



## City of Philadelphia Point-In-Time Homeless Count Winter 2024



### Date of Point-In-Time Count

2024 PIT: 1/24/2024

2023 PIT: 1/25/2023

2022 PIT: 2/23/2022



### Special Conditions

Code Blue 2024 Count:

Code Blue 2023 Count:

Code Blue 2022 Count:

 YES  NO YES  NO YES  NO

Precipitation 2024 Count:

Precipitation 2023 Count:

Precipitation 2022 Count:

 YES  NO YES  NO YES  NO

Temperature	2024 Count	2023 Count	2022 Count
High Temp	54	58	71
Low Temp	40	29	42



### Unsheltered Location / Sheltered Program Type

Unsheltered Location	2024 Count	2023 Count	2022 Count
Center City	347	281	300
Selected Areas Outside of Center City	586	406	481
Airport	43	19	7
<b>Total - All Locations</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>788</b>

Sheltered Program Type	2024 Count	2023 Count	2022 Count
Emergency Shelter	3,487	3,335	2,886
Safe Haven	219	210	194
Transitional Housing	509	474	621
<b>Total - All Program Types</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>3,701</b>



## 2024 Analysis

The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) conducted a full unduplicated Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered populations in Philadelphia, on January 24, 2024.

Based on [HUD's definition of homeless](#), Philadelphia's 2024 PIT counted those who lacked a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence on January 24, 2024. Meaning an individual (including [youth and young adults](#)) or family:

1. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; **or**
2. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); **or**
3. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

OHS led the logistical planning for the 2024 PIT Count, which included:

- Event coordination
- Marketing the Count throughout the community and social media
- Managing the Volunteer Sign-up Sheets
- Scheduling training for all volunteer participants
- Developing the 2024 PIT Survey questionnaire in the Philadelphia Homeless Management Information System (PhilaHMIS)

Partners collaborated with OHS at each step of the process, from marketing, recruiting, and training volunteers to assisting with event logistics and participating in the PIT Count. Our youth providers helped coordinate youth-specific aspects of the PIT Count, reviewed the PIT survey questions, and held focus groups to identify youth hot spots. They also helped assign volunteers to zones/teams, and prepared and assembled supplies and materials for the teams. In addition, PIT Count teams focusing on counting youth and young adults were led by trained youth guides and comprised both youth and adult volunteers.



In partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability (DBHIDS), Project HOME, and Valley Youth House (VYH), OHS developed, reviewed, and finalized the survey. The survey included questions about participants' history of homelessness, demographic information, employment status, and level of education as well as experience with mental health. To help us better understand reasons for homelessness, we added two additional questions this year:

- Were you evicted or displaced for some other reason in the last 90 days?
- Did you migrate to Philadelphia from another country within the last year?

The OHS training team developed and conducted 17 virtual trainings and 2 in-person sessions for the volunteers. Volunteers were trained on how to administer the survey during the training sessions, which included a live demonstration during each session where the training team demonstrated:

- a. opening the survey link (i.e. getting to the survey)
- b. navigating the landing page
- c. making the volunteer introduction and asking for consent
- d. asking each question and inputting proper survey responses
- e. explaining the goal of the PIT Count & homeless services (e.g. "literally homeless")
- f. additional features about the technology (e.g. sharing locating data, navigating using the "previous" button etc.)

During the training sessions, volunteers were given access (through QR code and clickable links) to the training survey where they could practice navigating access to the survey and inputting sample responses. This was in addition to the full live demonstration on screen by the instructor. OHS also held two team-building sessions where counters and team leads were in breakout rooms with their respective teams to practice the survey.

Through role-playing and asking one another the questions, all volunteers got to experience what it is like to administer the survey and be asked the survey questions, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Additionally, volunteers were shown how the DV hotline resources box pops up if the person answers yes to specific questions.

Our goal is to continuously improve the quality of the PIT Count data. This year, we developed a QR code that volunteers were able to use to gain access to the survey, which was an encrypted link (built in HMIS) that ensured all data passed between the web server and browsers remained private. When a user saved and submitted a



survey, the survey data was automatically transferred to our PhilaHMIS and the participants' survey information was removed from the mobile device.

