housing destination in 2023

92%

% of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2021 and remained housed for at least **six months**⁶

80%

% of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2021 remained housed for at least **two years**⁶

¹ This report was created based on data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) of Summit County on individuals who were homeless at some point during 2023, were previously homeless and continued to be served by a SCCoC program in 2023, or were at risk of homelessness and accessed homelessness prevention services in 2023. As a result of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, providers whose core mission is to serve victims of domestic violence are prohibited from entering client-level data in HMIS. Therefore, data from Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter are represented separately in the chart titled "Assistance Provided for Domestic Violence Victims."

² All totals and percentages of individuals represent all data collected, emitting individuals who did not have the data in HMIS.

³ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has identified special populations for focused attention. When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.

⁴ Chronically homeless describes a person with a disability who has one year of continuous homelessness (living in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation) or four episodes of homelessness over three years that total 12 months of homelessness.

⁵ Newly homeless is defined as someone who did not access Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Permanent Housing resources within 24 months before their entry during the reporting year.

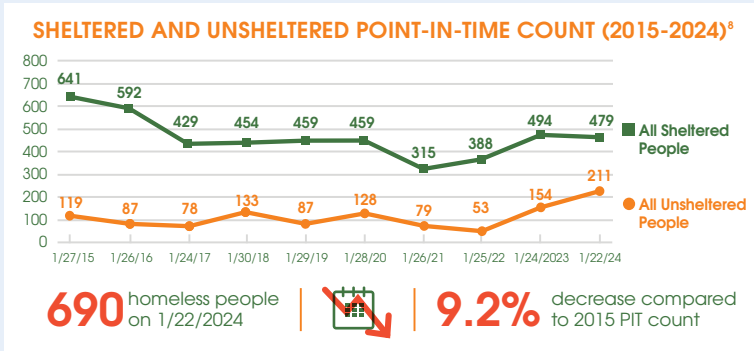
⁶ Source is System Performance Measures, an annual summary and year-to-year comparison of HMIS system-wide counts, averages, and medians related to seven areas of performance of homelessness response.

⁷ HUD Data Standards in 2023 included changes to the options for race and ethnicity and the ability to select multiple races and ethnicities for each individual entered in HMIS.

2023

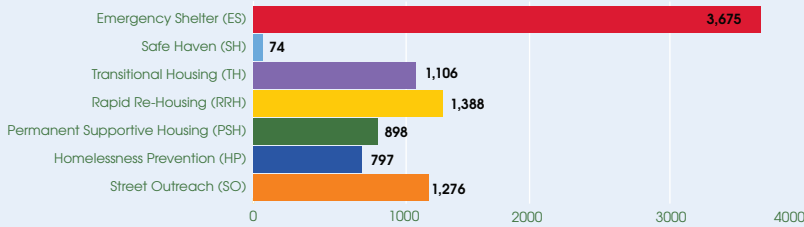
Profile of Homelessness in Summit County (continued)

POINT IN TIME COUNT

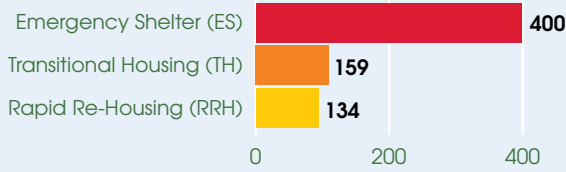


ASSISTANCE PROVIDED⁹

Total: 6,763

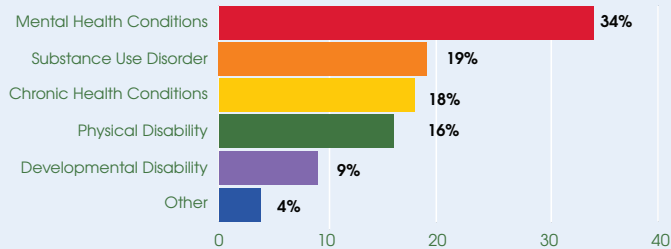


ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS¹⁰



HEALTH CONDITIONS⁹

Total: 4,959

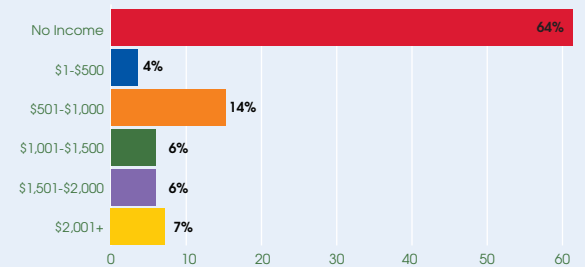


TOTAL BEDS BY HOUSING TYPE¹¹

Housing Type	Beds Dedicated for Domestic Violence Victims	All Other Beds	Total Beds
Emergency Shelter (ES) ¹²	105	298	403
Safe Haven (SH)	0	22	22
Transitional Housing (TH)	7	126	133
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	75	206	281
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	0	764	764
TOTAL BEDS⁹	187	1,416	1,603

