

*Each person is a branch of
strength within the community.*

*Strong branches make a
strong community!*

**2022 Summit County
Homelessness Report**



**Summit County
Continuum of Care**

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

TEMPORARY INCREASES IN SHELTER BED CAPACITY

As the need for shelter returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, the SCCoC utilized pandemic funding to provide temporary emergency shelter in the following ways:

- Temporary shelter was provided at motels to 27 individuals experiencing homelessness after testing positive for COVID-19 and not being able to remain in congregate shelters.
- The ACCESS Shelter Expansion Program provided 20 additional beds at motels for 95 individuals (single women, women with children, and transgendered women). This non congregate shelter provided short term emergency housing and comprehensive case management.
- The Emergency Overnight Shelter provided temporary shelter on very cold nights to 241 individuals experiencing homelessness. It is a partnership with Community Support Services (CSS) and The Peter Maurin Center and accommodates a wide range of individuals regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, justice involvement, as well as those with a wide array of service needs that could be medical, psychiatric or substance abuse related.
- The Tent to Housed program assisted 84 individuals who had previously been living in large encampments transition into permanent housing. This program provided shelter, storage for their belongings, mental health care and primary care during the transition. It operated for 11 months and 62% of individuals served exited into permanent housing.

407 unique individuals were sheltered through temporary shelter beds

TARGETED REFERRAL AND HOUSING PLACEMENT USING EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

*Summit County had the **highest** EHV referral and placement rate in Ohio*

During 2021 and 2022, the SCCoC provided referral and placement of homeless individuals into 101 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that provide an ongoing subsidy through 2030. SCCoC partner agencies worked collaboratively with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority to provide case management and housing location assistance that led to the highest referral and placement rates of EHV in the State of Ohio.

LANDLORD MITIGATION PROGRAM

The SCCoC implemented a Landlord Mitigation Program (LMP) to incentivize landlords to rent to previously homeless clients thus increasing the success of the SCCoC's Housing programs. Program funds are provided as either a sign on incentive to landlords or can be used to pay for damages incurred by SCCoC tenants. The SCCoC LMP successfully assisted 220 individuals/families to quickly transition into Permanent Housing.

*The Landlord Mitigation Program helped **220** households obtain permanent rental housing*

These highlights describe how the Summit County Continuum of Care (SCCoC) responded in creative ways to meet the needs of the homeless in our community in 2022.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

*The SCCoC was awarded funding to add **49 beds** for youth ages 18-29*

The SCCoC was awarded an additional \$938,952 of HUD CoC funding for Fiscal Year 2022. The additional funding supports the Lavender Landing Program (CANAPI & Akron AIDS Collaborative) – LGBTQ+ youth housing program and Opportunity HOME (Battered Women’s Shelter & Harmony House) – Domestic Violence youth housing program. This funding added an additional 49 beds to our community to serve homeless youth ages 18-29.

CENTERING VOICES OF THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

Partnering with people with lived experience of homelessness is an essential component of a successful Continuum of Care. People with lived experience are uniquely positioned to provide important insights on homelessness interventions including identifying shortcomings in programs, improving homelessness systems, and developing more equitable and effective programs. Our SCCoC Lived Experience Committee (LEC) is comprised of people who are currently and formerly homeless. During meetings LEC members share their experiences and provide relevant feedback. Challenges raised by those with lived experience of homelessness are recorded and shared with appropriate providers. The SCCoC incorporates their recommendations into our programming and policies, grant applications, marketing materials, and outreach strategies to ensure their voices are included at all levels. Through the work of the LEC, the SCCoC strives to ensure that the expert voices of those with lived experience are a foundation for producing solutions that are equitable and effective. The SCCoC strives to promote the recognition of these voices and to provide increased opportunity for direct consultation and advice for government, businesses, non-profits, and community members seeking expertise. The SCCoC compensates all LEC members \$25 per hour for their time and expertise which is comparable to compensation for others serving in a similar capacity.

RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVES

By integrating a strong racial equity lens, the SCCoC has identified systemic issues and disproportionate effects of homelessness on minority households. The SCCoC is making a radical transformation to address racial equity. While this work is ongoing, below are some highlights of progress in 2022:

*People of color are **overrepresented** in our local homeless system. The SCCoC is committed to addressing racial equity.*

- Implementation of a mandatory Racial Equity Assessment for all partner agencies to ensure organizations are assessing the need for and capacity to incorporate a racial equity lens into the planning, decision making and overall management of their work and the organization itself.
- Participation in HUD’s Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative Cohort 2 where we analyzed local HMIS data, our current assessment tool, and policies and processes that may create barriers to housing for overrepresented populations. Over eight months, we collaborated with persons with lived experience to redesign the assessment tool utilized by our SCCoC for prioritization of clients. Our revisions helped remove cultural biases and sharpen the equity lens of our Centralized Intake process.
- The SCCoC has helped develop new programs led by Black and Brown organizations that directly serve Black and Brown persons experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we recruited and partnered with organizations who have a proven track record of engaging underserved populations.

2022

KEY INDICATORS

1103

persons assisted by the SCCoC exited to a permanent housing destination in 2022

93%

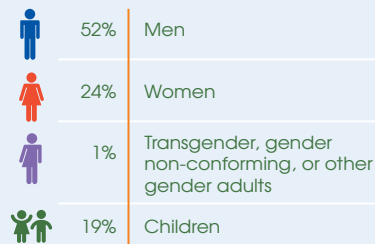
of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2020 remained housed for at least **six months**

81%

of people who exited homelessness to permanent housing in 2020 remained housed for at least **two years**

Profile of Homelessness in Summit County

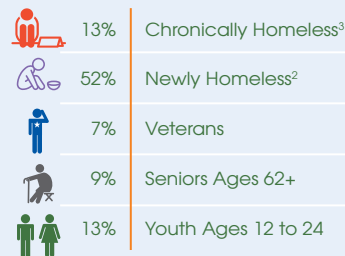
PEOPLE SERVED



4,478 total people served¹

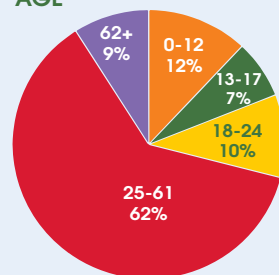
SPECIAL POPULATIONS⁴

Total 4,478



AGE

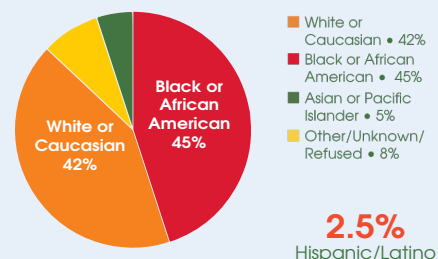
Total 4,478



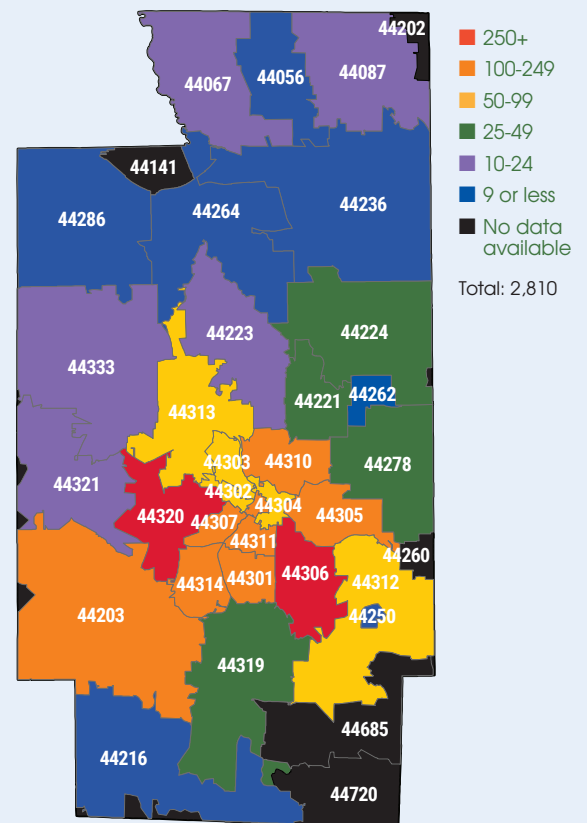
1 IN 5
people served
is a child

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Total 4,478



SUMMIT COUNTY HOMELESS BY ZIP CODE



LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS

Total: 3,533

70.4%	Akron
4%	Barberton
2.4%	Cuyahoga Falls
1.6%	Tallmadge
1.6%	Other Cities in Summit County

