

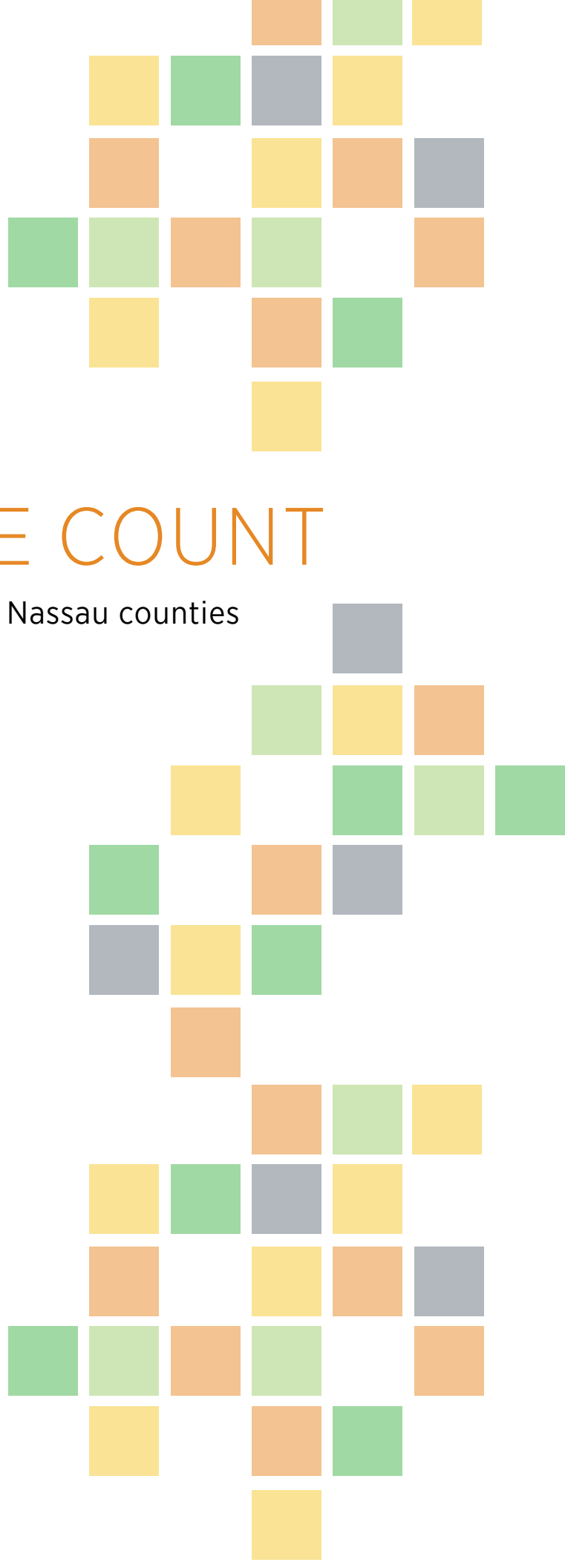


# 2023

## POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Northeast Florida | Clay, Duval and Nassau counties

Date of Publication: April 30, 2023





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care (CoC) joined together with community partners, elected officials, staff, and volunteers to conduct the annual Point-In-Time (PIT). This year's publication represents the first comprehensive sheltered and unsheltered report since [2019](#).

## What is a PIT count and why do we do it?

The PIT count is a one-day snapshot of our neighbors experiencing homelessness on a given night/day and it provides a relative snapshot of a dynamic condition. While it is just one day, it is anchored and focused on real people and the summation of this data should never minimize that we are person-centered and most dedicated to the people experiencing homelessness and not the number they represent.

### DID YOU KNOW?

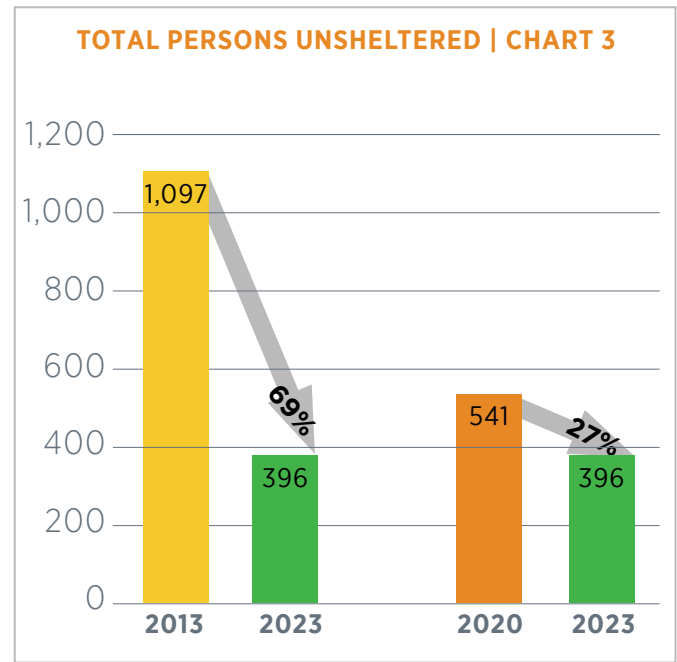
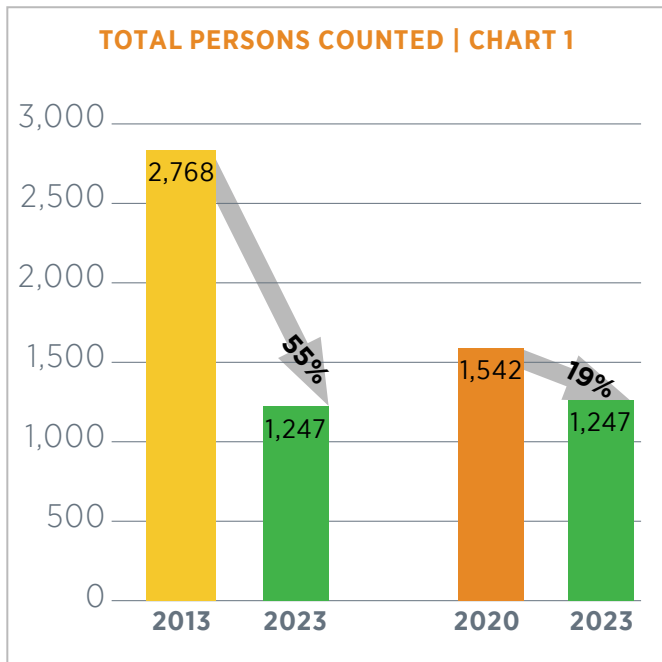
*In 1992, the Northeast Florida CoC conducted its first official census and published its first report on the state of homelessness.*

As we re-establish our annual count and reporting, this publication will highlight a side-by-side 10 year trend comparison 2013/2023 to visualize the pre-COVID PIT era to this year's data. While there may be unexplained anomalies in the 2023 data, which may present as an under-represented count, anecdotally we believe COVID-related process modifications may have impacted it and are working to validate data results by planning a summer count.

Where we would typically look at year-over-year trends, we are comparing 2020 to 2023, since 2020 represents pre-COVID data. During the 2021 count, we did not utilize volunteers and the 2022 count was a sheltered-only count. Both 2021 and 2022 were significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and the community was focused on implementing solutions to sheltering and housing people.