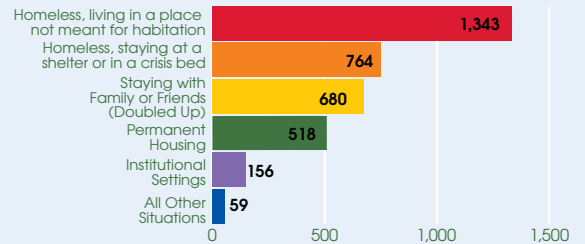
MONTHLY INCOME AT ENTRY

Total: 4,037



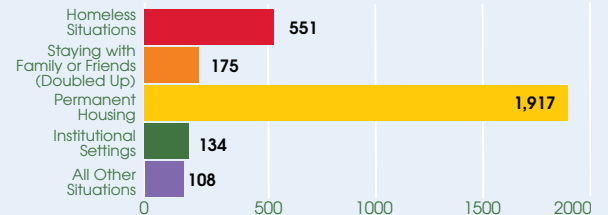
PRIOR LIVING SITUATION

Total: 3,520



EXIT DESTINATIONS

Total: 2,885



⁸ The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

⁹ When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.

¹⁰ Data in this chart was provided by Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter on individuals served in Summit County.

¹¹ The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is an annual point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness (and, for permanent housing projects, where homelessness occurs at entry, per the HUD homeless definition).

¹² Emergency Shelter bed count include temporary beds available during the count for cold weather.

2023

Much like minorities across the US, in Summit County Black or African American persons experience homelessness at higher rates than White persons. The history of slavery, segregation, and discriminatory policies such as redlining are all causes of higher rates of homelessness among African American persons.

The SCCoC is committed to ongoing data analysis of homelessness by race, sharing this data with the community, and taking actions to strengthen equity within our system.

2023

HUD defines youth as persons who are between 12 and 24 years old. Homeless youth are most likely to be staying with family or friends, which is often referred to as couch surfing as they frequently move from place to place.

Individuals who are couch surfing do not meet the federal definition of Category 1 Homeless and are not eligible for many SCCoC funded programs.

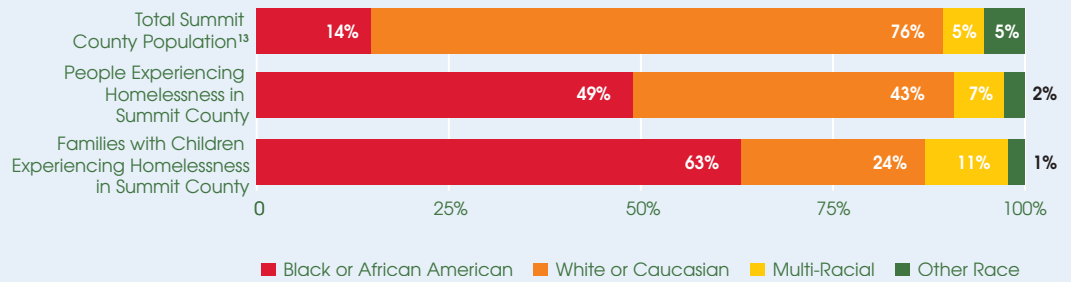
The SCCoC is working to increase awareness of youth homelessness and create specialized programs to assist this vulnerable population.

Homelessness by Race in Summit County⁷

49%
of all homeless individuals in Summit County are **Black or African American** compared to **14%** of overall Summit County population

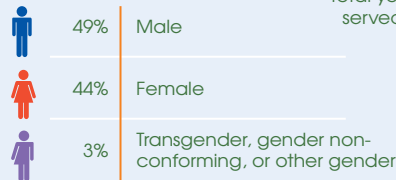
3 IN 5
homeless families in Summit County are **Black or African American**

SUMMIT COUNTY POPULATION AND HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE

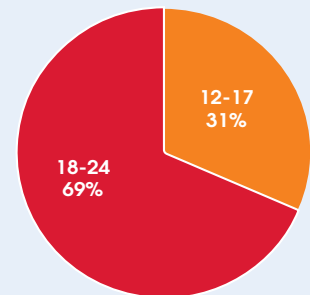


Youth Homelessness in Summit County

YOUTH BY GENDER



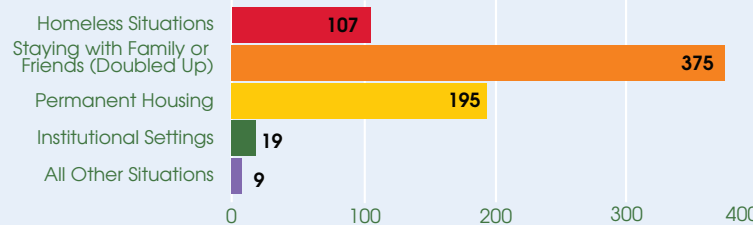
AGE



PARENTING YOUTH



PRIOR LIVING SITUATION



53%
of youth served were couch surfing at program entry compared to **19%** of overall homeless population

¹³ Source for Total Summit County Population is the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Survey (Table B03002).