80% Summit County

17% Out of County

3% Out of State

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 2022, were previously homeless and continued to be served by a SCCoC program in 2022, or were at risk of homelessness and accessed homelessness prevention services in 2022. 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 Newly homeless is defined as someone who did not access Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing or Permanent Housing resources within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.

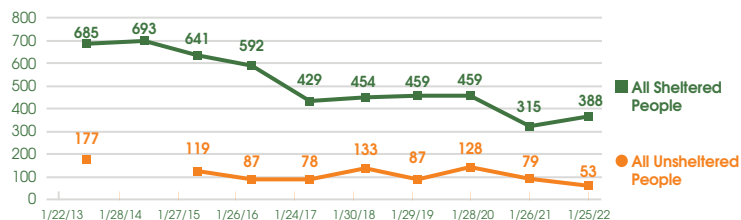
³ Chronically homeless describes a person with a disability who has one year of continuous homelessness (living in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation) or four episodes of homelessness over a three-year period that total 12 months of homelessness.

⁴ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has identified these special populations for focused attention. When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.

2022 Profile of Homelessness in Summit County (continued)

POINT IN TIME COUNT

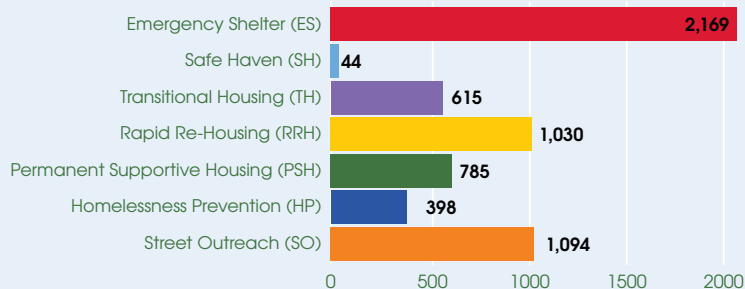
SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (2013-2022)⁵



441 homeless people on 1/25/2022 | **49%** decrease compared to 2013 PIT count

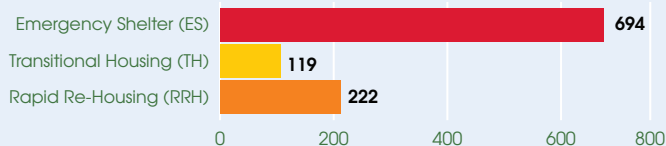
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED⁶

Total: 4,478



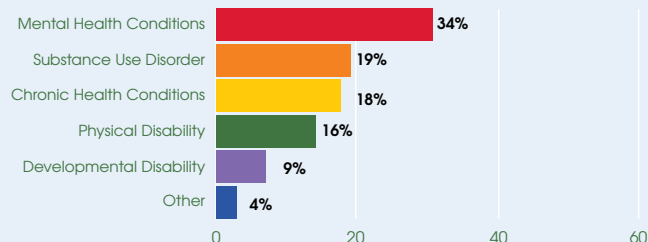
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS⁷

Total: 813



HEALTH CONDITIONS⁸

Total: 3,732

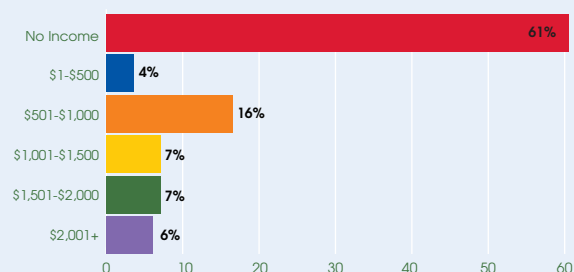


TOTAL BEDS BY HOUSING TYPE⁸

Housing Type	Beds Dedicated for Domestic Violence Victims	All Other Beds	Total Beds
Emergency Shelter (ES)	77	223	300
Safe Haven (SH)	0	22	22
Transitional Housing (TH)	68	170	238
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	59	81	140
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	0	659	659
TOTAL BEDS	204	1,155	1,359