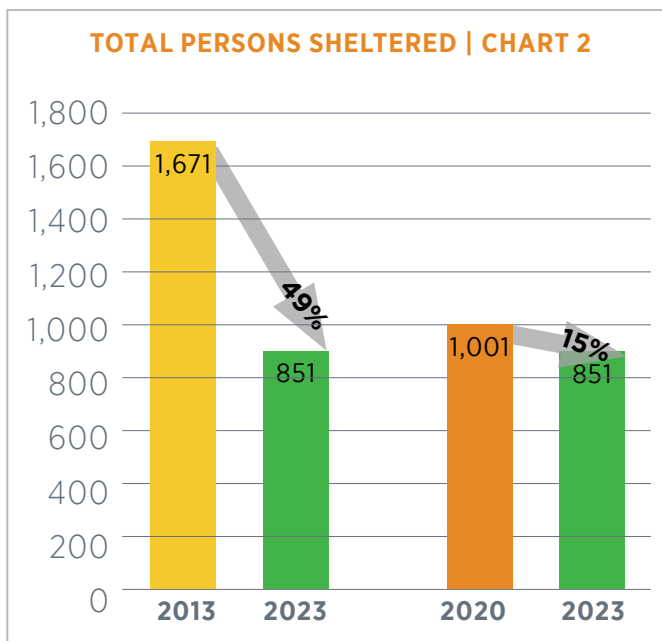
The **total number** of persons experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida **decreased by 55% from 2013 to 2023 and 19% from 2020 to 2023:**

The 10-year trend for unsheltered appears to align with the sheltered count as **it decreased 69% from 2013 to 2023 and 27% from 2020 to 2023.**



Similarly, the **number of sheltered persons decreased by 49% from 2013 to 2023 and 15% from 2020 to 2023:**

As we emerge into a reframed sense of normalcy, we remain optimistic. While data show a downward trend, we understand that we will need several years of reporting to demonstrate consistent and more reliable trends and to ensure that COVID measures to minimize infection did not affect our ability to collect information.



# METHODOLOGY

After several years of modified PIT count methodologies, northeast Florida returned to a more standardized process.

## APPROACH

On January 25th, 2023, approximately 80 volunteers and staff from various homeless service providers deployed throughout Clay, Duval and Nassau counties to survey our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Surveyors collected data using the **Counting Us App**, which the systems team combined with **Homeless Management Information System** data to ensure the most complete representation. The app allowed for live data monitoring, automatic deduplication, and easy reporting. The HMIS data was used to fill in some of the shelter data that was not entered through the app.

## PARTICIPANTS

The most significant difference between the pre-COVID counts and this year's count is the use of volunteers. Consistent with previous counts, experienced zone commanders provided guidance and location management throughout the community. Furthermore, the use of volunteers not only helped us cover more ground but also brought diversity to the team. The volunteers came from different backgrounds and had different perspectives to share, which added dimension and value to the count.

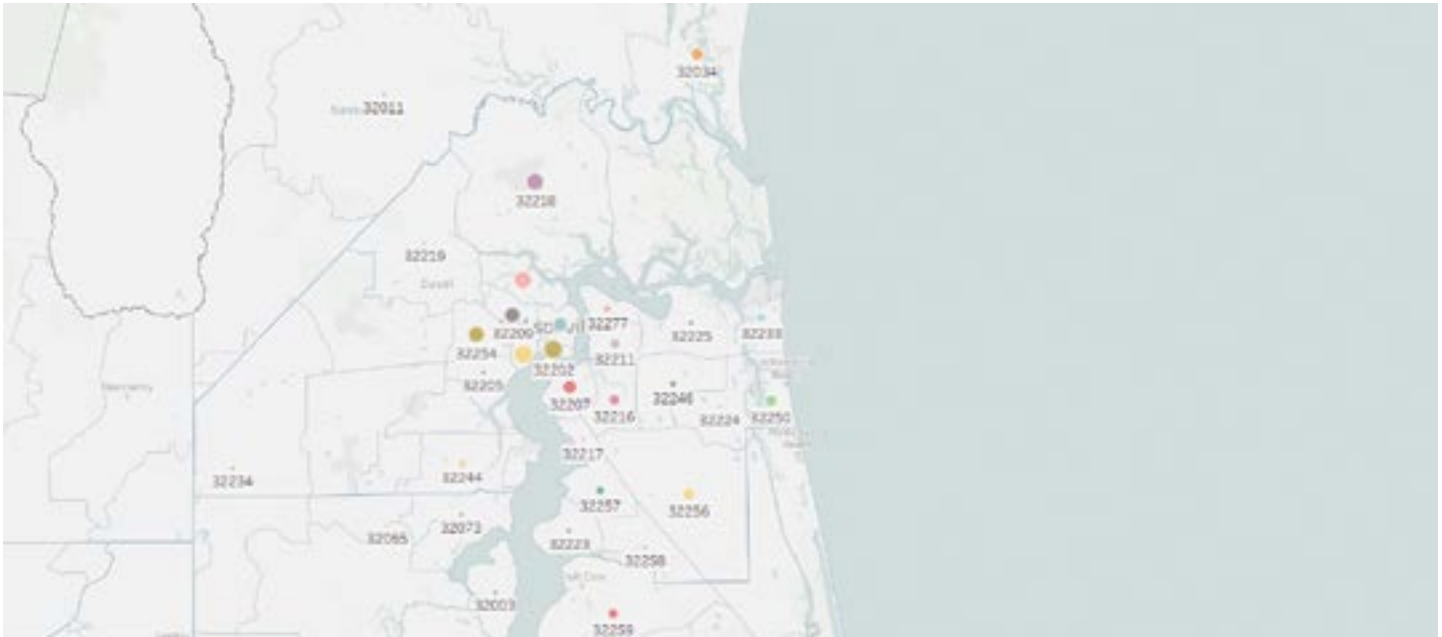
## DATA COLLECTION

The Counting Us App allowed for real-time data monitoring, automatic deduplication, and easy reporting, which helped to confirm that all target areas were covered and that data was collected accurately. The use of HMIS data to fill in missing shelter data was a more efficient way to supplement the data collected through the app. Overall, the point-in-time count was a valuable tool in understanding the scope and nature of homelessness in the region, and will help inform future efforts to address this issue.

Overall, the use of volunteers and the identification of “hot spots” were significant improvements that helped us conduct a more comprehensive count since the onset of the COVID pandemic. However, we are planning a mid-year count in June 2023 and hope to continue building on these improvements in the future with the aim of creating a more accurate and detailed picture of homelessness in our community.

This report is based on information pulled from over 40 regional social service agencies offering overnight emergency beds, transitional housing, and supportive services. It also relies on results of a one-day, volunteer-driven survey of people living in woods, streets, and cars—places not fit for human habitation.

# SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED



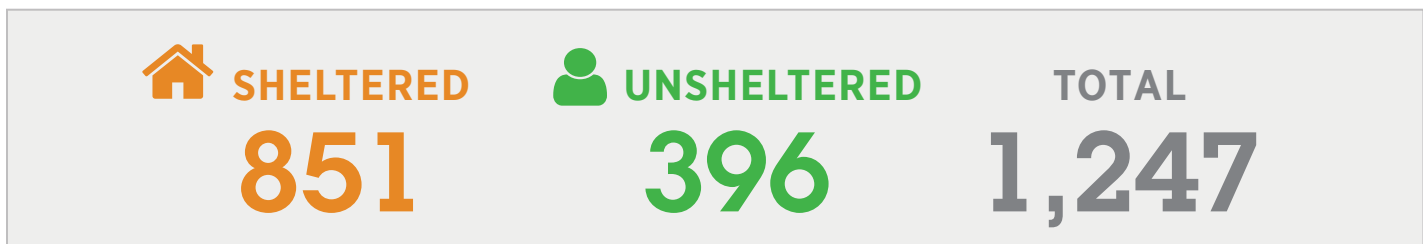
What does it mean to be Sheltered? If someone is sheltered, they are residing in an emergency shelter or transitional housing temporarily.

To be unsheltered, it means that someone is literally sleeping on the streets, tents, cars or places not meant for human habitation.

Working in teams across Clay, Duval and Nassau counties, 80 volunteers, which included staff from stakeholder and community providers, collected survey data from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness for the 2023 Point-In-Time count. Different areas were canvassed at different times, with volunteers asking each respondent whether they had completed a survey already. Every effort was made to ensure individuals were counted once. Volunteers canvassed areas based on community research and count planning.

**Figure 1** shows that more than twice the number of people experiencing homelessness on January 25th had some type of shelter as compared to those who were unsheltered.

**FIGURE 1**  
Sheltered and Unsheltered, PIT Count 2023 totals



**Figure 2** compares the annual totals from 2020 to 2023 and 2021 to 2023 to document the decreases/increases but with the caveat that all counts conducted after 2020 were impacted by the COVID pandemic by shifts in shelter and program operations.

**FIGURE 2**

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, PIT Counts 2020 and 2023

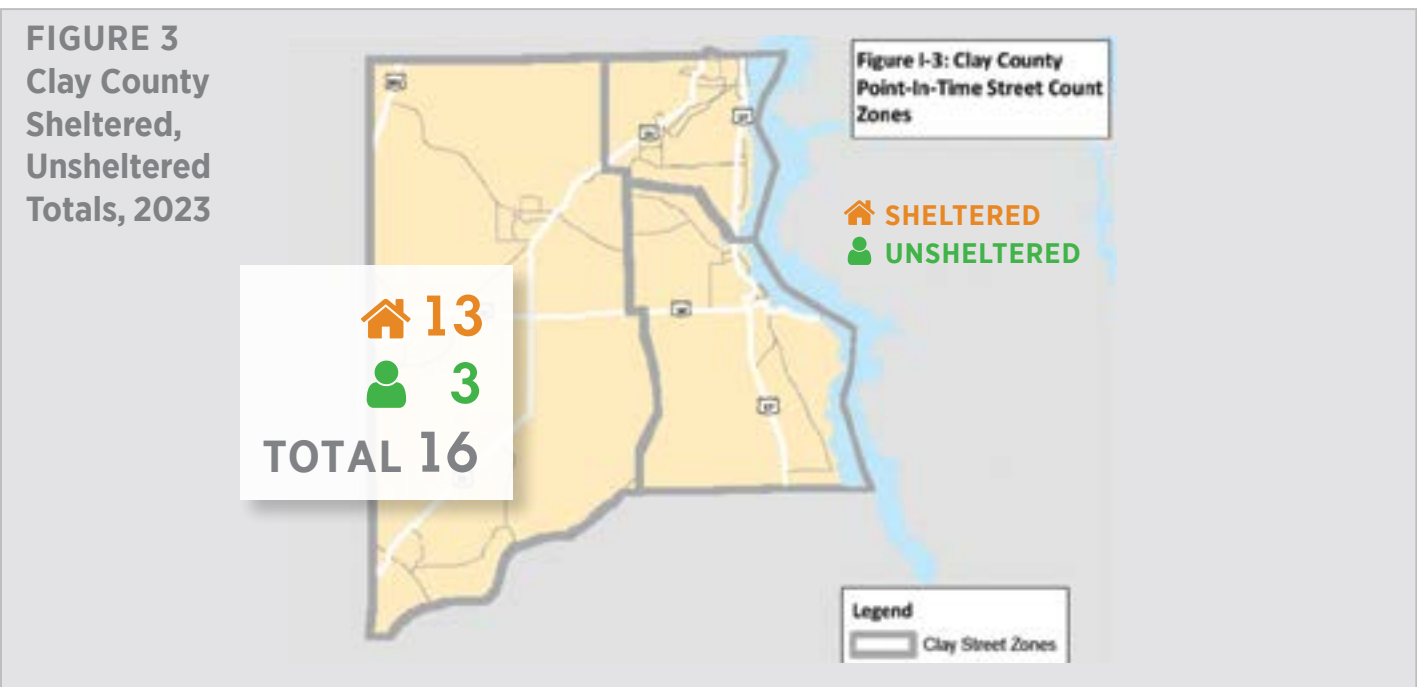
PERSONS	2020	2023	DIFFERENCE
Sheltered	1,001	851	-150
Unsheltered	541	396	-145
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>-295</b>

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, PIT Counts 2021 and 2023

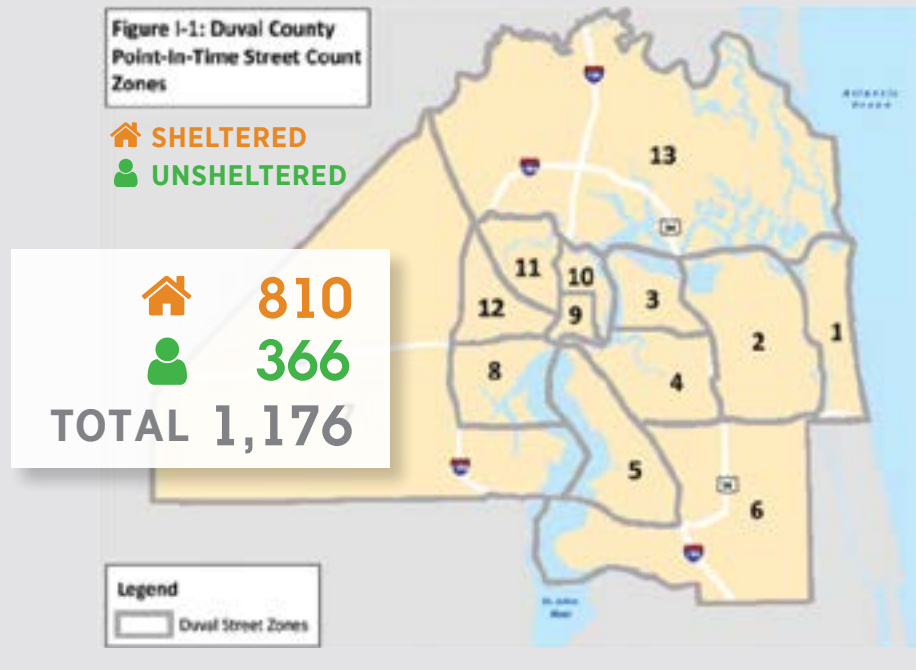
PERSONS	2021	2023	DIFFERENCE
Sheltered	992	851	-141
Unsheltered	230	396	+166
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>+25</b>