¹⁴ Youth served statistics are based on data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) of Summit County on individuals who are 12 to 24 years old and were homeless at some point during 2023, were previously homeless and continued to be served by a SCCoC program in 2023, or were at risk of homelessness and accessed homelessness prevention services in 2023.

ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a group of youth and young adults (YYA) aged 24 and under, two-thirds of whom have experienced homelessness and/or housing insecurity. The YAB advocates for YYA experiencing homelessness through collaboration on youth-driven solutions that empower young people to exercise their rights.

YOUTH HOMELESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

In 2023, the SCCoC was one of sixteen communities that was awarded roughly 1.5 million dollars in HUD funding through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project! During the first year of funding, the SCCoC and its community partners led by the YAB designed a Coordinated Community Plan to outline how the funding will be used effectively and efficiently in the fight against youth homelessness. Key elements of the plan that came from youth input include:

- Creation of a 24/7 drop-in center that is a safe place for YYA to seek refuge while dealing with risk factors and challenges that cause homelessness.
- Increased emergency housing specifically for youth that are “safe spaces” and additional Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and housing through host homes.
- Provision of highly individualized, wraparound services designed to meet the immediate needs of homeless YYA and that can equip them with the tools they need to grow into healthy, independent adults.
- Peer Navigators embedded within the Centralized Intake System to facilitate greater youth engagement.
- Ensuring all providers are using best practices, marketing the youth Centralized Intake system, and engaging the YAB in the work to build a new, improved system.

These programs will provide expanded housing and supportive services to young adults 18-24 experiencing homelessness, particularly but not limited to young adults and young adult families who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community or fleeing violence, including trafficking and exploitation.

EXPANSION OF SERVICES FOR YOUTH

The SCCoC expanded its capacity to serve youth through two innovative new programs over the past year. The Opportunity Home program, operated by Harmony House and Hope & Healing, added 20 new beds for youth experiencing dating/domestic violence and homelessness. In addition, Harmony House opened an emergency overnight youth shelter, A Friend’s Place, to provide youth with a warm and dry place to sleep during extremely cold weather.

In addition, the Gay Community Endowment Fund awarded a \$20,000 impact grant to support the Bayard Rustin LGBTQ+ Resource Center, a program of the Akron AIDS Collaborative that provides comprehensive support services for LGBTQ+ people of color throughout Summit County. This is a key resource utilized by YYA who are experiencing homelessness.



SCCoC partners and the YAB visiting Star House in Columbus, Ohio as a part of our planning work





Summit County Continuum of Care

The Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC) has been operating since 1997. It is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, by providing funding to nonprofit housing providers, to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families.

The SCCoC currently collaborates with over 65 agencies in Summit County to combat homelessness. We fund 28 different housing programs that range from Transitional Housing and Safe Haven, to Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. Many of our programs are dedicated to serving veterans, youth, chronically homeless, severely mentally ill, people struggling with substance abuse, people with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence.

We are always looking to collaborate with more individuals and agencies who have a stake in homelessness. Our goal is to create more awareness, bring more resources into our community, and implement innovative ideas to help end homelessness in Summit County. For more information about the SCCoC, please visit our website, www.summitcoc.org

PARTNER AGENCIES

ACCESS Shelter	Forever R Children	Project Rise (Akron Public Schools)
Akron AIDS Collaborative	Freedom BLOC	Salvation Army
Akron Children's Hospital	GAR Foundation	Shelter Care
Akron Fire Department	Goodwill Industries	Snow Angels
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	Grace House Akron	South Street Ministries
Akron N.A.A.C.P.	Guys & Gals Community Partnership	Stark State College
Akron Police Department	Harmony House	Students With a Goal (S.W.A.G.)
Akron Summit Community Action	Haven of Rest	Summit County
Akron Urban League	Hope and Healing (Battered Women's Shelter)	Summit County ADM Board
Akron Youth Mentorship	Hope Farm	Summit County Children Services
CANAPI	Humility of Mary Housing	Summit County Department of Job and Family Services
City of Akron	I Promise School	Summit County Juvenile Court
City of Barberton	Jobs For Ohio Graduates (JOG)	Summit County Public Health
City of Cuyahoga Falls	Joanna House II	Summit DD
Coleman Health Services	Legacy III	Summit Education Initiative
Community Health Center	Love Akron	Tarry House
Community Legal Aid	Mustard Seed Development Corporation	The Homeless Charity
Community Support Services	NISRE (The EXIT Program)	Tow Path Trail High School
Downtown Akron Partnership	North Akron CDC	Truly Reaching You
Dreams Academy	North Coast Community Homes	United Way of Summit & Medina
EANDC	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	University of Akron
Fair Housing Contact Service	Oriana House	Veteran's Health Administration
Fallen Fathers Foundation	Peter Maurin Center	Victim Assistance Program
Family & Community Services	Portage Path Behavioral Health	Youth Success Summit
Family Promise		