Participants were also trained on the zones and maps developed for the Count. Through feedback from the city, partnering agencies, outreach teams, and input from youth and people with lived experience, the maps identified "hot spots" throughout the city where people experiencing homelessness bed down. Maps were linked to the electronic tally sheets and utilized by those who recorded their count electronically.

Over 360 volunteers participated in this year's PIT Count, including volunteers with lived experience, Philadelphia neighbors, HUD headquarters and HUD local field office representatives, USICH, Outreach and City staff.

The kickoff was held at LOVE Park. Michelle Snow was the MC and facilitated the kickoff event, which included music, speeches, acknowledgments, and food trucks.

Event volunteers and the OHS training team provided logistical support and additional training for volunteers and the teams gathered in their groups before heading out to count.

Over 47 teams covered the entire City of Philadelphia, canvassing street by street and block by block. They visited every known hotspot, including the Schuylkill River trail and areas under 1-95. Volunteer teams canvassed SEPTA transit stations and trains, administering full surveys to all interested participants. Upon completion of the survey, volunteers distributed a gift card, socks, and gloves, to participants. Those interested in coming in and being linked to services were connected to outreach.

**During the 2024 Point-In-Time count, volunteers and City partners counted a total of 976 unsheltered persons.** This is a 38% increase from the Winter 2023 PIT count (706) and a 16% increase from the "Pre- Pandemic" Winter 2020 count (841).

During the count, 254 surveys were completed by participants who were willing to engage with volunteers. Most surveys (38%) were conducted in Kensington, followed closely by Center City (35%). Surveys administered in North Philadelphia, excluding Kensington, accounted for 11% of the total. The remaining surveys were distributed as follows: 10% in South Philadelphia, 5% in West Philadelphia, and 2% in the Northeast areas of Philadelphia.



Factors that may have impacted this year's Count and any relevant comparisons to the previous year's number:

A five-year analysis (2020 - 2024) shows a 16% increase in the total number of unsheltered individuals on the streets of Philadelphia. Notably, this year we saw a significant surge of 38% compared to the previous year. The overall count of 976 is reflective of pre-pandemic numbers of unsheltered people.

With a few exceptions, almost all areas of Philadelphia saw an increase in the number of unsheltered persons. 82 tents were counted across the city. Volunteers were not always able to enumerate individuals inside tents due to limited access. The city continued to mobilize additional housing resources for people experiencing homelessness throughout the city. A key facet of this effort was the Winter Initiative, in which the city expanded shelter capacity during the 2024 winter season.

According to Pew's most recent state of the city report (Philadelphia 2024 The State of the City, [Philadelphia 2024 | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](https://www.pewtrusts.org/reports-and-data/2024/04/11/philadelphia-2024-the-state-of-the-city), April 11, 2024), despite strong economic indicators, Philadelphia continues to struggle with high poverty (22% of the population) and the opioid epidemic. These conditions as well as an unaffordable housing market are contributing to unsheltered homelessness.

During the 2024 Point-In-Time Count, participants were asked about additional reasons for their homelessness, such as eviction and recent migration experience. The results showed that 12% had been evicted in the past 90 days, and 9% reported being thrown out of their residence. Additionally, 2% of respondents indicated they had migrated to Philadelphia from another country in the past year.

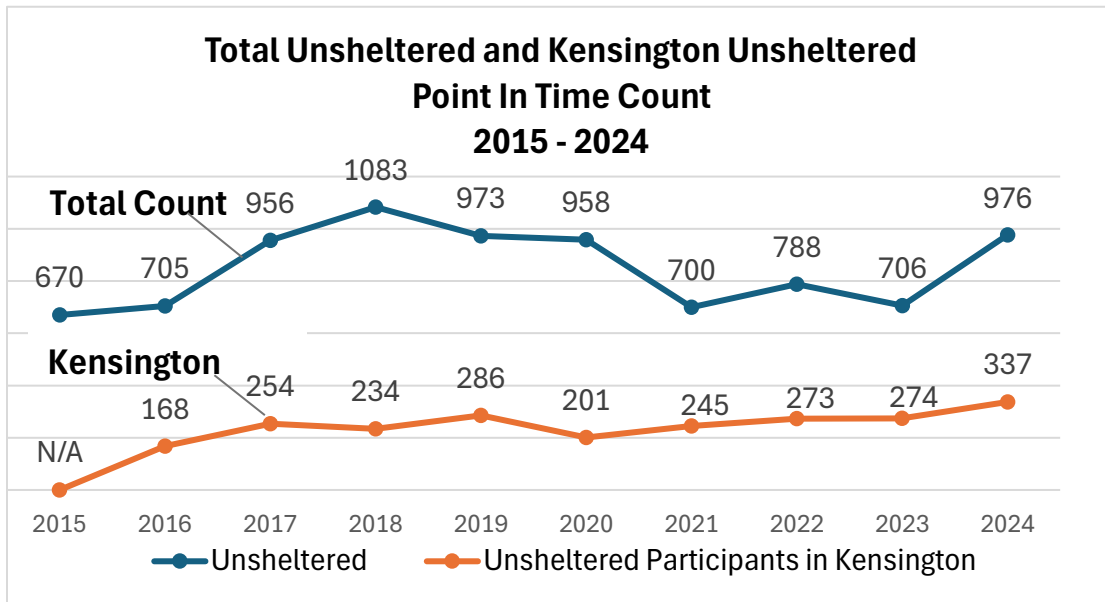
The count of unsheltered individuals rose both within Center City and selected areas outside its boundaries.