*\*Our community did not conduct an unsheltered count in 2022.*

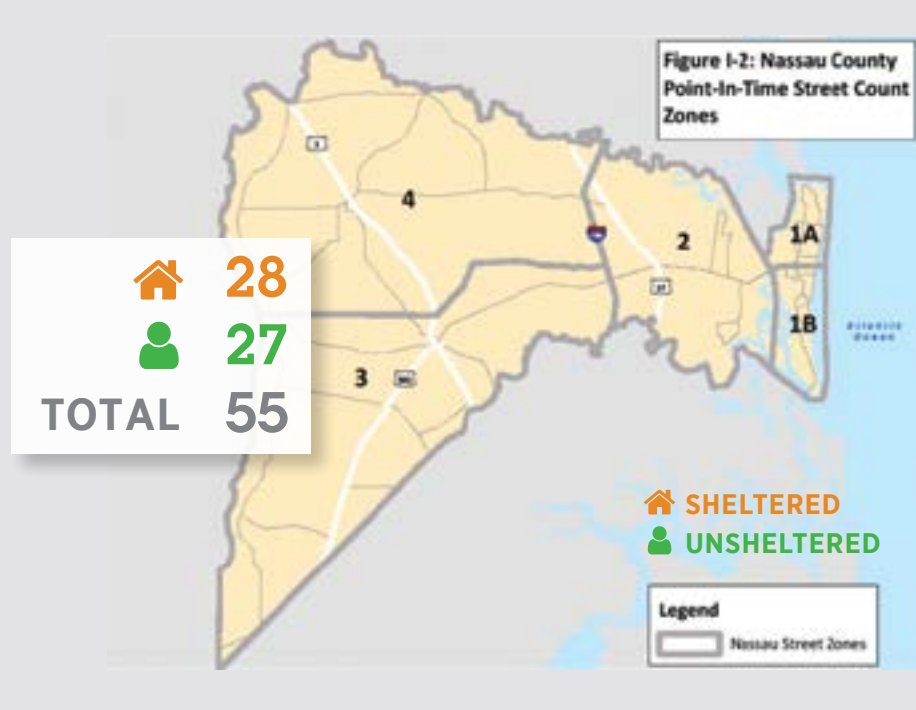
**Figures 3, 4 and 5**, show the number of people that were sheltered and unsheltered as documented in each county within the Northeast Florida Continuum of Care.



**FIGURE 4**  
Duval County  
Sheltered,  
Unsheltered  
Totals, 2023



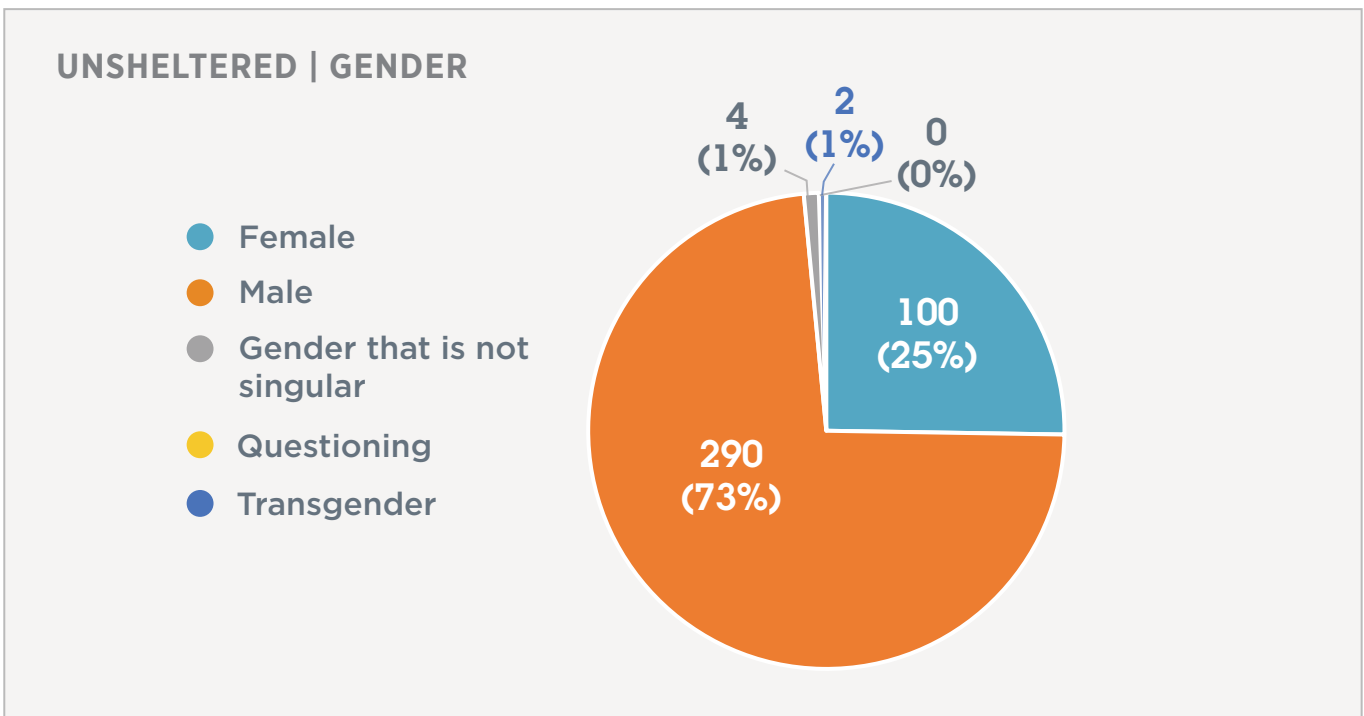
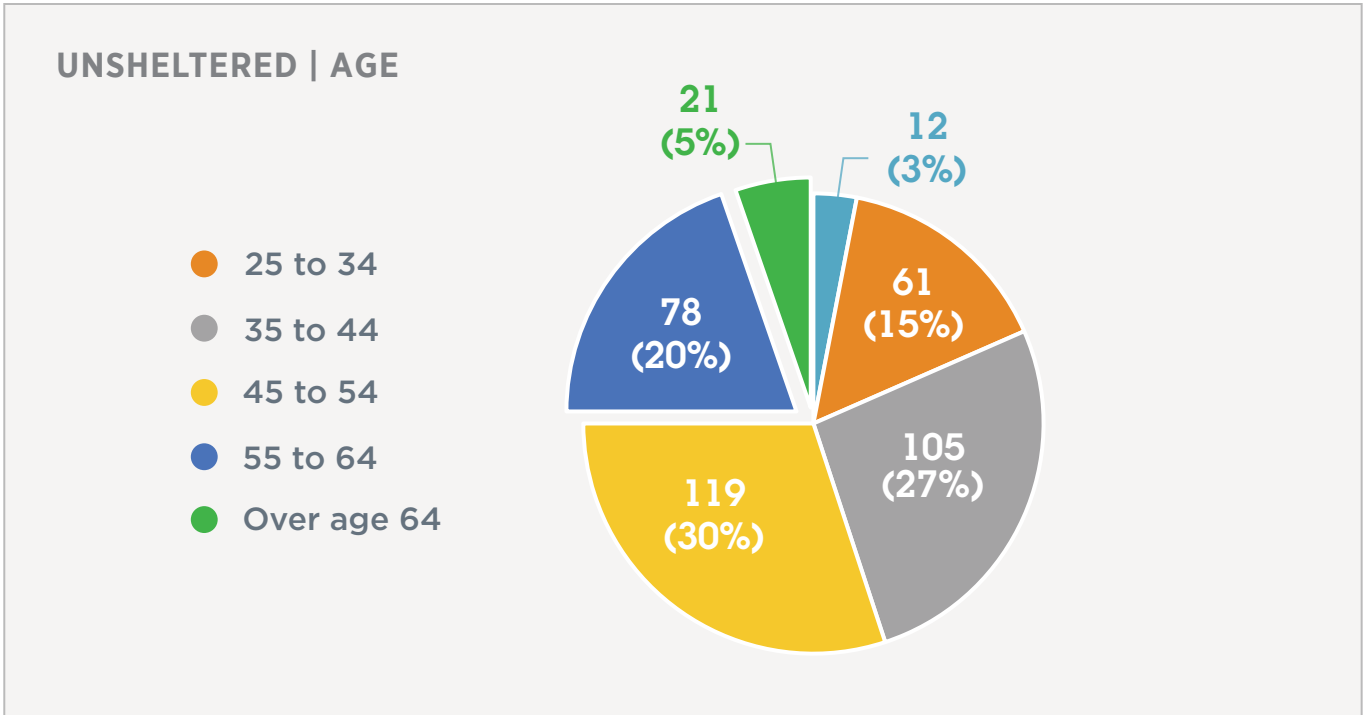
**FIGURE 5**  
Nassau County  
Sheltered,  
Unsheltered  
Totals, 2023



