On a single night each year the Delaware Continuum of Care conducts a Point in Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness throughout the state, with the assistance of community volunteers and partners. On the same night, a census of available homeless-dedicated temporary and permanent housing resources is undertaken, called the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). Together, these data points provide information about the need facing Delaware’s homeless response system and the supply of available shelter and housing options.

On the night of the 2022 PIT (February 23, 2022), 2,369 people were experiencing homelessness in Delaware. This is double the number of people experiencing homelessness since the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

The PIT count includes people sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing for the homeless, and hotels/motels paid for by the state or charitable organization (temporary shelters), as well as people who are unsheltered, meaning they are sleeping outdoors or in other places not meant for human habitation, like cars.
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- From 2021 to 2022, the number of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT increased by 50%. The total number of people has more than doubled since the onset of the pandemic.

- The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness did not increase from 2020 to 2022. The major increase in homelessness is among people and families who are temporarily sheltered.

- The number of families with children experiencing homelessness has almost tripled since 2020, from 136 families in 2020 to 389 families in 2022.

- One in 3 people experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2022 PIT was a child under the age of 18.

- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased from 74 households in 2021 to 93 households in 2022, the highest number since 2016.

- People who identify as Black/African American are 3.5x more likely to experience homelessness than people who identify as white.

- People experiencing homelessness in Sussex County were overrepresented for a second year in a row; 1 in 3 Delawareans experiencing homelessness was homeless in Sussex County.

- The number of emergency shelter beds in Delaware increased significantly from 2021 to 2022, by 707 beds. This is primarily due to the worsening housing crisis, and the responsiveness of the Division of State Service Centers and others, such as the New Castle County Hope Center, churches, and nonprofits, to provide safe non-congregate shelter.