Center City witnessed a notable 23% increase from the previous year's count, while areas outside of Center City experienced an even steeper increase of 44% from last year.

This year, there was a 23% increase in the number of unsheltered in the Kensington area (Zone 9). This trend reflects a continued upward trajectory, with a 12% average annual increase since 2016. The surge in homelessness in Kensington can be largely attributed to the ongoing opioid crisis and the persistent shortage of affordable



housing options. Kensington continues to account for one third (35%) of the total unsheltered population in Philadelphia.



Like the 2023 PIT count, we saw an increase in the number of unsheltered people in the Airport region (n = 43) during the 2024 PIT Count. Areas with the highest rate of increase were observed in North Philadelphia (not including Kensington), Center City, and South Philadelphia where the count more than doubled, and in some instances more than tripled. Despite a marginal 9% decrease in the Far Northeast area of Philadelphia from the 2023 PIT Count, the number of unsheltered individuals remained higher than pre-pandemic levels (n=58), reflecting the shift in homeless population observed in the last few years, where we have seen an increased presence of homeless individuals in the South and Northeast regions of the city.

The Concourse area (Zone 10) saw a decrease of 29% (n=117) in the number of unsheltered persons since 2023. The decrease from the previous year is likely due to nicer weather on the night of the count as compared to last year which saw heavy scattered rains. This is further supported by the fact that all other Center City areas saw an increase in the number of unsheltered people compared to last year.

2024 Sheltered Count



**For the 2024 Sheltered Point-In-Time count, a total of 4,215 persons were sheltered in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, or Transitional Housing programs.** This is a 5% increase from the Winter 2023 PIT count (4,019) with the largest increase in Transitional Housing (7%). The increase from 2023 to 2024 is due to more individuals presenting for shelter.

Emergency Shelter programs reported a total of **370 households with children (1,158 people) with 727 children under the age of 18, 2,314 households without children (2,327 people), and 2 households with only children under the age of 18(2 people).**

Safe Haven programs reported a total of **210 households without children (219 people).**

Transitional Housing programs reported a total of **124 households with children (311 people) with 181 children under the age of 18, and 198 households without children (198 people).**