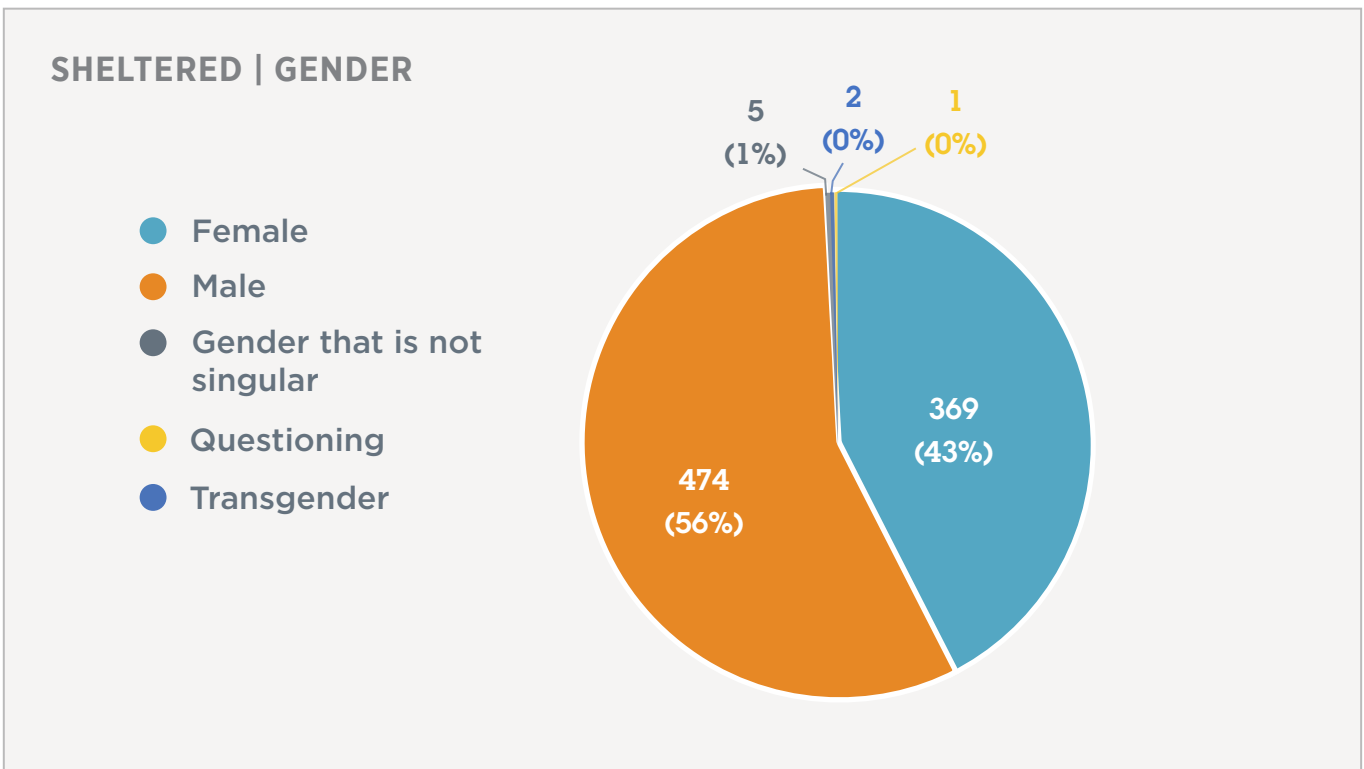
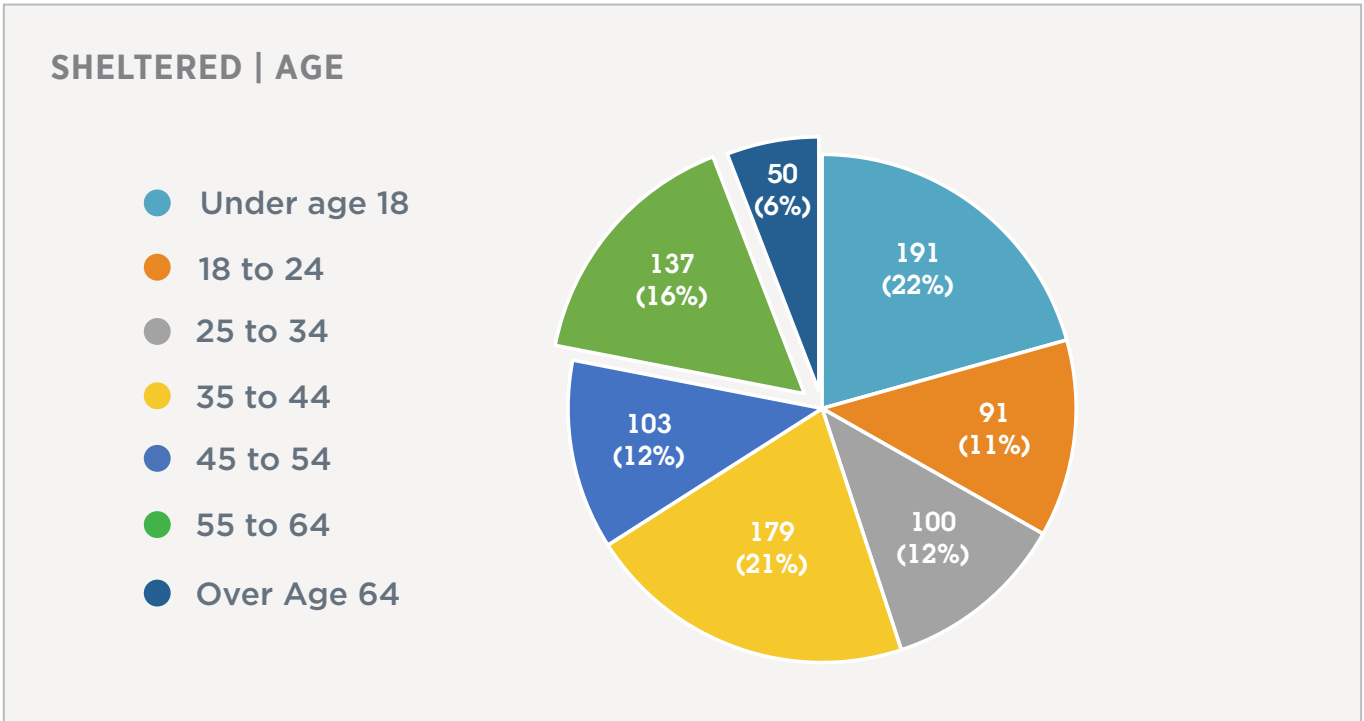