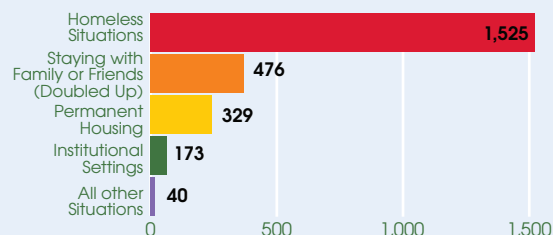
INCOME AT ENTRY⁹

Total: 3,593



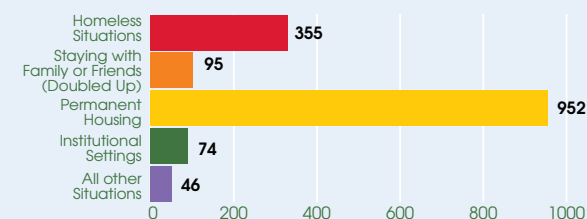
PRIOR LIVING SITUATION

Total: 2,543



EXIT DESTINATIONS

Total: 1,522



⁵ In 2014, HUD did not require communities to conduct an unsheltered count of homeless individuals, so no data for this indicator is available for that year. While the unsheltered count is only required every other year, Summit County has since decided to conduct an unsheltered count every year. Considerable effort is made to conduct a complete Point-in-Time Count each year.

⁶ When applicable, individuals are represented in more than one category.

⁷ The data in this chart was provided by Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter on individuals served in Summit County. Total represents unduplicated count of persons served.

⁸ There is no bed count for HP or SO.

⁹ Monthly income information is collected for adults only at program entry.

2022

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.

2022

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.

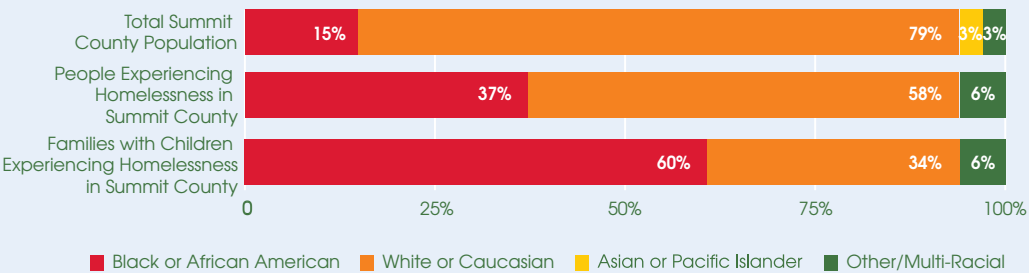
The SCCoC is working to increase awareness of youth homelessness and create specialized programs to assist this vulnerable population.

Homelessness by Race in Summit County

37%
of all homeless individuals in Summit County are **Black or African American** compared to **15%** of overall Summit County population

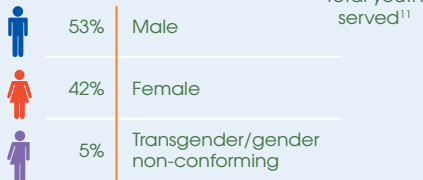
3 IN 5
homeless families in Summit County are **Black or African American**

SUMMIT COUNTY POPULATION AND HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE¹⁰