## Winter 2024 Point In Time

Unsheltered Count

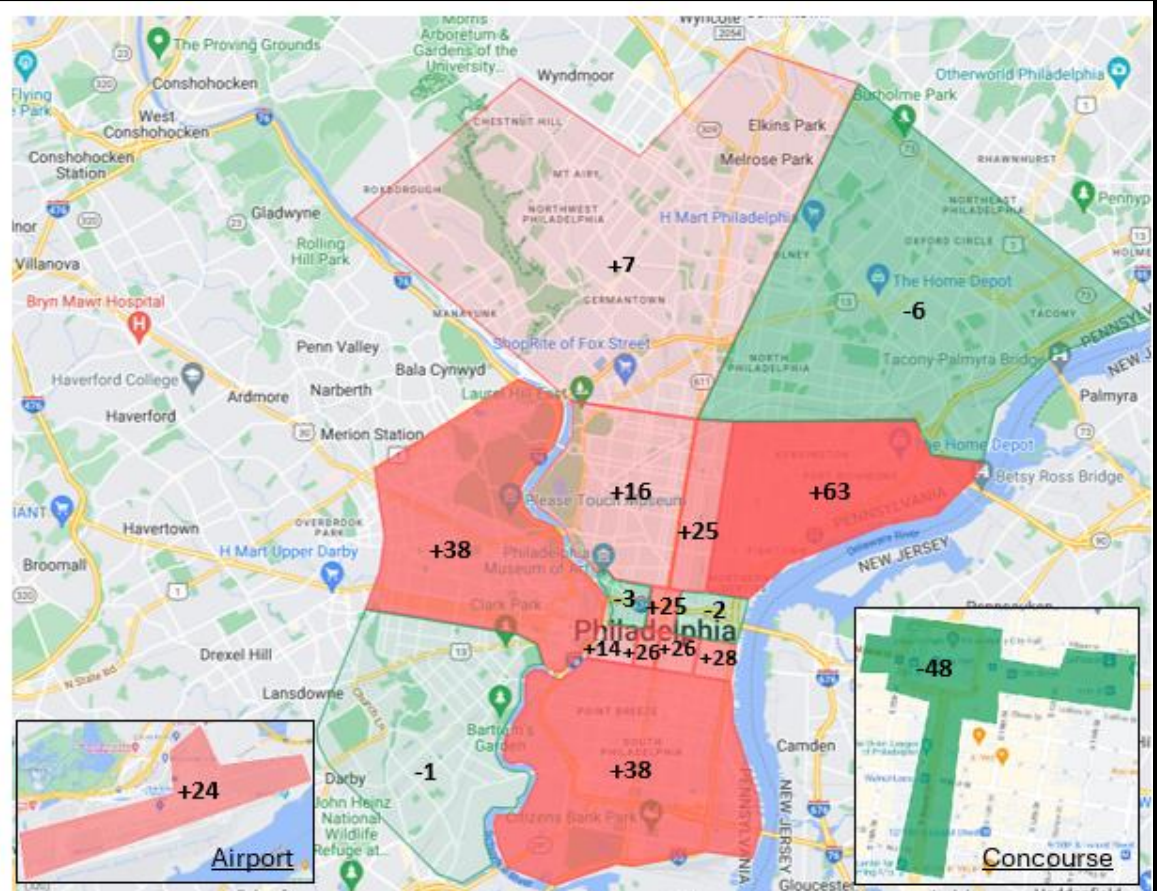
Total Count Winter 2022: 788

Total Count Winter 2023: 706

**Total Count Winter 2024: 976**

**Difference: +270**

Zone	Description	Winter '22 Count	Winter '23 Count	Winter '24 Count	Difference in Change between '23 and '24
1	Front to 7th, Market to South	21	11	39	28
2	7th to Broad, Market to South	24	16	42	26
3	Broad to 18th, Market to South	24	4	30	26
4	18th to River, Market to South	26	4	18	14
5	Front to 11th, Market to Spring Garden	67	34	32	-2
6	11th to 17th, Market to Spring Garden	57	26	51	25
7	17th to 25th, Market to Spring Garden	19	21	18	-3
8	West Philadelphia	68	29	67	38
9	Kensington	273	274	337	63
10	Concourse	62	165	117	-48
11	Airport	7	19	43	24
12	South Philadelphia	57	14	52	38
13	North Philadelphia (Not Kensington)	42	15	31	16
14	North Philadelphia (Central)	4	3	28	25
15	Far Southwest	3	6	5	-1
16	Far Northwest	6	1	8	7
17	Far Northeast	28	64	58	-6







## Point In Time

Unsheltered Count

### Description of Zones

Zone	Description
1	Front to 7th, Market to South
2	7th to Broad, Market to South
3	Broad to 18th, Market to South
4	18th to River, Market to South
5	Front to 11th, Market to Spring Garden
6	11th to 17th, Market to Spring Garden
7	17th to 25th, Market to Spring Garden
8	West Philadelphia
9	Port Richmond, Kensington, Fishtown
10	Concourse
11	Airport
12	South Philadelphia
13	North Philadelphia (Not Kensington)
14*	North Philadelphia (Central)
15*	Far Southwest
16*	Far Northwest
17*	Far Northeast



\*Zones 14 through 17 are only included during the Winter Point In Time count. The areas of Zone 14 are covered by Zone 13 during other Point In Time counts.