# DEMOGRAPHICS

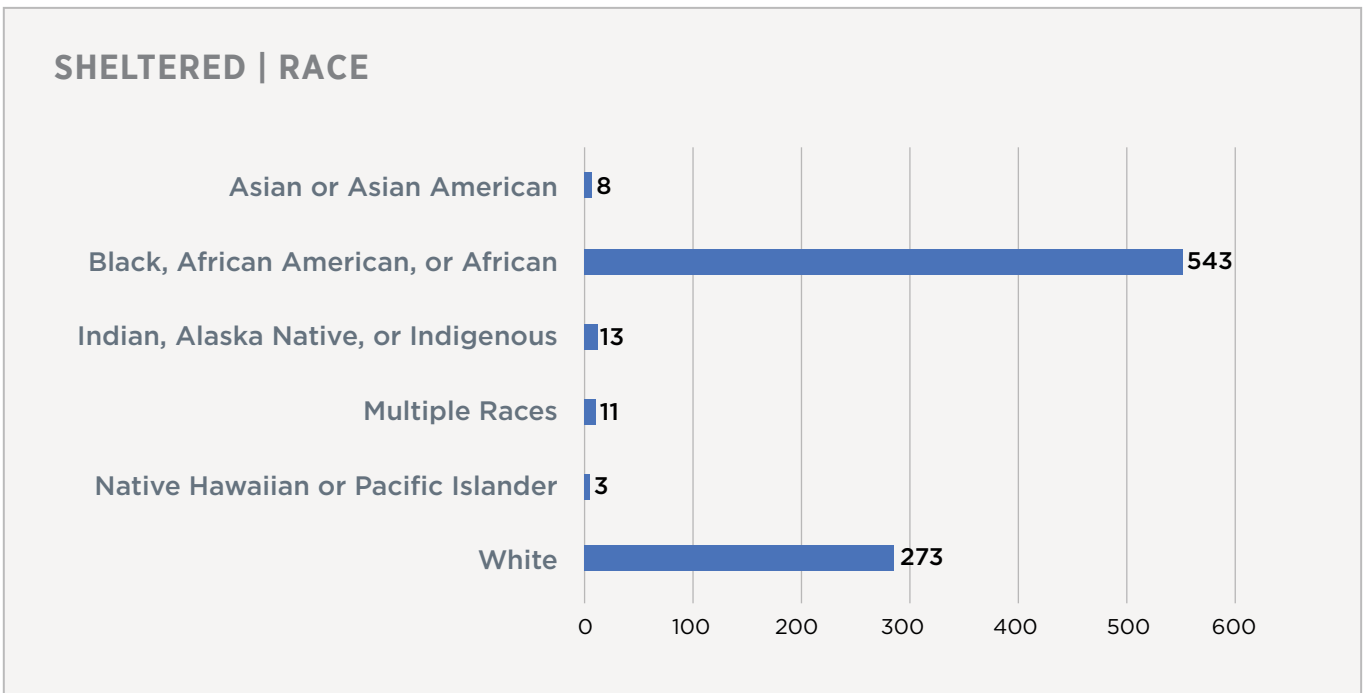
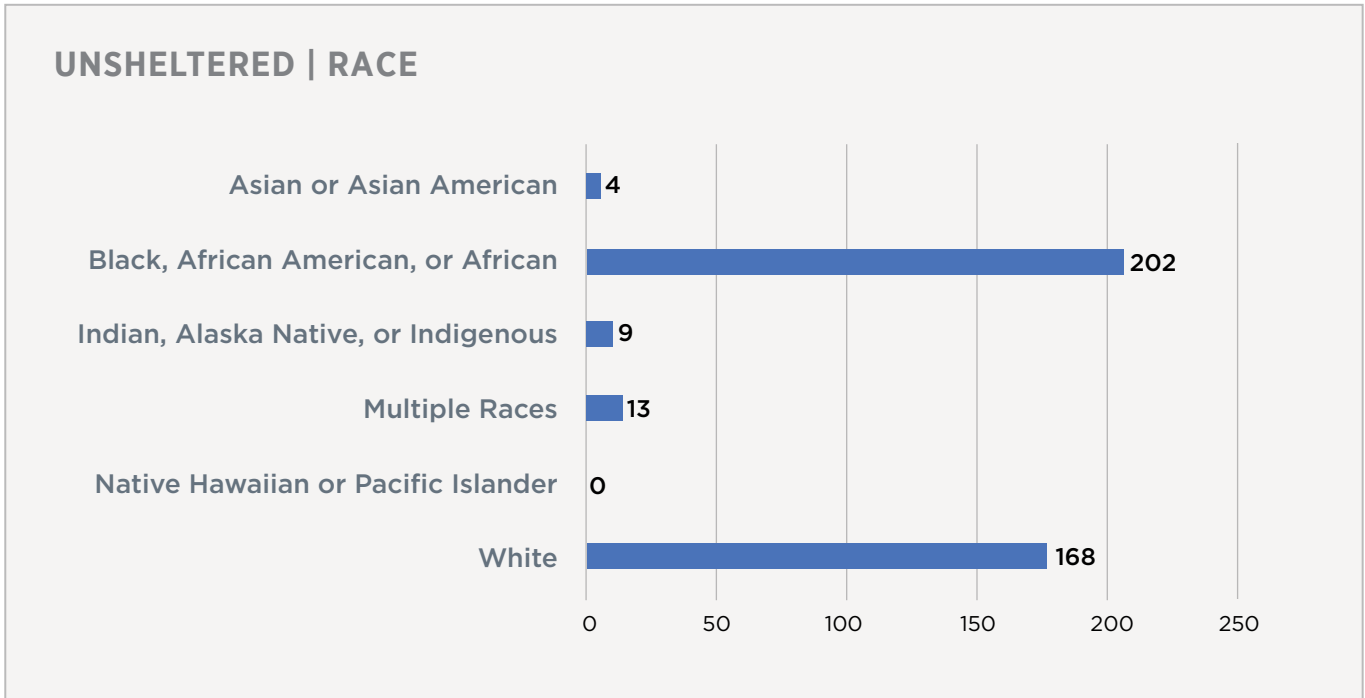
With a total of **396 people identified as unsheltered**, individuals **55 and older represent 25%** and an increasing population compared to previous years, with the gender ratio approximately 3 males for every female and a few people that identify as not-singular-gender and transgender.



With a total of **851 people identified as sheltered**, similar to the unsheltered individuals 55 and older, the **sheltered 55+ represent 24%** demonstrating a consistent increase in the aging shelter population as well. For people in shelter, the ratio of males to females is much closer to a one-to-one ratio with a few that are not a singular gender and several transgender and people who are questioning.



