

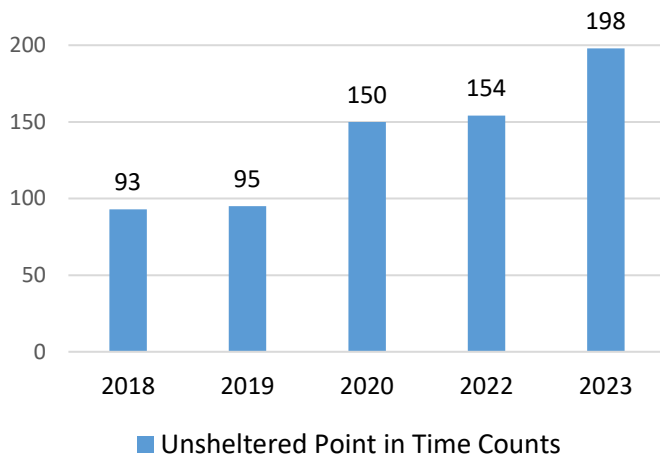
2023 Point in Time Count Summary



UNSHELTERED COUNT

In 2023 the number of people enumerated in the PIT Count as unsheltered¹ increased from 154 people in 2022 to 198 (a 28% increase). **This is the highest unsheltered count on record in Delaware since 2008².**

Unsheltered Point in Time Counts



People who are homeless in unsheltered locations are much more difficult to count than their sheltered counterparts. This was especially true in 2023, as 1) the night of the PIT count was marked by heavy rains and winds, which made it more difficult to identify people; and 2) the PIT Count occurred just days after two very large encampments in Milford and Georgetown were dismantled by local law enforcement/officials, scattering the 100 or so people who were living there, making it harder to find and count them.

Nonetheless, there was a nearly 30% increase in the unsheltered count.

The number of people sleeping on our streets has risen. There are certainly others who are living

“uncounted” in a hidden world that includes sleeping outdoors, in cars, in sheds, in garages, etc.

In January 2023, the same month as the 2023 PIT Count, 298 households contacted Housing Alliance Delaware for emergency housing help, reporting that they were unsheltered.

SHELTERED COUNT

In 2023, 1,091 people were sheltered (living in emergency shelters, hotels/motels paid for with a voucher or by a charity, or transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness) on the night of the PIT Count. This number reverses the dramatic increases in sheltered homelessness in the 2021 and 2022 PIT counts, and reflects major cuts in the number of temporary shelter beds available to people experiencing homelessness in DE. In other words, the 2023 PIT count does not necessarily reflect a decrease in homelessness as much as it reflects a decrease in temporary shelter accommodations available to homeless, unstably, or unsafely housed people and families.

The vast majority of people experiencing homelessness in the PIT count each year in DE are people staying in temporary shelter. In 2021 and 2022, the State of Delaware used federal COVID-19 relief funds to double the supply of temporary shelter, making room for an additional 836 people in 2021, and 1,056 people in 2022 in hotels and motels. Accordingly, the PIT count doubled from 2020 – 2022 as people and families left unsheltered,

¹ Sleeping in cars, parks, on benches, in encampments, in abandoned buildings, etc.