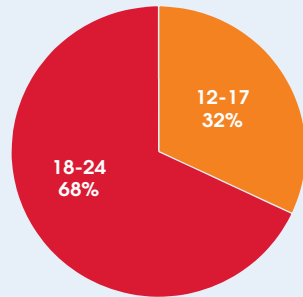
Youth Homelessness in Summit County

YOUTH BY GENDER



586
total youth served¹¹

AGE

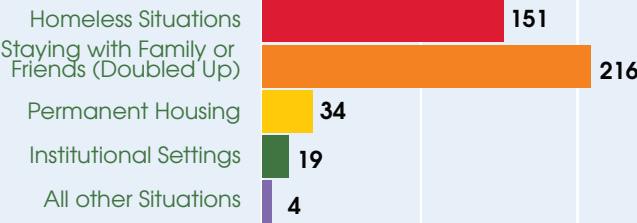


Total: 586

PARENTING YOUTH



PRIOR LIVING SITUATION



51%
of youth served were couch surfing at program entry compared to **19%** of overall homeless population

¹⁰ Homelessness by Race in Summit County data is from HUD-provided CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool that draws race and ethnicity data from the Point-In-Time Count (PIT) and American Community Survey (ACS) to facilitate analysis of racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.
¹¹ HUD defines youth as persons who are between 12 and 24 years old. 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 2022, were previously homeless and continued to be served by a SCCoC program in 2022, or were at risk of homelessness and accessed homelessness prevention services in 2022.

COMBATTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a body of youth, the majority of whom have lived homelessness experience. The YAB advocates for youth experiencing housing instability through collaboration on youth-driven solutions that empower young people to exercise their rights.

15 additional youth joined the Youth Advisory Board in 2022

Due to the hard work of YAB members and the Youth Outreach team, YAB membership has grown tremendously, increasing

by 15 members. YAB held officer elections; in addition to already having a YAB Chair, the membership elected a Vice-Chair, Secretary, Communications Officer, and an Events Coordinator.

SCCoC also increased the size of its workforce by creating a Youth Outreach team consisting of a Youth Ambassador who leads school engagement, a Youth Outreach Specialist who performs community engagement and program intakes, a Youth Peer Navigator who assists with obtaining

SCCoC youth focused programs served 331 youth in 2022.

housing resources, and a Youth Projects Specialist to update YAB by-laws and policies YAB members educate the public on issues concerning youth homelessness and advocate for their peers.

Using data from last year's Youth Point in Time count, SCCoC identified gaps in services and implemented these interventions:

- YAB launched its website at www.summitiab.org that provides links to local resources and information about the fight to end youth homelessness. In addition, the YAB manages a 24/7 hotline for youth seeking help, housing, or just someone to listen can **call or text 234-466-6062**.
- Bayard Rustin LGBTQ+ Drop-in Center made referrals to housing and services programs for 148 youth who were homeless or 'couch-surfing' with no permanent address. In addition to providing on-demand HIV/STD testing, it operates a food pantry and serves a weekly community dinner. The center employs a Youth Liaison who is a member of YAB and advocates for LGBTQ+ youth.
- With funding from Summit County Public Health, the YAB provides immediate rental/utility assistance, peer support, and light case management to emancipated youth, youth who aged out of foster care, and youth with pending eviction and/or utility disconnections. In 2022, this program assisted 47 youth.
- Harmony House expanded its youth housing programs adding 8 emergency shelter beds.
- The YAB received funding from GAR to create "WERK IT!", a program to assist unemployed/underemployed youth with incidental expenses when receiving job training, gaining employment, or accepting contract opportunities with an eye toward entrepreneurship.



SCCoC Youth Advisory Board members met with Senator Sherrod Brown's staff on Capitol Hill.





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
CANAPI	Hope Farm	Summit County Children Services
City of Akron	Humility of Mary Housing	Summit County Department of Job and Family Services
City of Barberton	I Promise School	Summit County Juvenile Court
City of Cuyahoga Falls	Joanna House II	Summit County Public Health
Coleman Health Services	Legacy III	Summit DD
Community Health Center	Love Akron	Tarry House
Community Legal Aid	NISRE (The EXIT Program)	The Homeless Charity
Community Support Services	North Coast Community Homes	Tow Path Trail High School
Dreams Academy	Ohio Multi-County Development Corporation	Truly Reaching You
Fair Housing Contact Service	Oriana House	United Way of Summit & Medina
Fallen Fathers Foundation	Peter Maurin Center	University of Akron
Family & Community Services	Portage Path Behavioral Health	Veteran's Health Administration
Family Promise		Victim Assistance Program