Of the people sheltered and unsheltered, 60% identified as Black, African American, or African, 35% identified as White and 5% are American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous, Asian or Asian America, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and Multiple Races. The community population, according to Census.gov states there are 54.5% people who identify as White and 30.7% identified as Black or African American demonstrating a disparity in the number of people of color experiencing homelessness.



# SUBPOPULATIONS

Changing Homelessness reports on people who are experiencing homelessness and the various subpopulations:

- Chronic Homelessness ~ our most vulnerable neighbor with a documented disability that has been continuously unhoused for one year or more, or 4+ times within 3-years, totaling 12 months.
- Veterans ~ our neighbor with a verified Veterans Administration status
- Families with children ~ our adult neighbor with one or more children
- Over 55+ ~ our neighbor that is 55-years and older
- Youth/Young Adults ~ unaccompanied neighbors 18-24 years old

## EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

During the 2023 PIT count, volunteers identified **62 people** who met the definition of chronic homelessness.

Chronic Homelessness	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	276	399	327	325	319	327	301	185	*	**88	62

*\*During the first year utilizing a new count methodology and application resulted in invalid data.*

*\*\* In 2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

While we are documenting a decline since 2020, we are reevaluating our methodology, application and volunteer training to ensure a valid count.

The impact of chronic homelessness is far-reaching and wide-ranging. It can lead to prolonged physical and mental health conditions, including a heightened likelihood of dying on the streets.

## FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2023 PIT count, volunteers identified **90 family households and a total of 276 people**.

Families	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	830	674	513	493	425	384	289	370	247	292	276

*\*\* In 2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

Families experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida have remained within a relative number since 2019, and currently represent 23% as the total number of persons, and 9% as the total number of households. Many of these families are struggling to make ends meet in an ever-changing economy, and the combination of housing costs, medical and childcare expenses, and the increasing cost of living can quickly send them into a downward spiral.



## VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2023 PIT count, volunteers identified **102 Veterans**.

Veterans	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	324	224	184	130	125	121	118	181	160	70	102

*\*\* In 2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

Like Families, Veterans experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida have remained within a relative range since 2019, and currently represent 8% as the total number of persons, and 9% as the total number of households. It is important to note ~ our community has a robust Supportive Services for Veterans (SSVF) program, dedicated funding and committed partners, which continues to have a positive impact and reflect a best-practice, system of care model.

## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

During the 2023 PIT count, volunteers identified **115 youth/young adults**.

Youth/ Young Adults	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	153	120	101	109	106	132	109	118	42	64	115

*\*\* In 2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

*\*\*\*In 2023, our community reported older adults 55+.*

Young adults experiencing homelessness comprise 8% of the total count, which coincides with the total from the 2020 count. Young adults experiencing homelessness often lack a support system. As a result, they may be more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and addiction.



## OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 55-YEARS-OLD+

During the 2023 PIT count, volunteers identified **286 older adults**.

Older Adults, 55-years-old+	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
											286

*\*\* In 2022, our community conducted a "sheltered only" count.*

*\*\*\*In 2023, our community reported older adults 55+.*

Older adults are a growing population experiencing homelessness in Northeast Florida, nearly 25% of the total count. This group of individuals are at an increased risk for a range of health and social outcomes, including poor physical and mental health, exposure to violence and exploitation, and lack of adequate social supports.

### CONCLUSION:

#### *A Note From Dawn Gilman*

This year we are optimistic and well aware of the willpower demonstrated over the past three years. As a Continuum of Care, we locked arms and resolved to respond to an international pandemic. We made great strides and learned many lessons.

The Point-In-Time count is a measure of one day, one moment in time that we can reflect upon to gain a better understanding of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. One opportunity, among many, to review, to evaluate, and to make adjustments ~ always with people central and fundamental to this mission.

Throughout the pandemic, we made count modifications. In 2021, staff used the Counting Us Application and we did not include volunteers. In 2022, we conducted a sheltered-only count, as our community faced a rampant COVID variant. Without restraint and with every Point-In-Time count iteration, you stood with us.

We are grateful to our community partners, elected officials, staff, and volunteers.

Though the causes of homelessness are multifaceted, we must continue our work together to support those experiencing homelessness and prevent future generations from facing the same fate.

Today, we stand prepared and honored to utilize the great wisdom to guide us to our vision of ending homelessness.

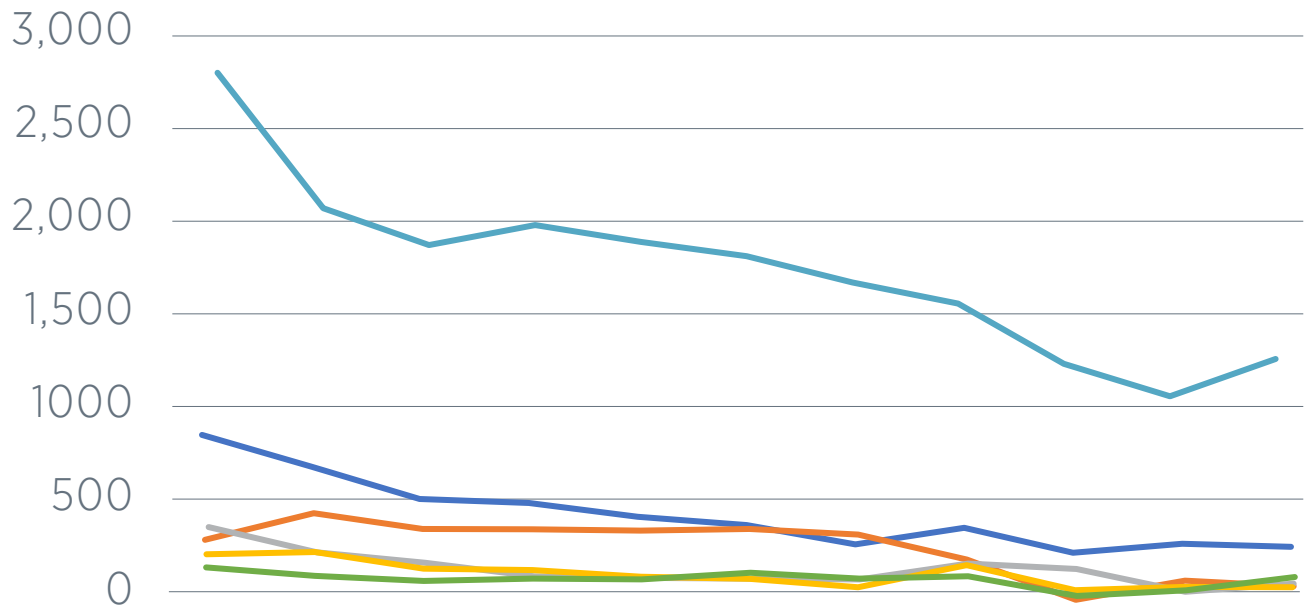
Together, we are Changing Homelessness.