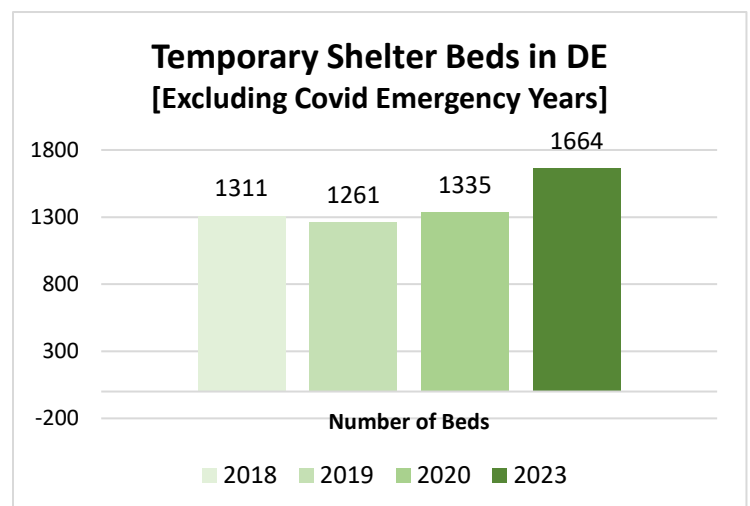
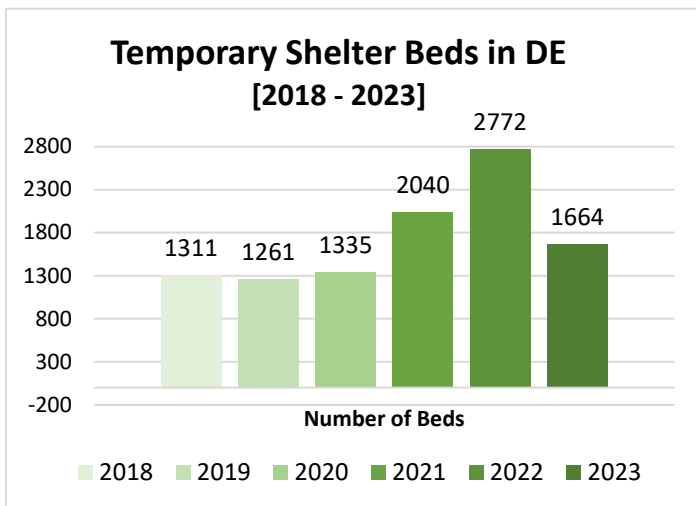
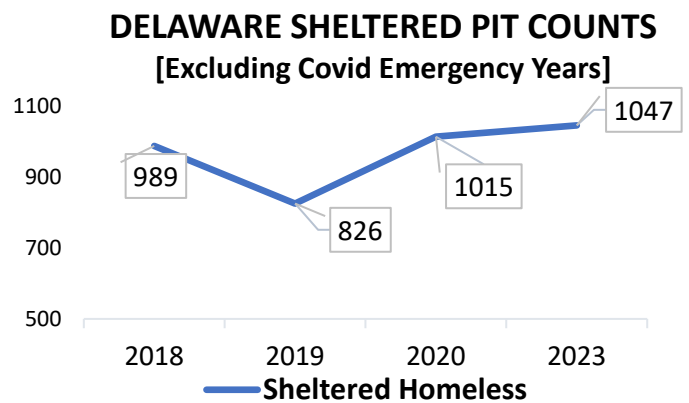
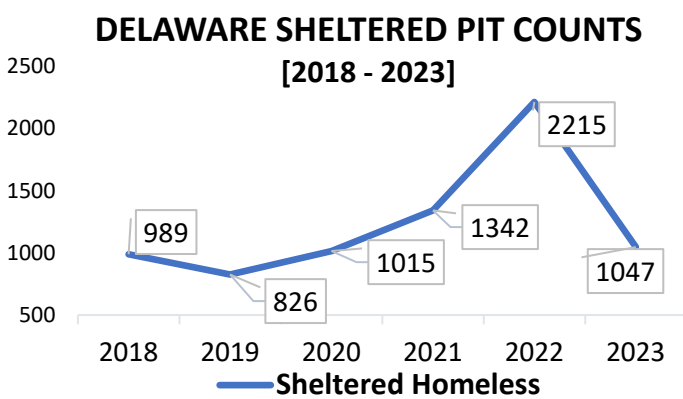
² There was no unsheltered PIT count conducted in 2021 due to COVID-19.

unsafe, or precariously housed living situations, where they were previously uncounted in the PIT, for safe temporary shelter opportunities.

In 2023, the state reduced the number of hotel/motel shelter beds back to 2020 levels. As a result, the PIT number also dropped by almost half, as people and families returned to precarious, unsafe, often hidden living situations.