Dawn Gilman  
CEO, Changing Homelessness

# APPENDIX A: Ten Year Trends *(with COVID-19 during 2021 and 2022)*

## YEAR-OVER-YEAR POINT-IN-TIME TOTALS



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<span style="color: teal;">—</span> Total	2,768	2,049	1,853	1,959	1,869	1,794	1,654	1,542	1,222	1,049	1,247
<span style="color: orange;">—</span> Chronic	276	399	327	325	319	327	301	185	-	88	62
<span style="color: grey;">—</span> Veterans	324	224	184	130	125	121	118	181	160	70	102
<span style="color: yellow;">—</span> Families (Households)	232	242	170	164	135	126	90	185	77	91	90
<span style="color: blue;">—</span> Families (People)	830	674	513	493	425	384	289	370	247	292	276
<span style="color: green;">—</span> Youth	153	120	101	109	106	132	109	118	42	64	116
<span style="color: darkgrey;">—</span> Older Adults, 55+											286

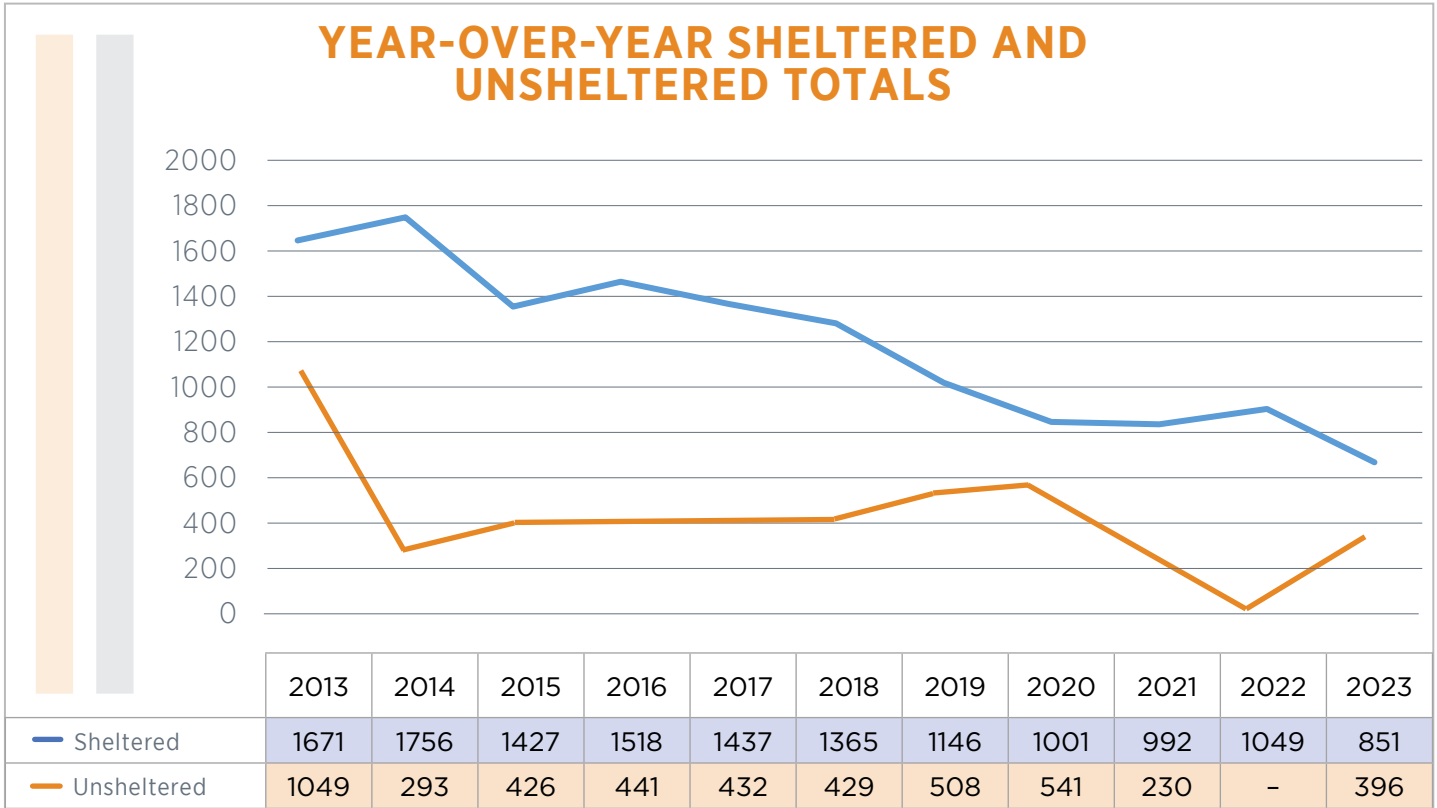
2021 - COVID count, no volunteers and revised count methodology

2022 - "Sheltered only" count

2023 - First count reporting older adults 55+



# APPENDIX A: Ten Year Trends, *Continued*



2021 - COVID count, no volunteers and revised count methodology

2022 - "Sheltered only" count

*\*It is important to note that these numbers may not represent homelessness in its entirety. We have yet to see the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic on those experiencing homelessness.*



# APPENDIX B: Governance and Membership

## Northeast Florida Continuum of Care Governance Board

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS APPRECIATES THE GUIDANCE OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA CONTINUUM OF CARE GOVERNANCE BOARD:

- Tabatha Ball, Agape Community Health Center
- Dr. Jametoria Burton, FSCJ
- David Clark, Downtown Ecumenical Services
- Tom Daly, Ability Housing
- Emma Stewart, Florida Blue
- Nancy Eisele, LSF Health Systems
- Damon Green, Impact Church
- Sara Mitchell, United Community Outreach Ministry
- Tyler Morris, Center for Independent Living
- Ashley Pratt, Mayo Clinic
- Bill Rodgers, Veterans Administration
- Joe Wolf, Consultant
- Dr. Pedro Irvin Cohen, LISC
- Jimmy Peluso, VyStar Credit Union
- Sylvester Pinckney, Kids Hope Alliance
- David Garfunkel, Lift Jax

## Changing Homelessness Board of Directors

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS ACKNOWLEDGES THE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Amy Wilkerson, Law Office of Jared M. Wilkerson
- Bradley Russell, The Russell Firm
- Charles Garrison, WGI
- Derek Brown, Merrill Lynch
- Dr. Tammy Hodo, All Things Diverse
- Dr. Heather Brown, RN, BSN
- Kia Mitchell, MD, Families First Medical Group
- Kemal Gasper, VyStar Credit Union
- Terri Lewis, One Call
- Penny Kievet, Retired, City Rescue Mission
- Whitney George, PH.D., Jacksonville University



## Northeast Florida Continuum of Care Member Agencies

CHANGING HOMELESSNESS IS GRATEFUL FOR THE HOPE AND COURAGE OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO REDUCING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS:

- Ability Housing
- Barnabas House
- BEAM
- Catholic Charities
- City of Jacksonville, Veterans Services
- City Rescue Mission
- Clara White Mission
- Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau
- Daniel
- Downtown Ecumenical Service Council
- Downtown Vision
- Duval County Public Schools
- Family Promise of Jacksonville
- Family Support Services
- Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center Inc.
- Gateway Community Services
- Hubbard House
- Jacksonville Housing Authority
- JASMYN, Inc.
- Jewish Family and Community Services
- Liberty Center
- LISC
- LSF Health Systems
- Lutheran Social Services
- Mental Health Resource Center
- Mercy Support Services
- Micah’s Place
- Mission House
- Presbyterian Social Ministries
- Quality Life Center of Jacksonville
- Quigley House
- Salvation Army
- Starting Point Behavioral Health
- Sulzbacher Center
- Trinity Rescue Mission
- United Way of NEFL
- Volunteers of America
- Youth Crisis Center





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