In January 2023, the same month as the 2023 PIT Count, 218 households reported that they were “doubled up” temporarily with family or friends or couch surfing, with no plan for stable housing. These households were not counted in the 2023 PIT Count.

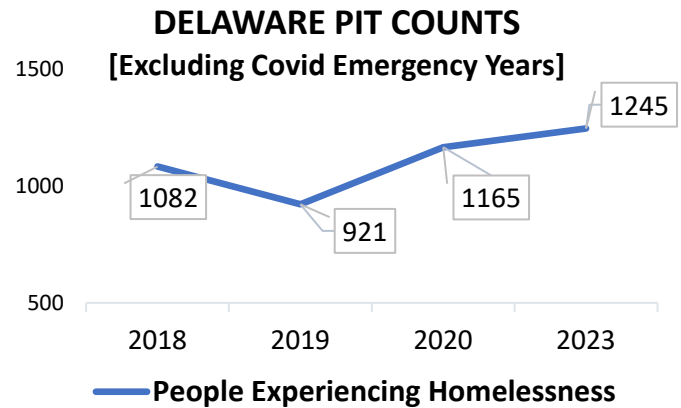
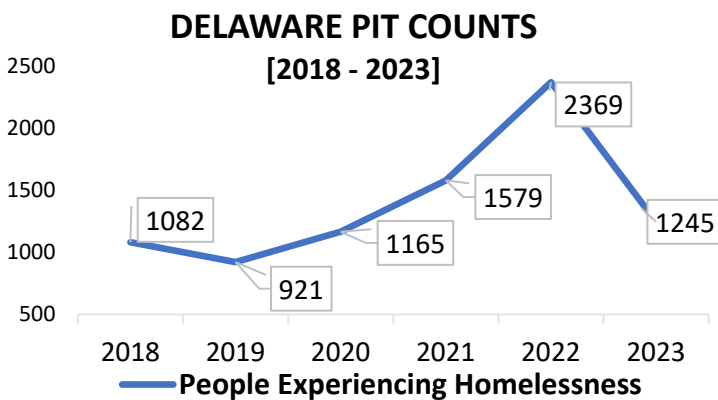
Because the additional shelter beds have come and gone, we compared the 2023 sheltered PIT count to the 2020 sheltered PIT count. The 2020 count occurred immediately before COVID-19 arrived, when the availability of homeless shelter beds was more similar to 2023. In this comparison, sheltered homelessness increased from 2020 -2023.



TOTAL PIT COUNT

The total PIT Count in 2023 was 1,245 people. **Without the inclusion of 2021 and 2022, when the availability of shelter beds ballooned, the 2023 PIT Count is largest on record in Delaware since PIT data collection began in 2007.**

We cannot ignore that there are many more people and families who are unhoused, unsafely housed, or precariously housed in our communities than are captured as homeless on the night of the PIT. They may not always be visible, but we know that their housing needs are so severe that when safe shelter is available, they will utilize it.



Thank you to everyone who helped Housing Alliance Delaware and the Delaware CoC conduct a successful PIT Count in 2023.

- People's Place II Whatcoat Shelter
- Love Inc. of Mid Delmarva
- Division of State Service Centers
- New Castle County Hope Center
- Sunday Breakfast Mission
- Friendship House Empowerment Centers
- Salvation Army
- YWCA Delaware
- Kent County Code Purple
- Child, Inc.
- St. Patrick's
- Horizon House
- Brandywine Counseling Community Services, Inc.
- Creative Vision Factory
- First State Community Action Agency
- The Teen Warehouse
- Wilmington Library
- Dover Library
- ACE Peer Resource Center Georgetown / Seaford
- Community Resource Center, Rehoboth
- The Shepherd Office
- Higher Ground, Inc.
- Christiana Care
- Delaware Health First
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- CORAS Wellness & Behavioral Health
- Bridge Clinics (DSAMH)
- Springboard Collaborative
- Sun Behavioral Health
- West End Neighborhood House
- YMCA of Delaware
- The CareWear Project

(This is not a complete list of all participants)